

SOUTH
MIDLANDS
ARCHAEOLOGY

52
2022



CBA SOUTH MIDLANDS GROUP
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SOUTH MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY

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

NUMBER 52, 2022

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It should be noted that the reports in this volume refer, unless indicated otherwise, to work carried out in 2021.

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EDITORIAL

Welcome, from your editor and committee to this our 52nd 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. Thanks to Ellie Cox, Finds Liaison Officer for Northamptonshire and 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 City, North Northamptonshire and Oxford City Councils of interest.

This edition also features a number of longer illustrated notes and articles including: Prehistoric remains across several sites in **Houghton Regis** by Albion Archaeology, MOLA and KDK Archaeology and historic building recording by **Oxfordshire** Buildings Record. The amateur / educational sector is well represented by entries from the Leighton Buzzard and District Archaeological and Historical Society (LBDAHS) in **Old Linslade**, and work in **Oxfordshire** by both the North (NOAG) and South Oxfordshire Archaeological Groups (SOAG) and the Oxford University Dept. for Continuing Education (OUDCE).

There's also news of publications from Bucks Archaeological Society (*The Kings at Brill*), Thames Valley Archaeological Services, MOLA and Northants Archaeological Society (*The Archaeology of Medieval Northampton*).

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 53. Please refer to the Notes for Contributors (back page).

Nick Crank
Editor

CBA SOUTH MIDLANDS WEBSITE **cbasm.archaeologyuk.org**

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: Biggleswade, Stratton Business Park Phase 6B – Drone image of early to middle Iron Age droveway ditches, looking south-west (Albion Archaeology)

Back cover: South Caldecotte, Milton Keynes – Romano-British scutching knife (Albion Archaeology, illus. S. Allen)

THE PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME IN THE SOUTH MIDLANDS 2021

By ELLIE COX, with contributions from ANGIE BOLTON, EDWARD CASWELL, ISABEL CLANFIELD, JOHN NAYLOR, MATTHEW FITTOCK, PHILIP SMITHER and SIMON MASLIN.

INTRODUCTION

2021 was a year of two halves, with lockdowns and restrictions being in place for part of the year, which prevented objects and coins from being physically submitted to Finds Liaison Officers (FLO's) for recording. However, with the furlough scheme in place for many, the ability to spend more time metal detecting or indeed providing the time to take up metal detecting as a new hobby, resulted in many new metal detector users and material continuing to be uncovered for recording. Each region also had to contend with its own restrictions when the tiered systems and local lockdowns were introduced, and with each FLO's venues for meeting with people having different abilities to accommodate the measures in place, to facilitate the submission of finds for recording.

The building of relationships with those new to metal detecting, and the maintaining of relationships with those already established within metal detecting has been a focus for FLO's following the full removal of restrictions. There are challenges in balancing the capacity available to process finds for recording, and the volume of objects found during the lockdowns and restrictions on face meetings, these are being met by each region and FLO in response to each region's needs.

There were therefore fluctuations in the depositing of finds for recording, with numbers being down 7% on the previous year. The South Midlands region reported 58 Treasure cases in 2021, a reduction of 36% from 95 Treasure cases in 2020. The various effects of the pandemic account for the drop in cases during the period.

By period, the finds for 2021 are as follows:

	Beds	Bucks	Northants	Oxon
Palaeolithic	1	1	0	1
Mesolithic	0	0	6	1
Neolithic	0	3	4	13
Bronze Age	2	9	4	23
Iron Age	29	13	9	25
Greek & Roman Provincial	0	0	0	1
Roman	66	236	162	596
Early-Medieval	1	27	19	51
Medieval	35	240	165	230
Post-Medieval	25	214	161	375
Modern	0	12	6	9
Unknown	3	5	3	9
Total	162	760	539	1424

The following artefacts represent a selection to highlight some of the varied finds recorded across the South Midlands

in 2021. To see the object's full record please visit www.finds.org.uk/database and search using the record ID e.g., BH-F78310. The database also allows for advanced searches by spatial or temporal filters or form, function, material, or method of manufacture of object.

Bedfordshire

Total Objects: 162 Treasure Cases: 5



Figure 1: BH-E9B573: Iron Age Stater from Meppershall.

A complete gold Iron Age stater of the North Thames Region / Catuvellauni, minted by Andocoveros, dating to the period c. 20 BC - 1 BC. 'Andoco Phallic Bucranium' type. The obverse depicts crossed wreaths, one curved, and back-to-back crescents at centre with hidden faces in angles. The reverse depicts a horse facing right with a phallic bucranium and a pelletal sun above and below and a ring in front.

As ABC no. 2715; BMC 2011–2014; VA 1860.

Andocoveros is believed to have ruled over a territory on the Western flank of the Catuvellauni and was issuing coinage toward the end of the reign of Tasciovanus, with some coins bearing both names.



Figure 2: NARC-645E09: Roman Military Buckle from Eaton Bray.

Portable Antiquities Scheme

An incomplete copper alloy Buckle of Roman date (AD 43–150). The object is a military buckle / strap fitting. The frame is D shaped in section and D shaped in cross section with a concave underside. The frame is an ovate single loop with two tapering inner spurs and two upper projecting loops. The loops are orientated at 90 degrees to the plane of the buckle and have a single circular perforation in each. The pin is retained however, the axis bar is largely missing, with the exception of a section retained within the perforations within the loops. The frame has a notched groove to accommodate the pin. The pin is T shaped with a transverse groove at its broadest point which corresponds to the transverse grooves at the base of each loop and a second groove above which also corresponds to a groove in each loop. The shaft of the pin tapers to a point and is decorated with a V shaped groove running its full extent.

Similar buckles have been identified by Appels and Laycock (2007 Fig.AA12.7) being recorded from contexts dating to the 1st-2nd centuries AD. Likewise, an example from the Chichester excavations (Down 1978 Vol.3 p209-292 Fig.10.30 No.10) which is securely dated to the period AD 43–44 or the later military occupation that ends no later than c.AD 80.



Figure 3: BH-F78310: Half Noble from Hyde (designated find of note, regional importance).

An incomplete Medieval gold half-noble of Henry VI, first reign; (AD 1422–61), Annulet issue (AD 1422–27). Lis initial mark. Minted in London.

As North Vol II, No:1174

The coin is broken and abraded. However, Medieval gold coins are rare finds compared to silver issues. This is only the sixth example of a half noble of Henry VI's 'annulet' issue to be recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

This coin was minted during the period immediately after Henry VI's ascendancy to the throne, while he was between the ages of 0–5 years. During a period when Henry's uncle, Humphrey Duke of Gloucester, was Lord Protector.

A complete copper-alloy Medieval anthropomorphic belt-stud mount dating to the period (AD 1200–1400). The mount is in the form of a forward-facing, crowned head and shoulders, probably depicting a king. The face is convex and has incised features that are stylised in appearance. The eyes are outward pointing triangles with small pellets as pupils. The nose is moulded and formed of a broad raised triangle. The mouth is defined by a horizontal groove flanked by a pair of nasolabial folds. The top of the head



Figure 4: BH-CD4C66: Belt Mount from Streatley.

is defined by a horizontal groove. Above this is a crown with flared sides consisting of a central fleur flanked by four spikes or ornaments either side. As well as a circular perforation between the eyes, there are two adjacent circular perforations through the crown. Below the head the neck is short, narrowed and has slightly bevelled edges. The neck widens at the base into rectangular shoulders with rounded corners and edges. A circular-sectioned copper-alloy rivet perforates the centre of this plate.

Similar objects are also depicted by Read (2001, pp. 17–18, fig. 11, nos. 136 and 137) who suggests a late 13th to mid-14th century date.

Buckinghamshire

Total Objects: 760 Treasure Cases: 3



Figure 5: NARC-6477EA: Bronze Age Blade from Creslow.

A fragment of a copper alloy Blade, Dagger or Rapier, of Mid to Late Bronze Age date (1600–800 BC). The object is rectangular in plan and ovate in cross section due to a central mid-rib. It is incomplete due to an abraded transverse break, resulting in the loss of the upper portion of the object. The retained portion is the tip and partial body of the blade. The cutting edges have been extensively broken and abraded.

In the absence of the upper end of the object, its exact original form and orientation is unclear, this example is long (133.38mm) and may be more likely a Dagger due to its consistent width.



Figure 6: SUR-7F1C60: Vessel Fitting, Iron Age to Roman from Charndon (designated find of note, county/local importance).

A late Iron Age or early Romano British cast copper-alloy swing Handle dating to (100 BC–AD 200). The bucket fitting or vessel escutcheon is in the form of a bull's head. The object comprises a stylised bovine head with flanking horns and moulded ears and rounded eyes which are slightly bulbous. The horns sweep around from the top of the head, over the ears and brow and project forwards with pointed tips. From the top of the mount projects a rounded suspension loop for the handle of the bucket or vessel. In the centre of the forehead is a drilled rivet hole retaining a large (now loose) copper alloy rivet. The tip of the muzzle has an old break, originally a second, lower loop or attachment fitting would have been present here, cast in the form of the bull's projecting tongue.

A number of these bovine bucket mounts have been recorded by the PAS and they appear to have been made from the Late Iron Age (c.100 BC) into the early Roman period; there is also some indication that they continued to be made into the early-medieval. Comparable bovine mounts have also been found in excavations, for example at the Welsh legionary fortress of Usk (Manning 1995: 198/fig. 53, no. 14). The naturalistic elements of the example recorded here suggests an early-Roman date, c. AD 43–200. Other examples, with more stylised Iron Age traits, are illustrated and discussed in Stead (1996:56) and Jope (2000), plate 173, e-h & plate 166.

A lead alloy Medieval Ampulla dating to the period (AD 1350–1530). One face of the flask body is moulded into a (Spencer Type II) scallop shell, the other depicts a flask/phial



Figure 7: HAMP-66180: Ampulla from Charndon.

with open mouth on a cross-hatched background within a double ridged border. This image represents the 'phial of the Holy Milk of the Blessed Mary kept on the high altar' at Walsingham (Spencer 1971, 63, 66, fig. XXII p and q). The object is missing its side loops and the body of the ampulla has been pierced by a sharp implement on the scallop shell face, likely to release the contents for a blessing.

were designed to hold small amounts of holy water and to be worn or carried by suspension from the loops. They are known from the late 12th century onwards. The motif of the scallop shell was generally representative of the act of pilgrimage and more generally of Christianity, as the shape is the same as a priest's dish which holds and pour baptismal water. It also represented St James, as he supposedly used a scallop shell to feed and water pilgrims (Spencer 1990).



Figure 8: NARC-4805AA: Seal Matrix from Leckhamptstead.

A complete copper alloy Seal Matrix of Medieval date (AD 1300–1400). The object is a pointed vessica shape with an integral projecting lug in the reverse. The lug has a circular perforation and lower ridge which runs the length of the object. The front of the object has a central motif, within an inner linear border, which depicts a pelican, feeding its three young with blood dripping from its own breast. This was a symbol of Christ's sacrifice and was one of several popular religious images used on medieval seals.

The outer edge of the object is inscribed with a retrograde inscription within an outer linear border. The inscription reads: TIMETE D/OMVNIM, meaning Fear the Lord.

Northamptonshire

Total Objects: 539 Treasure Cases: 14

A complete copper alloy harness fitting of late Iron Age to Roman date (AD 1 - 100). The object is an enamelled flat-ringed terret ring of Spratling's (1972) Group VIII, subgroup A. It is composed of a thin, rectangular-sectioned bar flanked by an oval expansion at either end. The crescentic loop expands in width from either terminal towards the apex. The inner edge of the loop is expanded into broad flange. Both faces of the ring are decorated.

Running around the outer flange are repeating triangular cells with a linear outer border to each, repeating eight times. The outer most cells are irregular rhomboids and flank the oval expansions. All of the triangular cells retain red enamel. The cells are contained within a crescentic linear border. The



Figure 9: NARC-A625F6: Harness Fitting from Towcester.

decorative pattern is present and symmetrical on both front and back of the object.

Terret rings were used as rein guides on chariots or carts used during the Late Iron Age to Early Roman period. They were set in a line along the yoke and five terrets were usually used per chariot. This suggested function is supported by evidence of wear or fractures on many examples. The Stanwick / Melsonby hoard included a complete set of such horse trappings.

Lewis (2015, 108) suggests that terrets of this form which exhibit only red enamel are most likely to date from the 1st century AD. Terrets with crescentic loops tend towards a marked southern and eastern distribution (Jope, 2000, 157).



Figure 10: HAMP-0C6CF4: Zoomorphic Brooch from (designated find of note, regional importance).

A cast copper alloy enamelled Roman zoomorphic brooch in the form of a frog dating to the period (AD 100–200). The plate is sub rectangular with a pointed terminal head and an elongated, arched and tapering body which forms the bow. There are two flanking pairs of small triangular limbs projecting from the sides, one set near the pointed “head” and one set at the rear end. There are two sub rectangular recessed cells along the length of the plate, each holding red enamel with a series of white dots. The reverse is plate with a double-lugged hinge and a catchplate. The pin is missing.

This is a rare form of brooch, potentially of continental origin.



Figure 11: NARC-8F8A64: Three quarter cut Penny from Stowe IX Churches.

A complete silver Three quarter cut Penny of Henry III (AD 1216–1272), dating to the period AD 1265–1275. Class Vh. Voided long cross reverse with three pellets in each quadrant. Minted by Roberd in Canterbury.

As North Vol I, P 227, No 998.

For similar examples of the cut removal of a quarter of the coin see: BUC-697645, LEIC-E825F8 and BUC-D2E40A. This is unusual as the given denominations of a farthing and Halfpenny would be cut from a whole Penny, this example is therefore three Farthings in value



Figure 12: NARC-DB8FD3: Seal Matrix from Alderton.

An incomplete lead Seal Matrix of Medieval date (AD 1200–1300). The seal is a pointed oval or vessica shape with the broken and worn remnants of an integral lug running the length of the reverse.

The front face bears a central beaded staff like motif which terminates in a trefoil, there is a foliate and pellet pattern flanking the beaded component. A circumferential legend is present within a linear border which reads: +S' BARNAB' CISSORIS suggesting this was a personal seal. The inscription translates as: Seal of Barnabas the Taylor.

Sealing was used for authenticating documents for around 300 years in medieval Britain. Pointed oval shaped seals such as this were popular during the 13th century when they were particularly preferred by women (Harvey and McGuinness, 1996: 79–88).

Harvey, P.D.A. and McGuinness, A. (1996) *A Guide to British Medieval Seals*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Oxfordshire

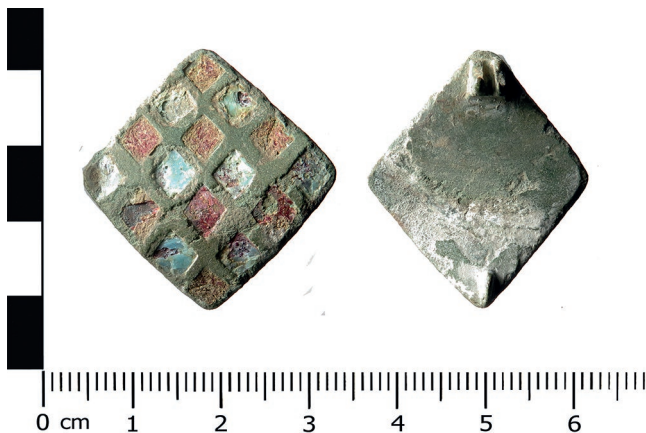
Total Objects: 1424 Treasure Cases: 20



Figure 13: BERK-FDA5A2: Toggle from Watlington.

A copper-alloy toggle of Iron Age date. A cast copper-alloy toggle of Iron Age to early Roman date (c 200 BC – AD 100). The toggle has an openwork triangular frame with circular cross sectioned sides and globular terminals at each corner, the lower one of which is much larger than the upper two. The upper pair of terminals define the ends of one side of the frame which forms a suspension bar; these have moulded collars and smaller apical knops on their outer faces.

Objects such as this were used during the Iron Age and early Roman periods in place of Buttons or Buckles as a versatile fastener.



Oxfordshire Museums Service

Figure 14: OXON-9C0594: Plate Brooch from Letcombe Bassett.

A Roman plate brooch dating to the period (AD 100–400). The brooch is made of cast copper alloy and is a lozenge in plan. The outer face is decorated with a lattice of 20 lozenge shaped cells which are filled or incompletely filled with enamel. The enamel alternates between red and light blue enamel. The brooch is slightly bent with the outer face being convex. On the reverse, at one terminal there is a small semi-circular lug which is an incomplete catchplate. At the opposite terminal there are two parallel, small, perforated incomplete semi-circular lugs which would have formed the hinge for the pin. The pin is missing.

Hattat illustrates numerous lozenge shaped plate brooches (2007, 348) none of which closely match this form.

However, Mackreth (2011: pl.122, no. 11307) illustrates a similar example albeit with multiple projecting lugs which this lacks. He groups this into an unclassified small group of lozenge shaped plate brooches which have been found in context dating from the 2nd to 4th century AD (Mackreth 2011: 179). The plate brooch probably dates to the 2nd century. The brooch is very similar to Roman seal box lids, but these tend to have a lip at the edge on the reverse.



Figure 15: SUR-B9B527: Finger Ring from Moulsoford.

A complete Roman cast copper alloy finger ring dating to the period (AD 200–300). The bezel is lozenge shaped and has an inner frame of retained metal which divides the field into an inner area, filled with orange enamel, and an outer margin, which has traces of orange and white enamel. There are five pellets of retained metal arranged in a cruciform shape: one at each angle of the outer margin and one in the centre. The shoulders are triangular and flare in line with the hoop, each meeting the bezel at a constriction. The surface of the shoulders is incised with a mid-line and radiating oblique lines in the manner of a leaf or feather. The metal has a high tin content and would have appeared silvery when new.



Figure 16: OXON-F04378: Padlock from Benson.

An incomplete Post Medieval cast copper alloy padlock dating to the period (AD 1500–1800). The padlock

Portable Antiquities Scheme

is missing the backplate and only part of the bolt is present, the rest missing due to old breaks.

The case is roughly circular and has a curved keyhole on the right-hand side. The rest of the circular part is decorated with nine ring-and-dot motifs, six forming a ring with the remaining three to the side. From the top two additional, integrally cast projections extend. The first is a longitudinally set loop with the piercing filled with corrosion product, and second is a rectangular collar. The rectangular collar holds the bolt, as would the loop if the bolt were complete. The surviving arm of the bolt is rectangular in cross section, with a rivet at the end. There is a copper-alloy fragment which was found with the padlock which appears to have fitted onto this rivet. The bolt expands in thickness up its length to a sub-square collar as it passes through the case before becoming more circular in cross-section. The bolt then curves before ending at an abraded break. On the outside of this curve is a pierced lobe which probably held a cord or chain which kept the two elements together when the padlock was open.

A padlock of similar form is illustrated by Margeson (1993:156–7) Fig 115. No. 1240. Margeson states that these padlocks with hinged shackles and mechanisms derived from locks rather than barrel locks and were introduced into England at the end of the Medieval period and gained widespread use during the post-Medieval period.

Conclusion

In summation 2021 was a year of continuing challenges which have been met with adaptive responses by the Finds Liaison Officers and others within the Portable Antiquities Scheme to continue the work of the Scheme despite those challenges.

For information regarding other finds from 2021, please visit www.finds.org.uk/database and use the advance search facility. Additionally, the Portable Antiquities Scheme has released volumes one and two of **Finds Identified**, which highlight a broad range of finds from across England and Wales.

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

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BEDFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGY IN BEDFORD BOROUGH 2021

Fieldwork Projects

Archaeological work ahead of development continues to identify complex and intriguing new archaeological sites, from prehistoric monuments to medieval settlements. Notably these have included two large sites in Biddenham and Roxton ahead of residential development and one in Carlton ahead of the construction of a cowshed. Other exciting sites remain under active investigation and are hoped to provide us with fascinating findings over the next year.

Between January 2021 and January 2022, Albion Archaeology undertook archaeological open-area excavation totalling c. 7ha in advance of residential development at Gold Lane, on the north-west edge of Biddenham, Bedfordshire. Fieldwork has revealed rich archaeological remains dating from the Neolithic to the late Anglo-Saxon periods and builds upon an already extensive knowledge of the local archaeological landscape garnered from the Biddenham Loop investigations which took place in the 1990s and 2000's. The earliest feature identified at Gold Lane was a Neolithic or early Bronze Age circular monument, up to six thousand years old. Other features from the Bronze Age suggest small scale or seasonal settlement, with more permanent Iron Age settlements comprising roundhouses, enclosures and storage and cooking pits representing a changing prehistoric landscape.

Perhaps the most intriguing new finds from the excavation were related to a previously unidentified late Anglo-Saxon phase of Biddenham village (AD850–1150). Both post-built and sunken featured buildings were identified, the latter demonstrating evidence of textile manufacture in the settlement. The settlement lay to the north-west of what is now the current village core sited around the green, but within direct sight of medieval St. James's Church, and perhaps suggests a shift in village location over time. . Enclosure boundaries within the now vanished Anglo-Saxon part of Biddenham probably marked different areas of the settlement, and whilst the houses are gone, the alignments of some of the boundaries still remain in the modern fields and footpaths. Post-excavation work on the records made and the finds retrieved during excavation is just beginning, and it is hoped that this will provide us with further detailed information about the lives of the prehistoric and Anglo-Saxon settlements of Biddenham in the months to come.

Further evidence for Anglo-Saxon settlement in Bedford Borough comes from Roxton this year, at a proposed housing site also within direct sight of a medieval church. Between December 2021 and March 2022 Cambridge Archaeological Unit undertook a large 1.3ha archaeological excavation on land off School Lane. Archaeological remains were identified from the Late Neolithic to the Post-Medieval periods, but with the most extensive dating to the Anglo-Saxon and Saxo-Norman times (circa 800–1200 AD). Features include a substantial enclosure ditch which suggests that the village of Roxton (including the church) was perhaps fortified, as was often the case at this time.



Figure 1: Plan of the archaeological features at Gold Lane ©Albion Archaeology.



Figure 2: A post-hole structure and kiln at Roxton
©Cambridge Archaeological Unit.

Other smaller enclosure ditches were uncovered which likely formed property boundaries fronting onto School Lane and the High Street, and at least two structures were identified which were most likely dwellings or workshops, and evidence for ironworking suggests the presence of a smithy or a forge. Very little medieval material exists on the site post-1200, although a coin of Edward III recovered

from the soil suggests wealth in the area. The final phase of material on the site included two post-medieval kilns, likely producing lime mortar for nearby buildings.

More evidence of settlement, this time Iron Age/Romano-British in date, was located by Albion Archaeology ahead of the construction of a new cowshed at Church Farm in Carlton in the north-west of the Borough. Features identified comprised late Iron Age/early Roman ditches and pits; medieval furrows; and two undated ditches which are probably associated with the use of the present farm (Fig. 4). The late Iron Age/early Roman features comprised two parallel ditches, part of a rectilinear enclosure, and three pits. The pottery recovered was mostly dateable to the 1st century AD, with a few 2nd-century examples. The presence of intercutting ditches indicates more than one construction episode within what otherwise appears to have been a relatively short-lived settlement. Despite the absence of evidence for buildings, the pottery and animal bone recovered is indicative of occupation; the enclosure is likely to have formed part of an enclosed farmstead, and as such the site provides artefactual evidence for a type of site common in this part of the Great Ouse Valley. Evidence for the medieval/post-medieval periods consisted of furrows, indicating the site formed part of Carlton's open fields at this

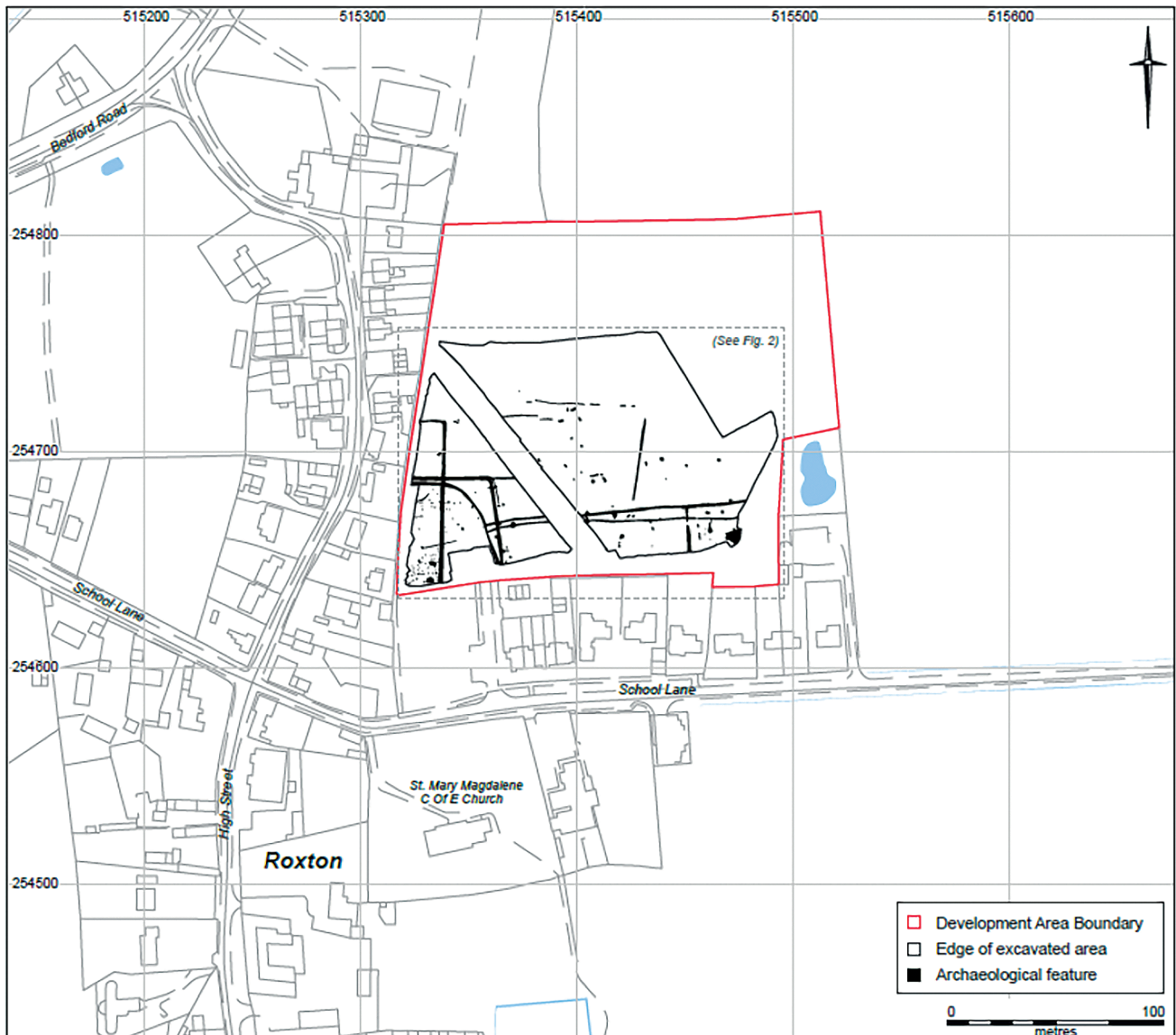


Figure 3: Plan of archaeological features in Roxton ©Cambridge Archaeological Unit.

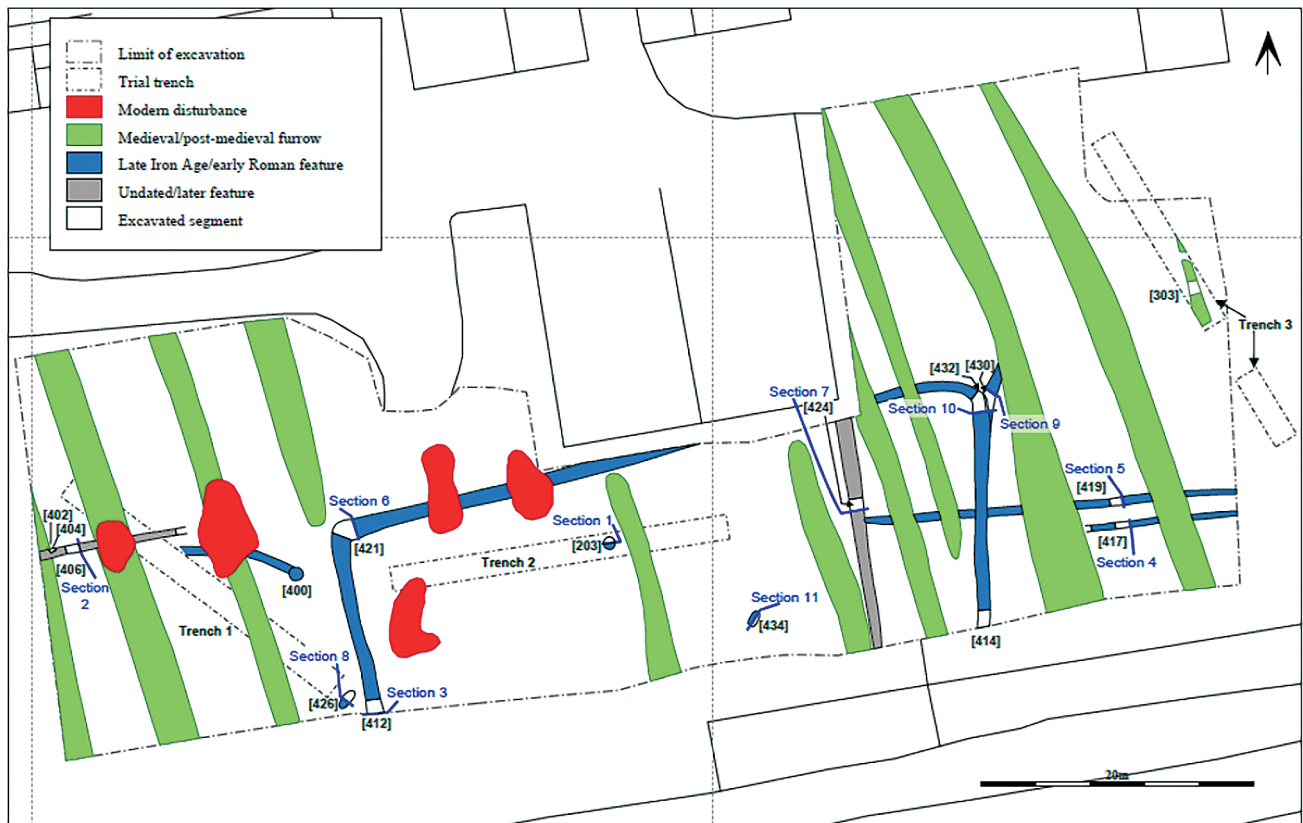


Figure 4: Plan of archaeological features at Church Farm, Carlton ©Albion Archaeology.

time. Despite the proximity to the parish church no evidence for Anglo-Saxon or medieval settlement was identified at Church Farm. The site adds to the existing body of data for late Iron Age/early Roman settlement in Bedfordshire and provides an example located on limestone geology, overlooking the valley of the river Great Ouse.

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Bedford, Priory Waterside & Marina TL 0698 4924

ANNIE MOORE and KATHY PILKINTON

Installation of a replacement electricity cable and infrastructure (protective kiosk) was required as the existing cables were no longer sufficient to satisfy the power requirements of the watercraft berths within the marina. The work fell within the bounds of Newnham Priory Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Archaeological monitoring revealed deposits related solely to modern use of the site, principally post-quarrying landfill dating to the latter half of the 20th century. Deposits north of the marina buildings were more mixed and consisted largely of rubble and hardcore, probably related to construction of the building themselves. No archaeological deposits relating to Iron Age/Roman activity, or the medieval Newnham Priory were encountered. OASIS ID: albionar1-504190

Bedford, Rogers Court, Cauldwell Street TL 0494 4932

MARK PHILLIPS

Planning permission was granted for change of use of the existing building to residential use. The site is located within Bedford's southern *burh*, which is believed to have been

established in the late Anglo-Saxon period. Archaeological monitoring of the construction of a new access ramp at the front of the building revealed modern made ground in the upper part of the soil profile and cuts for a drain culvert and the foundations of the existing office block. No earlier archaeological features or geological deposits were identified. The findings are consistent with the site's known use as a garden and (later) a timber-store from the 18th century to the early 20th century. OASIS ID: albionar1-424669; Accession no.: BEDFM 2021.57

Bedford, Richardson Milling, Mile Road TL 0583 4799

JEREMY OETGEN, MARK PHILIPS and HEATHER WHITE

Redevelopment of the mill led to the excavation of two trial trenches in two small areas of open ground at the north and south ends of the site. The southernmost trench was devoid of archaeological features; the only evidence for earlier activity was a layer containing 20th-century debris associated with cultivation of former allotments. The northernmost trench demonstrated the survival of numerous ditches, relating to possible land enclosure. There were very few artefacts and soil samples indicated poor palaeo-environmental potential. The only dating evidence was a 3g sherd of Roman pottery – too small to provide a reliable date for the feature from which it came. The general alignment of the ditches matched that of similar Roman features (previously excavated on adjacent land to the east), which might have been part of a field system on the periphery of Roman kilns found c. 100m to the east at Kingsbrook School (now Kings Oak Primary). OASIS ID: albionar1-410705; Accession no.: BEDFM 2020.88

Bedfordshire

Biddenham, 12 and 12A Vicars Close TL 0209 4988

IAN TURNER

Four trial trenches revealed a ditch and two pits (all modern) and an undated posthole. The latter's proximity to the ditch and its similar fill suggest that it too is likely to be of modern date. OASIS ID: albionar1-376556; Accession no.: BEDFM 2019.101

Biddenham, Gold Lane TL 0164 5028

IAIN LESLIE, MARCIN KOZIMINSKI, MATTEO PALOMBELLI, and JACKIE WELLS

Open-area excavation in advance of residential development uncovered rich archaeological remains dating from the Neolithic/Bronze Age, Iron Age and late Anglo-Saxon periods.

Neolithic/Bronze Age

The earliest remains comprised a Neolithic or early Bronze Age circular monument, which would have formed part of a wider landscape of similar monuments known to have existed locally within a loop of the river Great Ouse. The circular monument was c. 30m in diameter and defined by a large ditch that was 3m wide and over 1m deep. It had two adjacent entrances, facing north-east. Scattered postholes within the monument probably represent the remnants of structures; whilst two cremation burials may represent later additions. Few finds were recovered, making precise dating difficult, although future analysis, including radiocarbon dating, may shed light on this.

During the middle to late Bronze age (1500–800 BC) the land was divided into large fields bounded by ditches. These ditches appeared to respect the location of the earlier monument, suggesting it still existed as a feature of the landscape at this time. One of the ditches blocked the former monument's entrances, suggesting that it was no longer used for its original function.

In the late Bronze Age or early Iron Age (800–450 BC), two smaller ditched enclosures – one rectangular and one D-shaped – were established. These likely represent the locations of small-scale or seasonal settlement, with some evidence for small structures or buildings within.

As might be expected, relatively few finds were recovered from these features. Total amounts included 500g animal bone, 340g pottery, and occasional worked flints, as well as a ceramic loom-weight.

Iron Age

During the middle to late Iron Age (450–100 BC), the settlement expanded and was re-designed. It was now characterised by an irregular outer enclosure, which contained smaller sub-circular enclosures and scattered features. The remains of at least three roundhouses were identified, along with storage pits, cooking pits, a water-pit, and clusters of postholes. A trackway extended north from the settlement; next to it was a single urned cremation burial with accessory vessels. Finds included c. 4kg animal bone and 18kg pottery, as well as fragments of a quern and a copper alloy harness ring.

Anglo-Saxon

After a long hiatus (within the excavated area at least) another settlement was established in the late Anglo-Saxon

period (AD 850–1150). It included thirteen post-built, ground-level buildings and four sunken-featured buildings as well as small enclosures, clustered pits, and postholes. Also present were three ovens, each slightly different in character, which were probably used for drying/malting and for baking. Finds included 58kg animal bone and 27kg pottery, as well as ceramic, bone and flint spindle whorls, bone pin beaters, a bone comb and toggle, lead cruciform pendants, and a lead ingot. OASIS ID: albionar1-400348; Accession no.: BEDFM 2018.28

Biddenham, Land off Bromham Road TL 0284 5057

KATHY PILKINTON and CATIE WATTS

Trial trenching in advance of residential development targeted geophysical anomalies. Trenches 1–5 specifically targeted linear anomalies interpreted as possible pit alignments; however, these proved to be modern in date. The trial trenching did locate a small number of archaeological features, but no artefacts were recovered. A probable Roman ditch represents the continuation of a trackway ditch identified as part of a Roman farmstead to the east. An undated gully and pit were located c. 30m north-east of the ditch. The presence of east–west aligned furrows indicates that the land was under strip cultivation within open fields during the medieval period. Modern landscaping associated with a former golf course was present throughout the site. OASIS ID: albionar1-403876; Accession no.: BEDFM 2021.09

Biggleswade, Land at Bonds Lane and Foundry Lane

TL 1900 4445

IAN TURNER and WESLEY KEIR

Strip, map and sample investigation in advance of residential development revealed quarrying and a small pit, both dating to the medieval period. Quarrying continued into the post-medieval and modern periods. Several gullies and postholes were also likely to be associated with the post-medieval and modern development of the site. The foundations of other modern structures included the bases of two former greenhouses and two extensive rectangular concrete 'box' structures, constructed by Weatherley Oilgear Ltd in the late 1930s to house 'cyanide hardening' quenching tanks. The company produced machine tools and de Havilland Mosquito parts during WW2. A WW2 brick-built air raid shelter was also revealed. OASIS ID: albionar1-409417; Accession no.: BEDFM 2020.81

Biggleswade, Land at Bonds Lane and Foundry Lane

TL 1900 4446

MARK PHILLIPS

A two-storey brick building on the south side of Bonds Lane, a former Drill Hall on the north-east corner of Bonds Lane, and a north-light workshop range set back from the road to the west of 21 Bonds Lane were recorded prior to demolition ahead of residential redevelopment of the site.

The two-storey building had a front elevation in yellow gault brick with a blocked opening for a double door on the right, a central door under a round head, and two first-floor sash windows under round heads. The ground floor was divided into two compartments, the western one formerly accessed by double doors off the street; the eastern one was above a cellar and had external doors in the front, east

end, and rear walls with an internal door to the western compartment and evidence of an enclosed stair to the first floor. The interior of the ground floor was painted white, and the first-floor walls retained traces of plaster and paint. Collapsed remains of a chimney stack indicated a hearth in the first-floor room. At the time of the survey the roof, floors, and part of the rear wall had already collapsed. The construction materials and design indicate a probable construction date during the second half of the 19th century. The building probably had a service or storage function, possibly a coach house.

The Drill Hall was constructed during the 1890s as a training centre for the 3rd Volunteer Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment. The building consisted of a hall with offices along the east side. It was in yellow gault brick with a corrugated iron roof to the hall and formerly a slate roof to the east range. The roof of the Drill Hall was hipped at the north end and was supported by queen-post trusses. It had a woodblock floor. The east range had been demolished prior to the survey. The surviving foundations showed three or possibly four compartments serving as the offices for the Drill Hall, while a compartment at the south had double doors onto the street forming a coach house. In 1921, the Territorial Army moved to a larger centre and the building was later used by a furniture and removals company, during which time the east range was modified for use as retail premises.

The workshop was built on the north side of the former Maythorn & Son timber store. The latter had been built by 1924 and the workshop was added before 1929. It was a single north-light range, accessible only from the timber store to the south. In external appearance it was very similar to the other workshops which formed the Maythorn & Son factory on Station Road. Its function is not known but given its location, it seems likely that it was used either for additional storage or for initial timber-processing. OASIS no.: albionar1-409416; Accession no.: BEDFM 2020.81

Biggleswade, Stratton Business Park, Phase 5, Plot 3 TL 2122 4353

BENJAMIN CARROLL, JEREMY OETGEN and GARETH SHANE

Archaeological mitigation was undertaken by a combination of preservation *in situ*; strip, map and sample investigation; and archaeological monitoring. Previous evaluation and infrastructure works had revealed a layer of modern made ground, 0.5–1m thick, on top of the original topsoil. Therefore, there was no archaeological impact on the majority of the development area. The only archaeological features revealed were a cluster of three small pits and an isolated posthole. The pits contained a few sherds of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery, although their function remains unclear. They lie c. 50m from the nearest enclosed settlement focus (dating from the early–middle Iron Age), which was found to the south of Plot 3. The pits might have been associated with an earlier phase of unenclosed, dispersed settlement. OASIS ID: albionar1-384717; Accession no.: BEDFM 2020.10

Biggleswade, Stratton Business Park Phase 6B TL 2178 4296

BENJAMIN CARROLL, GARETH SHANE and JEREMY OETGEN

A combination of strip, map and sample investigation, open-area excavation, and watching brief (covering c.4.2ha in total) took place ahead of commercial development.

The site lay in the hinterland of a large late Iron Age/early Roman settlement identified by geophysical survey, c.400m to the west (Fig. 5).

Several periglacial kettle holes, in the south-east of the site, formed depressions in the landscape that had contained standing water, slowly silting up by the early Roman period (Fig. 6).

Late Bronze Age to early Iron Age

The earliest securely dated features were related to agriculture – eight storage pits within two adjacent fields, separated by a droveway providing access for livestock. A short section of one of the field boundary ditches contained a large deposit of burnt stone, indicative of heating processes occurring nearby.

A four-post structure and dispersed storage pits were identified to the north of the fields. One of two substantial water-pits, to the south of the fields, contained unworked waterlogged wood, likely the remains of trees that had fallen into the feature after it went out of use. These features may have been kettle holes that were re-cut to create water-pits.

Material culture comprised c.1.1kg of pottery, c.1.2kg of animal bone, and a copper alloy leaf-shaped razor.

Early to middle Iron Age

Features dating to this period provided the clearest evidence for animal husbandry and land management – two livestock corrals with associated pits, droveway ditches, and a parallel boundary ditch (Front cover image).

The western corral was funnel-shaped in plan to aid the guiding of livestock into the enclosure where they could be separated or inspected before entering the adjacent corral, which may have functioned as a holding pen. The eastern corral only partially survived and was bounded by a ditch and a fence line.

The droveway was aligned with the topography of the site, extending SE–NW for at least c.450m and bounding a watercourse to the east that was likely present during this period. The droveway appears to partition the lower, more fertile floodplain from the relatively less productive grazing higher up the slope to the north-west. At least three possible entranceways opened onto the floodplain, with a single entrance to the west, directly adjacent to the corrals.

An adjacent boundary ditch on a similar alignment to the droveway, extended for at least c.250m. It represents a later feature as it conflicts with the functioning of one of the corrals. It may therefore mark a change in land-use, but still served to define the floodplain to the east. Material culture was sparse, comprising c.0.5kg of pottery and c.0.9kg of animal bone.

Late Iron Age to early Roman

Archaeological remains from this period were only present in the south part of the site – a trackway, field boundaries, a droveway, and alluvial layers indicating that the area was still prone to flooding. The trackway and droveway were roughly parallel and headed towards the settlement focus c.350m to the north-west (Fig. 7). Material culture was sparse, comprising c.0.15kg of pottery, 81g of animal bone, an iron nail, and a polished long-bone fragment.

Post-Roman land-use

A series of parallel, NW–SE aligned, medieval furrows on c. 7–11m spacings survived intermittently across the site. A post-medieval quarry pit and a field boundary, aligned with

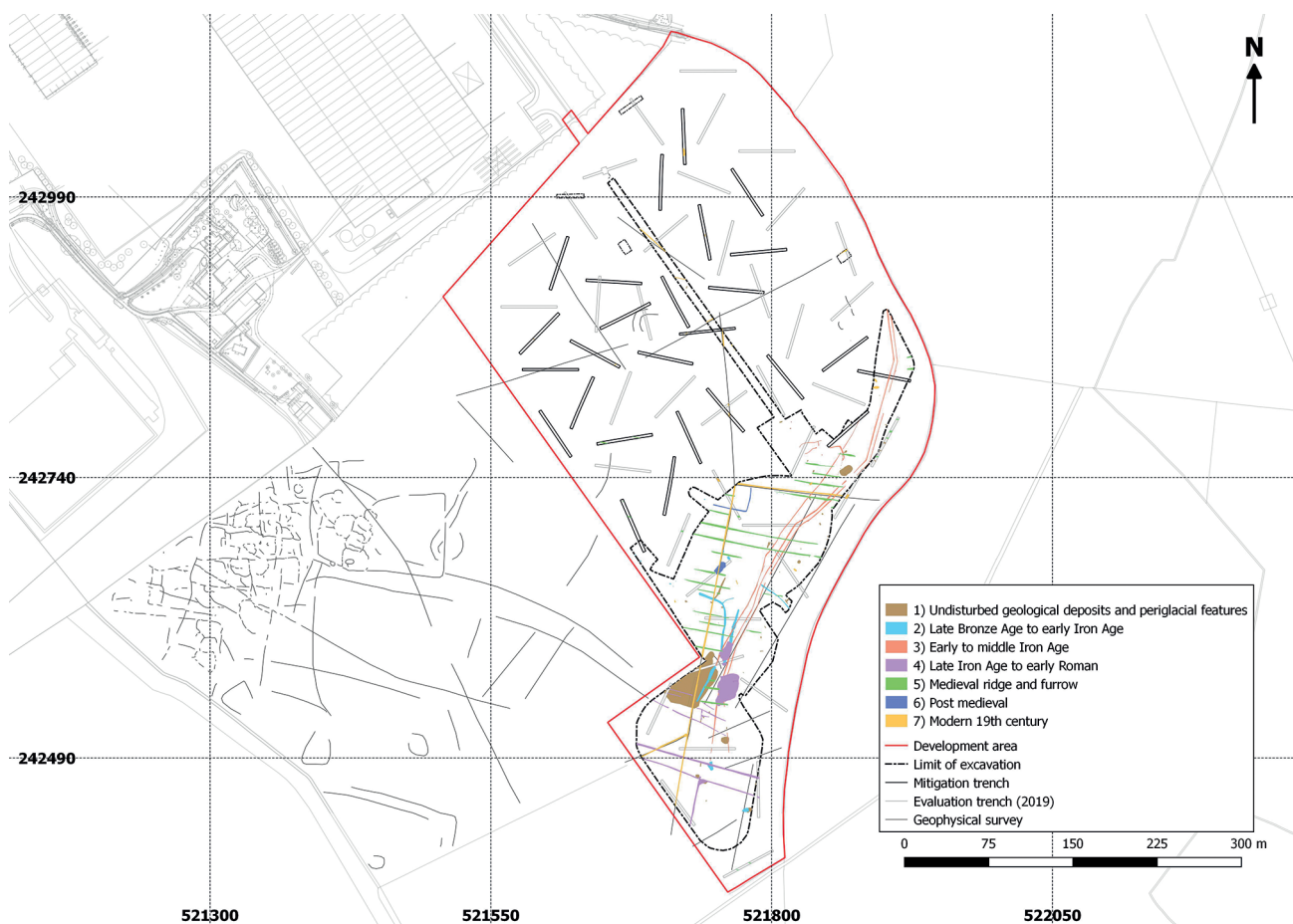


Figure 5: Biggleswade, Stratton Business Park Phase 6B – Phased all-features plan overlaid on geophysical survey data.

the furrows, were later established in the open-field system. The modern period was represented by a 19th-century boundary ditch, extending across the site from north to south and visible on both the 1881 25-inch OS map and the geophysical survey. Oasis ID: albionar1-410260; Accession no.: BEDFM 2020.85

Bolnhurst, Manor Farm TL 0852 5986

MARK PHILLIPS

Planning permission and listed building consent were granted for restoration and refurbishment of the main barn and associated workshop to create two new dwellings. A programme of historic building recording and archaeological watching brief were carried out during the conversion of the workshop building.

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. The late 18th-century enclosure map shows the farmstead as a loose courtyard plan with farm buildings on the east and west sides. Later maps show that the farm buildings were replaced to form an enclosed yard. The barn, stable and south range (on the west and south sides of the yard) and the workshop on the east side were recorded.

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 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.

The workshop is first shown on a plan surveyed in 1900, replacing an earlier range of buildings shown on the 1884 OS map. 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 plan showing 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, removing any evidence of former use apart from that of the apple store.

The observed groundworks within the workshop were very limited in extent, consisting of three service trenches in the north-west and north-east of the building. The

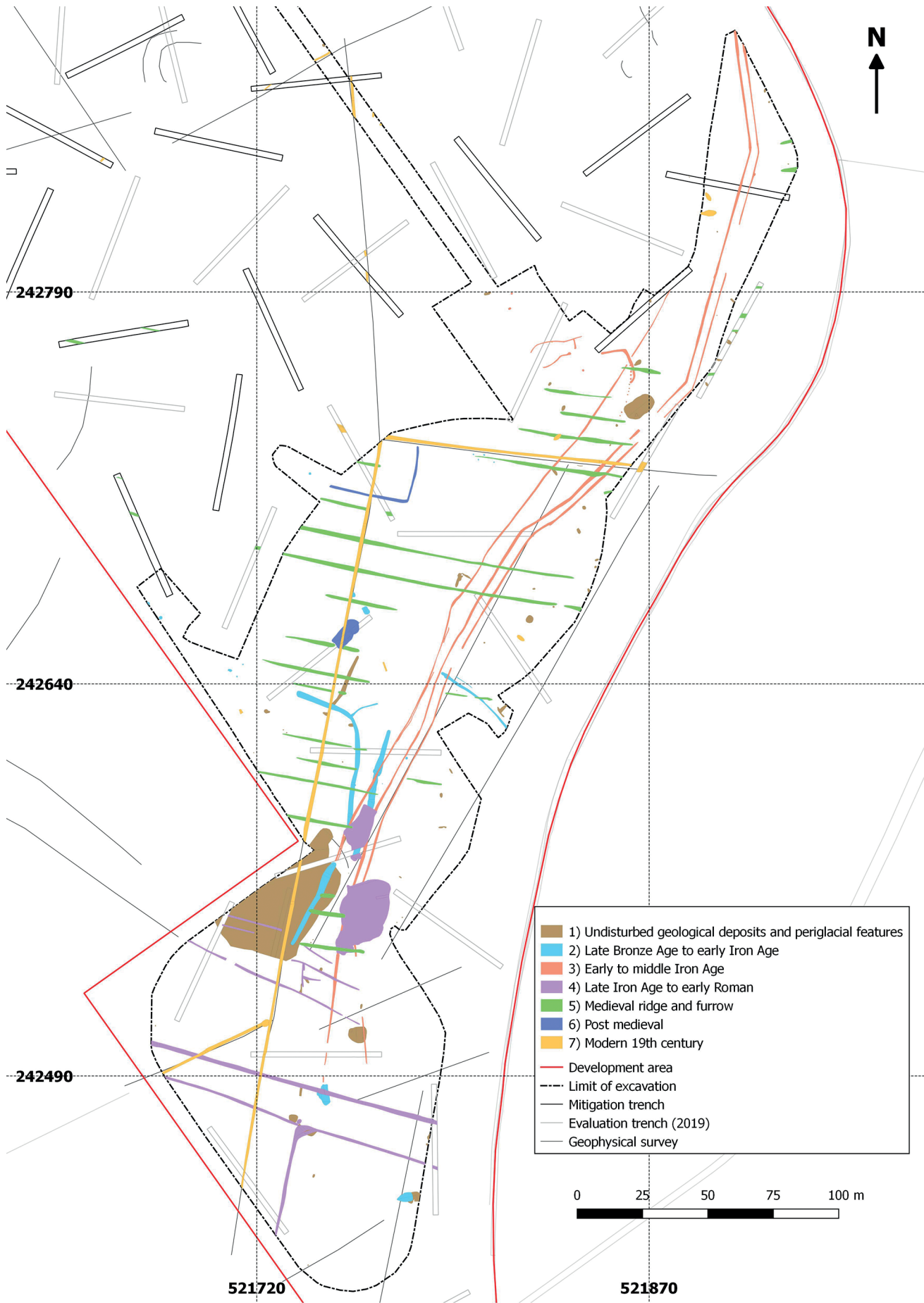


Figure 6: Biggleswade, Stratton Business Park Phase 6B – Close-up of phased all-features plan overlaid on geophysical survey data.



Figure 7: Biggleswade, Stratton Business Park Phase 6B – Overview of the open-area excavation, looking north-west, with late Iron Age to early Roman trackway extending across the site and Stratton Business Park in the background.

revealed deposits consisted of 20th-century floors and floor make-up, and topsoil. OASIS ID: albionar1-382861 and albionar1-383814; Accession no.: BEDFM 2020.06

Carlton, Church Farm, Turvey Road SP 9504 5483
MARK PHILLIPS and JACKIE WELLS

Construction of an agricultural building was preceded by trial trenching and a watching brief, which revealed late Iron Age/early Roman ditches and pits; medieval furrows; and two undated (but probably modern) ditches. All the features were truncated to the level of the limestone bedrock. The principal late Iron Age/early Roman features comprised two parallel ditches, part of a rectilinear enclosure, and three pits. The recovered 10kg of pottery is mostly dateable to the 1st century AD, with a few 2nd-century sherds. Despite the absence of evidence for buildings, the pottery and 1.2kg of animal bone are indicative of occupation; the enclosure is likely to have formed part of an enclosed farmstead. It continued beyond the south edge of the development area and may be on the periphery of a larger settlement. Indistinct cropmarks (HER14730) interpreted as possible enclosures in the field to the south of Turvey Road, could be related to the remains found at Church Farm.

Evidence for the medieval/post-medieval periods consisted of furrows, indicating the site formed part of Carlton's open fields. Despite the site's proximity to the parish church no evidence for Anglo-Saxon or medieval settlement was identified. OASIS ID: albionar1-419352; Accession no.: BEDFM 2021.29

Chalgrave, Pond Farm, Hill Close, Wingfield SP 9998 2618

MARCO CAPARDONI, TORI GUY and JEREMY OETGEN

The replacement of a barn with a new dwelling led to a small trial-trench evaluation and open-area excavation. The earliest features were an early medieval pit and a ditch, which formed the north-east corner of an enclosure. The archaeological evidence was slight, but clearly establishes a link between the Pond Farm site, at the core of the modern village, and an abandoned medieval settlement to the south of Wingfield, which is known from ploughed-out earthworks recorded in the HER.

Other features, including later reiterations of the medieval enclosure, were dated by pottery to the 17th–19th century. This suggests that the rectilinear enclosure was still in use when the Grade II listed Pond Farm farmhouse was constructed in 1699. The enclosure must have gone out of use before a row of 18th-century cottages was built along the southern boundary of the development area. The cottages have now been demolished, but one wall survives on the modern boundary between the adjacent properties. OASIS ID: albionar1-417843; Accession no.: LUTNM 2021/14

Cranfield, East End Farm SP 9615 4240

TORI GUY, IAIN LESLIE, ERNIE RIZZO and JACKIE WELLS

A c. 1.75ha open-area excavation in advance of residential development produced evidence for an Iron Age and Roman settlement, located on a plateau overlooking the Marston Vale to the east. The settlement was established in the middle–late Iron Age and was initially characterised by two roundhouses and a large boundary ditch, along with a

rectilinear enclosure and a cremation burial. Development of the settlement continued in the late Iron Age with further boundary ditches, a large circular enclosure, field systems, and a trackway.

The form of the settlement remained much the same into the Roman period, with only minor redefinition of enclosures. A central, sub-square enclosure contained an occupation layer along with eight post holes, suggesting the presence of a building. Initial assessment suggests the settlement was occupied until at least the 3rd century AD. Finds recovered from the Roman settlement include eighteen copper alloy coins, four bow brooches, a cast copper alloy disc brooch, and three mill and rotary quern fragments. A decorated samian bowl, recovered from a ditch just outside the sub-square enclosure, probably represents a deliberate deposit. OASIS no.: albionar1-413304; Accession no.: BEDFM 2021.06

Great Barford, Land east of Farm Cottage

TL 1210 5218

ERNIE RIZZO, TORI GUY and IAIN LESLIE

Ahead of proposed residential development, the excavation of 183 trial trenches led to the definition of four areas of archaeological significance, with a small number of dispersed features beyond the limits of these areas. Area 1 was characterised by Iron Age to Romano-British settlement. Areas 2 and 3 represent Iron Age settlements. Area 4 was much smaller in scale and likely represents a short-lived or seasonal focus of Iron Age domestic activity. A ditch, extending north, may represent a sinuous boundary, probably contemporary with the Iron Age activity but away from any domestic focus. Further scattered undated ditches and occasional postholes and pits likely represent field boundaries and other activity peripheral to the settlements. The remnants of medieval/post-medieval furrows were present across the site, although they were better-preserved in the northern fields. OASIS ID: albionar1-427193; Accession no.: BEDFM 2021.91

Harrold, Greenview House, 74 High Street SP 9503 5711

Ernie Rizzo

Archaeological monitoring of ground reduction for a new stable revealed no archaeological features or deposits earlier than the modern period. The topsoil and subsoil contained occasional modern (post-1750) artefacts, including fragments of tile and other building materials. OASIS ID: albionar1-411067; Accession no.: BEDFM 2020.91

Harrowden, Highway Cottage, Old Harrowden Road

TL 0729 4764

MARCO CAPARDONI and KATHY PILKINTON

Monitoring of groundworks associated with an extension revealed deposits related largely to recent phases of building and demolition associated with the cottage, and landscaping of its garden. OASIS ID: albionar1-419248; Accession no.: BEDFM 2021.27

Houghton Regis North 1 (HRN1), Ashe Compound

TL 0331 2542

GARETH SHANE, LEWIS BUSBY, IAN TURNER and WESLEY KEIR

A strip, map and sample investigation, covering an area of c.1,200m², revealed a small number of features, which did

not produce any artefacts. The earliest was a Roman ditch that had previously been revealed to the east and west of the site – part of the widespread Roman field system that has been investigated across the HRN1 development area. Three postholes and two gullies may be contemporary with the three four-post structures investigated immediately to the north-east of the site; they represent a rare focus of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age settlement within the wider HRN1 development area. The gullies may be remnants of minor field system boundaries. Later features comprised medieval/early post-medieval cultivation furrows. OASIS ID: albionar1-409986; Accession no.: LUTNM 2021/1

Houghton Regis North 1 (HRN1), Eastern Haul Road (AIA3B)

TL 0326 2512

ADAM WILLIAMS, IAN TURNER and WESLEY KEIR

A strip, map and sample investigation on a temporary haul road revealed a Roman ditch, two undated enclosure ditches, and five postholes of probable Iron Age or Roman date. The paucity of artefacts from the features suggests that they were not domestic in character. Later features of less significance comprised medieval/early post-medieval cultivation features and modern field boundary ditches and land drains. OASIS ID: albionar1-412504; Accession no.: LUTNM: 2021/06

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

LEWIS BUSBY, IAN TURNER and WESLEY KEIR

A combination of strip, map and sample investigation, open-area excavation, and watching brief were undertaken in association with the construction of a new school and sports pitches. Fieldwork within the site is ongoing; a preliminary summary of the results to date is provided below.

A shallow, c.10m-diameter, Bronze Age ring-ditch towards the south end of the site represents the remains of a ploughed-out round barrow, although no central burial survived (Fig. 8). An inhumation burial to the north-west was placed in a flexed position on its left side; no grave goods were recovered. A NE–SW alignment of eleven pits (to the north of the ring-ditch) extended for a distance of 30m (Fig. 9). It may have continued further to the south-west, but any evidence of this had been destroyed by modern truncation.

Activity in the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age focused around two WNW–ESE aligned palaeochannels that crossed the site. Two ditches ran parallel to them, potentially to improve drainage in the area. One of three pits dug into the northernmost palaeochannel contained a large amount of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery.

Late Iron Age/early Roman features included a cluster of pits at the north end of the site. The pits ranged in size, but the larger ones were probably storage pits. Several later ditches to the south of the site represent field boundaries. An E–W aligned Roman trackway at the north end of the site was associated with a farmstead previously investigated to the east (Luke and Barker 2021).

Luke, M. and Barker, J., 2021, *A Roman Farmstead and other Late Neolithic to Post-medieval Land-use at Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire*, Albion Archaeology Monograph 7

OASIS ID: albionar1-415525; Accession no.: LUTNM: 2020/19



Figure 8: Houghton Regis, Kingsland Secondary School – Ploughed-out Bronze Age barrow (1m scale).



Figure 9: Houghton Regis, Kingsland Secondary School – Bronze Age pit alignment (1m scale).

Houghton Regis North 1 (HRN1), Lidl regional distribution centre (RDC) TL 0370 2510

BUSBY, ADAM WILLIAMS and WESLEY KEIR

A c.20ha strip, map and sample investigation was undertaken in advance of construction of a warehouse facility. A preliminary summary of the results is provided below (Fig. 10).

At the south end of the site were two late Neolithic/early Bronze Age pits, one of which produced a flint scraper. In the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age a NW–SE aligned boundary ditch, which ran across the length of the site, was the focus of low-level domestic activity – evidenced by isolated pits and postholes, a large storage pit (Fig. 11), and a large water-pit. Eleven cremation burials included a cluster of seven to the north-east of the boundary ditch. Their dating is still to be confirmed by radiocarbon dating, but one contained a late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pot.

An extensive Roman field system, with integral trackways, covered the entire site. An isolated cremation burial produced 143 iron nails, ranging from small tacks to more heavy-duty construction types. The burial is likely to date to the Roman period, but this will be confirmed by radiocarbon dating.

The majority of the site produced evidence for medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, the layout of which did not seem to have been influenced by the Roman field system. Post-medieval enclosure boundaries were also recorded. OASIS ID: albionar1-362445; Accession no: LUTNM:2019/45

Houghton Regis North 1, Phase 3A advance infrastructure works TL 0358 2523

MARCO CAPARDONI, BENJAMIN CARROLL, TORI GUY and WESLEY KEIR

The earliest remains revealed by a strip, map and sample investigation were of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date – three inhumation burials, trackway ditches, a possible well, and a water-pit. All the burials were focused on a segmented ditch that formed one side of a c.8m-wide trackway. Two of the graves were dug into the opposing termini of the segmented ditch, indicating that the trackway was still a visible feature in the landscape when the individuals were buried. Both graves contained crouched inhumation burials; one had its forearms crossed over the chest clasping a ceramic vessel provisionally dated to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age (Fig. 12). A third burial, with no visible grave cut, was uncovered within the fill of the same ditch, c.3m to the south of the other two burials. Only part of the skeleton survived.

A well, located to the north of the site, was sub-circular in plan, c.2.7m in diameter, and c.5m deep. Its fills were relatively sterile, although a partially complete late Bronze Age/early Iron Age ceramic vessel was found close to the base of the feature; some animal bone and a few sherds of similar pottery were found in the uppermost fills.

A probable water-pit was located c.70m to the east of the trackway and burials. It was irregular in plan, continuing beyond the limit of excavation, and was at least c.5 x 2.5 x 1m in extent. A small amount of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery was recovered from both its upper and lower fills.

Several field boundaries were associated with the late Iron Age/early Roman settlement previously investigated to

the west (Luke and Barker 2021). Later features comprised medieval to early post-medieval furrows and modern post-enclosure field boundary ditches and land drains.

Luke, M. and Barker, J., 2021, *A Roman Farmstead and other Late Neolithic to Post-medieval Land-use at Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire*, Albion Archaeology Monograph 7

Oasis ID: albionar1-400616; Accession no.: LUTNM: 2021/19

Houghton Regis North 1 (HRN1), The Island and PSS Soil Bund Sites TL 0379 2560

MATTEO PALOMBELI, LEWIS BUSBY, IAN TURNER and WESLEY KEIR

A strip, map and sample investigation targeted the perimeter drainage trenches (c.1.8m wide) encircling two extensive soil bunds. Twenty-nine ditches, six pits, two postholes, and a wide hollow-way were revealed. Six ditches and two pits produced fragments of Iron Age pottery. A number of undated features are also likely to be of Iron Age/Roman date. Modern features comprised an extensive backfilled quarry and three ditches. Oasis ID: albionar1-412507; Accession no.: LUTNM: 2021/13

Houghton Regis, The Gates, Bedford Road TL 01352 24805

LEWIS BUSBY, IAN TURNER and WESLEY KEIR

Archaeological works, comprising trial trenching and c.1.45ha of strip, map and sample investigation were undertaken in advance of residential development. The preliminary results are summarised below (Fig. 13).

The earliest feature found was a single late Neolithic to early Bronze Age pit, dated by the recovery of a flint blade.

The earliest significant settlement evidence was a late Bronze Age/early Iron Age, ditched enclosure, measuring c.50 x 30m. Its north and east sides were defined by a large ditch with an entrance to the north (Fig. 14). A pit containing a calf skeleton was located adjacent to the entrance. The burial appeared to be a deliberate act rather than for the disposal of waste, with the anatomical position of the skeleton implying that the carcass was tied at the feet before being placed in the pit and immediately covered with chalky fill, similar to the surrounding natural geology. The enclosure had a number of internal features, including: a central roundhouse; a cluster of storage pits around its western edge; and a square, eight-post structure to the east. There was a second roundhouse some distance from the enclosure at the north end of the site.

A second enclosure, measuring c.40 x 30m and defined by postholes, was located to the north of the entrance to the ditched enclosure. It contained no evidence for internal structures or pitting, suggesting that it may have been a stock enclosure. Several other boundary ditches included two N–S aligned ditches to the west of the site and a NW–SE aligned ditch to the south.

The early to middle Iron Age saw the creation of a sub-circular enclosure and other ditched boundaries at the north end of the site. Similarly, the Roman period was characterised by extensive, field boundary ditches; a pair of metal tweezers represented one of the few artefacts recovered.

The early medieval period was characterised by a series of field boundaries and enclosures, most of which were located to the south of the site. One sub-circular enclosure

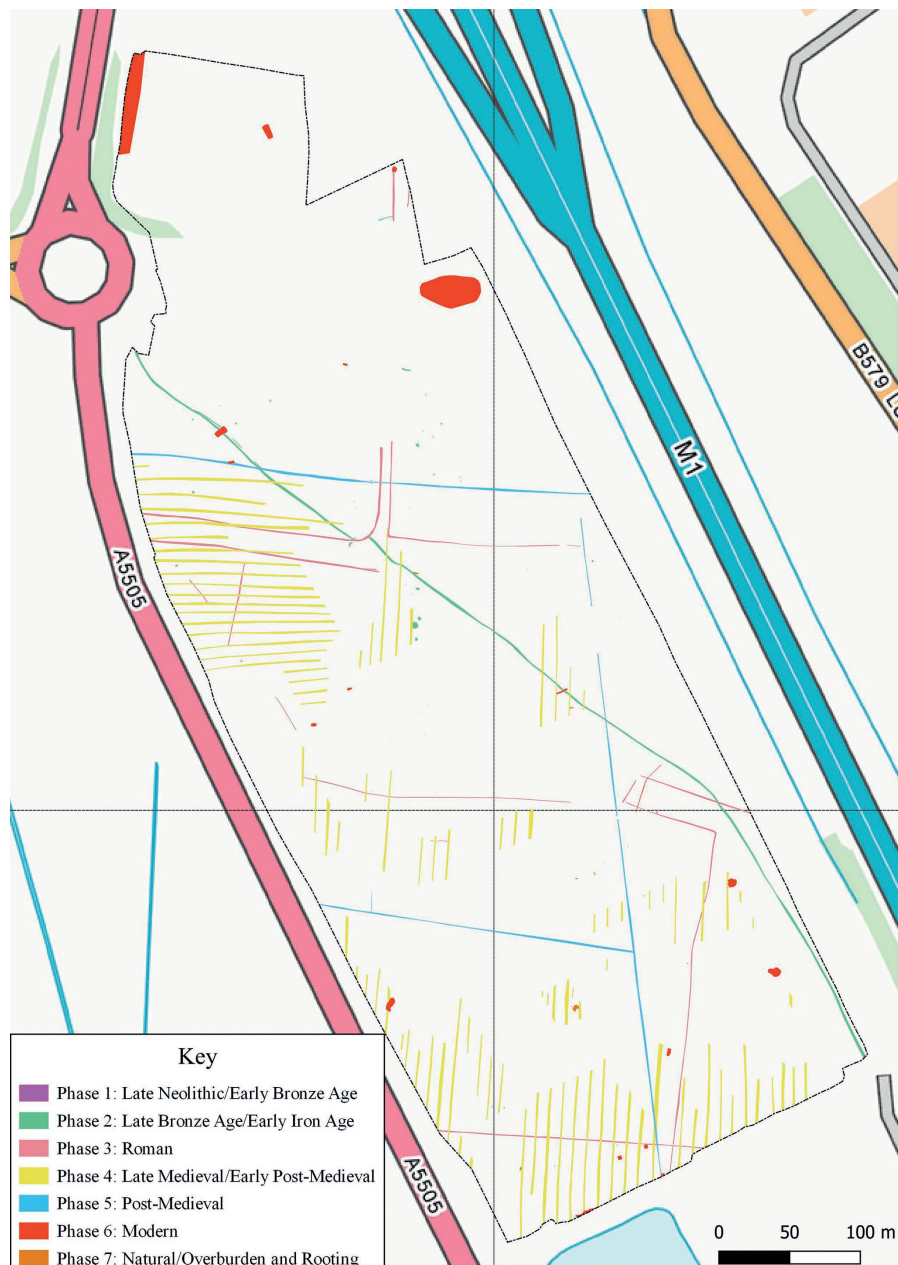


Figure 10: Houghton Regis Lidl RDC – provisional phased all-features plan.



Figure 11: Houghton Regis Lidl RDC – large storage pit (1m scale).



Figure 12: Houghton Regis North 1, Phase 3A – Crouched inhumation burial with ceramic vessel, cut into ditch terminus (1m scale).

had a west-facing entrance and contained a number of pits. The northernmost of a number of E–W aligned field boundaries had been deliberately infilled with large chalk blocks, presumably to aid drainage.

A N–S aligned gully and a pit on the west edge of the site produced a small amount of high medieval pottery. The pit also contained dark organic fills, derived from the dumping of waste material, most likely crop-processing waste. This phase also saw the redefinition of the field boundaries originally set out in the early medieval period.

In the post-medieval period a number of drainage ditches were dug at the south end of the site. This activity was coupled with the infilling of any remnants of the medieval boundary ditches with large spreads of dumped soil and gravel. Modern disturbance was common to the west of the site, where the remains of buildings backing onto Bedford Road were found. OASIS ID: albionar1-427195; Accession no: LUTNM: 2019/13

Lidlington, Marston Road SP 9917 3887

IAN TURNER

Monitoring of initial groundworks for a residential development was followed by a programme of trial trenching. The investigations only revealed a small number of modern and naturally formed features. OASIS ID: albionar1-391465; Accession no.: BEDFM 2020.15

Little Staughton , Trinity, Spring Hill TL 1037 6297

IAIN LESLIE and ADAM WILLIAMS

Trial trenching ahead of residential development revealed no archaeological remains. Whilst there was evidence of

modern landscaping in the form of made ground directly above the natural geology, there was no evidence to suggest that archaeological features, should they have been present, would not have survived. OASIS ID: albionar1-406425; Accession no.: BEDFM 2020.67

Oakley, Station Road TL 0139 5360

IAN TURNER

Trial trenching associated with proposed residential development revealed a curving Iron Age ditch, probably an enclosure boundary. Three additional ditches did not yield any artefacts and remain undated. They probably represent field boundaries, at some distance from domestic activity. Probable quarry pits (undated) were also investigated. A ditch and eight furrows are a good match for the two differing alignments of narrow furlong ‘strips’ depicted on a 1737 estate map. OASIS ID: albionar1-416043; Accession no.: BEDFM 2021.16

Sandy, 47 High Street TL 1748 4911

MARK PHILLIPS

Ahead of conversion for business use, a brick-built barn and an open-fronted shed were recorded. The buildings stand on the north side of a narrow yard, accessed from the High Street.

The barn has internal dimensions of 12.21m long by 4.13m wide. Access is via double doors in the centre of the south side and two high-level taking-in doors in the south elevation. The 9-inch brick walls are in Flemish bond, made from light red and gault machine-made extruded bricks, some of which are horizontally perforated for

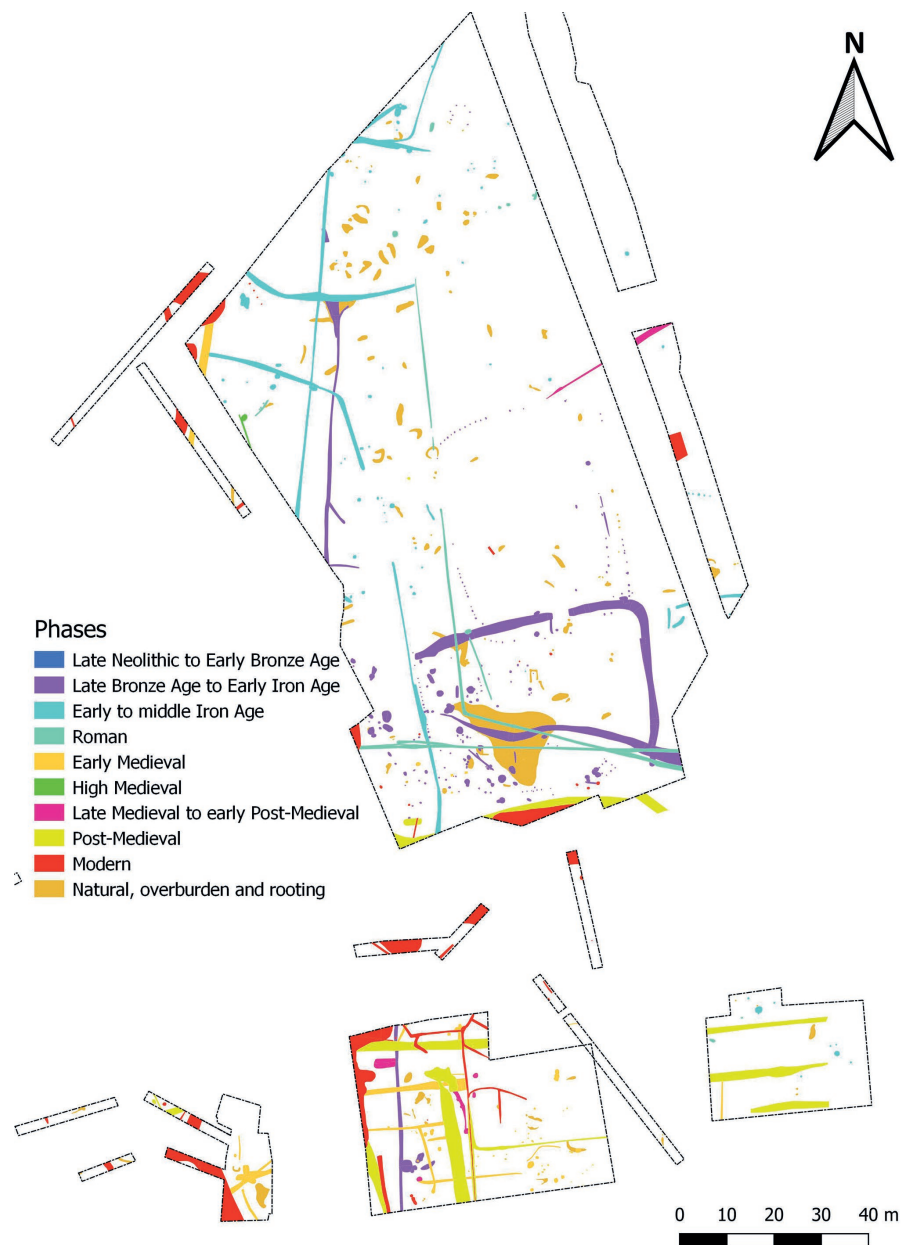


Figure 13: The Gates, Houghton Regis – provisional phased all-features plan.



Figure 14: The Gates, Houghton Regis – entrance to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age enclosure with calf burial.

ventilation. Internally the walls are whitewashed. The floor is in brick with a central drain in the west half of the barn. The pantile gabled roof is supported by four tie beams with raked-purlin struts. A mezzanine floor in the east end of the barn appears to be a later addition and is accessed by a re-used domestic staircase. A brick-built copper with a brick flue is located in the south-east corner of the barn. There are four iron hooks fixed to the wall 1.9m above the floor in the west end of the barn. A wooden wheel-type hoist, located on the floor of the building at the time of the survey, appears to have originally been mounted on two beams at tie-beam height in the west part of the barn. A wooden cleat fixed to the south wall appears to have been used to belay the end of the hoist rope. The first edition 25-inch OS map, surveyed in 1882, shows a building corresponding to the size and location of the barn. The machine-made extruded brick also indicates a construction date during the second half of the 19th century, probably during the 1870s or 1880s.

The open-fronted shed is at the west end of the barn. It is in a mixture of brick and timber-frame with weatherboard cladding. It has internal dimensions of 2.69m wide east-west by 3.8m long north-south. A planked floor at a height of 2m above the ground is likely to be a later addition.

The OS map shows a small farmstead, accessed off the High Street. The farm is not named and is likely to have been a smallish holding, possibly reflecting the nature of agricultural activity in Sandy where there was a history of market gardening. The copper in the east end of the barn would have been used for heating liquid and could have had various uses, including preparation of animal feed. Records indicate that 49 High Street was occupied by William Baldrey during the first half of the 20th century, with his trade listed variously as a butcher, dairyman or farmer. The fittings in the barn would be consistent with its use for a time as a slaughterhouse. OASIS ID: albionar1-414845; Accession no.: BEDFM 2021.12

Sharnbrook, Land at Hill Farm TL 0335 6880

TORI GUY and MIKE LUKE

Trial trenching was undertaken in support of a proposed residential development. The results in combination with those of an earlier geophysical survey allowed the definition of four areas of archaeological significance. Areas 1 and 3 represent probably contemporary Iron Age rural farmsteads in the north-west and south-east parts of the site. Area 2 in the central part of the site contained evidence for multi-period, peripheral activity, characterised by dispersed ditches and pits. It included medieval remains, possibly associated with a precursor to the post-medieval Hill Farm. Area 4 represents a further late Iron Age/Roman settlement in the south-east corner of the site. Like the Iron Age settlements, it is part of a wider landscape of densely settled land on the higher ground to the north of the River Great Ouse.

The geophysical survey provided a partial layout of the furrows associated with the medieval open fields, particularly in the south-east of the site. Sub-surface evidence for furrows survived in only five trenches; their alignments did not appear to respect the current field boundaries. Post-medieval and modern features were primarily land drains, broadly following the alignment of the medieval furrows. OASIS ID: albionar1-421340; Accession no.: BEDFM 2021.34

Shelton, St Mary's Church TL 0335 6880

MARK PHILLIPS

Archaeological observations during drainage improvements revealed a comparatively shallow soil profile on the north side of the church – topsoil and subsoil above gravel terrace deposits at a depth of 0.6m below the ground surface. No human remains, either *in situ* or disarticulated, were seen. The soil profile to the south of the church was slightly deeper. Some disarticulated human bone was found in a layer of grave-earth directly above alluvium; it was stored on site and reburied. A small amount of animal bone and modern (post-1750) pottery was noted in the upper soil layers. Small sections of the church foundations were uncovered at the ends of some of the drainage trenches. Their limited exposure precludes any useful observations regarding the construction sequence of the building. OASIS ID: albionar1-414845; Accession no.: BEDFM 2021.12

Shortstown, College Farm TL 0682 4654

MARCO CAPARDONI and BEN CARROLL

In support of proposed residential development 19 trial trenches were excavated; 16 of them contained archaeological features (excluding furrows). Whilst a small amount of residual late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery was recovered from later deposits, the earliest features dated to the Iron Age. The remains suggest the presence of a small-scale, rural settlement that is characterised by inter-linked circular and sub-circular enclosures, defined by ditches. The settlement appears to have had two main foci, connected by a linear ditched boundary, with further boundary ditches peripheral to the main settlement foci, perhaps forming field or landscape boundaries. This settlement is part of a richly inhabited landscape to the south of the River Great Ouse.

Remains of furrows, associated with medieval/post-medieval open fields, were identified in seven trenches. These correlated with the geophysical survey and alignments recorded on the 1794 Map of Cardington. OASIS ID: albionar1-412559; Accession no.: BEDFM 2021.02

Shortstown, Shorts Park TL 0831 4656

TORI GUY

Geophysical survey and trial trenching ahead of proposed residential development identified a late Bronze Age/ Iron Age settlement, characterised by at least one circular ditched enclosure with an entrance to the north-east. Internal features comprised ditches along with a storage pit, a refuse pit, and a pit containing a deliberately deposited pottery vessel. A potential second enclosure was identified to the east. Peripheral Iron Age features and several undated features were recorded in the trenches, as were a number of medieval furrows and modern features most probably associated with the former RAF Cardington. OASIS ID: albionar1-412379; Accession no.: BEDFM 2021.01

Studham, Clements End Road, Shires End

TL 0264 1523

MARCO CAPARDONI and KATHY PILKINTON

Trial trenching ahead of residential development identified two segments of a ditch associated with 19th-century land division and modern disturbance associated with

Bedfordshire

recently demolished greenhouses and stables. OASIS ID: albionar1-421265

Sutton, Land south of High Street TL 2269 4731

IAIN LESLIE and KATHY PILKINTON

Trial trenching ahead of residential development identified a number of medieval features – fourteen ditches, four pits and one posthole – mostly in the west part of the site. A re-cut boundary at the south-west end of Trench 2 appeared to demarcate the edge of the more extensive remains, with the smaller ditches to the west of this boundary likely representing a series of small enclosures. A relatively modest finds assemblage suggests the remains are peripheral to any domestic focus. Nonetheless, the concentration of features, including pits and a posthole, along with the presence of domestic waste (pottery, animal bone, mussel/oyster shell and charred cereals), does suggest domestic activity in the vicinity. OASIS ID: albionar1-413285; Accession no.: BEDFM 2021.05

Turvey, 16B Tandy's Close SP 9917 3887

KATHY PILKINTON and GARETH SHANE

Trial trenching ahead of residential development did not identify any archaeological features or artefacts. The only evidence for former activity was modern disturbance of the topsoil and subsoil, probably related to disposal of garden waste. A large pit identified in the side of Trench 1 also contained modern rubbish and garden refuse. OASIS ID: albionar1-413315; Accession no.: BEDFM 2020.15

Wrestlingworth, Land at Potton Road SP 9917 3887

KATHY PILKINTON

Archaeological evaluation had previously revealed the potential survival of Anglo-Saxon remains within the site. In advance of residential development a c. 0.15ha open-area excavation was undertaken. The archaeological remains were concentrated in the east half of the site. The earliest comprised a shallow quarry pit and a series of boundary ditches established in the late Anglo-Saxon period. The alignment of the boundary persisted into the early medieval period and hedgerows on a similar alignment may have been used to mark smaller plots to the west of the ditches. Three pits were also dated to the early medieval period. A small assemblage of artefacts and ecofacts suggests that the area lay on the periphery of Anglo-Saxon/medieval Wrestlingworth, with activity ceasing by the end of the 13th century. Although the remains were limited in extent, they support the idea that the village has its origins in the Anglo-Saxon period and form part of a growing body of archaeological evidence indicating that the initial settlement was founded in the 10th century. OASIS ID: albionar1-411176; Accession no.: BEDFM 2018.07

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Wilstead, Land at Howard Close NGR 506557 243051

EILIDH BARR

An evaluation in February by Cotswold Archaeology comprised seven trenches, excavated to accompany an outline planning application for residential development. The evaluation revealed an undated pit.

Wymington, land rear of 98 to 124 Rushden Road

SP 95545 64952

JAY WOOD

An evaluation comprising five trenches was undertaken in March by Cotswold Archaeology to inform a planning application for residential development. Ridge and furrow earthworks were recorded, but these lacked finds. An undated, probably modern, ditch was also identified.

HEADLAND ARCHAEOLOGY

Kempston, Gulsham-e Baghdad cemetery

TL 500966 247723

B. DOYLE

Headland Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching in support of a pre-planning application to Bedford Borough Council for the construction of a new cemetery and associated infrastructure. A total of 16 trenches were excavated across the site which identified a curvilinear ditch of unknown date, a post-medieval field boundary, and evidence of past agricultural activity in the form of furrows.

HERITAGE NETWORK

Barton-le-Clay, 77–79 Hexton Road TL 08615 30615

PERI HORSLEY, HELEN ASHWORTH and D. JAMES RACKHAM

In response to a condition on the planning consent for the development of 77–79 Hexton Road, Barton-le-Clay, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned in 2018 to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation. The works comprised the opening of two trial trenches, followed immediately by a Strip, Map and Record exercise across the footprint of the proposed new dwelling.

The archaeological fieldwork revealed three features which contained abraded sherds of pottery of middle Saxon to early medieval date. These were all located on, or close to, the southern boundary of the site. The state of the sherds indicates that they were residual in later contexts. The remaining features were undated and may represent post-medieval garden features.

Analysis of bulk soil samples recovered from the features showed that the fills were largely derived from domestic activity. A deposit of coal and cinder, which may be associated with cottages that previously occupied the site, was identified, but most of the material recovered from the samples, including charred cereal grains, eel and herring bones and chicken eggshell, is consistent with a medieval date.

Possible charred grains of spelt wheat were identified in the sample from the lower fill of pit [203], which also produced sherds of early medieval pottery. The grains may be residual and may indicate Roman activity in the vicinity.

The accumulated evidence suggests that features [201], [203] and [214] are of possible later medieval date, while the rest may represent post-medieval garden features.

No evidence for prehistoric activity and very limited evidence for possible Roman and Saxon activity, comprising a few charred grains of possible spelt wheat and a single sherd of middle Saxon pottery, was recorded during the present investigation.

Clophill, The Green Man PH, The Green

TL 08220 37740

LISA WALDOCK

In response to a condition on the planning consent for a residential development at The Green Man Public House, The Green, Clophill, Bedfordshire, MK45 4AD, the Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake a programme of below ground archaeological investigation, following an earlier historic buildings impact assessment.

The site, centered on NGR TL 08220 37740, is located at the western end of the village, on the north side of The Green and approximately 80m to the north of the River Flit, a tributary of the River Ivel. It lies at the foot of the Greensand ridge, in the valley of the River Flit, at approximately 55m AOD.

The proposed development involves the conversion of the present building into new residential units and the construction of a new dwelling in the rear car park.

A single trial trench, measuring 15m in length, 2m in width and 1.0m in depth, was located across the new development footprint to assess the archaeological potential of the site. The stratigraphy encountered in the trench comprised a layer of tarmac above hardcore. Below this was a subsoil, which overlay the natural substrate, encountered at a depth of 0.88m. A single east – west aligned linear feature was observed midway along the trench, but which contained no dateable material. Other similar linear features, interpreted as small boundary or plot partitions of medieval or post-medieval date, were identified during archaeological fieldwork immediately to the east and west of the present site.

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

Sharpenhoe, Moated Site at Bury Farm, Harlington Road TL 06526 30758

DAVID HILLELSON

Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation of a scheduled moated site at Bury Farm, Harlington Road, Sharpenhoe, MK45 4SG. The evaluation was intended to investigate the nature and extent of illegally dumped spoil and building waste within the site and inform the controlled removal of that material.

Sharpenhoe is situated c1.7km south-west of Barton-le-Clay and 2km to the north of Streatley, in Bedfordshire. The village lies at the base of an escarpment forming Sundon Hills, Moleskin and Markham Hills, Sharpenhoe Clappers and Smithcombe Hills. The site falls within a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Bury Farm lies on the northern side of the village, and north of Harlington Road. The former farmhouse and its gardens, which include the moated site, are now separated from the working farm, which lies to the north. The central area of the moated site is largely grass, and the moat is surrounded by trees.

The site lies on level ground at about 75–80m above Ordnance Datum. The bedrock geology for the site is mapped as West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation (BGS 2019). There are no mapped superficial deposits.

The escarpment to the south of the village was occupied during prehistory. An Iron Age hillfort is located on

Sharpenhoe Clappers (NHLE 1009400). Limited excavation across a bank at the hillfort has confirmed Iron Age and Roman activity and recorded that it was later used as a warren during the medieval period.

The moated manor at Bury Farm, Sharpenhoe, is first depicted on historic maps dating to 1770, where the moat is depicted as sub-square with a large building in the north-western corner (HE 2019). The north-western corner appears to have been partially infilled to create a causeway, and farm buildings are shown outside of the enclosure to the west.

The house was depicted in a painting dating to 1820, and it has been suggested that it was Tudor in appearance (HE 2019). The platform on which the house stood was still visible as a raised earthwork platform, sub-rectangular in plan, c. 37m north to south and 0.6m higher than the rest of the moated island.

Two stages of investigation were conducted on the scheduled moated site at Bury Farm, Sharpenhoe. The first stage comprised a geo-archaeological evaluation, which drove four boreholes from the existing ground surface (consisting of recent infill material in each case) to the natural substrate, into which the moat had been cut. Sleeved cores were extracted from the boreholes, and these were examined, recorded and analysed, and two samples were subsequently submitted for radiocarbon dating. The cores demonstrated that there was only limited survival of moat sediments in the three surviving arms of the moat and that, where they did survive, they were post-medieval in date. The conclusion drawn was that the moat had been cleaned out to its base in the 18th or 19th century and that no earlier, medieval sediments had survived.

The second stage involved the excavation of a series of trial trenches and test pits intended to characterise the infill deposits within the moat, assess the impact on underlying stratigraphy of a drainage pipe crossing the moat island, and characterise several dumps of material on the moat island. The trenches across the line of the moat identified a mixture of redeposited natural material, probably derived from the excavations that destroyed the western arm of the moat, and demolition waste derived from construction works on the site and elsewhere. The trenches across the line of the drainage pipe showed limited impacts at either end, but the middle of the moat island had a complicated stratigraphy formed of multiple discontinuous deposits, including a concentration of metalworking residues at a low level. The upstanding deposits proved to be modern and confined to the surface.

The investigations have demonstrated that the material dumped in the northern, eastern and southern arms of the moat, and the upstanding dumps elsewhere, could be carefully removed without any impact on significant archaeological deposits. On balance, it is considered that removal of the drainage pipe that crosses the moat island, would cause additional harm to the monument and it would be preferable to leave it in situ.

KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**Dunstable, Grove House, High Street North**

TL 0170 2213

LAURA DODD

A Strip, Map and Sample Excavation was undertaken early 2020 to the rear of the 18th century Grove House,

Bedfordshire

which is located on the northern edge of the Roman town of *Durocbrivae* and adjacent to the core of the medieval town. The building was originally constructed in the 1740s as an inn known as the 'Duke of Bedford's Arms', but it now serves as the Dunstable Council offices and the once formal gardens to the rear are now a public park.

An area of 156.42sq metres was stripped revealing a brick hearth, a subterranean water cistern, three brick walls, one clunch and chalk wall, four postholes, two linears, one square and six circular pits (Fig. 15). These represented four separate phases of activity dating from the Roman period to the modern day, demonstrating a long, albeit non-consecutive, period of human activity.

Roman

The earliest phase consisted of two pits situated at the western edge of the investigation dating from the Roman period. Pit [064] was cut on its southwest side by pit [047], the only one of the two to contain finds.

Medieval

The features from the second phase of activity were pit [025], situated near the centre of the excavation, and at the western end, hearth [018], which was disturbed by pit [034]. The hearth was 1.17m long x >0.81m wide x 0.10m deep and comprised a number of red mid-14th-16th century roof tiles set on edge (Fig. 16). Some of the tiles had been intentionally broken to allow them to sit securely within the structure. Two large pieces of clunch had been placed to the southeast of the tiles, and these, like the tiles, were blackened with soot and charcoal. The hearth was cut along its southwest edge by a large, possible rubbish pit [034] that contained animal bone, and substantial amounts of medieval roofing tiles similar to those that constitute hearth. The remaining pit [025] may have also been used for waste disposal as its four fills contained a small number of animal bones from horse, cattle, and sheep/goat, pottery dating from the mid-late 12th-14th century, and cereal grains (bread/club/riquet wheat and hulled barley) typical of the medieval period.

Post-medieval

A number of post-medieval walls were revealed, most of which were brick-built and probably related to the former inn or the maltings that stood to the northwest of Grove House in the 19th century. However, one, wall [062], had been built of clunch, and is likely to date from the medieval period. A large chalk surface (048) was revealed at the western end of the excavation that abutted a late 17th or early 18th century wall [056] and probably formed part of an associated yard or working area.

Close to the centre of the excavation was a square water cistern [014] measuring 2.76m long and 2.29m wide. The base was not revealed but the feature was excavated to a depth of 1.5m and auguring indicated it continued a further 1.3m. The lowest part of the feature was carved into the natural chalk, and its superstructure comprised three rows of smoothly dressed clunch blocks laid atop the chalk in uneven courses, followed by two rows of regularly coursed 18th century red brick. The bricks may have been the lower courses of the features roof as to the northwest and southeast these appeared to be forming the beginning of a vaulted ceiling. It is possible that this structure was destroyed during

landscaping of the gardens and poorly backfilled with the remains of the roof and other building detritus.

Other features associated with this phase were ditch [030], two small rubbish pits [021/007], a large square pit [051], two postholes [058/060], and (tree) planting holes [009/011/067] probably associated with area landscaping.

Modern

The modern features observed on site were associated with landscaping of the public park and included planting pit [038] and rooting [071] [072] [074] and [077].

Unphased

Three features were not able to be assigned dates through either stratigraphic or artefactual means: postholes [032/019] and Gully [023]. The latter gully could be given a tentative post-medieval date as it runs parallel to and is almost identical in composition to the fill ditch [030] potentially suggesting contemporaneity.

Discussion

The Roman town at Dunstable, *Durocbrivae* (or *Durocbrivis*), developed around the crossroads of the prehistoric route known as the Icknield Way and the later Roman road Watling Street. The existing crossroads served as an ideal location for a planned market town in the medieval period and numerous medieval features including ovens, pits and ditches have been noted throughout Dunstable. The most notable medieval feature exposed on the Grove House site was the hearth. The Penn roofing tiles used in its construction were produced at High Wycombe, and these tiles were used in high-status buildings such as royal palaces and churches (Zeepvat 2009:190). Medieval activity on the site is limited and the lack of any other indications of high status indicate that the tiles were potentially *ex-situ* and merely re-used for the construction of the hearth. Similar features have been observed elsewhere in Dunstable, such as at High Street South (Aaronson 2018).

The town's successes continued into the post-medieval period and by the 18th century it became a coaching town. Numerous inns were established and with them maltings and other industries such as straw hat making (Albion 2003: 35). The findings at Grove House illustrate this commercial success as the majority of the features on site reflect activities directly associated with the former inn and its malthouse. In many Bedfordshire towns brewing was a major industry during the post-medieval period and during the 16th century, inns brewed their own beer, and it was not long before specialist maltsters began to appear. Some remained fairly small, whereas others turned into larger breweries during the 17th and 18th centuries (Edgeworth 2007:127). Reference to a Malthouse on High Street North is noted in 1820 as belonging to Mr Edward Thomas Burr and occupied by Mr Benjamin Bennet. Although it is unclear as to which malthouse is being referred to, the Ordnance Survey Map of 1884 confirms that a one such establishment was present on the site by the end of the 19th century. OASIS: kdkarcha1-369504; Accession Number: LUTMN 2020/5

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Dunton, Land to the south of Biggleswade Road

TL 23320 44089

ROBERT KENYON of Magnitude Surveys

In May 2021 KDK Archaeology Ltd commissioned Magnitude Surveys to assess the subsurface archaeological potential of circa half a hectare of land at Dunton. A fluxgate gradiometer survey was successfully completed across the survey area. The survey identified a range of anomalies interpreted as indicating agricultural activity including ploughing, drainage and a former field boundary. However, no anomalies indicative of significant archaeological activity were identified. OASIS: kdkarcha1-503941; Accession Number: BEDFM 2021.32

Land adjacent to Bedford Road, Houghton Regis

TL 0135 2458

LAURA DODD

Open area excavation of the site followed trial trenching undertaken in 2019 that produced a single feature; a Neolithic/Bronze Age pit which was interpreted as being used for the disposal of butchery waste owing to the number of species represented within the assemblage and the amount of 'meat poor' skeletal elements identified (Troake & Kennedy 2019:9). Pits of this nature and date have been found locally formed in clusters, notably at the land adjacent to Puddle Hill Quarry (HER 687) to the west of the development area.

The excavation area was focussed on the pit encountered in the 2019 investigation, which was fully exposed and found to be a discrete feature rather than part of a cluster. In total 81 features from a broad date range were recorded, including one cremation, 35 postholes, 30 pits, eight ditches, three gullies, two stake holes and a plough scar (Fig. 17). Artefact recovery was generally low which resulted in many of the features remaining undated.

The earliest securely dated feature on the site was a cremation burial [191]. Although very little of the individual had survived, the remains of a finger bone allowed for the positive identification of human remains. Radiocarbon dating of this individual produced an estimated date range of between 3775 and 3650cal BC which would place the cremation firmly within the Neolithic period, and may be part of a wider ritual landscape. Further evidence for Neolithic activity was encountered on the site; however, this was limited to a handful of worked flints, including a Neolithic leaf shaped arrow head, that were recovered from cut features and there was no indication of concentrated flint scatters associated with a knapping site, suggesting that either only occasional tool production took place on the site,

or the material has worked its way there from a production site nearby.

Later prehistoric activity dating to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age was principally focussed on a posthole complex close to the centre of the site and pit [188] that had been highlighted in the evaluation which ultimately led to this Open Area Excavation (Figs. 18 & 19).

The pit, which was 2.11m long, 0.95m wide and 0.42m deep, contained an arrowhead (Fig. 18), end scraper, one blade, two elongated 'blade like' flakes and other debitage most of which were suggestive of an early Neolithic date. Fired clay was also noted. Although Neolithic remains were present, a large quantity of pottery recovered from the feature was dated to the late Bronze Age-early Iron Age, and the use of the pit is likely to be associated with this later date. Cremated animal bone was found in abundance along with some unburnt animal bone, and a small amount of hazelnut shell, indicative of foraging, was observed in the environmental sampling taken from fill of the pit.

Pit [188] contained three postholes [197], [195] and [202]; as these were not visible within the pit fills it is likely that they predate the pit. No artefacts were recovered from the postholes so secured dating could not be achieved; however, they can be given a *terminus ante quem* of the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age through their stratigraphical relationship.

Several features contained artefactual evidence dating to the Iron Age period, although often these finds were limited to a single sherd of pottery making it difficult to closely date them with any confidence. However, as these features were sealed below a subsoil layer that was cut by Roman ditches [183] and [014] it is probable that the features are prehistoric or early Roman, though it should be noted that the dating of the Roman ditch is also based on a single piece of pottery, albeit securely stratified.

Pits [047] [077] [144], [147] [149] and [169] containing a small quantity of pottery dating to the mid-late Iron Age were found in close proximity to possible Structures 1 and 2 (see below), with larger undated pits situated to the north and east. The majority of these features were likely used for the deposition of organic waste which has not survived within the soil. Three ditches were recorded cutting the natural geology. Ditch [017] was identified as a mid-late Iron Age boundary, but the function and date of a curvilinear ditch [125] could not be ascertained. A third undated linear, [171] which was also rich in uncharred grains, ran parallel to [017]. Whilst no artefactual dating was obtained, its alignment proximity to [017] could suggest they are associated.

Further linears were observed cutting into the subsoil; Gully [027], which contained a single sherd of early-mid Iron Age pottery, Ditch [183] which contained a sherd of Roman pottery and its recut [014] which contained a sherd of Iron Age pottery, and post-medieval ditch [107], the latter three features were also interpreted as boundary ditches.

Artefacts dating to the Saxon period were absent from the site and medieval finds were scarce, being limited to a single piece of roof tile from Ditch [107] and a pottery sherd from which was recovered from the surface of Ditch [017].

Three post-medieval/modern pits were encountered during this investigation. Ditch [107] cut through two of these [105] and [176]. Pit [084], contained evidence of modern fire residue, including charcoal, coal, slag and ash. Analysis of the sampled fills showed the presence of free-threshing type hexaploid wheat, a grain common in the Saxon period.



Figure 16: Medieval hearth at Grove House, Dunstable.

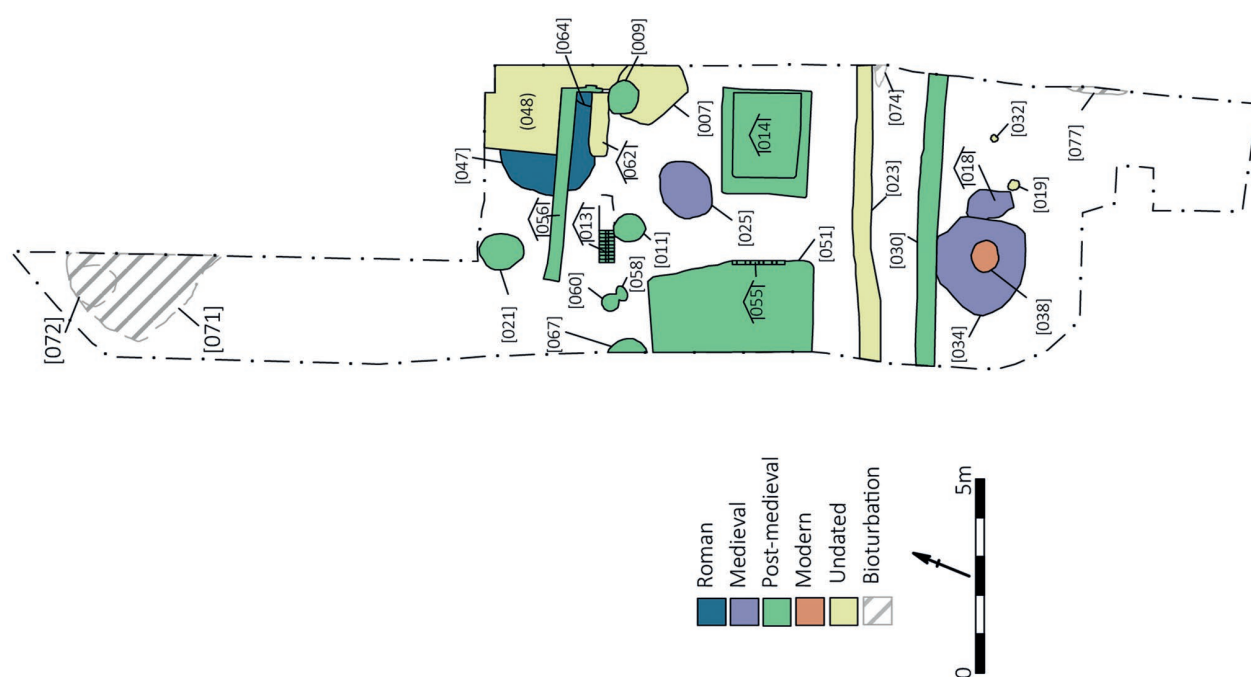


Figure 15: Grove House, Dunstable – Plan of excavated area.

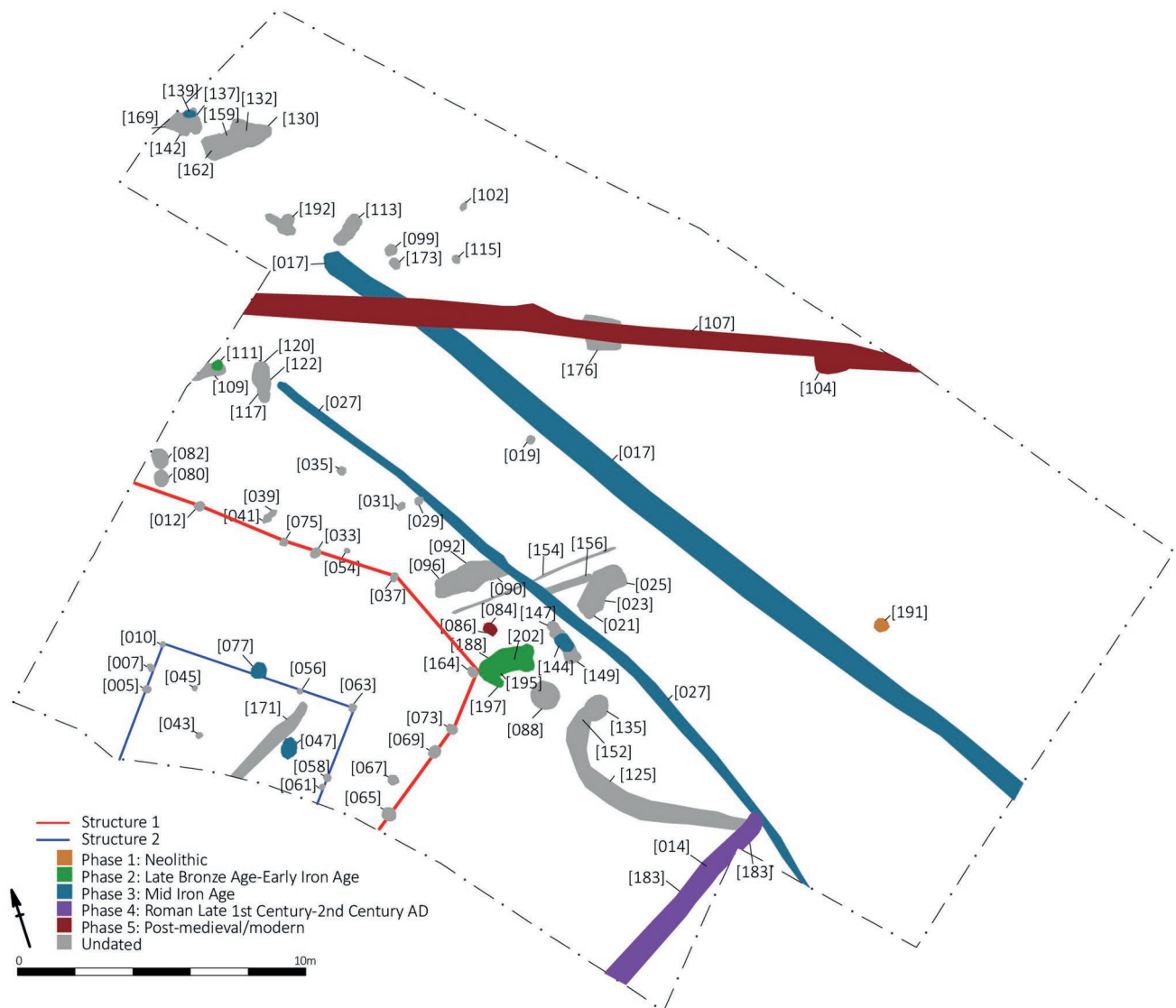


Figure 17: Bedford Road, Houghton Regis – All features plan.

This type of grain was found in abundance within both the fills of Ditch [014] suggesting that either the feature is later than the artefactual data would suggest, or perhaps the recut was Saxon and the grain had permeated into the lower fill. These grains were also found within undated features Ditch [125], Pit [122] and Posthole [033] as well as post-medieval Pit [084], late Bronze Age/early Iron Age Pit [188], and Cremation [190]. Within these features, wheat grains were found in a limited numbers showing that a certain amount of contamination has occurred on the site.

Ditch [107] was rich in datable material including a clay tobacco pipe stem, a copper alloy brooch and a halfpenny, and the cut had been reused for the installation of a ceramic land drain.

Two fairly regular groups of closely spaced postholes in the south-western quarter of the excavation and ranging from 0.21 – 0.45m in diameter, suggested that at least two rectangular structures were present on the site. Due to the lack of artefacts found within the postholes it is difficult to ascertain what date or phase these structures belong to. However, two sherds of pottery recovered from two of the postholes dating to the mid-late Iron Age were recovered from Structure 2 and a single sherd of early-mid Iron Age pottery was recovered from the fill of a posthole in Structure

1. The features appear to represent a simple freestanding structure and were probably livestock pens.

More postholes were observed outside the putative structures which appear similar in shape, size and composition to the ones associated with the structures; however, due to the lack of artefactual data, all relationships are only inferred. Further postholes were located to the north of the site, though relationship to the other postholes could not be determined.

Conclusion

The archaeology on the site is generally indicative of activity on the periphery of settlement, largely related to agriculture, and there was little to suggest anything of high status. There were also no indications of substantive domestic waste in any of the cut features, lending weight to the notion of a possible hinterland location. However, the broad date range attributed to the features suggests that the local area beyond the confine of the excavation has been occupied for a considerable length of time, though not necessarily continuously. The majority of activity on site associated with large cut features can be attributed to the Iron Age and continued into the Roman period. The ditches that dominated the site were probably related to field boundaries

Bedfordshire

or enclosures, though due to the limitations in the size of the excavated area, it was not possible to ascertain their full extent or determine whether there were any associated returns. Alternatively, the parallel nature of two of the ditches could suggest the presence of a trackway, though there was nothing particular noted in the overlying subsoil between them which added any weight to this supposition.

The undated structures on the site are probably animal pens, and if the ditches were remnants of enclosures, it would not be surprising to find such remains within their confines. However, there is no archaeological dating evidence to associate the two with any confidence.

The short ditch in the southern corner of the site has been attributed a Roman date on the basis of the pottery recovered from its lower fill. However, it is worth noting that the environmental analysis of the fill of an apparent recut, suggests a Saxon date, at least for that element. This leads to the possibility that the ditch may have been in use for an extended period. As only a short length of this feature was present on the site, its function can only be conjectured.

The largest ditch, at least in width, was on the northern corner of the site. It is likely that it is a post-medieval field boundary, probably the remnants of two plots being amalgamated. Its orientation is very similar to that of the adjacent field to the north.

Despite the limited number of features recorded in the initial evaluation, and its relatively modest size, the site yielded a surprisingly large quantity of archaeology, and provided an insight in the life and death of ordinary people from multiple periods. OASIS: kdkarcha1-420060; Accession Number: LUTNM 2021/16

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Leighton Buzzard, Market Cross, Market Square

SP 9214 2506

KARIN KAYE

Between April 2020 and October 2021 KDK Archaeology Ltd carried out Historic Building Recording of the Market Cross, Market Square, Leighton Buzzard (Scheduled Monument Ref: 10054290, Figs 20 & 21) in order to inform maintenance and conservation work on the structure. The Market Cross is thought to date from the later 15th century and may have been funded by Geoffrey Chaucer's granddaughter, Alice, the extremely wealthy widow the 1st Duke of Suffolk. The first documented episode of repair dates from

the 1650s, although the extent of the works is unknown. Extensive repairs occurred in the 1850s and the early years of the 20th century, with lesser episodes of consolidation in the late 20th and early 21st century.

Of particular interest for this study was the origin of the building stone used in the structure. This and the nature of some of the later repairs has been clarified to a limited extent by the petrological analysis of the stone and close inspection of the structure from a cherry picker. The main body of the Market Cross is built of Wheatley and Headington Stone from Oxfordshire, and the statues were carved out of a local sandstone commonly known as Carstone. The stone used for the back of the niches appears to be of Totternhoe Stone, a light-coloured limestone that is found c.8kmsoutheast of Leighton Buzzard, which provided a fine colour contrast to the rich orangey brown of the statues. Blisworth Stone was used in the upper levels including the central pinnacle, and Weldon Stone of the Lincolnshire Limestone Group was used to build the parapet in 1900. More recent repairs have been carried out in Bath stone, although the rationale behind this choice is unclear as it fails to blend in with the other stone. OASIS: kdkarcha1-384935

Meppershall, Land at 7 Shefford Road TL 14065 37048

ELLEN SHLASKO

A Heritage Asset Assessment of Land at 7 Shefford Road, Meppershall was prepared in August 2021. The project was part of the pre-planning application process and incorporated both historical research and a geophysical survey conducted by Magnitude Surveys Ltd. The proposed development site comprises a mid-20th century bungalow and agricultural sheds, along with a large, rectangular area of pasture. Historical evidence indicates that this area has been in continuous agricultural use since at least the late 18th century and this conclusion is supported by the results of the magnetometer survey, which revealed anomalies consistent with agricultural practices. The site has a low potential to contain archaeological remains. OASIS: kdkarcha1-502143

Stanbridge, Barn 4, Green Farm, Tilsworth Road

SP 96635 24139

KARIN KAYE

A photographic survey was undertaken in March 2021 in order to revise Historic Building Recording report initially prepared in 2017 to support a new planning application. The building dates from the late 17th/early 18th century and appears to have been built at much the same time as the Grade II listed farmhouse and barn to the northeast. Barn 4 is not listed. It served as a Cow House and pigsty for many years and is now the last of the farm outbuildings to be converted. OASIS: kdkarcha1-501653; Accession Number: LUTMN 2018/14

Tempsford, Land off Sawfords Meadow TL 1608 5278

PERI HORSLEY and ELLEN SHLASKO

An Archaeological Evaluation was undertaken at Land off Sawfords Meadow, Tempsford in January 2021. Despite the extent of archaeological activity in the area, the evaluation trenches produced no archaeological cut features, deposits or artefacts from any period. OASIS: kdkarcha1-407119; Accession Number: BEDFM 2020.75



Figure 18: Bedford Road, Houghton Regis – Neolithic leaf shaped arrowhead from Pit [188].



Figure 19: Bedford Road, Houghton Regis – Pit [188] and associated postholes.

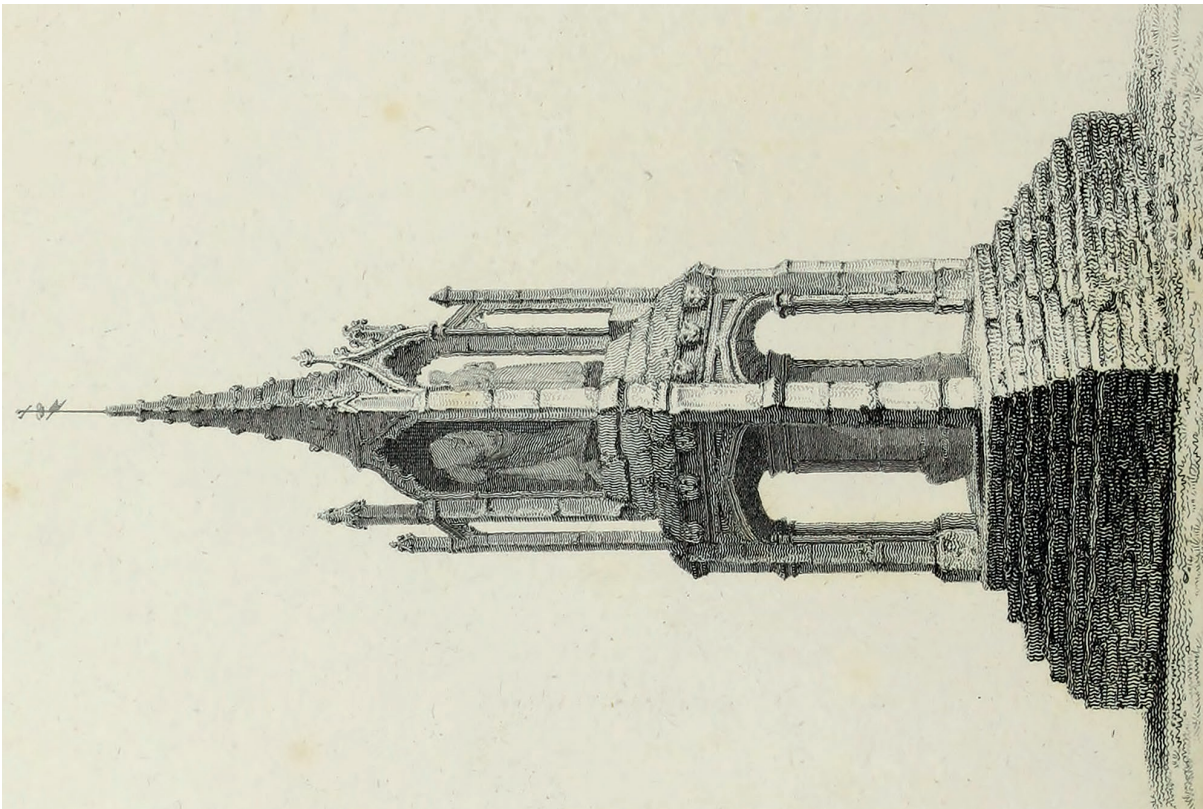


Figure 20: Leighton Buzzard – The Market Cross in 1807 (Britton, J. *The Architectural Antiquity of Great Britain Vol. 1* London: Longman Hurst, Bees and Orme).



Figure 21: Leighton Buzzard – The Market Cross in 2021.

Wilstead, Land to the rear of Elms Mere, 96 Cotton End Road TL 0739 4374

DEREK WATSON

An Archaeological Evaluation of Land to the rear of Elms Mere, 96 Cotton End Road, Wilstead was undertaken in February 2021. Despite the proximity of the development site to archaeological sites and finds dating from prehistory, and its location within the postulated boundaries of the medieval settlement, the evaluation did not reveal any significant archaeological features, deposits or artefacts. Oasis: kdkarcha1-410946; Accession Number: BEDFM 2020.90

LEIGHTON BUZZARD AND DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY (LBDAHS)

Old Linslade Holy Well, Old Linslade Road Main

Cottage: SP 90864 27016; Annex Trench: SP 90834 27039

PAUL TATE and SARAH ROE

In May 2021, excavations by the Leighton Buzzard and District Archaeological and Historical Society (LBDAHS) recommenced after an 18-month COVID break in search of a 13th century Holy Well reputedly located in a swampy area along the western bank of the Grand Union canal in the meadow opposite St. Mary's Church in Old Linslade, Bedfordshire.

While the exact location of the Well is not precisely documented, some historical records suggest it was in the grounds of a later cottage and possibly refilled when canal construction altered the underground water course.

Brick foundations of a mid-late 18th century cottage were uncovered including a carefully laid brick and tiled floor surface and a variety of 18th, 19th, and early 20th century pottery and metal finds (Fig. 22). One of the walls to the North also revealed what appear to be much earlier foundations of large sandstone/ironstone blocks, similar to the material used in the construction of St. Mary's Church in the late 11th century (Fig. 23). Beyond this wall is also a deposit of larger boulders not found elsewhere on the site and which may indicate a deliberate infill of some kind.

A number of 13th and 14th century pottery finds were also identified in an outer area beyond the South wall of the cottage in relatively undisturbed land. An annex trench further North along the canal also produced numerous more 13th and 14th century pottery shards, suggesting more extensive medieval habitation in the area. A clipped Henry III silver penny (halfpenny) c. 1240 was also found close by.

The 2021 dig season ended in mid-October with one final pottery find suggesting the site may date back much earlier to the Romano-British period. Deeper excavations, now with the assistance of a water pump to clear regular water seepage and flooding, will resume in 2022 as soon as drier weather permits.

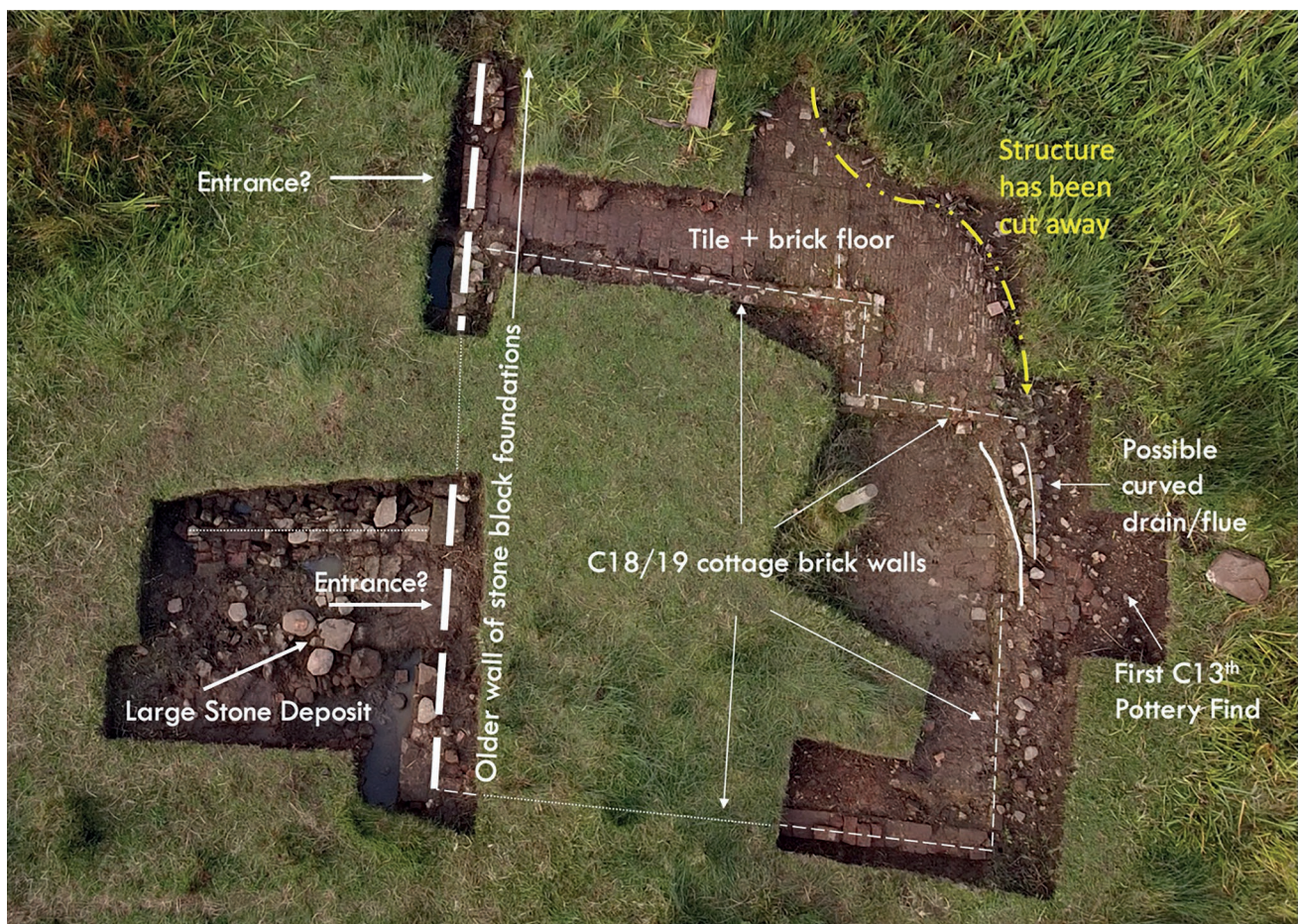


Figure 22: Old Linslade – Mid-late 18th Century cottage trenches.



Figure 23: Old Linslade – Earlier sandstone wall foundations.

MOLA NORTHAMPTON

Cranfield, Cranfield Airport, Cranfield Solar Farm
SP 495125 242100
PAUL THOMPSON

An archaeological watching brief prior to the installation of cabling for solar panels found no archaeological features. OASIS molanort1- 502309

Flitwick, land south of Steppingley Road TL 0247 3536
ADAM MEADOWS

A magnetometer survey across c8ha of land south of Steppingley Road was undertaken. An isolated ring ditch or gully was recorded near the eastern corner of the survey area, and this measured c7m in diameter and had a south-facing entrance. Other archaeological anomalies found by this survey included a few linear ditches of unknown date which may represent former field boundaries, although none match with boundaries recorded on late 19th- and 20th-century maps. Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation was detected across much of the site. OASIS molanort1-502822

Land west of Great Barford SP 123 521
ADAM MEADOWS

A magnetometer survey on land west of Great Barford detected a concentration of archaeological remains that broadly correspond with known cropmarks in this area. The remains comprised a series of ditched enclosures arranged intermittently along a long, sinuous boundary ditch or trackway. It included one group of overlapping curvilinear enclosure ditches, which probably marked an area prolonged occupation.

Further archaeological remains have been detected at the eastern edge of the survey area where a small section of enclosure ditch hints at the presence of a separate site which

extended into an un-surveyed field to the north. The rest of the survey data provided evidence of medieval to early post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation and to the changing pattern of post-medieval and modern field divisions. OASIS molanort1-501627

Houghton Regis North Development, Bidwell West, Parcels K and L SP 99814 24621
GEMMA HEWITT and STEPHEN MORRIS

The site comprised two areas of investigation over 200m apart with Parcel K located at the north-eastern extent of the site and Parcel L directly to the south-west side of Thorn Farm.

In Parcel L two early Iron Age pit clusters were encountered (Fig. 24).

The earlier-middle Iron Age saw the establishment of an open settlement comprising a small enclosure, two

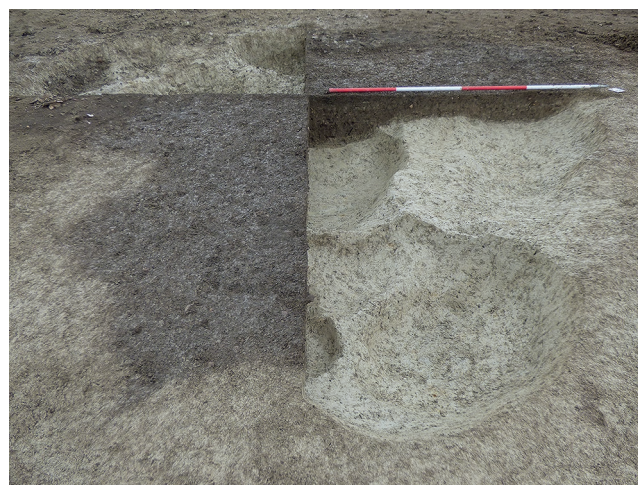


Figure 24: Houghton Regis, Pit cluster [5009], looking north-east.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY EAST

roundhouses and two boundary ditches. In the later-middle Iron Age the site was dominated by a large enclosure with an internal roundhouse and a group of pits, located adjacent to the smaller enclosure that had continued in use, and these were associated with a single roundhouse and a boundary. A linear boundary and a small group of gullies and pits were probably established in Parcel K during this period. The late Iron Age site in Parcel L was still centred on the large enclosure in association with another roundhouse and three boundary ditches. Late Iron Age activity in Parcel K saw the establishment of a large boundary ditch. Two cremation burials were found in Parcel L, with 11 dispersed cremation burials in Parcel K. Both areas were abandoned by the pre-Conquest period. Roman activity was limited to an arrangement of linear ditches forming a rectilinear field system in Parcel L and the re-cutting of the large boundary ditch in Parcel K.

In the medieval period the two excavation areas were both situated to the north of a slightly irregular large green. The first activity dated to the early 12th-century and comprised a south-east to north-east aligned field boundary ditch, with a central entrance at Parcel K. A large sub-rectangular enclosure was attached to the northwest side of the field boundary. Located in the north corner of the enclosure there was a well. By the mid-12th century, the field boundary was consolidated, the enclosure removed, and the land adapted to the medieval field strip system.

Later boundaries and a trackway established by the 17th-century corresponded with those depicted on the pre-enclosure map of the Parish of Houghton Regis, surveyed 1762. These probably continued in use into the 19th-century when they were replaced by a single boundary ditch. A 17th-19th-century trackway and track side ditches was recorded (Fig. 25). OASIS molanort1-377899

Lower Shelton, Land off Lower Shelton Road

SP 99987 42581

CAMILLA COLLINS

An evaluation, which comprised two trial trenches, took place on land off Lower Shelton Road. A sparse number of archaeological features were found and comprised an 18th-19th-century ditch as well as undated pits and ditches. These were thought to signify low levels of agricultural activity dispersed across the site. OASIS molanort1- 501009.

Barton le Clay, Greenwoods TL 08237 31868 to TL 09592 34649 (OAE Report 2556)

P LAMBERT

Evaluation was carried out to characterise the site ahead of development. A total of five archaeological sites were identified. The earliest evidence for settlement was located to the south, in Fields 16/17 (Site 5) and 18 (Site 4). This included a small cluster of Early Iron Age finds in Field 18 found near Middle and Later Iron Age material. During the later Iron Age and Early Roman period, there was a northwards expansion of settlement (Sites 1, 2 and 3).

Sites 2 and 3 were subsequently abandoned in the 1st Century AD, whilst Sites 3 and 4 underwent gradual expansion and formalisation, followed by continuity of occupation into the 4th Century AD.

The end of the Roman period marked a cessation of settlement activity within the proposed development, with the land reverting to agricultural use – including widespread ridge and furrow – up until the present day.

Langford, Land to the west of Church Street

TL 18630 41652 (OAE Report 2558)

J FAIRBAIRN

Excavation was undertaken prior to development. The resulting work found a complex series of ditches, both enclosure and boundaries, which dated from the Prehistoric through to the post-medieval period. Cremations dating to the Middle Bronze Age were recorded along with a medieval structure located at the very northern edge of the excavation.

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**Linslade, Land at Soulbury Road** SP 90277 25951

KAREN DEIGHTON

An archaeological watching brief on geotechnical test pits was undertaken prior to the proposed development of the site. The investigation took place in November 2021 and consisted of monitoring of 20 trial pits. A consistent sequence comprised of natural clay overlain by subsoil and topsoil/modern made ground was recorded in all interventions. A 19th/20th-century rubbish pit was found in one of the test pits



Figure 25: Houghton Regis, trackway [5019] and ditches [2011] and [2122], cut by a deep modern land drain, facing north.

Bedfordshire

situated in the centre of the site. No significant archaeology was found during the watching brief.

SOUTERRAIN

Bedford, Land off Clapham Road NGR 503919, 251706 (centre)

MERCEDES PLANAS and MARTIN D WILSON

An analytical topographical survey was undertaken within a field of pasture (1.7 ha) southeast of the village of Clapham, on the western periphery of Bedford. The purpose was to obtain an accurate measured record of historic earthworks derived from the medieval agrarian landscape, prior to their removal in a new school development. The earthworks comprised the remains of two medieval furlong fields with visually distinct cultivation strips (*selions*), which were once a part of Clapham's medieval common fields.

The survey area, formerly known as Far Road Close, was located at the southeast edge of one of Bedford's best preserved examples of medieval strip cultivation. The survey was carried out to Ordnance Survey National Grid co-ordinates and orthometric heights using RTK GNSS. The resultant report provides an illustrative and descriptive account of the earthworks, using a combination of computer-generated graphics and conventional survey drawings (hachure plan), supported by digital photography.

The report discusses the survival of the earthworks within the context of the post-medieval landscape of Clapham, and also the significance of this type of monument within Bedfordshire. It is deduced that the cultivation strips in this area may have been preserved as earthworks since at least the 15th century. OASIS ID: souterra1- 503460

Tebworth, Ivy Farm NGR 499187, 226954 (centre)

MARTIN D WILSON and MERCEDES PLANAS

An analytical Archaeological Topographical Survey was undertaken of an enclosed pasture which lies on the northwest to northeast sides of Ivy Farm, in the village of Tebworth. The survey was carried out using RTK GNSS, on behalf of Albion Archaeology. Its purpose was to obtain an accurate measured record of historic earthworks resulting from the medieval agrarian landscape, prior to partial loss in the course of a residential development.

The earthworks comprised near-complete portions of two medieval furlong fields, both in extremely good state of preservation. The report provides an illustrative account of the earthworks, using a combination of computer-generated graphics (Digital Terrain Model views) and conventional survey drawings (hachure plan), supported by digital photography. It describes the characteristics of the earthworks within the survey area, discusses the significance of such earthworks within Bedfordshire, and considers the context of their survival in the post-medieval landscape in the light of published documentary research. OASIS ID: souterra1-424087

Upper Dean, Land at Old Pond House, High Street

NGR 504728, 267536

MARTIN D WILSON

Two archaeological evaluation trenches (c. 42 sq. m) were excavated within the garden of Old Pond House, a former late Victorian vicarage in the village of Upper Dean, prior to the determination of a planning application for a new dwelling. The site is located close to the core of the medieval settlement and in proximity to a series of prehistoric to Romano-British sites known from cropmarks. There were no features of archaeological significance present and no artefacts. OASIS ID: souterra1-415691

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Biggleswade, Land to the North of Dunton Lane

TL 2161 4422

JO PINE

Evaluation trenching in July-September 2021 on a 15ha site proposed for a new electricity substation confirmed the findings of an earlier geophysical survey and clarified the presence of a triple-ditched Roman enclosure. Two cuts containing pyre debris (likely cremation burials) were also Roman. Further ditches and pits were variously of medieval and Roman dates and one pit was possibly of Saxon date.

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES (ULAS)

Little Staughton, Colmworth Road

TL 10582 62619

DONALD CLARK

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS in Spring 2021, in advance of residential development. No archaeological finds or deposits were found. BEDFM 2021.89

WARDELL ARMSTRONG (FORMERLY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS)

Biddenham, Main Road TL2049 0006

GARETH BARLOW and ANDREW A S NEWTON

During December 2020 and January 2021, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (now Wardell Armstrong) conducted an archaeological excavation at land adjacent to Lavender Lodge, 42 Main Road, Biddenham, Bedfordshire MK40 4BE. The excavation was undertaken to provide for the final requirements of a planning condition attached to approval for the erection of a new dwelling with associated garage and access. The archaeological work recorded a series of features representing activity in five distinct phases. These were dateable to the medieval period, the medieval to post-medieval period, the post-medieval period, and the early modern and modern periods.

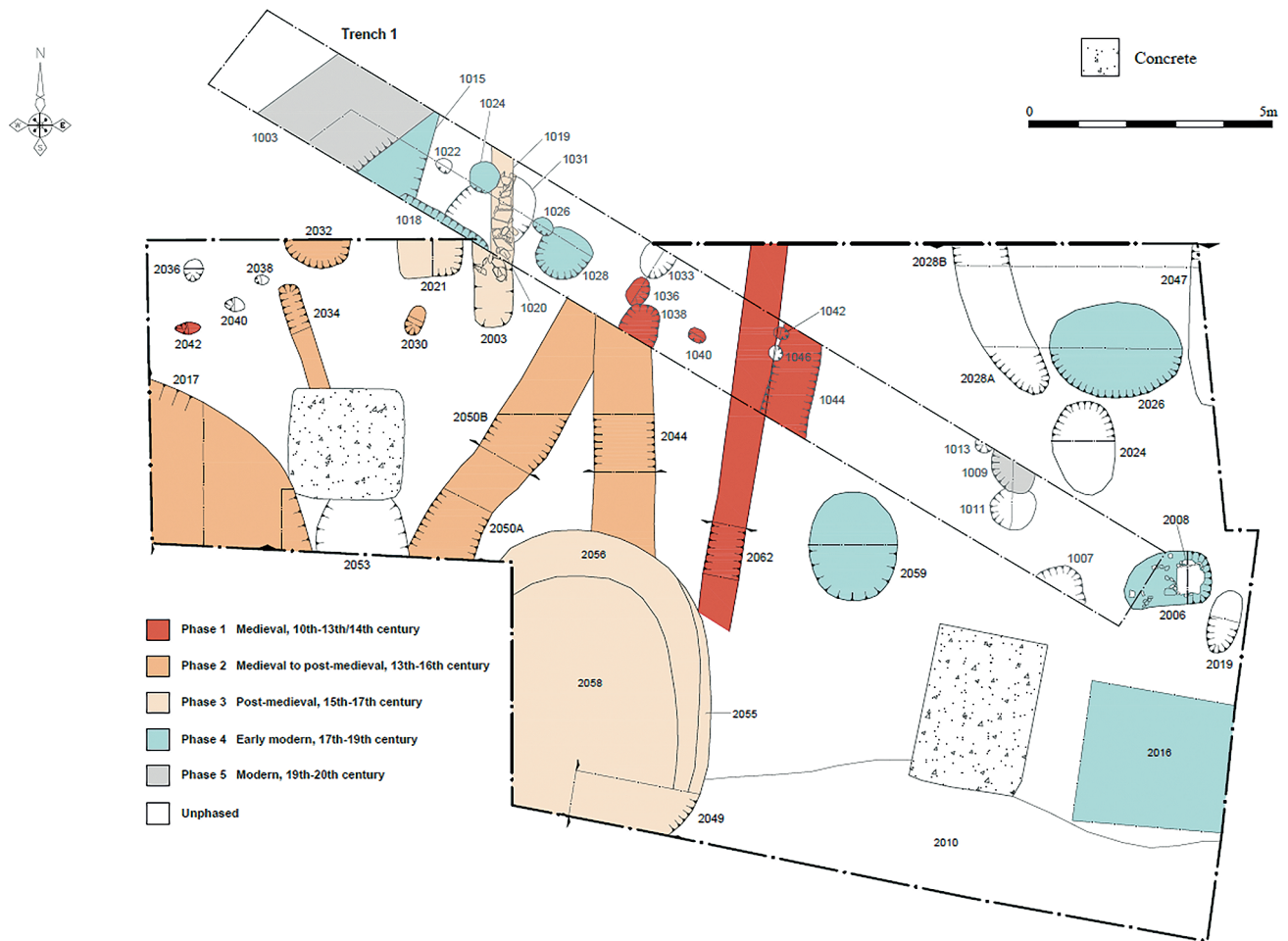


Figure 26: Biddenham, Phase Plan.

The site was located within the medieval core of Biddenham, in an area identified as the Green on historical documentary and cartographic sources. The recorded archaeology, although not clearly representative of structures or coherent division of the land, is suggestive of domestic habitation in the near vicinity. This is not necessarily in keeping with an area that may have been set aside for common grazing. The earlier features could potentially represent deliberate encroachment on to the green; associated with or characterised as 'green-side' activity.

Toddington, Russel Road TL0052 2820
GARETH BARLOW and LIAM PODBURY

In March 2021 Wardell Armstrong (formerly Archaeological Solutions Ltd) conducted an archaeological evaluation at

the Middle Lakes, off Russel Road, Toddington as part of preparation for a planning application. A large number of Anglo-Saxon burials were found during gravel digging in 1819 lies to the immediate west of the site.

No contemporary remains were found during the 2021 evaluation but considerable evidence for activity in the mid-1st to 2nd centuries and the late 3rd to 4th centuries AD was recorded with the ceramic evidence possibly suggesting that activity was more intense in the later Roman period. Features generally consisted of linears and pit which are considered to have had an agricultural function. However, a single urned cremation burial was also identified.

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Bow Brickhill, land at South Caldecotte SP 8910 3417

ADAM WILLIAMS, KATHY PILKINTON and DAVID INGHAM

Various excavations within a c. 48ha commercial development site uncovered evidence for settlement and funerary activity peripheral to the Roman small town of Magiovinium. Area 1, adjacent to the A5 roundabout, revealed the continuation of 1st–2nd-century land allotments recorded during construction of the modern A5 (Neal 1987), and a small square shrine associated with a mixed inhumation and cremation cemetery. Area 2 targeted an isolated small square barrow with a central mound and cremation, also 1st–2nd-century in date. On the brow of a slight ridge to the north, Area 3 revealed an enclosure and roundhouses dated to the late Iron Age/early Roman transitional period, the limited artefact assemblage suggesting a relatively short period of occupation.

Areas 4 and 5 revealed c. 1.5ha of enclosed Romano-British settlement adjacent to a spur of Watling Street, heading north from Magiovinium. The road, represented within the excavation by parallel ditches, was also identified to the south by Neal but in more substantial form, with a metalled surface. The main enclosures were established east of the road; some contained evidence of habitation while others appeared to enclose funerary activity. The artefactual assemblage suggests that the enclosures were primarily occupied from the 1st to 3rd centuries. A deep inhumation burial contained a large, poorly preserved iron object tentatively suggested to be the linchpin from a cart or chariot wheel. A least one large rectangular timber building was identified, as well as a small roundhouse gully. West of the road and separate from the main settlement activity, the stone foundations of a rectangular building were excavated, formed of locally sourced limestone and sandstone (Fig. 1). Its function is unclear, but a number of cremation burials were identified in its vicinity.

A wooden object found in a deep pit is believed to be a scutching knife (Allen 2022) (Fig. 2, and back cover images), used in the production of linen from flax. No Romano-British parallels have been published; continental examples are known but from no earlier than the 9th century. The amount of Roman pottery recovered from the same pit makes it unlikely that the object is residual and if it is of the same date, then it is one of the earliest examples to have survived.

References

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Ickford, Land off Turnfields SP 6524 0740

TORI GUY and ADAM WILLIAMS

Trial trenching ahead of residential development revealed four undated ditches. Although no finds were recovered,

the ditches were sealed by the subsoil and did not survive as earthworks visible at ground level. Given that shallow ridge-and-furrow earthworks survived in the field – with no evidence that the ditches truncated them – it can be assumed that the ditches are probably medieval or earlier in date. Similarities in form, fill and alignment suggest that the ditches are broadly contemporary. Their linear form and sterile fills suggest that they probably served as field boundaries, at some distance from any domestic focus. OASIS ID: albionar1-408824; Accession no.: AYBCM: 2020.60

Long Crendon, Land west of Sandy Lane SP 6887 0853

TORI GUY and ERNIE RIZZO

Trial trenching ahead of residential development revealed only two medieval/post-medieval furrows. No residual artefacts were recovered from the overburden. OASIS ID: albionar1-409747; Accession no.: AYBCM: 2020.61

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGY

Calverton, Milton Keynes, Land Parcel D: Fields 5&7, MK Western Expansion Area SP 480500 237300

KOSTAS PAPAGIANNAKIS

Strip, map and sample excavation carried out on behalf of L&Q Estates between Calverton Lane and Crownhill on the western outskirts of Milton Keynes revealed a single phase of occupation which assessment of the stratigraphic and ceramic sequence suggests occurred during a relatively short period in the Middle to Late Iron Age after which the site appears to have been abandoned.

The excavation comprised two areas – Area A and Area B (Fig. 3). Within these areas, several sub-phases were identified based on the spatial distribution of features, their morphology, fill characteristics and artefactual dating. The archaeological remains span the Middle to Late Iron Age followed by abandonment at that time.

*Area A**Phase 1a*

The earliest activity was focused on two possible Middle Iron Age house groups, one in the southwest part of the site and another to the northeast.

The interior of the nucleated area comprised a series of sometimes complex ring-gullies – some of them with postholes at their termini – pits and boundary features, the latter either being hedge lines or single ditches. Evidence for at least three structures was recovered, with pottery and animal bone indicative of occupation; evidence of ironworking activity was identified associated with the roundhouses.

Phase 1b Linear Boundaries

A boundary system was then established comprising a substantial ditch, a double boundary ditch defining the western end of the site and a further pair of ditches on the same alignment forming an entrance of c. 1m.



Figure 1: Land at South Caldecotte aerial photograph of Area 4 from east (stone building and road in foreground).

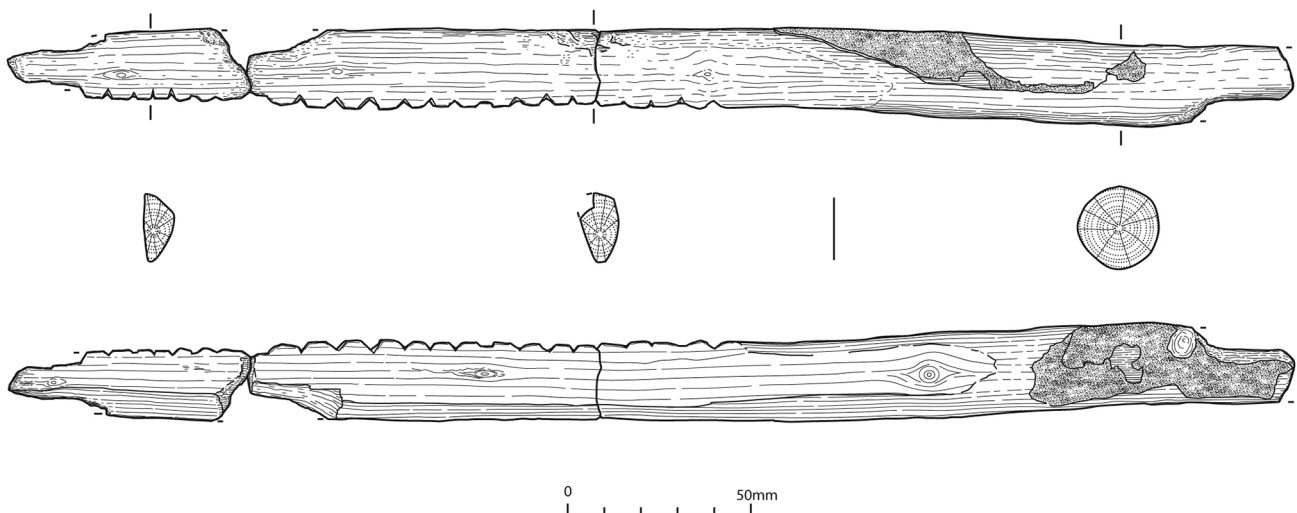


Figure 2: Land at South Caldecotte scutching knife (drawn by S. Allen).

Phase 1c Trackway ditches – Large Enclosure 2

Two further parallel ditches were revealed, probably forming a droveway aligned southeast-northwest. Towards the NE end of the site, a curvilinear substantial ditch was established forming an enclosure.

Phase 1d Enclosure 3 and Well

Enclosure 3 was formed by a curvilinear ditch with an internal diameter of c. 10m. Two phases of ditch cuts were

seen in the excavated sections. Domestic debris from the fills comprised nearly 0.5kg of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery, together with fragmentary animal bone, CBM and slag.

Area B

A field system was revealed comprising of a series of parallel ditches set at regular 30m or 60m intervals. Probable domestic activity was indicated by nearby pits and postholes. A possible Middle to Late Iron Age dating is also suggested.

Buckinghamshire

Overall, there was a notable absence of medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow features, while a series of modern land drains represented the most recent phase of activity.

Quainton – Wisteria Cottage Lee Road SP 7351 2082

CHLOE AKHURST

Archaeological monitoring of a hand-excavated opening of 2.3m diameter and 3m depth was excavated manually in the ground floor entrance hall of the Listed Building to add a spiral wine store under the existing floor level. The only deposit of interest encountered comprised the possible demolition remains of the earlier mansion built by the

Dormer family (listed in a 1634 survey of the Manor of Shipton Lee), which was demolished in the 18th century.

Shenley Church End, Milton Keynes, Fields 10, 12, 15 & 16 MK Western Expansion Area SP 8067 3691; SP 8073 3689

MARK SARGENT

Archaeological field evaluation of four fields was undertaken on behalf of L&Q Estates in the Milton Keynes Western Expansion Area.

In Field 10, 18 trenches were opened, of which seven contained archaeological features comprising ditches most

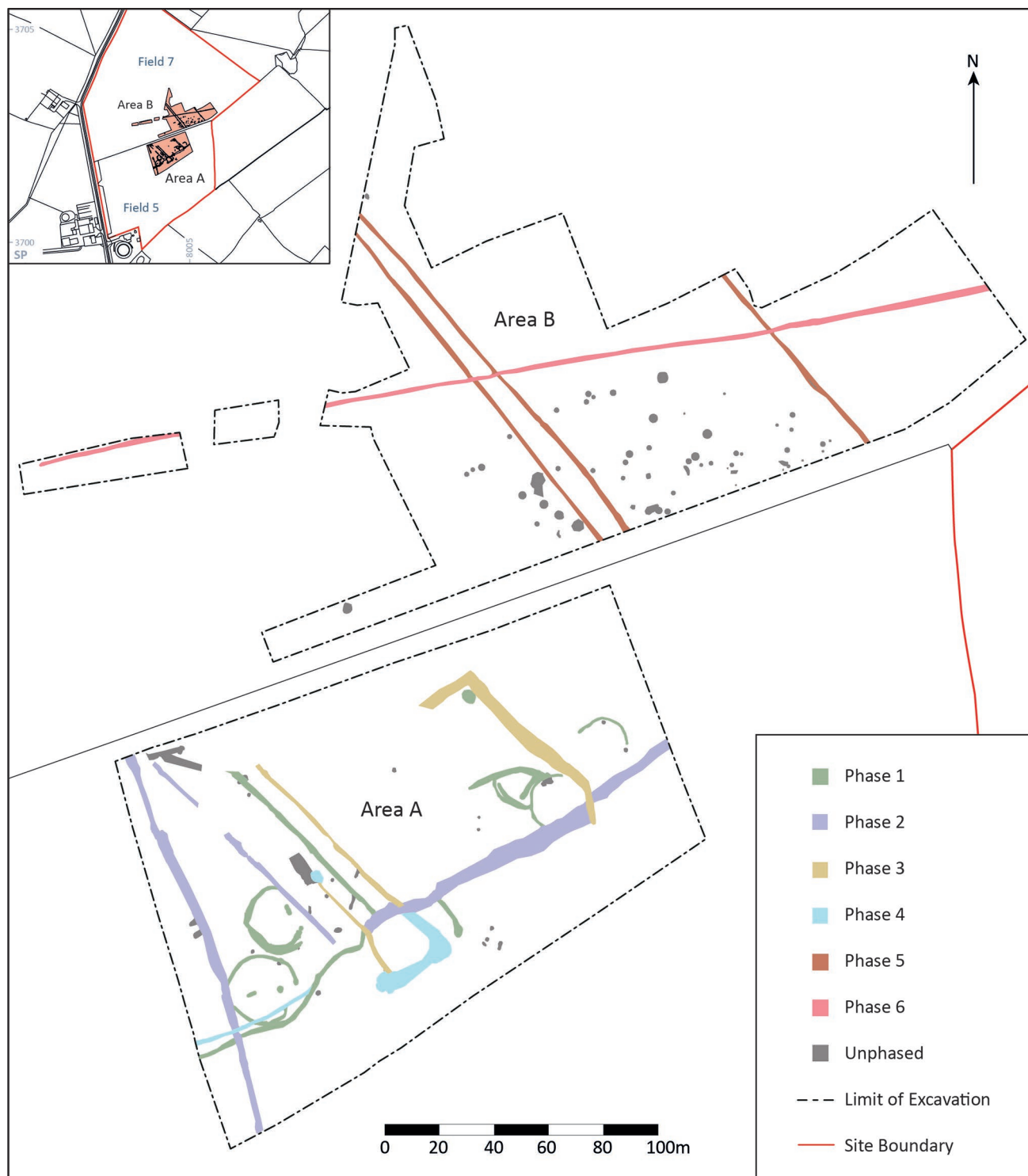


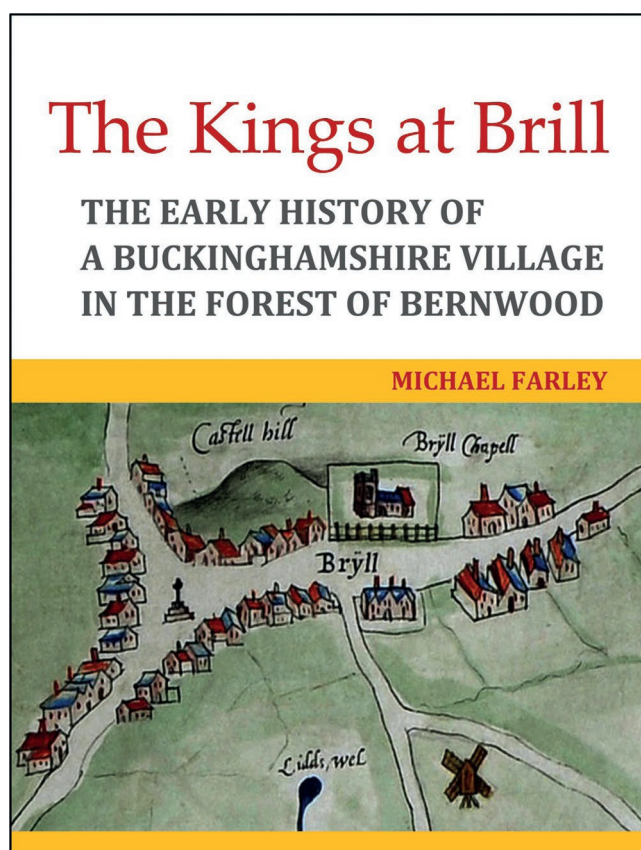
Figure 3: Calverton, Land Parcel D: Fields 5&7.

likely representing a relict medieval field system. Three of the 31 trenches excavated in Field 12 contained further ditch features probably forming part of the same relict system, while post-medieval features were identified in another two trenches.

The presence of 'newt habitat corridors' necessitated a reduction in the number of trenches excavated in Fields 15 & 16 from 52 to 20. The majority of these contained post-medieval land drains and rooting disturbance, with four containing archaeological features and deposits of some significance, namely, a ditch orientated WNW-ESE and a series of NW-SE to NNW-SSE gullies. None of the excavated features contained artefactual or palaeoenvironmental evidence.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

New Publication – The Kings at Brill: The Early History of a Buckinghamshire Village in the Forest of Bernwood by MICHAEL FARLEY



Before 1066 King Edward the Confessor built a hall on his manor at Brill in Buckinghamshire.

He and his successor kings lodged there over the next 230 years when hunting in Bernwood Forest. Henry III made it a court fit for his new queen, Eleanor of Provence, adding chambers, kitchens and chapels, and guarding the court with a gatehouse and swing-bridge.

In this book Michael Farley gathers all the evidence – from the royal household's own documents, from church records, from later maps and personal accounts, from recent archaeological investigations. This is a vivid picture of life in Brill's medieval royal manor.

Published, May 2022. Available to purchase from Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society for £18, plus P&P on their website: bas1.org.uk/the-kings-at-brill

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL: ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE 2021

Since becoming a Unitary Authority in 2020 the Planning and Environment Service has had a service review and a restructure. A Heritage and Archaeology Team is now in place within Environmental Specialists Services and combines the former County Archaeological Service and the former District Conservation Officers. Paul Rhymes is the Team Leader, and the Team is managed by Eliza Alqassar as Historic and Built Environment Manager. The Team worked hard to continue to deliver an excellent service to our customers throughout the pandemic, working from home in the main.

Development Management

High Speed Two

It was a busy year with HS2/EKFB Teams meetings on numerous topics including written schemes of investigation, updated method statements, virtual site tours, landscape design issues and assessing no further works proposals as sites and areas are completed. Schedule 17 pre-application meetings take place most weeks; these are similar to planning applications and involve road, design and planting issues which could impact on the historic environment. Site meetings in person took place and became more frequent as Covid 19 restrictions were lifted. FUSION, HS2's archaeological contractor was busy on site despite the changeable weather, will be wound up during 2022 as the field work will largely be completed. FUSION may bid for the next phases of work, the analysis and archiving.

St Mary's Church, Stoke Mandeville

Many Readers will be aware that work here has been progressing and several open days have taken place. Excavating the burials has been completed with over 2800 skeletons lifted. Following analysis these people will be reburied. The final resting place is yet to be agreed but will be in the diocese. The church has been excavated. Pre-Norman features have been recorded and include a small stone structure within an enclosure (Fig. 4). A press release by HS2 records that this structure is an Anglo-Saxon church reusing Roman materials probably from the site on the ridge to the east of the church. The image below from HS2 shows the plan of the Norman Church with the earlier Anglo-Saxon Church in orange within an enclosure ditch in green.

The excavation site was under a large marquee, almost an industrial building (Fig. 5). This has enabled excavation to continue during the inclement weather; however, it did lead to some Covid 19 issues not usually encountered with an open-air excavation. The image below indicates the excavation and drone flights are undertaken within the marquee.

The expected mill site was not recorded; however, it is thought to be located under a wooded area to the north-east of the church. HS2 and the main contractor EKFB are aware of this, and investigation is likely to take place during the construction works

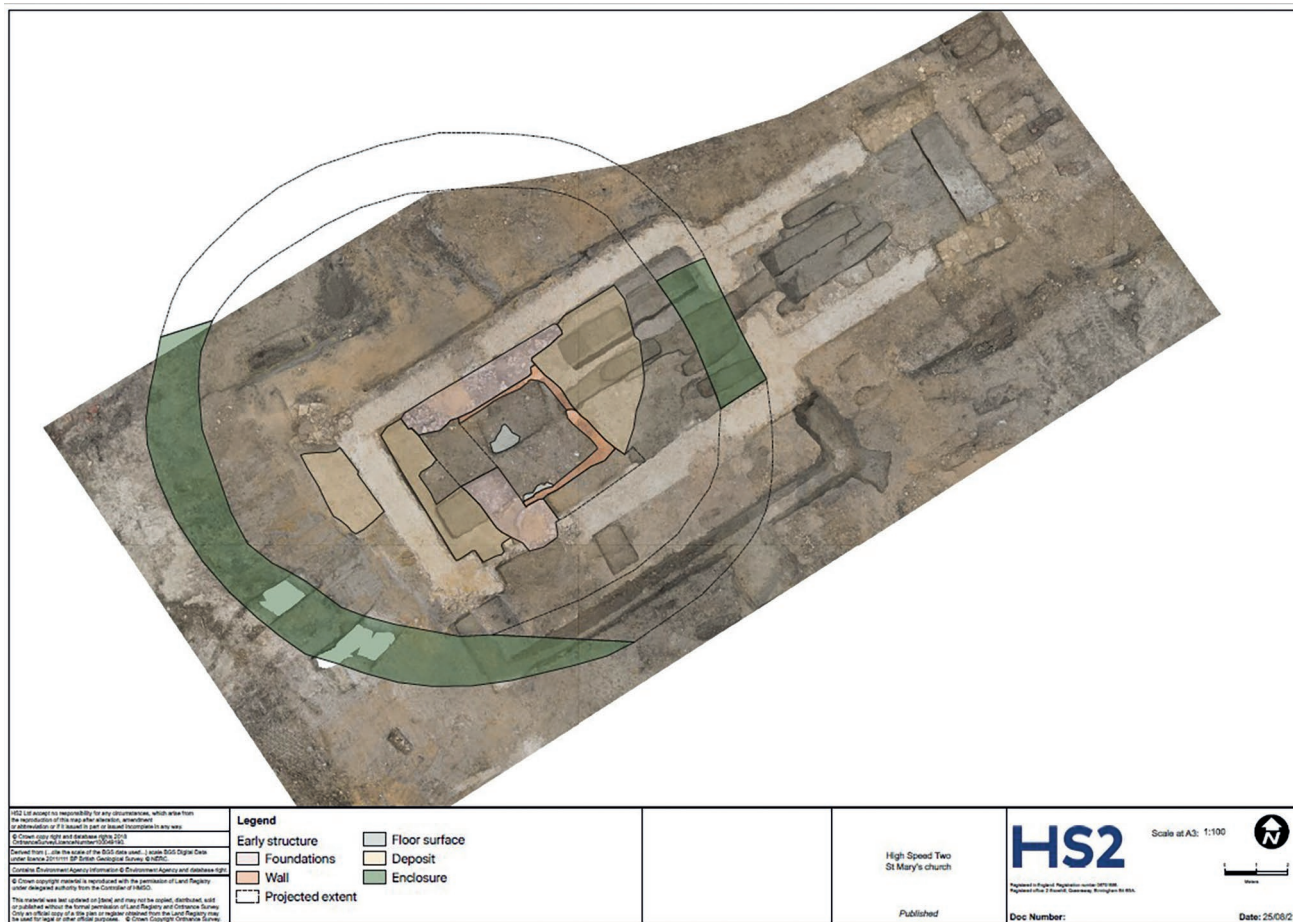


Figure 4: St Mary's Church, Stoke Mandeville – Plan showing pre-Norman features.



Figure 5: St Mary's Church, Stoke Mandeville – Excavations underway inside temporary building..

Grim's Ditch/Hunts Green Farm, Great Missenden

Tree felling took place on the Grim's Ditch Scheduled Monument and trial trench evaluation undertaken. It is hoped that at least part of the earthwork monument can be preserved in situ and design and construction requirements are being discussed with HS2 and EKFB. Not all of the surrounding area will now be required by EKFB, and investigation has taken place in the fields around the monument. From the work currently undertaken it appears that the ditch continues across the field and appears to curve around a feature. Various dates have been recorded from the ditch and bank with one date from the Neolithic, but this has not been accepted at this stage as a reliable date for the monument. There are many more finds relating to the Iron Age and Roman periods.

East – West Rail

The Team has continued to assess nearly one hundred Project Plans/Written Schemes of Investigation (WSI's) which are supplied by Akins on behalf of Network Rail. Each one requires being approved by conditions attached to the TWAO consent (Transport and Works Act Order). Many of the field work investigations are for relatively small areas of work associated with the infrastructure works.

Historic Environment Record (HER)

The HER Assistant has been dealing with the bulk of HER enquiries and all the Countryside Stewardship applications in the two quarters from January to free the HER Officer up to work on completing a major review of the Archaeological Notification (Planning Alert) Areas and preparing HER data for the Local Heritage List project.

Countryside Stewardship Scheme in 2021

For 2021 the number of Countryside Stewardship Applications processed by the HER has more than doubled. The HER is consulted on these applications by Natural England on behalf of DEFRA, to ensure landowners and farmers are aware of any important archaeological sites or monuments on their land. The HER advises on appropriate management of these sites, for example through changes to ploughing regimes or by removing areas from cultivation. Farmers are then awarded grants from the RPA to maintain their Stewardship agreements, which currently last for five years. In 2020 the HER received 23 applications covering over 3,000 hectares of land. For 2021 the HER has received and dealt with 59 applications for over 15,000 hectares of land in Buckinghamshire with 40 applications at Mid-Tier and 19 applications at Higher Tier.

Buckinghamshire's Heritage Portal

Statistics on user numbers and page views have been collected monthly from September 2020, when analytical tools were added to the website. Figures for 2021

Initially 85% of Heritage Portal users were based in the UK, but the geographic spread of users has been widening consistently and we now have users in every continent and sub-continent, with 63% of users based in the UK in June 2021.

HER enhancement and volunteer projects

The Her Assistant updated the HER with the latest information from the Portable Antiquities Scheme database in September. This has added 662 new records to the HER,

	Users	Page views	% new users	% regular users
January	3,707	9,776	92%	8%
February	4,692	14,619	90%	10%
March	4,466	13,180	91%	9%
April	4,080	9,288	90%	10%
May	3,888	9,636	91%	9%
June	3,164	7,449	89%	11%
July	3,169	3,037	90%	10%
August	3,571	3,442	91%	9%
September	3,213	3,088	92%	8%
October	2,588	2,468	89%	11%
November	2,691	7,519	89%	11%
December	2,503	7,007	88%	12%

all of which have needed editing to make them compatible with the HER database.

The HER volunteer working on the milestones project had been concentrating on other activities during the Covid 19 pandemic but returned to work in October.

Progress with the Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust Research and Recording Project has also been badly affected by the pandemic, with archives closed to researchers for long periods, recording visits to sites being impossible and recruitment of new volunteers curtailed. Work has been mostly restricted to online research and to researching public parks in Buckinghamshire as a contribution to a national Gardens Trust project.

Outreach and Publicity

In September the HER Officer provided a display on the Local Heritage List project during Heritage Open Day in Aylesbury, demonstrated the online platform and ran a timeline activity for members of the public. In October the HER Officer provided displays on the Local Heritage List project and a themed display on historic markets, fairs, and shops in Buckinghamshire at the annual Buckinghamshire Local History Network Conference in Wycombe Abbey. The Archaeology Officer and Heritage colleagues helped the HER Officer man the display stall during the event and both displays were provided as online 'virtual stalls' on the Buckinghamshire Archaeology Society website.

The Archaeology Officer gave a talk to Amersham WI in October and an online talk on the excavations at Soulbury as part of the Archive service's annual Buckinghamshire History Fair in November. The HER Assistant provided social media Blogs, Facebook, and Twitter posts on a range of topics but particularly promoting the online talks provided for Knowing Your Place and the Local Heritage List project.

Chalk, Cherries, Chairs, and the Chilterns Hillforts Project

These two projects are run by the Chilterns Conservation Board (CCB). Members of 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. It has been successful in its aims and objectives of further

Buckinghamshire

understanding the hillforts of the Chilterns and sharing this knowledge with the wider community.

Festival of Archaeology

The Heritage and Archaeology Team combined to host an online event at the 2021 Festival of Archaeology in July. The event focussed on the collaborative work undertaken with local volunteers. Four tutorials were uploaded to our event page to showcase our projects and to provide assistance using the Buckinghamshire Heritage Portal and understanding the guidance and legislation we work under.

Knowing Your Place

The Buckinghamshire Heritage Portal is an interactive public-facing website containing vast amounts of data and information about the history of Buckinghamshire and includes parish summaries, one for each of the county's 163 parishes. While they are fascinating and informative, some of the summaries are now over 10 years old and need updating in light of more recent local parish discoveries. The Knowing your Place project invites local historians, societies and interested parties to join in and help the Team out with this updating. Updates have been flowing in but there is a long way to go.

Local Heritage List

The Local Heritage List seeks to identify locally significant assets and celebrate their contribution to local identity and character. Developing this list provides a unique opportunity for residents of Buckinghamshire to nominate important assets around the County that are not currently listed, but that have significant heritage interest.

All kinds of assets can be considered for local listing, including:

- Historic buildings
- Buildings demonstrating local style
- Archaeological sites, such as upstanding earthworks or buried remains
- Landscape features
- Historic gardens and parks, and individual elements within them
- Public works of art, monuments, and street furniture, including signage

The project continues to progress well and over 1000 nominations have been made. The Knowing your Place team work through each nomination in turn to determine whether they should make the final list. The archaeological sites vary from areas of known Palaeolithic activity through to a Cold War bunker.

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Beaconsfield, Wilton Park Phase 3 NGR 495900 190393
STEVEN BUSH

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology in December comprised the excavation of three trenches as a condition attached to outline planning permission for the construction of a nursery, community hall, cafe and parkland. No archaeological remains were identified.

Haversham, Hill Farm House SP 83704 43624
EILIDH BARR

In April, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of an outdoor swimming pool. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were present.

Marlow, 1 Market Square NGR not supplied
ISOBELLE WARD AND STEFFAN KLEMENIC

In December, Cotswold Archaeology carried out a watching brief during groundworks associated with alterations to the Grade II* 19th-century Market House. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were found.

Newport Pagnell, Willen Road SP 88112 42539
ISOBELLE WARD

In January, an evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology to inform a planning application for residential development. In total, 41 trenches were excavated. These revealed small numbers of medieval to post-medieval drainage ditches and field boundaries along with the earthwork remains of ridge and furrow cultivation.

HEADLAND ARCHAEOLOGY

Wavendon, Towergate A SP 9054 3748
POVILAS CEPASKAS AND BRETT ARCHER

Between August and November Headland Archaeology completed a strip, map, and sample excavation at Towergate A, Milton Keynes. The work was carried prior to residential development.

The strip, map, and sample excavation of 0.9ha took place between 2nd August and the 5th November 2021 and revealed parts of a Romano-British farmstead. The principal features comprised a ladder enclosure system of three rectangular plots, with further possible field ditches continuing to the north-east and southwest. Evidence for settlement was provided by the partial remains of five roundhouse structures which appear to be contemporary with the enclosures in which they were situated. Pottery evidence suggested settlement activity dating from the second to fourth century AD.

Three adult inhumation burials were also excavated within the enclosures, with the mandible of one, a probable male, showing evidence of sharp force trauma that could have been the cause of death.

ICKNIELD ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Akeley, Leckhampsted Road SP 7081 3752
DAVID FELL AND JONATHAN HUNN

An evaluation was undertaken to the north of Leckhampstead Road, Akeley, in advance of the construction of a housing development. The site is situated within the medieval village of Akeley, and it has been suggested that a Roman road traversed the west side of the site. Four trial trenches were opened, two of which targeted the line of the Roman road. The remainder targeted the footprints of the proposed houses. The Roman road was not present. A single archaeological feature, interpreted as a medieval/early post medieval ditch

was present which contained a small assemblage of pottery sherds, products of the local Brill and Potterspury kilns.

Bellingdon Brickworks SP 9376 0465

JONATHAN HUNN

An excavation took place on land to the rear of the former Bull public house in 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 associated poorly preserved cremated bone. The base of a Roman clay figurine (Fig. 6) was found within the main enclosure ditch, but no metal objects or coins were present.



Figure 6: Bellingdon, Roman clay figurine base (Scale = 100mm).

Drayton Beauchamp, St Mary's Church SP 9015 1188

JONATHAN HUNN

A watching brief was maintained during upgrades to the drainage system around the outer edge of St Mary's Church, Drayton Beauchamp. Most trenches were of a superficial depth and were cut into the burial ground soil. Frequent fragments of disarticulated human bone and



Figure 7: Drayton Beauchamp, foundation of south porch with base of blocked door (Scale = 2m).

non-significant post-medieval debris were present. The foundations of the former blocked south door of the church and its porch were recorded (Fig. 7). These were blocked as part of wider restoration works in 1867 (RCHM 1912, 135–137).

RCHM 1912, *Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England): Buckinghamshire (South)*

Great Missenden, The George Hotel SP 8954 0114

DAVID FELL

A watching brief was maintained during the excavation of two footing trenches at the George Hotel, Great Missenden. The George is said to date from 1483 and was built as a hospice for Missenden Abbey. No archaeological features or artefacts were observed.

Marsh Gibbon, land south of Little Marsh Road SP 6515 2335

DAVID FELL AND JONATHAN HUNN

An evaluation was undertaken on a plot of land to the south of Little Marsh Road, Marsh Gibbon. Seven trial trenches were opened, and a spread of post-medieval debris was present at the northeast corner of the site. It comprised fragments of burnt ceramic tile, charcoal, handmade brick and an assemblage of late 18th and early 19th century pottery sherds. It may be evidence for a post-medieval building and enclosure shown on the Marsh Gibbon tithe map (1846) and 19th century Ordnance Survey maps.

Stony Stratford, 70A High Street SP 7871 4054

DAVID FELL

A watching brief was maintained during development to the rear of 70A High Street, Stony Stratford. The site was situated in the centre of the medieval town, close to the church of St Mary and immediately southeast of the Cock Hotel but no significant archaeological features or artefacts were observed. Several post-medieval and modern pits were present which contained ceramic building material.

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

Aylesbury, Berryfields SP 7884 1535

CHRISTOPHER WHITEHEAD

John Moore Heritage Services carried out several phases of archaeological works at Berryfields, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire between 2019 and 2021. The purpose of the archaeological investigations was for the creation of a new village hall, sport facilities, allotments, wildlife reserve and play areas. During the course of the investigation, a series of drainage service-trench excavations, foundation pads for the temporary parish building, foundation pads for the children's day nursery and an excavation area for the new village hall building were excavated. This particular site area had potential for Prehistoric, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods. Over the course of the groundworks, two gullies, which were possibly Roman but may have been later, were uncovered within the excavation area for the new village hall. Two undated cut features were identified in the foundation pad area for the temporary parish building and two undated cut features were uncovered in the foundation

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pad area for the children's day nursery. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-502527

Aylesbury, St Mary's Square SP 8176 1393

ALESSANDRO GUAGGENTI

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at 10 St Mary's Square, Aylesbury in August 2021 during the construction of a single storey rear extension. Despite the potential for archaeological remains, particularly those relating to the medieval and post-medieval period, no archaeological features or remains were encountered. This was due to the minimal impact and ground reduction of the works being undertaken. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-503958

Castlethorpe, Castle House SP 7977 4451

GAVIN DAVIS

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological evaluation at Castle House, North Street, Castlethorpe in February 2021. Castle House, grade II listed, is partly formed from the cross wing of the earlier Castlethorpe manor house, and partly from the cellar of a separate building; the link between the two buildings dates to c. 1600. The archaeological excavations identified a stone wall orientated NNE to SSW towards the westerly end of the evaluation trench (Fig. 8). The wall was at right angles to the current building and may relate to the original Castlethorpe Manor, or to a later phase. The wall was abutted by a made ground deposit and overlain by stone demolition deposits. The demolition deposits were concentrated in the area of the wall. The deposits were overlain by more made ground which was cut by a post medieval/modern ditch backfilled with garden soil. The later demolition deposits were dated no earlier than the post-medieval period and overlying made ground no earlier the 18th century. Earlier demolition deposits and made ground were broadly dated by the presence of ceramic tile from medieval to post-medieval periods but were probably post medieval in date. The presence of a fragment of glazed roof tile of Potterspury type would suggest that a building of high status stood on or near to the site in the medieval period. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-415432



Figure 8: Castlethorpe – NNE to SSW aligned wall.

Long Crendon, Notley Farm SP 7120 0907

TOM ROSE-JONES

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at Notley Farm, Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire, in April 2021 ahead of the proposed development of an agricultural building and hardstanding. A single 50m trench was excavated within the footprint of the proposed building, revealing two linear ditches and two discrete features. No dating evidence was recovered, though both ditches were broadly aligned NE-SW, heading towards the Scheduled Monument of Notley Abbey. As such these features may represent peripheral agricultural activity associated with the ecclesiastical complex. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-419768

North Marston, 4 Schorne Lane SP 7765 2253

TOM ROSE-JONES

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief between February and March 2021 during construction of a new dwelling at 4 Schorne Lane, North Marston, Buckinghamshire. The site was located opposite the medieval holy well of John Schorne; however, no significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered. A single modern feature was recorded. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-422508

Princes Risborough, 51 High Street SP 8075 0342

CHRISTOPHER WHITEHEAD

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief on land to the rear of 51 High Street, Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire in February 2021. The purpose of the watching brief was for the demolition of the existing building and the erection of two two-storey flats. During the course of the watching brief, a rectangular series of foundation footings was excavated. This particular area had potential for Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval remains. Over the course of the watching brief excavations, two modern refuse pits and modern brick-built wall foundations were uncovered. No other archaeological features or artefacts were uncovered. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-415672

Weston Turville, St Mary the Virgin SP 8591 1027

SIMONA DENIS

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological investigation at St Mary the Virgin, Weston Turville, Buckinghamshire between September and December 2020 during groundwork for a single storey extension to the church. A total of 26 skeletons were recorded in the building footprint area, with two additional possible burials identified in section in the eastern soakaway. All of the identified skeletons were found within earth cut graves; however, the cuts of the graves were rarely visible, due to the nature of the graveyard soils. The date range of the burials is uncertain, although the presence of coffins indicates a post-medieval date for at least 11 of the burials, as inhumation within a coffin became popular in the early 18th century. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-412472

Whitchurch, Bolebec House SP 7980 2090
POVILAS CEPAUSKAS

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at 7 Oving Road, Whitchurch, Buckinghamshire in October 2021. A total of four trenches were opened. Modern and Late Post-Medieval archaeological remains were investigated in Trenches 1, 2 and 4. These included a domestic pit from which fragments of 18th century pottery and cattle bone with butchery marks were recovered. Archaeological remains encountered in Trench 3 comprised a ditch from which a 13th century onwards Brill/Boarstall ware fragment was recovered suggesting a medieval date for the ditch. Archaeological remains encountered in Trench 3 were heavily truncated by Modern landscaping of the garden. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-502772

KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Akeley, Maple Tree Cottage, Chapel Lane
SP 7099 3783
DEREK WATSON

A single evaluation trench was excavated at Maple Tree Cottage, Chapel Lane, Akeley in August 2021 prior to the erection of a new bungalow on the site. Despite its proximity to Iron Age/Roman and post-medieval sites, no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were revealed. OASIS: kdkarcha1-501806

Great Brickhill, Church of St Mary the Virgin
SP 90114 30786

KARIN KAYE AND DEREK WATSON

A programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation & Recording was undertaken at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill during the construction of a single storey WC extension to the west end of the nave, and associated service trenches. The soil profile revealed in all of the trenches consisted largely of made-ground typically generated by activities related to the construction of the church and use of the churchyard, and disarticulated human remains, derived from disturbed burials, were frequently encountered. The remains of a medieval masonry structure built of ironstone and clunch was discovered to the west of the church, the southern return wall of which had collapsed. The west wall of the structure was partially rebuilt to form a makeshift charnel house for burials that had been disturbed in the 19th century when the church was extensively restored. Re-used medieval masonry was also exposed along the length of the west wall which had been rebuilt and the window replaced c. 1826. This not only acted as a supplement to the original foundations, but also a base for the ledger slab that had been placed beneath the west door to act as a step. OASIS: kdkarcha1-366383; Accession Number: AYBCM : 2019.133

Lathbury, Lathbury Park, Church Lane SP 8742 4496
LAURA DODD

In February 2020 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at Lathbury Park, Church Lane, Lathbury, Newport Pagnell. Two trenches were excavated



Figure 9: Great Brickhill – The charnel deposit.



Figure 10: Great Brickhill – The western wall and charnel deposit.

within the footprint of the proposed development which exposed a number of archaeological features from the Victorian and Roman periods. The later features were mainly structural and comprised several brick, cobblestone and limestone surfaces, a posthole and two large foundation trenches. Some, but not all, of these features probably relate to ancillary buildings observed on the 1882 OS map. Beneath the construction layers associated with the building of the Georgian House, was a thick band of topsoil and below this were a number of intercutting features, believed to be pits, which produced pottery dating to the Roman period. Another pit thought to be Roman was also exposed in Trench 2 along with two other undated features; a second pit and a possible modern test pit. OASIS: kdkarcha1-382022; Accession Number: MILSH 2021.108

Mursley, Church of St Mary, Main Street
SP 81711 28554

LAURA DODD AND DEREK WATSON

This investigation involved the monitoring of internal and external groundworks including the removal of the existing floor in the western parts of the north and south aisles and the installation of a toilet and servery. The church foundations were exposed during the internal works, as were the foundations of two of the nave arcade columns.

External works comprised the excavation of a service trench which cut through the churchyard to connect to pre-existing services. The trench was excavated to a depth of up to 1m where a single articulated burial was exposed as well as the remnants of the demolished northern porch. OASIS: kdkarcha1-384893; Accession Number: AYBCM 2020.22

Newport Pagnell, United Reformed Church Hall, High Street
SP 87568 43859

DEREK WATSON

A programme of Observation and Recording was undertaken in April 2020 during the groundworks for a new church hall for the United Reformed Church in Newport Pagnell. Extensive truncation of the subsoil in the investigated area suggests the site had been subjected to a topsoil strip at some time in its history, though no archaeology was observed in either the remnant subsoil or the underlying natural geology revealed within the trenches. Indeed, the only feature revealed within the footings was a post-medieval layer of made-ground. OASIS: kdkarcha1-334382; Accession Number: AYBCM: 2018.140

Pitstone, Land at Vicarage Road
SP 9418 1506

FLORIAN WEBER

A single 10 x 1.80m evaluation trench was excavated in December 2021 at 140 Vicarage Road, Pitstone prior to the development of a detached dwelling with a car port and associated access arrangements. Archaeological investigations in Pitstone have shown significant evidence of occupation since prehistoric times and the site is located near the periphery of the medieval village of Pitstone. However, no archaeological finds or features were revealed within the excavated trench. OASIS: kdkarcha1-502540

Stony Stratford, 35–37 Vicarage Road
SP 78684 40632

FLORIAN WEBER

Two 7.5m long, T-shaped trenches were excavated at 35–37 Vicarage Road, Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes in

August 2021 prior to development. Both trenches contained several layers of post-medieval and modern deposits with demolished building material and very occasional pottery.

The only potential archaeological feature was semi-circular shape and extended beyond the edge of the trench. Because of the absence of datable material and its location, the date and function remain unclear, but its gravelly fill suggests it might have been for drainage. OASIS: kdkarcha1-501881; Accession Number: MILSH 2021.110

Whitchurch, Land Adjoining Newmans Close, North Marston Road SP 79400 21191

FLORIAN WEBER

An Archaeological Evaluation at Land Adjoining Newmans Close, North Marston Road, Whitchurch was undertaken in July 2021. Ten 30m long trenches were excavated prior to the construction of 22 dwellings. Archaeological investigations in Whitchurch have shown significant evidence of occupation since Saxon times and during the medieval period. However, no archaeological finds or features were revealed within the excavated trenches. OASIS: kdkarcha1-501922; Accession Number: AYBCM : 2021.22

MILTON KEYNES CITY COUNCIL: CONSERVATION & ARCHAEOLOGY IN MILTON KEYNES 2021

NICK CRANK, SENIOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL OFFICER, WITH
CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MARTIN ELLISON, CHRIS HOOPER AND
SIMON PEART, CONSERVATION & ARCHAEOLOGY TEAM, MKCC

Fieldwork

Perhaps unsurprisingly 2021 saw an increase in development related archaeological fieldwork against the previous year, with 30 projects notified to the Historic Environment Record (HER). Projects comprised: 9 trial trench evaluations, 2 earthwork surveys, 3 geophysical surveys; 7 excavations, 6 watching briefs and 3 historic building records.

Highlights included excavations on the periphery of the Roman town of Magiovinium at South Caldecotte, Bow Brickhill by Albion Archaeology. Five areas of excavation were completed revealing occupation from the late Iron Age to late Roman period including both inhumation and cremation cemeteries, remains of a Roman road and the stone foundations of a substantial building. Recovered artefacts included pottery comprising both local, regional, and continental wares, coinage, metalwork and organic remains preserved in some deeper waterlogged features. The organic remains included leather shoe fragments and a wooden toothed artefact which may be a scutching knife used for processing Flax fibres prior to spinning and weaving into linen cloth (Fig: back cover).

Also of interest are the investigations being carried out in advance of planning applications for the large mixed-use development to the east of the M1 between Milton Keynes and Newport Pagnell, known as the MK East Strategic Urban Extension (MKE SUE). Some 12 separate areas are earmarked for full excavation across the 461 hectares of the proposed development.

Mostly comprising Iron Age and Roman rural settlement, one of these areas stands out as it may be a Viking camp, strongly resembling in size and form the site identified at Repton, Derbyshire in the 1980s. Identified initially

through aerial photography and then further defined through geophysical survey and targeted trial trenching the MKE SUE site comprises a triple-ditched D-shaped enclosure adjacent to the east bank of the River Ouzel (Fig. 11). Postholes between the ditches suggest a palisade, while further postholes within the enclosure indicate structures.

Dating the site has so far proved difficult with few artefacts recovered from trial trenching, metal detecting and fieldwalking surveys. Two radiocarbon dates on material recovered from the outer ditch gave dates from the early Saxon and Early to middle Iron Age periods respectively. Despite this ambiguity it is still thought that a 9th-10th century Anglo-Scandinavian ('Viking') origin is most likely. Certainly, should further work occur the site has significant research potential, though it is not directly threatened by the development itself as the area in which it lies is designated as parkland within the masterplan.

Historic Environment Record

A Historic England sponsored audit of the HER was completed in late 2021 and a new action plan drawn up. A key objective of the action plan will be to secure funding for a dedicated staff resource for the HER in the form of an Historic Environment Record Officer (HERO) to ensure the ongoing maintenance and enhancement of the HER.

Heritage at Risk Register

The June 2022 version of the register lists 21 heritage assets that are at risk (31 in the previous year). Amongst the 10 assets reported as removed since the previous report, are significant assets such as the Bradwell Abbey farmhouse (see below) which has yielded significant finds in the process of conservation.

Bradwell Abbey

Following £2M capital programme funded by Milton Keynes Council (MKC) and Historic England, Bradwell Abbey will reopen to the public in September 2022 (Figs. 12 & 15).

The site is a Scheduled Monument and contains the Grade I Listed 14th Century Pilgrim Chapel and several Grade II Listed buildings. Latterly the focus has been on the adjacent Farmhouse and Bakehouse complex, both contain stone from the original Priory Church, restoring these buildings to showcase the archaeology hidden within them whilst modernising them sympathetically. In April 2022 the site was 'handed back' by the contractors to MKC and MK CDC and the latter is now engaging with schools and community groups to bring them back to the site and planning to launch a brand-new Visitor Interpretation Centre in 2024 to showcase the history of the site and more of the archaeology found during the works.

For more information on the history of Bradwell Abbey and the many activities MK CDC are delivering visit their website: www.mkcdc.org.uk

MOLA NORTHAMPTON

Ivinghoe, Tring Road, Berrystead Leys SP 947 160

JOHN WALFORD

A magnetometer survey was undertaken at Ivinghoe and covered circa 2ha of ground. Although the survey did not detect any conclusive evidence of archaeological remains, its



Figure 11: Plan of possible Viking fort (Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.).



Figure 12: Group tour at Bradwell Abbey.

results do indicate some areas of weak magnetic disturbance in the northern part of the survey area, close to the presumed location of the former Berrystead Manor. This disturbance is too far south to correspond with any of the historic buildings depicted on 18th and early 19th century mapping but there is a potential for it to relate to earlier, unmapped, manorial buildings or, perhaps more likely, associated features such as gardens, yards or ponds.

The results from the central and southern parts of the survey area are mostly unremarkable, with only a few widely scattered features of very doubtful archaeological significance. One historic field boundary and one modern pipe have also been detected. OASIS: molanort1-502220

Middle Claydon, South Lawn and West Terrace at Claydon House SP 719 292

GRAHAM ARKLEY

A multi-methodological survey (earth resistance and magnetometry) was conducted across the West Terrace and South Lawn of Claydon House. The results of this work indicate a few features of archaeological interest may lie beneath the lawns. These include a demolished part of the south face of the house (dating to between 1770 and 1840), several paths and garden boundaries, and other possible archaeological remains including three possible pits and a short length of ditch. Further detected responses relate to two extant features: a brick-lined well and a ha-ha. Other detected features include two services in the north of the South Lawn, a rectangular feature of uncertain character in the north of the West Terrace and several ferrous items (possibly relating to garden features) across the South Lawn. OASIS: molanort1 – 417381

Stowe Landscape Gardens SP 675 373

JOHN WALFORD

A magnetometer survey was undertaken at Stowe where range of features were identified belonging to the 18th and 19th century landscape of gardens and including remnants of ponds, pathways, a ha-ha and possible tree-planting pits. The discovery of a historic pipe, seemingly the feeder to a former fountain in Bridgeman's Canal, was particularly notable. Undated features were also detected, including a possible kiln and a fragmentary system of ditches. The latter may relate to the deserted medieval village at Stowe, although the evidence is inconclusive. OASIS: molanort1-501605

Stoke Mandeville, Thornbrook House SP 83492 09891

LAUREN WILSON

Historic building recording prior to demolition. Thornbrook House, Stoke Mandeville is a good example of an early/ mid-19th century house with a double-pile arrangement in its floor plan. Several original doors, and their door furniture survive, as well as the original staircase. Although later converted to a hotel it seems much of its original character has been preserved. The constructional sequence can be well read by analysing the roof types above the main range and the various rear extensions. Although these have likely been re-roofed in the 20th century the distinguishing roof forms give a good indication of the varying phases of the building.

The main range (Phase 1) lies to the east and is a typical arrangement of double-pile construction with central hall and flanking reception rooms, mirrored by a landing and bedrooms above. The staircase rises with simple elegance to the five bedrooms, the fifth later a bathroom and now



Figure 13: Thornbrook House.

Buckinghamshire

subdivided into a bathroom and linen closet. The northern rear extension (Phase 2) comprises part of the kitchen and other rear service areas below two bedrooms and parts of other rooms which were created by removing the formerly external south wall of the range at first floor level. This range was likely used for service activities connected to the house and its inhabitants, the rear door giving access into the garden. The southern rear extension (Phase 3) fits into the corner created by the main range and the northern rear extension. On the ground floor it forms part of the kitchen and on the first floor it houses the second half of the rear landing, a bathroom and WC. The second southern rear extension (Phase 4) has again been slotted into the corner created by the first southern rear extension and the northern rear extension. The western rear extension (Phase 5) provides an additional reception room to the ground floor and a dressing area to the master suite.

Wavendon, Lower End Road, land at former Wavendon Golf Academy SP 92122 38096

ESTHER POULUS AND STEPHEN MORRIS

An archaeological mitigation was undertaken and comprised two areas of investigation some 200m apart; Site 1 located to the north end of the development close to the A421 trunk road and Site 2 located at the south end of the development area, adjacent to Lower End Road.

Sites 1 and 2 contained parts of two possible contemporary late Iron Age to middle Roman settlements. They both displayed a series of irregular late Iron Age conjoined enclosures and boundary ditches, with smaller subdivided plots laid out in a general north-west to south-east alignment. A single four-post structure was identified in Site 1, and a number of pits were located across both areas. More regular sub-rectangular Roman enclosures and linear boundary ditches were established in both sites, with several of the ditches re-cutting the Iron Age boundaries. A few related pits and linear gullies were also found. The sites were abandoned by the mid-3rd century. By the medieval period the land was adapted to the agricultural field strip system, with both areas displaying remains of furrows. OASIS: molanort1-427124

Wavendon, land off Stockwell Lane SP 91010 37599

KAMIL ORZECOWSKI

Two trenches, each measuring 20m in length were excavated on land off Stockwell Lane, Wavendon. The only feature was a single field drain in Trench 2, from which a small assemblage of modern finds was recovered. OASIS: molanort1-501692

Weston Turville, land off Aston Clinton Road SP 85176 12854

CAMILLA COLLINS

An archaeological trial trench evaluation comprised the excavation of 14 trenches dispersed across the site. No archaeological remains were encountered. OASIS: molanort1- 501509

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH

Aylesbury, Waddesdon Greenway, Thame Crossing SP 7935 1504

CHARLOTTE HOWSAM

In June and July 2021, Oxford Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological works as part of an extension to the Waddesdon Greenway, a pedestrian and cycle path linking the village of Waddesdon with Aylesbury. The work involved the strip, map and sample excavation of two flood compensation areas and archaeological monitoring of groundworks along the route, including the installation of bridge abutments.

The strip, map and sample excavation of the western flood compensation area revealed early prehistoric and Roman activity (Fig. 14). A possible flint scatter suggestive of *in situ* flint knapping and a pit containing worked flint and charred hazelnut shell provide evidence of late Mesolithic activity. A radiocarbon determination of 5611–5477 cal BC (SUERC-101807, 6565±28, 95.4% probability) was obtained from the hazelnut shell. The excavation also exposed ditches that continued the line of ditches revealed during previous excavations at the adjacent Berryfields development (Biddulph *et al.* 2019). Together the ditches constituted part of an early Roman field system south of Akeman Street, at the periphery of the small town at Fleet Marston. The limited number of other features and finds and environmental remains recovered from the excavation demonstrate the largely agricultural use of the land during the early Roman period. An early–middle Roman, or possibly later Roman, cremation burial was also encountered during the excavation.

The eastern flood compensation area and revealed only modern made ground deposits, demonstrating that the area on the edge of the Haydon Hill estate had been built up above the level of the floodplain. Archaeological monitoring was maintained on the stripping and realignment of the Waddesdon Greenway. No archaeological features or deposits were exposed during the removal of the turf and previous tarmac surface of the Greenway.

The watching brief also involved the monitoring of the installation of new bridge abutments over the River Thame. No archaeological remains were identified but an alluvial deposit was recorded beneath the topsoil.

Biddulph, E, Brady, K, Simmonds, A, and Foreman, S, 2019 *Berryfields: Iron Age settlement and a Roman bridge, field system and settlement along Akeman Street near Fleet Marston, Buckinghamshire*, Oxford Archaeology Monograph 30

Maids Moreton, Upper Farm SP 70356 35696

ANGELA WARNER

Building recording has been undertaken on the roof at Upper Farm, Maids Moreton, during repair works. Upper Farm is a 17th century Grade II listed farmhouse located towards the northern end of the village, some distance from the historic core around the church. The recording was undertaken from scaffolding after the removal of the roof tiles and it confirmed that although the roof had been reformed with the addition of modern rafters, many of the primary timbers remained *in situ* beneath.

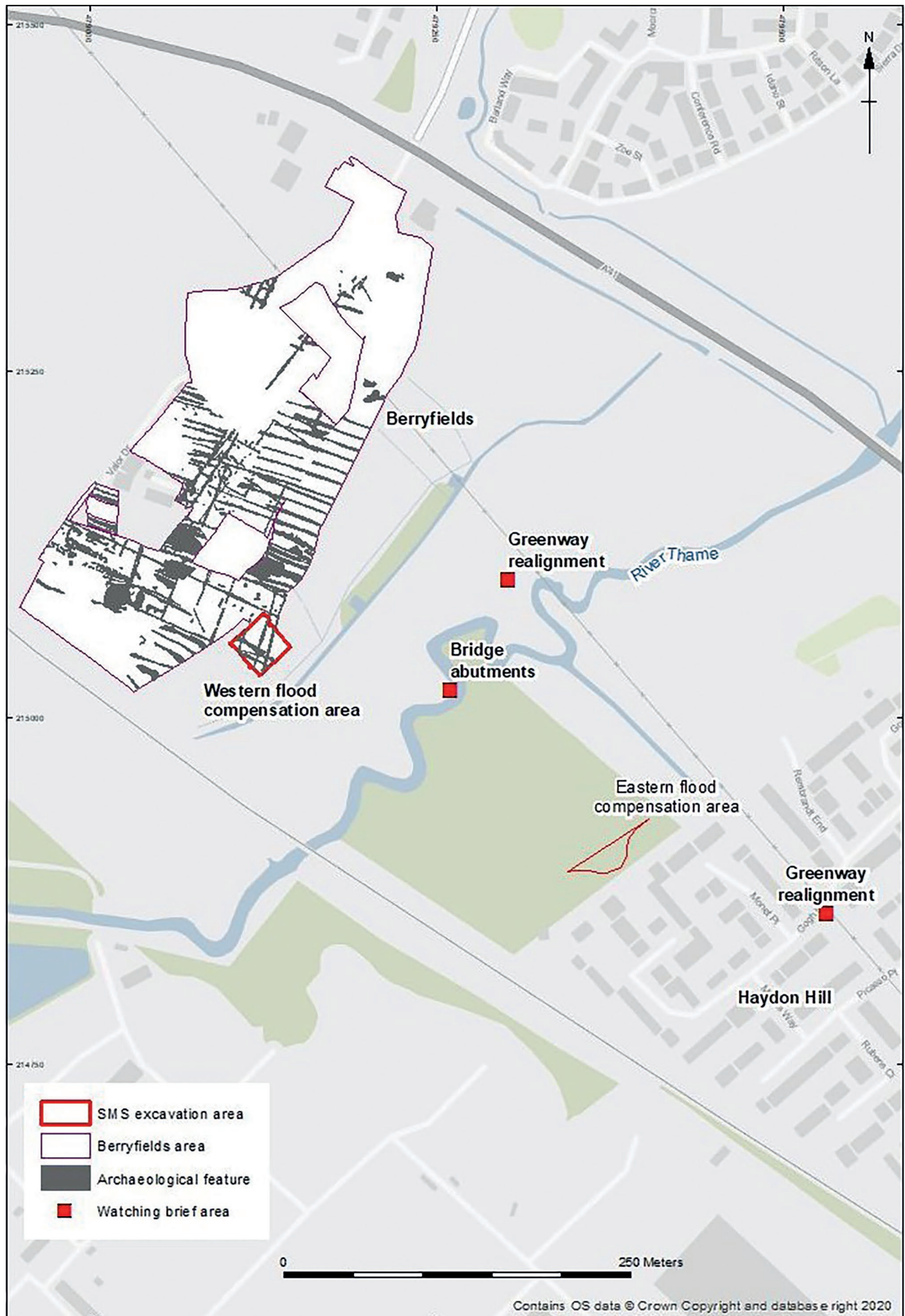


Figure 14: Plan of the Waddesdon Greenway excavation and monitoring areas in relation to the Berryfields excavation.

Buckinghamshire

Milton Keynes, Bradwell Abbey SP 82715 39516

DEIRDRE FORDE

Oxford Archaeology has undertaken a series of investigations at Bradwell Abbey, to the north-west of Central Milton Keynes, over a number of years and among the most recent has been historic building recording of the farmhouse, the Medieval Interpretation Centre (MIC), the stone barn and bakehouse. The main recording work has taken the form of a watching brief during repair or conservation works.

Bradwell Abbey is a Scheduled Monument (List Entry: 1009540) and has several standing medieval structures incorporating elements of the medieval abbey. The site would originally have comprised a church, refectory, living quarters, barns and kilns. It is currently the home of the Milton Keynes Discovery Centre.

During the watching brief to the 17th-century farmhouse, potential medieval walls were exposed on both the ground and first floor, providing further evidence for the long-held belief that it is built around the former Prior's Lodging at the south-west corner of the cloister. During necessary maintenance to the masonry in both the farmhouse and the MIC, finely moulded stones were exposed, including voussoirs and a carved stone head (Fig. 15), that were almost certainly reused from the medieval priory.

Olney, Yardley Road SP 88238 52562

CHARLOTTE HOWSAM

Oxford Archaeology carried out an excavation west of Yardley Road, to the northwest of Olney, in June to August 2020. A preceding geophysical survey and trial-trench evaluation was undertaken of the c 18.4ha development site

in 2019. This established the presence of Iron Age remains, including a pit alignment in the north-east of the site and a settlement comprising roundhouse and boundary/enclosure ditches in the south of the site. Two excavation areas (Areas 1 and 2), respectively in the eastern and southern corners of the development site and totalling c 1.2ha, were subsequently targeted upon the later prehistoric remains.

The recovery of a small quantity of residual worked flints provides evidence of a limited and perhaps transient presence in the wider landscape during the earlier prehistoric period. The first tangible phase of activity occurred during the middle Bronze Age. An unurned cremation burial or token deposit in Area 2 has been radiocarbon dated to the later part of the middle Bronze Age. Two similar but otherwise undated cremation burials/deposits were located nearby and together may have formed a group of cremation burials of Bronze Age date.

Evidence of late Bronze Age activity was concentrated in Area 1, in the form of a pit containing metalworking debris, comprising pieces of clay moulds – some possibly for casting swords – as well as crucible and copper-alloy fragments. The pit also contained the remains of a single butchered pig, deliberately deposited, and perhaps associated with feasting. A possible post-built structure containing a cremation burial or token deposit was located nearby and may have been related.

The next phase of activity is characterised by a pit alignment, also from Area 1, dating to the earliest Iron Age. This represents the continuation of the alignment previously excavated in a site to the south at Aspreys (Webley 2007), giving a total known length for the alignment of 179m. The pits were sub-rectangular and fairly evenly spaced (Fig. 16).



Figure 15: A carved stone head from Bradwell Abbey.

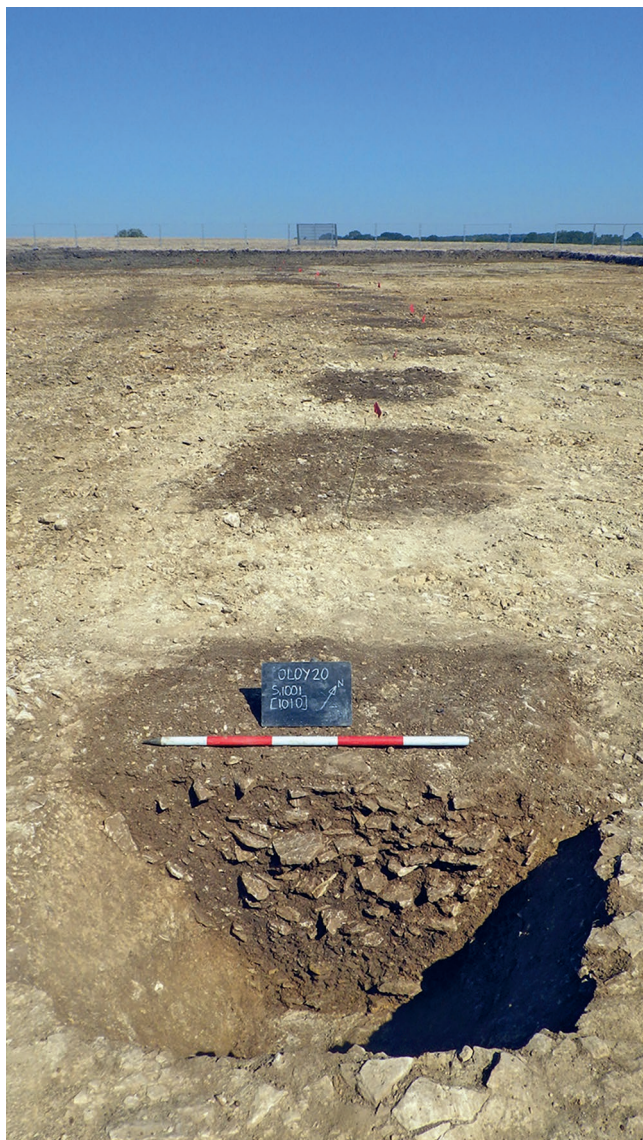


Figure 16: Olney, Yardley Road, Early Iron Age pit alignment, looking north-west, 1m scale.

No evidence of deliberate deposition within the pits was identified, though they contained a relatively large quantity of finds, much of which is likely to have been residual. Early Iron Age pottery within the upper fills of some pits indicates the pit alignment was partially infilled by this time. There was no indication of an associated earthwork bank, but the role of the pit alignment as a land boundary is confirmed by its spatial relationship to the local topography and the River Great Ouse and importantly the fact that it terminated to the north-west at change in the underlying natural geology, where the nature of the landscape and land use is also likely to have changed.

More substantive occupation of the site occurred in the early–middle Iron Age in the form of a small-scale rural settlement. A curved boundary ditch and an enclosure ditch were present in Area 2. A small number of curvilinear ditches defined probable roundhouses and a large, ditched enclosure may have been used for livestock management. A pit cluster and other pits and postholes represent associated activity. The pottery assemblage dates broadly to the early–middle Iron Age, though the inter-cutting nature of features demonstrates that activity was not limited to a single phase. The animal bone assemblage demonstrates the significance

of pastoral farming, while small quantities of charred plant remains, and several querns and rubbers suggest domestic crop processing took place on site.

Occupation ended in the Iron Age, with no clear evidence for substantive Roman or later activity until the land was used for ridge-and-furrow cultivation in the medieval/post-medieval period.

Webley, L., 2007 An Iron Age pit alignment and burial at Aspreys, Olney, *Rec Buckinghamshire* 47, 63–80

SOUTERRAIN

Bow Brickhill, South Caldecotte, Milton Keynes

SP 8919, 3386 (centre)

MERCEDES PLANAS AND MARTIN D WILSON

A combined archaeological topographical survey and analytical landscape study was undertaken of 13 hectares of farmland on the north-eastern side of the A5 at South Caldecotte, on behalf of Albion Archaeology. The purpose of the work was to gain a better understanding of earthworks pertaining to the medieval to post-medieval agrarian landscape and to obtain an accurate measured archaeological record prior to their loss through open area archaeological excavation and subsequent site development. The topographical survey was carried out using RTK GNSS.

The earthworks largely comprised relict remains of medieval cultivation ridges (Fig. 17), in varying state of survival, that were once part of the open-fields of the parish of Bow Brickhill. Originating either in the late Saxon or early Norman period, the cultivation strips were preserved within



Figure 17: South Caldecotte, earthwork survey in progress showing ridge and furrow.

Buckinghamshire

closes of pasture that pre-dated the parish's Parliamentary inclosure of 1790. As a result, the pattern of the medieval furlong fields in the study area was still legible, some of the fields respecting the course of an ancient brook. The physical characteristics of the earthworks and the documented evidence together suggest that cultivation was abandoned in the early 14th century and that the pasture enclosures pre-dated the mid-16th century.

A notable post-medieval landscape feature was a series of giant pollard willows on either side of a brook, which were considered to be at least 300 years old. The former locations of others were visible as circular linear earthworks in very low relief.

The report provides an illustrative and descriptive account of the earthworks, using a combination of computer-generated graphics and conventional survey drawings, supported by digital photography. It also provides an account of landownership at the time of the 18th century inclosure. OASIS ref.: souterra1-393749

Broughton, Milton Keynes, Old Rectory Cottage

SP 89366 40145

MARTIN D WILSON

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Souterrain during the excavation of foundation trenches for a new carriage house in the rear garden of The Old Rectory at Broughton. The site falls within the historic core of Broughton, where previous excavations in proximity to the site have revealed significant Romano-British, Saxon and later remains. The foundation trenches were in 19th / 20th century made-up ground and not deep enough to expose any significant archaeology. The Application Site and development area thus preserves its potential for buried archaeology. HER Event No. EMK1447; OASIS ID: souterra1-420534

Olney, Walker's Bridge Farm, Lavendon Road

SP 89675 52890

MERCEDES PLANAS AND MARTIN D WILSON

An evaluation trench was excavated in a modern coniferous plantation at Walker's Bridge Farm, which is situated in open countryside, about 1 km to the northeast of Olney town. The site lies on a south-facing slope above the River Great Ouse and adjacent to a Scheduled Monument, the Romano-British settlement at Ash Furlong.

The purpose of the work was to determine whether significant buried archaeological remains would be affected by the construction of a new farm dwelling, while the results would enable the planning authority's archaeological advisor to decide the scope of any necessary mitigation work.

The trench (c. 13 m by c. 1.8 m) was excavated along the length of the proposed building footprint, in order to provide a representative sample (c. 25 %) of the area to be affected. A substantial depth of topsoil and subsoil (c. 1 m) was encountered, a combination of modern plantation groundwork and post-medieval cultivation. Beneath it were the truncated remains of three 'negative' features of Romano-British date: a pit, a ditch, and ditch or pit. A small assemblage of pottery sherds was recovered, together with a few animal bones.

The evidence denotes either a spatial continuation of the Romano-British settlement at Ash Furlong (to the immediate west of Walker's Bridge Farm) or possibly peripheral activity. The pottery suggests that the features date from the late 3rd century AD, with a background of material reflecting activity from the late 1st to early/mid-2nd century. A low-density of carbonised plant remains included spelt wheat (*T. spelta*), the dominant cereal of the Romano-British period, and germinated glume wheat grains (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*), perhaps indicative of malting activity in the vicinity. HER Event No. EMK1457; OASIS ID: souterra1-428046

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Beaconsfield, Rear of Wycombe End House,

10 Wycombe End SU 9434 8993

ANDY TAYLOR

No deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were identified during the evaluation or a site for three new houses in December 2021.

Bierton with Broughton, land west of Rowsham Road

SP 8436 1617

ANDY TAYLOR

Excavation of c. 0.5ha on the site of a housing development in November and December 2021 revealed a few linear features and a large number of pits of medieval and post-medieval dates. A small amount of residual Bronze Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon pottery was also recovered, and a few stray prehistoric flint flakes. One aspect to emerge from the excavations is the relatively short-lived nature of the medieval occupation on the site and its apparently abrupt abandonment in the 12th/13th century, until the 18th/19th centuries.

Bledlow, land at Chinnor Road, Pitch Green

SP 7784 0302

AIDAN COLYER

A site for new houses was evaluated in November 2021 and several ditches, pits and a posthole were revealed with a range of dates from the 13th to 17th century. Two sherds of prehistoric pottery (probably Bronze Age) were also recovered.

Ludgershall, land at Westhaven and Green View, The Green SP 6621 1768

KYLE BEAVERSTOCK AND MAISIE FOSTER

A magnetometer survey in November 2021, followed by trial trenching in December on a site for three new houses revealed linear features and a pit cluster, with both late medieval and post-medieval finds.

Princes Risborough, land to the rear of Jacobs Meadow

SP 8083 0336

DAVID PLATT

Nothing of archaeological interest was observed in a single evaluation trench on the site of a new house.

Wing, Parish Church of All Saints SP 8802 2259

ANDREW MUNDIN

A watching brief was carried out in October 2021 during the digging of a new drainage trench. Only deposits of late 19th-century date were revealed along with a few fragments of undated, disarticulated human bone.

TVAS Publication of potential interest to SMA readers:(Available from TVAS, email tvass@tvass.co.uk)

Published in 2021

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

WARDELL ARMSTRONG (FORMERLY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS)**Little Brickhill, Woburn Road SP 9106 3251**

PETER CLARKE AND PETER THOMPSON

In April 2021, Wardell Armstrong (formerly Archaeological Solutions Ltd) conducted archaeological monitoring and recording at High Barn, Woburn Road, Little Brickhill. The work was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition associated with the construction of a new residential dwelling. In the event, no archaeological features or finds were identified.

WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY**Long Crendon, Chearsley Road SP 69165 09861**

D. STANFORTH

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Stantec to undertake an archaeological watching brief upon the excavation of a series of test pits to the north of Long Crendon, south-east of Easington (NGR SP 69165 09861). A total of eight test pits were excavated positioned in the location of the proposed compound for the works. The test pits were located in the immediate vicinity of a known Iron Age multivallate hillfort (Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record – 0668700000). Geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation have indicated the presence of three concentric segmented ditches defining the hillfort, with associated banks having been damaged by modern ploughing activity. Internal features were indicated by the presence of further ditches and pits. Despite the site proximity to the hillfort, the watching brief did not observe any archaeological deposits or features. Due to the nature of such small windows to into the deposits, it is possible that archaeological features lie beyond the boundaries of the test pits. All test pits demonstrated that topsoil directly overlay the natural geology which was evident at an average depth of 0.15 m below ground level.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY****Old Stratford, former Furtho Pit SP 7803 4170**

MARCIN KOZIMINSKI AND KATHY PILKINTON

Trial trenching ahead of commercial development, in conjunction with the results of geophysical survey, allowed the definition of two areas of archaeological significance. Area 1 represents a late Iron Age/Roman settlement in the western part of the site, characterised primarily by ditched enclosures and boundaries; a small number of postholes, a pit, and a possible layer were also identified. To the east, Area 2 represents evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity, comprising ditches and a small sunken-featured building. Evidence for medieval ridge and furrow was identified on the geophysical survey and confirmed within nine trenches. The alignment of the furrows appears to largely respect the current field boundaries. Post-medieval and modern features comprised primarily land drains, which were dispersed across the site but particularly evident in the eastern fields. OASIS ID: albionar1-425192; Event no.: ENN110318

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**Daventry, EC9 Daventry South East Gateway (Phase 1)**

NGR 458431 261047

ANNA WOLF

In March, Cotswold Archaeology excavated 33 evaluation trenches to inform any future planning applications for the site. The evaluation revealed medieval or post-medieval furrows as well as post-medieval ditches and a possible pit, the latter undated although it contained charcoal and fired clay.

Deanshanger, Land east of Buckingham Road

NGR 476821 239360

ANDREW WHELAN AND ADRIAN SCRUBY

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology in October comprised 45 trenches. The work was undertaken to inform a planning application for residential development and revealed historic field boundaries along with the remains of ridge and furrow cultivation, the latter indicating two distinct furlongs. Undated ditches, pits and postholes were also found.

Northamptonshire

Kettering, Land West of Gipsy Lane

NGR 485250 278830

JONATHAN ORELLANA

Excavation by Cotswold Archaeology in May comprised an area 30m by 20m in extent and was undertaken as a condition attached to planning consent for residential development. The work investigated a possible ring ditch suggested by geophysical survey and trial trenching and demonstrated that this was of natural origin.

Northampton, Dallington Grange NGR 473000 263369

MARK HEWSON

During June and July, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an evaluation in connection with outline planning permission for a sustainable urban extension. In total, 202 trenches were excavated. The recording revealed ditches, pits and postholes. These date to the Late Iron Age and Roman periods and indicate a rural settlement of enclosures, stockades, trackways and fields. Later remains reflect medieval and later agriculture.

Rushden, Land off Prospect Avenue

NGR 496051 267654

NASTURCIA PACHOLEK

Evaluation trenching (seven trenches) by Cotswold Archaeology in November was undertaken as a condition attached to planning consent for residential development. The evaluation revealed that the site has been heavily truncated by ploughing and no archaeological features were found.

Towcester, Drivers Residences, Silverstone Race Circuit

NGR 468046 242267

EILIDH BARR

In February, Cotswold Archaeology undertook a 16-trench evaluation to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent for the construction of accommodation. The work recorded only modern features of no archaeological interest.

Towcester, Land North of Bell Plantation

NGR 468603 250299

ANNA WOLF

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology between May and June comprised the excavation of 93 trenches to inform a forthcoming planning application. The work recovered a small assemblage of lithics including possible Mesolithic or Early Neolithic bladelets and a possible Early Bronze Age thumbnail scraper. All were residual within later deposits. Two areas of Late Iron Age to Early Roman remains were found, one comprising a ring ditch and rectangular enclosure, the second a smaller square enclosure. A further concentration of Roman activity was adjacent to Watling Street and features there produced pottery of the 2nd to 4th centuries.

Post-Roman activity comprised agricultural features including a pit which contained charred wheat and rye grains suggestive of crop-processing.

Towcester, Woolgrowers Field NGR 468560 249590

BETHANY HARDCASTLE

Evaluation trenching in January by Cotswold Archaeology comprised the excavation of 19 trenches prior to the determination of a planning application for a commercial and industrial development. The trenching revealed a small number of Roman ditches. Early Saxon features were also found, including a possible wall. Saxon finds include a bone pin/needle, a small fragment of perforated gold, and stamp-decorated pottery. The remains of ridge and furrow cultivation were recorded along with a post-medieval/modern field boundary ditch.

Weedon, Dodford Wharf Farm NGR 485250 278830

ANNA WOLF

An excavation by Cotswold Archaeology comprised 0.058ha of land examined to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent for residential development. The excavation examined a ring ditch identified during a previous geophysical survey and evaluation. The majority of the ring ditch was exposed and did not include a break along the circuit, suggesting that any entrance was along the unexposed northern extent. Within the interior of the ring ditch were a short ditch segment and three pits. One of the pits produced a sherd of possible Early Iron Age pottery, whilst undiagnostic flint chips or flakes were present in another. Three further ditches and a small pit, all undated, were recorded on the outer side of the ring ditch.

HEADLAND ARCHAEOLOGY

Yelvertoft, Land at Yelvertoft Solar Farm

TQ 58716 07685

P. ČEPAUSKAS

An archaeological evaluation of the site in advance of a planning application for the development of a solar farm. Archaeological remains dating to the later middle Iron Age period were recorded in fifteen trenches spread across five fields. They represent the remains of a dispersed settlement pattern and are part of a wider Iron Age landscape in the area.

Medieval ridge and furrow were found in the majority of trenches across the development area. It was poorly preserved where the depth of the furrows investigated did not exceed 0.10m.

ICKNIELD ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Staverton, Braunston Lane SP 5405 6156

DAVID FELL AND JONATHAN HUNN

An evaluation was undertaken at Braunston Lane, Staverton. Several prehistoric sites are present in the surrounding area and six trial trenches were excavated. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were present within the trenches and the area was undisturbed.



Figure 1: Weedon, Dodford Wharf Farm the ring ditch, looking north.

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

Culworth, Danvers House SP 5408 4705

POVILAS ČEPAUSKAS

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological investigation at Danvers House, Culworth, during groundworks for a swimming pool in October 2021. The investigation revealed evidence of landscaping and other gardening related activities carried out in the 19th-20th centuries, however no earlier archaeological remains were observed.

Radstone, Whitfield Road SP 5887 4054

GAVIN DAVIS

An evaluation was undertaken by John Moore Heritage Services on land to the west of Whitfield Road, Radstone, Northamptonshire in January 2021. Within trench 1 a pit was excavated that contained fragments of late Saxon pottery and was capped by a quern stone. In the centre of the trench, a shallow ditch of indeterminate date was identified orientated north-east to southwest. The ditch contained an undiagnostic ceramic tile fragment. Three further pits were identified which contained sheep bones. Two of the pits contained articulated animal remains. A further cut feature identified as a pit or ditch terminus contained fragments of post-medieval pottery. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-415511

KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Cold Ashby, St Denys Church, Church Lane

SP 6561 7627

FLORIAN WEBER

A programme of Observation and Recording was carried out in July 2021 at St Denys Church, Church Lane, Cold Ashby when the dry-stone wall along the footpath was removed and a footing trench was excavated for the new wall. A concrete slab adjoining the church wall was removed revealing modern backfill material underlying it. No finds or features of archaeological interest were identified during the project. OASIS: kdkarcha1-417148; Accession Number: ENN110190

Newbottle, Forceleap Farm SP 53430 36748

FLORIAN WEBER

A Historic Building Recording of Forceleap Farm, Newbottle was carried out in May 2021 prior to the conversion of the buildings on the site. The farmhouse, which was built by the Cartwright family who purchased the Newbottle Estate in 1795, has a datestone of 1820 and the majority of the impacted buildings are also of early 19th century date. In the 20th century, the engine room of the threshing barn was demolished and the north-south orientated stable building to the west was converted into two office rooms, a two-storey flat and a butchery. The latest alterations were made to the building forming the east range of the central farmyard, which has been extensively repaired with a direct access also being formed between the farmyard and the adjacent field. OASIS: kdkarcha1-501591; Accession Number: ENN110206

Northamptonshire

Thenford, Upper Farmyard SP 51975 41875

KARIN KAYE AND DEREK WATSON

Historic Building Recording of Upper Farmyard, Thenford was completed in April/May 2021. Upper Farm, previously known as Home Farm, appears to date from the late 17th century, although the earliest building on the site, a stone-built range containing two barns, is probably late 18th / early 19th century. The other buildings within the site have their origins in the late 19th century, with the exception of the north range, which was built in the latter half of the 20th century re-using the building materials from the 19th century structure that it replaced. Many of the buildings were originally open fronted and designed to accommodate livestock, although 20th century alterations included blocking some of the earlier openings and providing the courtyard with a roof. Despite the considerable changes over time, earlier stone walling has been retained not only as field boundaries, but also in the building to the south of the main courtyard, which was extensively rebuilt in the later 20th century within the walls of a 19th century yard and its associated building. OASIS: kdkarcha1-412432; Accession Number: ENN110101

MOLA NORTHAMPTON

Brackley, Radstone Fields SP 58235 39171

ADAM REID

An evaluation at Radstone Fields, Brackley, comprised 44 trenches and of these a total of 22 contained features of archaeological interest. Remains were dispersed across the site with the densest concentrations located within the eastern half of the evaluation area. These features formed a continuation of a previously identified extensive intermittent middle to late Iron Age agglomerate site of probable village size. Parts of this agglomerate site have already been excavated at Brackley Sawmills (Muldowney 2016), Brackley Foxhills (Morris 2019) and two separate areas at Radstone Fields and Northampton Road (Leslie 2021).

The features within the Radstone Fields evaluation had a similar appearance to those from the other excavated areas. They consisted of a substantial number of pits of varying forms and functions in addition to several roundhouses and possible post-built structures. Many of the features identified presumably related to crop processing and storage (Fig. 2). The palaeoenvironmental analysis generally identified small quantities of mostly barley and wheat, which corresponds with the results from the previous works. OASIS: molanort1-501491.

Leslie, I, 2021 *Radstone Fields and Northampton Road, Brackley Northamptonshire: two major Iron Age settlements at the head of the River Great Ouse catchment*, Albion Archaeology Monograph, 6

Morris, S, 2019 *Archaeological excavations on land at Foxhills, Brackley, Northamptonshire: February-May 2016*, MOLA Northampton report, 19/06

Muldowney, M, 2016 *Archaeological Mitigation at the Sawmills site, Northampton Road, Brackley, Northamptonshire: September to November 2014*, MOLA Northampton report, 16/119



Figure 2: Brackley - Straight-sided grain storage pit.

Chelveston, Chelveston Energy Innovation Park and Employment Relocation SP 500062 268067

JIM BURKE

A watching brief took place on land at the former Chelveston Energy Innovation Park and Employment Relocation. This location was the site of former RAF Chelveston. The results only found remains of the airfield and later activity with buildings, road surfaces and associated services recovered. OASIS: molanort1-501817.

A separate programme of archaeological observation, investigation, recording and analysis took place within an adjacent area to the watching brief. No pre airfield remains were found. OASIS: molanort1-501817.

Clipston, 28 Harborough Road SP 712 819

PAIGE SAVAGE

Two 10m trenches were excavated over the footprint of a proposed dwelling. The results only found modern disturbances in the form of a concrete wall and a modern backfill deposit. OASIS: molanort1- 502127.

Corby, Rockingham Castle SP 86701 91347

TRACY PREECE

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the refurbishment of toilet facilities at Rockingham Castle. These investigations comprised the lifting of a 19th century brick floor. The removal of this floor revealed its bedding layer of sand and mortar that was 0.02m to 0.03m thick.

Along the north side of the area just in front of the castle wall was a section of stonework that may have been part of an earlier floor. No artefacts or other features were uncovered. OASIS: molanort1-501689.

Croughton, Croughton Road, land at RAF Croughton
SP 56770 32652

ADAM REID

A programme of 10 trial trenching was undertaken in advance of construction of two radomes, antennas and associated security system components at RAF Croughton. No archaeological features or finds were encountered. OASIS: molanort1- 501188.

Daventry, of 'John O'Gaunt's Castle' SP 518 612

JOHN WALFORD

A geophysical survey on 'John O'Gaunt's Castle', Daventry found that the site may have been extensively disturbed in modern times. The magnetic data indicates that the site is largely covered by deposits containing a large quantity of metal debris and other magnetic material, such as might be expected to occur in modern quarry backfill or made ground. The general form of the land surface, particularly around the rectangular basin, also points towards large-scale earthmoving having occurred. However, it remains unclear whether the former clay pit extended right up to the edges of the site or whether some of the detected magnetic 'noise' might indicate relatively superficial spreads of debris extending beyond the limits of the pit itself. OASIS: molanort1-502969.

Land south of Desborough SP 810 827

GRAHAM ARKLEY

A geophysical survey on c12ha of land south of Desborough detected a probable enclosure and former field boundaries, as well as a smaller possible enclosure and disparate short lengths of ditch and pits. Circumstantial evidence tends to favour a medieval or post-medieval date over an earlier one. The enclosure lacks any characteristics which would specifically point to a prehistoric or Roman date, and the fact it shares an alignment with a mapped field boundary suggests that it still survived as a noticeable earthwork when this boundary was created, in about 1900. A smaller enclosure has perhaps been detected c100m east of this, though the evidence is less certain. Its alignment does not respect any other feature detected and it appears to be overlain by ridge and furrow, which could suggest a pre-medieval date.

Further responses show ridge and furrow across much of the centre and east of the survey area, while two backfilled areas include a former sewage outlet and a second unknown pit of some form. The survey has also detected the course of several pipes or cable trenches, and the location of former goalpost sockets in the eastern playing fields. OASIS: molanort1 – 500944.

East Haddon, Main Street, Rose Cottage SP 6670 6808

PAUL THOMPSON

A watching brief at Rose Cottage, East Haddon, took place during construction of a new house, garage and associated access. The work revealed two intercutting ditches which

both contained sherds of 14th and 15th century pottery and an undated gully. OASIS: molanort1-502630.

Grendon, land north of Grendon SP 87500 61300

PAUL SHARROCK

An evaluation on land north of Grendon comprised seven trenches. The evaluation revealed a low density of remains, signifying small scale of activity on the site during the 12th to 13th centuries. These remains were concentrated in one location approximately in the 70m at the northern edge of an area defined by the HER as relating to the Deserted Medieval Settlement (DMS) of Cotton. The peripheral nature of the remains and the sparse artefactual assemblage indicate that the activities undertaken were more probably industrial than domestic in function. Archaeological features identified include a small hearth and associated yard wall, in addition to several ditches and remnants of ridge and furrow cultivation system. OASIS: molanort1-501455.

Hargrave, Rectory View TL 03756 70483

KAMIL ORZECZOWSKI AND LEVENTE BALASZ

Two related archaeological works took place at Rectory View, Hargrave. These comprised a Strip, Map and Sample of three building footprints and an Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication (OIRAP) during intrusive ground works associated with the development.

In the main archaeological area activity was dated to the 11th century or earlier and consisted of two circular enclosures, in addition to a collection of pits and postholes which did not form any clear structures. A watering hole believed to be used by livestock was also identified. Later medieval activity focussed on the establishment of two plots, which was further subdivided by ditches. An isolated post-medieval pit and a modern dog burial were also found within the main excavation area.

Two other areas of archaeological work were monitored with a large early medieval ditch identified in the northern area and several early medieval postholes and pits at the southern area. OASIS: molanort1-501745.

Higham Ferrers, Newton Road SP 9710 6840

PAUL SHARROCK

Eighteen trenches were excavated as part of an evaluation at Newton Road, Higham Ferrers. The archaeology remains found corresponded well with a previous geophysical survey within the northern part of the site. An Iron Age into mid Roman settlement was found and comprised a series of enclosures, which were positioned in relation to a large boundary ditch. Some of these enclosures contained potential ring gullies indicative of structures. This site formed part of a linear system of settlement which extended across the local area, and these have been recorded in several different excavations and in cropmarks. OASIS: molanort1-501836.

Kettering, Naseby Hotel (Formerly George Hotel)

SP 86629 78385

LUKE TREMLETT AND LAUREN WILSON

A programme of historic building recording was required prior to works being undertaken on the Naseby Hotel. This

Northamptonshire

is a large hotel complex located prominently on the corner of Sheep and George Streets in Kettering town centre, Northamptonshire. The interior of the hotel has almost entirely been remodelled during the mid to late-20th century when buildings of various ages were broken through to form a more consistently decorated hotel complex.

Despite this, seven phases of construction and modification were elucidated during the investigation. While there have been structures on this site from the 16th century, the first phases for which there is substantive evidence dates to the 18th century. The second phase comprises the construction of Ranges 3 and 4 by 19th century, the extension to the south of Range 4 and construction of Range 5 late 19th century forms phase 3. Phase 4 sees the construction of an extension in current position of Range 7 in the early-mid 20th century. The hotel was remodelled c1953 forms phase 5. The late 20th century remodelling, Phase 6, in the late 20th century was extensive. OASIS: molanort1-502271

Mears Ashby, Shortwood Farm, Glebe Road

SP 83578 67884

PAUL THOMPSON

A small excavation took place at Shortwood Farm, Mears Ashby prior to the construction of a new agricultural building. A ditch and gully were found and may be related as they were in close proximity, and both aligned east to west. The gully contained one pottery sherd of 16th century date, whilst the ditch was undated. OASIS: molanort1-502364.

New publication: Northampton, Angel Street

SP 7548 6026

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) investigated archaeological remains at Angel Street in **2014**. This work is recorded in the South Midlands CBA journal in volume 45 (2015), 43 and front cover. An evaluation on the site was carried out in 1990 and is recorded under the name St John's Street in the South Midlands CBA journal in volume 21 (1991), 64.

The site contained a detailed sequence of post-Conquest development. During the earlier part of the 12th century the land was heavily quarried for ironstone. Later a few dispersed buildings occupied land along both Angel Street and St John's Street by the mid-12th century. Domestic pits and a bread oven lay to the rear of Angel Street and a carver's workshop stood on St John's Street. Domestic and craft waste was generated from this occupation and disposed of within the disused quarries, perhaps also with waste from other settlement nearby. Amongst this were found carved antler chess pieces, rare evidence of an antler carving workshop, without known published parallel. The timber building was refurbished once and then replaced in stone by the mid-13th century.

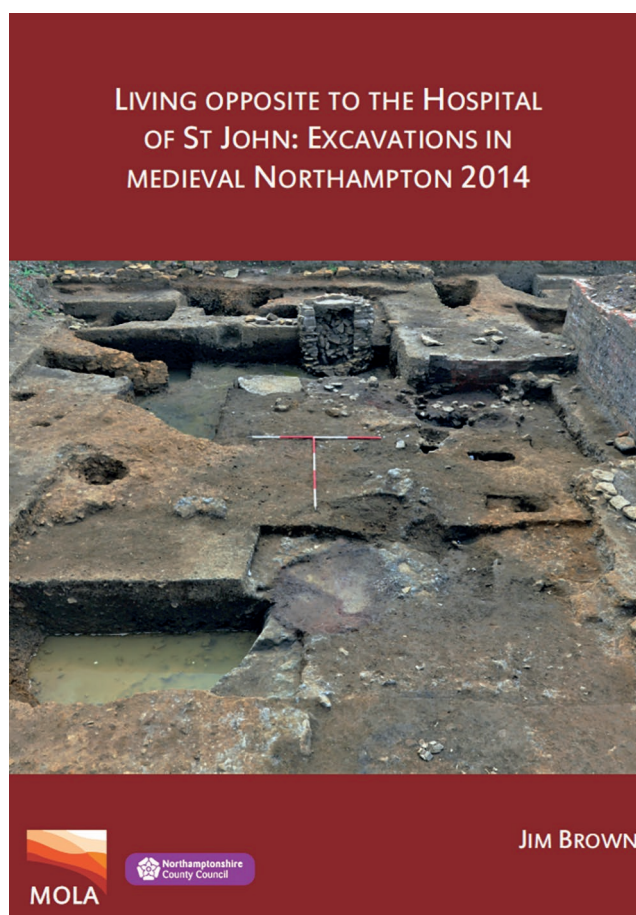
Brewing and baking were undertaken next door during the late 12th and early part of the 13th centuries. A stone building with a cobbled floor lay towards the centre of the St John's Street frontage. Behind the building were four wells, a clay-lined tank for water drawn from the well and several ovens, including at least two bread ovens and three malting ovens. This activity ceased at around the time that the carver's workshop was replaced in stone and much of the

frontage was cleared. Rear yard structures and ovens were demolished, wells were filled, and the ground was levelled out. Activity to the rear of Angel Street remained continuous and the clearance activity was localised to the St John's Street properties.

Subsequently, although there was still one building standing on St John's Street, the plots at its east end became a place for tipping soil, domestic waste and cess. What started out as abandoned ground was gradually assimilated into a single plot, perhaps for gardens adjoining the surviving late medieval tenement.

The stone tenement was extended and refurbished in the late 15th century and was occupied until c1600. Another building was established on Fetter Street after c1450, which was the first archaeological indication for this street's existence. Pottery in the abandonment and demolition levels of the building suggested that it ceased to exist by c1550. The period of the 17th–18th centuries was marked by dark loamy soils associated with gardens and orchards until the construction of stables and terraced buildings, and the historically recorded developments thereafter that are mapped by successive cartographic sources.

The MOLA book is titled: Living opposite to the Hospital of St John: excavations in medieval Northampton 2014 by Jim Brown. It can be brought direct from the publishers, Archaeopress Archaeology at www.archaeopress.com priced £60. H 290 x W 205 mm 362 pages 205 figures, 91 tables (colour throughout). ISBN 9781789699364. It can also be brought as an E-publication at £16. ISBN 9781789699371.



Northampton, 58 Booth Rise SP 78672 64634

KAMIL ORZECZOWSKI

Three archaeological trial trenches were excavated in the back garden of 58 Booth Rise, Northampton. No archaeological features were present although in Trench 2 a colluvial layer contained a fragment of Roman pottery. OASIS: molanort1-501353

Northampton, Collington, Rowtree Park

SP 74694 56041

ADAM REID

Ten trial trenches were excavated in an area of land formerly developed for use as a golf course in the late 20th century. No archaeological features were found and there was evidence of extensive modern disturbance across the area of investigation. OASIS: molanort1-503135.

Northampton, Delapre Abbey SP 75976 59133

LAUREN WILSON

A programme of historic building recording at Delapre Abbey was undertaken to better understand the garden wall structure (Fig. 3) prior to any conservation decisions regarding its future management. The wall presents many differing constructional phases which can largely be attributed to different construction materials used.

The garden wall has been in place since the mid-18th century at least. It is possible the garden was laid out following the Bouverie family's purchase of the estate, along with their other modernisations at this time. But it is also possible that the layout is a remnant of the Abbey's arrangement. It is likely that the reality is perhaps a combination of both,

and the Bouverie family rebuilt/renewed the walled garden following their purchase, but it was still based on the older plan form.

Technical analysis of the garden wall has revealed a variety of construction materials, methods and styles, which give some indication as to the phasing of the structure as a whole. Given that the majority comprises stone construction it is difficult to arrive at a certain date for the many phases without further stylistic reference. Stone is a common construction material in areas where it is abundant and is not in of itself a datable material. However, with careful analysis there were construction sequences that have been identified which indicate some areas of rebuilding or disturbance. Changes made to the various sections of wall included a brick inner skin added in the 19th century. OASIS: molanort1-501592.

Northampton, Kingsthorpe, 39 Mill Lane SP 7484 6289

PAUL THOMPSON

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the construction of three new houses and associated access. No archaeological features were uncovered. Foundation trenches had already been excavated. OASIS: molanort1-503505

Northampton, Market Square SP 75450 60555

JONATHAN ELSON

Archaeological observation took place during the excavation of geotechnical test pits in Northampton's Market square. Loosely datable deposits were present in six test holes and one window sample. The deposits dated between late medieval to 19th century and may be related to one of the fires or more likely the redevelopments during industrial growth in the town. Evidence for domestic waste in the



Figure 3: Delapre Abbey – photo of garden wall.

Northamptonshire

form of a fragment of animal bone and oyster shells were present with possible cess-like material identified in one test hole. The most noticeable deposits occurred in one test hole/ window sample where up to 6m of archaeological deposits were found. It is possible that these archaeological deposits were within an archaeological feature such as a well. Possible structures were identified in the form of a laid stone block, cellar and limestone wall respectively. The use of stone as building material can be attributed to between the medieval to post-medieval period. The modern ground surface deposits generally varied in depth across the site between 0.37m to 0.69m. OASIS: molanort1-503288.

Northampton, St Andrews Road SP 74899 60552

PAUL SHARROCK

A watching brief was carried out during structural investigations of St Andrew's wall, St Andrews Road. St Andrew's Road was constructed in 1883 through the remains of Northampton castle shortly after the train station was built. The walls situated to either side are presumably a 20th century addition. The work comprised the excavation of five test pits designed to assess the structural condition of the extant wall and to inform proposals for the construction of a stairway abutting this structure. No archaeological features were encountered within the excavated test pits however they did demonstrate varying depths to the natural and build-up of modern made ground reaching a depth of 1.29m. OASIS: molanort1- 501351.

Oundle, Stoke Doyle Road TL 03230 88077

YVONNE WOLFRAMM-MURRAY

An archaeological evaluation on land at Stoke Doyle Road, Oundle comprised 14 trenches. This work followed a geophysical survey which identified two discrete anomalies as well as ditches and furrows. The evaluation established these two discrete features were probable Sunken-Featured Buildings (SFBs) and these were potentially associated with others found previously directly to the east of the site (NHER 5366). The first probable SFB was fully exposed in plan following an extension of the trench. No visible postholes or other structural features were identified within the excavated section, but the size and shape are comparable to other examples in the area. The second possible SFB was only partially exposed. Early-middle Saxon pottery and animal bone were recovered from the fills of each feature.

Remnants of the ridge and furrow agricultural system were noted in a few trenches and had fallen out of use between AD 1600- 1800. Later linear ditches recorded within the evaluation trenches accord well with the geophysical data. All of the excavated examples contained material dated to the 18th-19th centuries. The excavated ditches are not easily resolved into recognisable enclosures or extensive boundaries. However, the 1900–1901 OS map indicates that the field was in use as allotments. It is possible that some of the cut features may relate to this activity. OASIS: molanort1-501698

Raunds, 19 North Street TL 00059 73377

KAMIL ORZECZOWSKI AND ALEX SHIPLEY

A watching brief at 19 North Street, Raunds found a late Saxon ditch that was subsequently recut and an undated pit. The pit was stratigraphically later than the ditch and appears

to have been primarily used for refuse. It contained a large quantity of faunal remains with a minimum of two juvenile pigs and some cattle bones. The remains have no evidence for butchery or gnawing or disturbance post deposition. OASIS: molanort1-501926.

Raunds, land at Darsdale Nursing Home

SP 99301 71805

PAGE SAVAGE

An archaeological evaluation at Darsdale Nursing Home, Raunds, comprised four trenches spread across the footprint of proposed buildings. Archaeological remains comprised part of a late Iron Age and Roman settlement and field system. Some of the ditches found may have formed part of a rectilinear enclosure. Other ditches and a gully may have been part of a larger field system, which defined smaller enclosures, field boundaries or drainage features. These remains are most likely the continuation of the northern extent of a late Iron Age/early Roman field system identified next to the site at Darsdale Farm (Reid 2017). The remains of the evaluation are less substantial than those in the Darsdale Farm excavation area. A small assemblage of pottery and animal bone was recovered from the enclosure ditch and the potential field system, suggesting that this site was more than likely used for agricultural purposes rather than for domestic occupation, and that this activity lay on the periphery of the settlement. OASIS: molanort1-501349

Reid, A, 2017 Late Iron Age to early Roman and middle Anglo-Saxon settlement at Darsdale Farm, Raunds, *Northamptonshire Archaeology*, **39**, 107–126

Ravensthorpe, land off West Haddon Road

SP 66367 69942

CAMILLA COLLINS

An evaluation comprising two trenches took place on land off West Haddon Road, Ravensthorpe. A single undated gully was found. OASIS: molanort1-501752

Wellingborough, 28a Cambridge Street SP 89447 68016

ESTHER POULUS

An evaluation at 28a Cambridge Street, Wellingborough comprised the excavation of two trial trenches each measuring 5m in length. A single post-medieval ditch was encountered, and this was orientated through both trenches. OASIS: molanort1- 501565

Wellingborough, Stanton Cross Flood Relief Area 5

SP 9247 6743

ADAM DOUTHWAITE

Two separate areas of excavation took place at Stanton Cross Flood Relief Area 5, Wellingborough. A Strip, Map and Sample (SMS) within the western portion of the site measured 0.9ha and a mitigation area to the east of it measured 2.4ha.

The SMS comprised a small-scale additional investigation based on the results of the geophysical survey and trial trenching, which indicated a low level of low-density archaeological remains that largely seemed to comprise two parallel ditches and a pit group. The SMS found a late

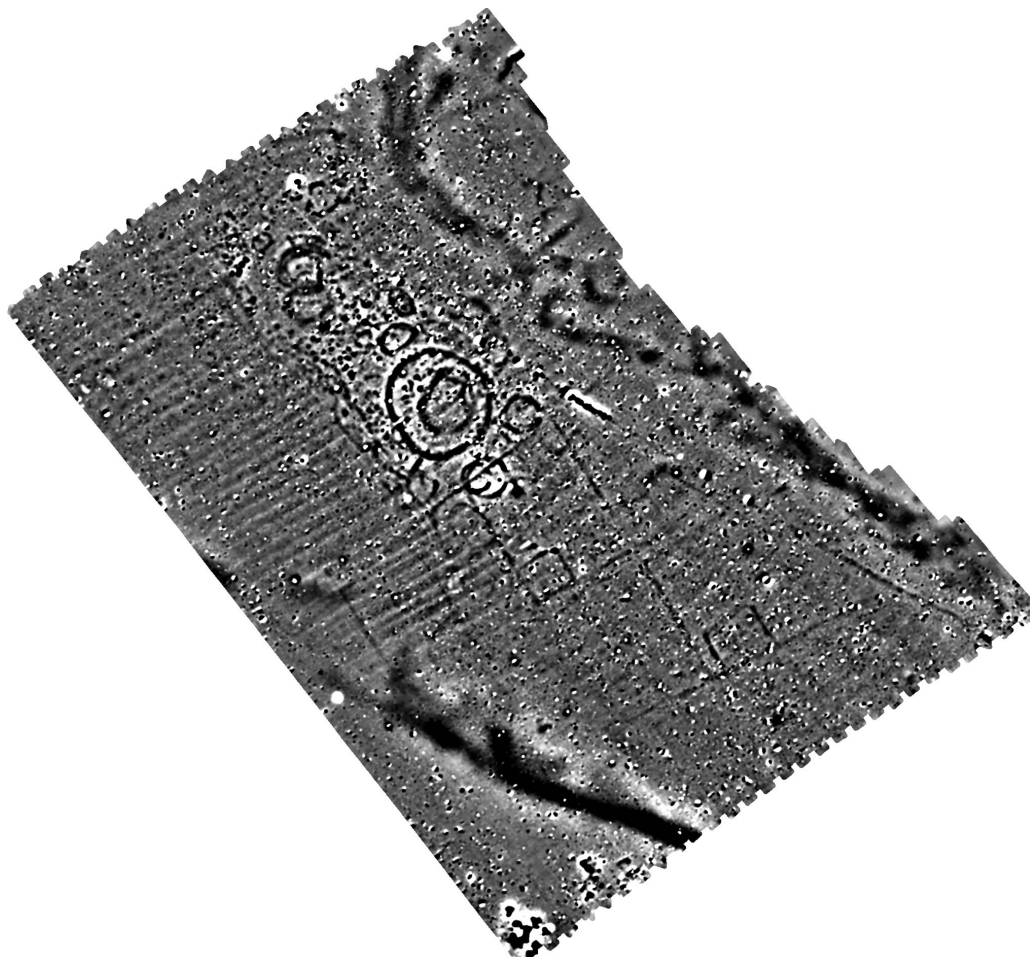


Figure 4: Stanton Cross - geophysics of main excavation area.

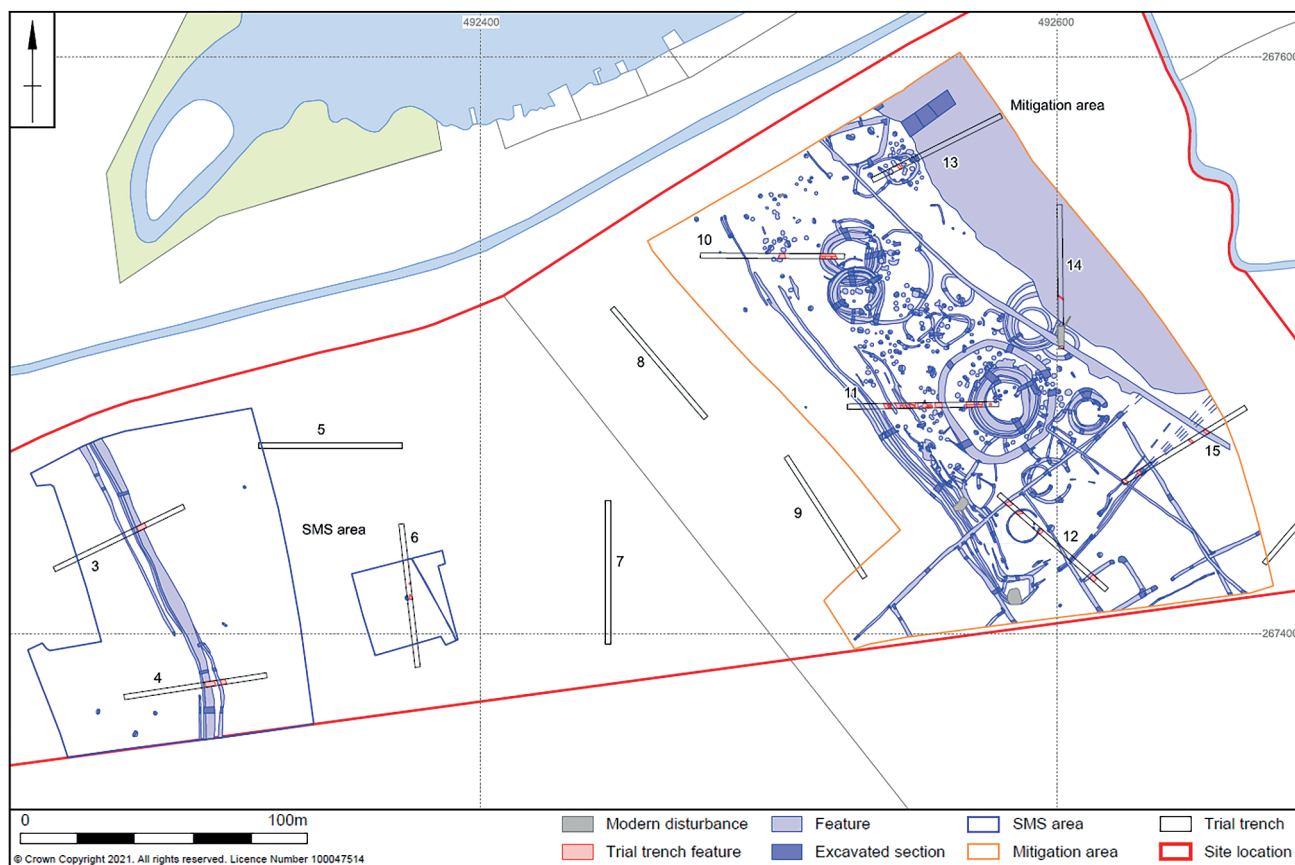


Figure 5: Stanton Cross – all features plan.



Figure 6: Stanton cross early Neolithic Mildenhall bowl in pit.



Figure 7: Stanton Cross - HB1, early Bronze Age collared urn.

Bronze Age pit and an early Roman landscape boundary ditch (and recuts) and a pit.

The mitigation targeted high-density archaeological area identified by the previous works including geophysical survey (Fig. 4). The excavations have revealed a multi-period archaeological site with evidence of activity from the middle Neolithic through to the Saxon period, including long-established settlement boundaries, ring-ditches, enclosures, pit groups, remnants of structures and a field system. (Fig. 5).

The middle Neolithic evidence from site is extremely sparse, with two isolated pits dating from this period, though a large part of the flint assemblage was dated through technological criteria to the end of the Neolithic or the beginning of the Bronze Age. Of interest was an early Neolithic Mildenhall bowl (Fig. 6). The early Bronze Age evidence is similarly sparse, with only two urned cremations currently identifiable to this period including HB1 within an early Bronze Age collared urn (Fig. 7)

The Iron Age remains form the bulk of the archaeological features on site, with an enclosed middle Iron Age settlement covering much of the mitigation area, which comprised multiple ring-ditches, small enclosures and pit groups bounded on the western and southern sides by ditches. This settlement was long-lived, with the boundary and several ring ditches showing signs of multiple phases, and it is probable that further analysis will be able to identify several phases of occupation. In the SMS area, a curving series of boundary ditches were identified, unrelated to the main settlement area. A presently undated crouched burial may also date to this period.

Following the abandonment of the settlement, a field system was imposed over the southern portion of the mitigation area, composed of a series of rectangular fields, one of which contained a small square sub-enclosure. This field system likely formed part of the hinterland of the nearby Roman town at Irchester, 900m to the south-west.

A single Saxon Sunken-Feature Building (SFB) was confirmed in the central part of site, comprising a sub-rectangular pit and internal postholes. No other activity from this period was identified. OASIS: molanort1- 502041

Wellingborough, Stanton Cross, Areas 4, 5 and 58 SP 91150 69680

ADAM DOUTHWAITE

A total of eighteen trenches were excavated across Areas 4, 5 and 58. The trenches targeted specific archaeological features identified during previous geophysical survey and tested suspected 'blank' areas. Trenching identified Iron Age and Roman features, but the limited pottery assemblage comprised small, abraded and largely undiagnostic sherds, and as a consequence only a broad date range could be attributed to these activities.

The Iron Age enclosures were found, and these represented a focus of occupation within the valley base of a tributary of the River Ise, less than 500m to the west. These enclosures would have formed part of a landscape of enclosed Iron Age settlements that are spread out across the river valleys of the Ise and Nene. A Roman polygonal enclosure was found and was defined by multiple parallel enclosing ditches. The purpose of which is uncertain as no internal features were identified. Additional Roman evidence includes a ditch aligned sufficiently well with a distinctive parallel and linear

geophysical anomaly to interpret as forming one of the roadside ditches of a Roman road leading northward from Irchester Roman town. There were medieval cultivation features recorded across the site. OASIS: molanort1- 502591.

Wellingborough, Stanton Cross (Plot 43) SP 920 684

JOHN WALFORD

A geophysical survey at Stanton Cross (Plot 43) has detected very little of note, the only reasonably definite archaeological feature being a linear ditch. This situation contrasts with the much more abundant remains detected by previous surveys elsewhere on the Stanton Cross site and suggests that the present survey area may be relatively devoid of interest. OASIS: molanort1- 502368.

Wood Burcote, Sheppards Farm SP 69553 47080

ADAM REID

Three trial trenches were excavated at Sheppards Farm, Wood Burcote. A single ditch was encountered which has been dated by artefactual evidence to the early to mid-19th century. A moderate degree of modern disturbance was evidenced by a layer of made ground associated with the construction of a swimming pool. OASIS: molanort1-500874

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

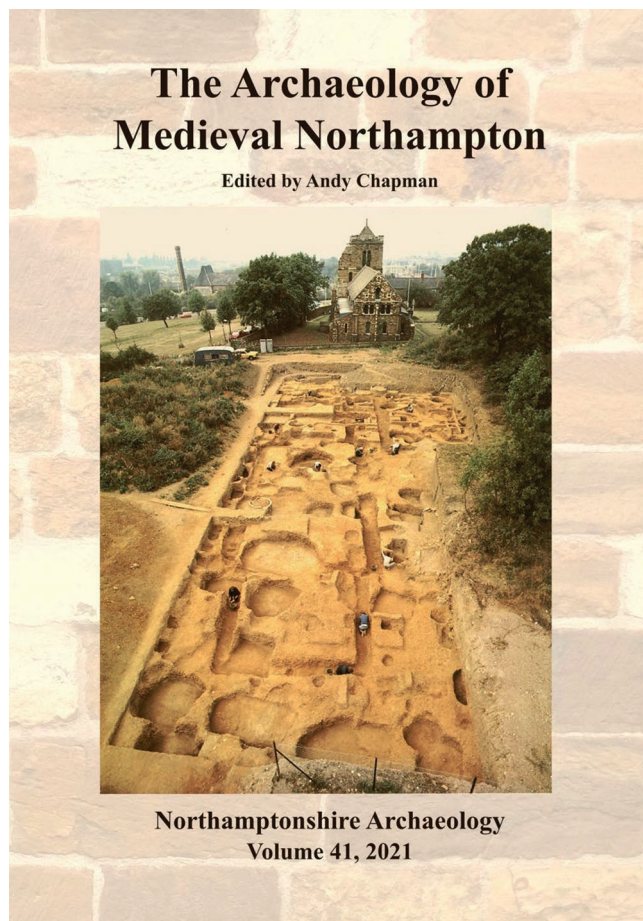
ANDY CHAPMAN, SECRETARY AND EDITOR

Northamptonshire Archaeological Society has published a special edition of the county archaeological journal, *Northamptonshire Archaeology*, 41, 2021, focussing on *The Archaeology of Medieval Northampton*. Extra copies have been printed to make the book available to the public as well as to members and subscribing institutions.

From the early 1970s archaeological teams attached to both Northampton Development Corporation and Northamptonshire County Council were tasked with recovering evidence of Northampton's past in advance of new development. Many of the archaeologists involved are now retired, and this volume has provided an opportunity for them to reassess the discoveries made in Northampton over the past fifty years.

Two aspects of the town's archaeology are considered in detail. John Williams, head of the NDC Archaeological Unit in the 1970s and 80s, provides an overview of the origins of the town of *Hamton*, which lay in the Middle Anglo-Saxon churches of St Peter's and St Gregory's and the great timber hall that lay between them, excavated in the early 1980s (Fig 8). The story is also taken on from the early 8th century through the coming of the Vikings in the late 9th century, and the re-conquest by King Edward the Elder of Wessex in the early 10th century, a step on the way towards creating a single English kingdom a few years later. The late Saxon town was enclosed by earthwork defences, with the bank fronted by a timber, and later a stone, revetment. The town had become a centre for trade and crafts, including the minting of coins, before the Norman Conquest of the mid-11th century.

Andy Chapman, who has been working in the county since the mid-1970s, takes on the second part of the story



of medieval Northampton. He presents the history and archaeology of Northampton Castle, the royal castle that dominated the medieval town from the early 12th century, including an introduction to the excavations on the east side of the inner bailey in the early 1960s, and detailed reports on his excavations of 2013 within the outer bailey of the former castle, on the site of the new rail station (Fig. 9).

There is also a report by Michael Shaw on the medieval phases of a site at The Green, excavated in the 1980s, as only the late medieval/early post-medieval tanneries had been published previously.

The volume also includes an important documentary study of the location of the medieval Jewish quarter and its synagogue, by Marcus Roberts of the Jtrails website, along with the results of a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey on the possible site of the synagogue.

There are also shorter contributions dealing with other aspects of the town, including a study of the county gaol and the museum buildings carried out prior to the development of the new museum.

To mark the appearance of this volume a book launch was held at Northampton Museum & Art Gallery on Saturday, 26 February 2022, with a full hall of around 80 people to hear presentations by Andy Chapman, John Williams and Mike Shaw.

At 480 pages, with numerous colour and black & white illustrations, *The Archaeology of Medieval Northampton* is on sale at £20.00 from Northamptonshire Archaeological Society. An order form is available on the society website (www.northants-archaeology.org.uk) or email Andy Chapman at NAS196674@gmail.com for details.



Figure 8: The excavation of the Middle Anglo-Saxon timber hall in 1981, with St Peter's church, Northampton in the background.



Figure 9: Excavating a medieval stone building within the outer bailey of Northampton Castle in 2013, on the site for the new station with the old railway station in the background.

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL: ARCHAEOLOGY IN NORTHANTS 2021

Fieldwork

2021–2 again saw large amounts of fieldwork across the county:

In 2021 Warwickshire Archaeology excavated a substantial Iron Age site on land at Sywell Aerodrome. The site had been

partly investigated in the 1990s; evaluation in 2020 showed that the Iron Age settlement had survived landscaping better than anticipated. The excavation identified a number of ring ditches, many of which had been recut several times, and large numbers of pits associated with them.

Oxford Archaeology East continued their work at Priors Hall, in the hinterland of the villa (which is being preserved). To the north of the villa itself, a small Iron Age site was investigated; this comprised a roundhouse and enclosure ditch originating in the Middle Iron Age and still functioning in the early years of the Roman occupation, after which it was abandoned, and the enclosure ditch was filled with rubbish. This appears to tie in with the construction of a substantial road (Fig. 10), a 25m long section of which was also excavated, which linked the Priors Hall villa estate with Little Weldon and Stanion, as well as the wider area. The road was very well engineered and constructed and was most likely built in the second half of the 1st century AD by the military. Evidence for later repairs to the rutted upper surface was found.

The road ran past the end of a formal approach to the villa, which was defined by ditches and surrounded by trees, which were then cleared nearer to the villa, presumably to make an impact. It seems to have been a very impressive estate, and its owner may have become wealthy from controlling iron production in the vicinity. The links to nearby villas at Stanion and Little Weldon are being explored in analysis.

MoLA undertook the second phase of excavation at Overstone Leys, on the northern edge of Northampton. The site was predominantly Roman with a Bronze Age component comprising an L-shaped ditch, a round barrow and a small number of cremations. The Roman activity was largely centred on a number of springs in the eastern part of the site, where evidence for management of the

watercourses and the use of water in large tanks was found. Organic preservation was excellent and included wooden stakes (Fig. 11), willow blossom, and what appears to be a segment of a pine cone.

In the western part of the site a substantial rectangular building was excavated. The building was somewhat irregular with walls not fully keyed in to one another and appeared to have undergone alterations. It featured pitched stone coursing and at one end a short flight of steps led into the base of the structure, suggesting a cellar or basement. Traces of wall plaster were also found, but other finds were scarce, and the building's function is unclear at present. Elsewhere numerous stone-built corn driers suggest, along with the water management, that brewing was taking place on the site.

At Stanwick Hall, in advance of landscaping and other works in the garden of the Hall, Pre-Develop Archaeology carried out trial trenching which found not only evidence for medieval activity in the form of pits, postholes and a possible well, but also remains of stone structures thought to be from the 16th century precursor to the present hall. Some of the medieval remains were subsequently further investigated before construction of a swimming pool, but the remains of the earlier hall are being protected and preserved under the redesigned garden.

Publications

In publication news, the latest Journal of Northamptonshire Archaeology was published earlier this year and is a special volume concentrating on the development of Northampton itself, and reporting on the many phases of work in the town since the pre-PPG16 days of the Northampton Development Corporation.



Figure 10: Priors Hall, Roman road under excavation (OA East)..



Figure 11: Overstone Leys, Roman stake lined ditch (MOLA).

Archive store, Chester House Estate

The Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre opened on the 23rd October to researchers and the public. We are now able to provide public access to Northamptonshire's archaeological archives for the first time in decades. We are still in the process of moving archives to the store, but we currently have around 70% of the collections in the store (around 15,000 boxes). We've already had researchers in, and Northants archives have been used by more students in 6 months than the previous 10 years combined. If you are interested in accessing our collections, email the ARC Curator at ben.donnelly-symes@northnorthants.gov.uk. We also run tours for the general public several times a week (see www.chesterhouseestate.org for details).

Liz Mordue

Archaeological Advisor

North Northants Council

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY EAST

Deene, Priors Hall SP 93342 92114

P LAMBERT

Excavation was undertaken across several areas prior to development work in the immediate vicinity and wider environ of an estate of a previously identified Late Romano-British villa. Iron Age settlement activity was uncovered in Area B, represented by a series of roundhouses enclosed by

a large ditch to the immediate north of the villa structure. Abandoned in the latter part of the first century AD, it may still have been occupied during the construction of the first phase of the villa.

A large avenue or approach to the villa was revealed in Area C along with a single early Roman pottery kiln, dated between 60 and 120AD. In Areas D and E large Roman road was unearthed. This was particularly well preserved in Area E where its agger, constructed due to its landscape position, was in a remarkable state of preservation surviving to a height of 0.60m. The various surface layers of the road comprised limestone and subsequent tap-slag repairs. The construction of the road can be dated to the middle to late AD 1st century, due to the date of a burial found in its outer drainage ditch, suggesting that it is likely military in origin. Elsewhere in Area D there was evidence for a wooded environment and in Area E were tree-clearance events and quarry pits associated with the road. The site was abandoned the 5th century AD or later. Medieval or Post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation is present across the site.

Great Harrowdean, Glenvale Park (Phase 2, Zone 1)

SP 87466 70150

J FAIRBAIRN

A second phase of evaluation was undertaken prior to development work. This confirmed the presence of a Middle Iron Age settlement enclosure at the western end of site, first delineated by the geophysical survey carried out in April 2021. The potential continuation of the Romano-British

settlement seen in Phase 1 of the evaluation can be seen to the east of the evaluation area, along with evidence for early medieval occupation. This is significant considering the proximity of the medieval manor of Great Harrowdean to the northeast and its associated settlement previously excavated in the 1960s.

Irchester, Land east of Farndish Road SP 9268 6525

L BILLINGTON AND T KNIGHT

Excavation was carried out on two areas ahead of the construction of a residential development. The earliest archaeological remains, of Middle Iron Age date, were found in the southern part of the development area (Area 1) and consisted of an extensive boundary ditch within which three individual crouched burials were found interred on the base of the feature. One of these was accompanied by the partial articulated remains of a second individual (including the skull) and a quantity of disarticulated human bone. Later activity in Area 1 was represented by a north to south aligned Romano-British trackway which cut across the earlier ditch. Defined by a pair of parallel ditches, in places the original metalled surface of the trackway had survived. In Area 2, another set of parallel, probable trackway, ditches were exposed against the northern edge of the development area. Their southern extent had been truncated by post-medieval quarrying. While they were offset, and on a slightly different alignment, they may represent the continuation of the routeway uncovered to the south in Area 1. Significantly, an Anglo-Saxon inhumation burial, radiocarbon dated to 590–660 Cal AD had been interred in a grave cut through one of the infilled trackway ditches.

The northern part of the development area had been subject to extensive limestone quarrying over the course of the medieval, post-medieval and early modern periods, whilst the remains of furrows associated with the open field systems of medieval and post-medieval Irchester were exposed across the southern part of the site.

Multi-parish, Harpole to Weedon Anglian Water Pipeline Phase 2 SP 65595 60412

E COLE

was carried out along the second phase of the proposed route of a new water pipeline. The earliest datable features included three Roman enclosure ditches found at the eastern end of the evaluation. The small pottery assemblage retrieved from these features dates to the Early and Late Roman periods (1st to 4th century AD), suggesting the possibility of a sustained period of Roman activity in the area and may relate to similar ditches found during the initial phase of evaluation in 2020. Medieval activity is represented by the presence of ridge and furrow cultivation exposed across the site. Numerous undated features were apparent across the evaluated area, one of which produced a Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flint arrowhead which may or may not be residual. Modern field boundaries were also present.

Thrapston, Land East of Halden's Parkway

TL 0172 7821

K SINCLAIR

Evaluation was undertaken prior to the construction of new commercial units following geophysical survey. Middle Iron Age settlement activity, in the form of a series of rectilinear

enclosures with associated large ring ditches, found in the east and southwestern areas of the site, along with addition activity to the north. Evidence for later Romano-British activity, spanning the Roman period but peaking in the mid-2nd to 4th centuries, was characterised by a set of parallel ditches, small enclosures in the southwest and an area of intercutting pits in the south.

Wellingborough, Glenvale Park SP 87466 70150

Y FRANCISCO BENET AND T PHILLIP

Evaluation was undertaken in July at Glenvale Park prior to development work. The evaluation confirmed the presence of Romano-British ditches in the north of the field, probably part of a rural settlement. The layout of the ditches correlated with features identified in an earlier geophysical survey, forming part of a rectilinear field system. A later layer of colluvium located in the east of the western field, and following the natural topography of the site, suggests an absence of activity after the Roman period.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH

Aynho, Aynhoe Park SP 514 330

CHARLOTTE COX

Oxford Archaeology undertook a watching brief between March and May 2021 for a kitchen extension and gas service connection at Aynhoe Park House, Aynho. The watching brief recorded a stone surface extending beneath the current driveway and former stable yard. The surface is probably associated with Sir John Soane's remodelling works in the early 19th century and the repositioning of the main entrance. Drainage related to a later post-medieval water collection system were observed beneath this surface. Other earlier features include a possible wall, a pit feature and a probable trampled surface, which are likely to relate to later post-medieval activity. Evidence of 18th century garden soils was recorded within the northern part of the site. Apart from a small assemblage of finds retrieved from later deposits, no evidence of the 17th century house or associated features was observed.

Wicken, Sparrow Lodge Farm SP 7539 3823

MIKE DONNELLY

In September and October 2021, Oxford Archaeology carried out an evaluation at Sparrow Lodge Farm, Wicken. A preceding geophysical and cropmark survey of the area had revealed several enclosures and circular anomalies in the north-eastern part of the site, and several linear features and probable ridge and furrow features across the remainder of the site.

Iron Age and later medieval settlement activity was represented, along with a number of undated features. The Iron Age activity included one dense area in the north-eastern part of the site that was previously identified through the geophysical survey. The evaluation proved these features represented a well-preserved series of enclosures and penannular gullies, along with a trackway with a metalled surface. Later medieval activity was recorded in the western and southern parts of the site and included pits, ditches, postholes and a pond feature that lay either side of a wooded enclosure. The features in the western and southern parts of

Northamptonshire

the site contained pottery dating to 1050–1200 and 1250–1400 respectively. It is possible that these two foci belonged to the same previously unknown medieval settlement. Extensive ridge-and-furrow features were present in numerous trenches across the site. Artefactual material largely comprised pottery, animal bone and some ceramic building material, with a limited background scatter of flint.

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Barton Seagrave, Saint Botolph's Church

SP 88836 77087

THEO FAUTLEY

PCA conducted an archaeological watching brief during groundworks in the cemetery of St. Botolph's Church. A soakaway pit and associated pipeline trench were hand-excavated between 2 rows of burials to the south of the church. A small number of disarticulated fragments of bone were recovered from the highly mixed graveyard soils and these were reburied at the base of the trench. No features of potential archaeological interest were exposed.

Brixworth, Paddock Lodge, Tantree Way

SP 75015 70815

THEO FAUTLEY AND JONATHAN WEBSTER

An archaeological programme of observation, investigation and recording during groundworks at Paddock Lodge revealed no features or deposits of potential archaeological interest. It was clear that excessively deep modern surfacing had previously truncated all potential deposits down to the natural substrate. In the areas where in situ subsoils were revealed there was no archaeological evidence observed.

Kettering, Carey Memorial Baptist Church Hall, Nelson Street SP 87182 79312

ADAM GARWOOD

Historic building recording and documentary research of the Carey Memorial Baptist Church Hall were undertaken in November 2021 in relation to a planning condition for the conversion of the building to residential apartments. The investigations focused upon the Carey Memorial Baptist Church Hall and revealed that it was originally completed in 1892 to the plans of Kettering based architect Mr H. A. Cooper. It was established by the Fuller Baptist Church to celebrate the centenary of the Baptist Missionary Society, which was founded by Carey and Fuller in Kettering in 1792. Since the early 20th century, the Church Hall has been subjected to a few alterations, with a rearrangement of the doorways in the front façade and the insertion of a lower ceiling within the hall, enclosing the clerestory above. The Church Hall presents its principal elevation to Nelson Street. It is a double height building with lower, lean-to side aisles with buttresses, built along its longer flank elevations. The main building is laid out over six bays, although a small single storey range adjoins to the rear. Overall, it is a solid wall construction built using local red brick with stone dressings. The main roof is pitched, and gable ended to the east and west elevations, although the sixth (rear) bay is built lower in height. The main roof is covered in cement tiles, while the smaller addition retains blue slates. The detailing to the

rear (east) elevations is simpler. The brickwork to the front facade is laid in English bond while that to the side aisles and rear elevations is in Flemish bond. A subtle change in brick detailing suggests that the lower rear (sixth) bay may be a slightly later addition. The present Carey Memorial Baptist Church illustrates the activities of Baptist non-conformism in Kettering during the late 19th/early 20th century and the philanthropy of local industrialists.

Overstone Leys Mains Water Replacement Pipeline:

Hannington Reservoir to Overstone Leys, Northampton

SP 82586 71223 (north) to SP 79473 66389 (south).

CALLUM ALLSOP

PCA was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation along the course of a water pipeline alongside Kettering Road. Fieldwork recorded several ditches and one pit-like feature that have been interpreted as representing settlement activity, dated by pottery to the Mid- to Late- Iron Age period. These related to previously known cropmarks which suggest a complex of enclosures.

SOUTERRAIN

Denford, Riverview Gardens NGR 499069, 276456

MARTIN D WILSON

An archaeological investigation was carried out by Souterrain prior to groundwork for a new dwelling on a plot of land on the western periphery of Denford, a village in the northeast of the county.

The site was considered to have potential for buried remains pertaining to the medieval settlement of Denford, or its manor. In addition, since the site lies just above the 40 m contour on the south side of the River Nene, it was considered to have potential for Iron Age to Roman-British remains. Similar locations, both within and beyond the village are known to have been a preferred location for settlement and intensive agriculture during these periods. The report provides a précis of the historical and archaeological knowledge.

Ground reduction and investigation took place over 50% of the area of development impact, providing a representative sample of the site. The ground appeared to have suffered only superficial disturbance, yet no archaeological features were present, and the soils were devoid of artefacts. The negative evidence seems to suggest that this land lay outside the bounds of the medieval village, possibly within an area of non-arable use, since there was no observable trace of former cultivation strips. It was not possible to determine land-use during the Iron Age to Roman-British periods. The report provides an illustrative, photographic and descriptive account of the work. HER Event No. ENN110339; OASIS ID: souterra1-502974.

Irchester, 1a London End NGR 492690, 265580

MARTIN D WILSON

A medieval causeway was discovered in the rear garden of a 17th century cottage at London End, a residential area of Irchester (Fig. 12). In the mid-1960s London End was an outlier of the village, where the cottage stood on the south-western periphery of extensive earthworks. The earthworks represented the ruins of one of Irchester's two medieval



Figure 13: Irchester, London End – Excavation Plan.

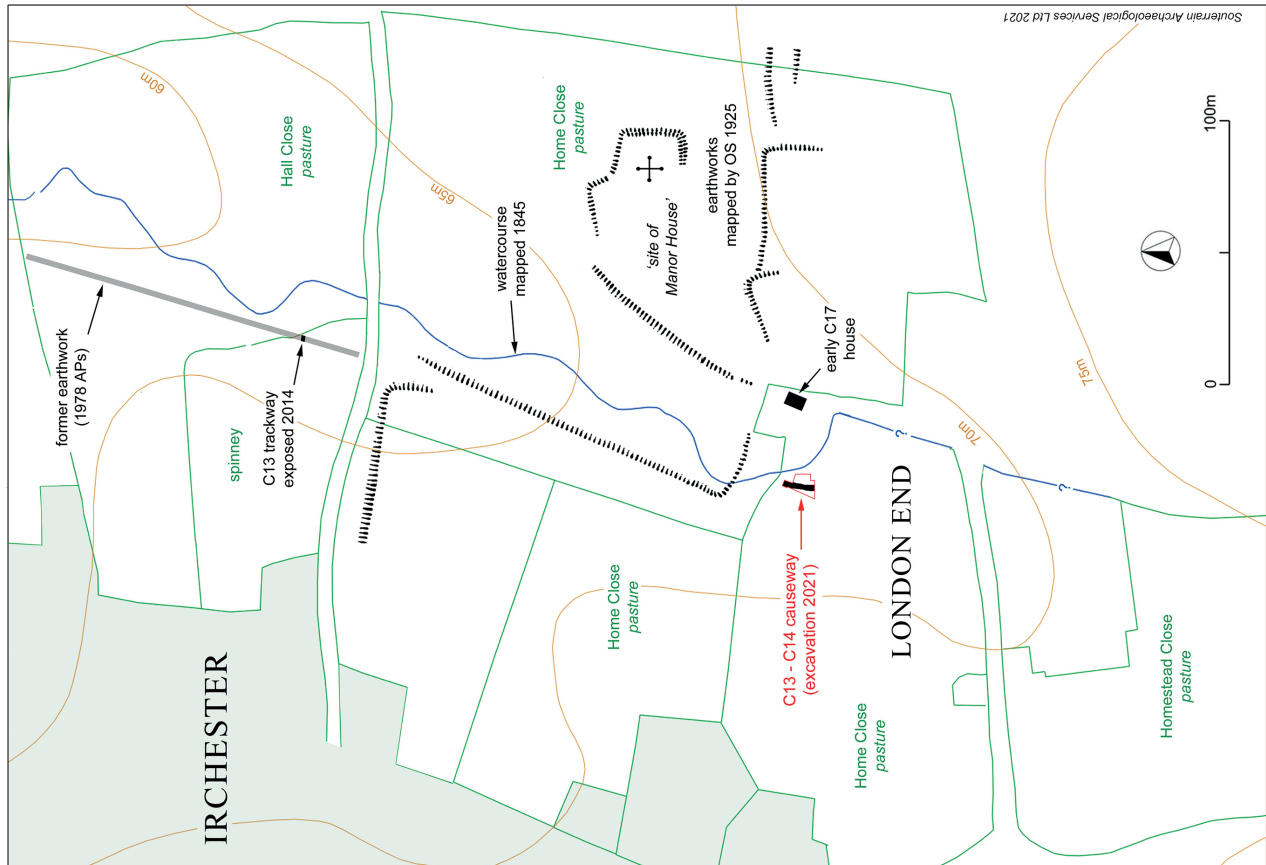


Figure 12: Irchester, London End – Site Location & Historic Landscape.

Northamptonshire

manorial centres, and was probably the manor held by the Sauvage family in the 13th and 14th centuries. In 1967 salvage recording during housing development assigned a 13th to 15th century occupation date to the remains of a manor house, several buildings and an extensive limestone yard, prior to their disappearance (Brown, 1967).

Open-area excavation in 2021, prior to construction of a new house, revealed a 12 m length of causeway, which was probably related to the 13th / 14th century manor (Fig. 13). Aligned approximately north-south, it was 5.7 – 6 m wide and 0.45 – 0.6 m high. It was located at the bottom of a topographical gully and ran along the west side of a north-flowing brook, culverted in the 1960s. Three distinct phases of causeway construction were identified, together with suspected evidence of the severe weather conditions experienced during the medieval climatic anomaly.

Phase 1 comprised a late 13th century raised track-way of cobbles in clay, laid across sodden ground, with a ditch flanking its west side. It was *c.* 2.5 m wide, up to *c.* 0.28 m thick and probably no more than a packhorse track. An evocative image of its landscape setting has been drawn from the environmental data. Tall vegetation thrived on the damp ditch margins and, beyond it was short-turf calcareous grassland. Snail shells reflected standing water and marshy ground. The ditch contained a low density of carbonised cereal grains and seeds (hulled barley, free-threshing wheat, oats, rye, and peas), yet the dearth of seeds of arable weeds and absence of chaff suggested it was a gradual accumulation of culinary waste. This, together with occasional pottery sherds and sparse bone fragments from consumed livestock (pig, sheep, cattle) indicated that habitation was set back from the track.

Phase 2 was the construction of a well-designed and robust stone causeway in the 13th / 14th century. This was built over the track and the silted-up ditch. Its overall width was about 3.7 m wide and there was a distinct camber. It consisted of two layers: a foundation of limestone and ironstone fragments set in clay, up to 0.15 m thick and a metallised surface of pitched limestone slabs, kerbed with roughly-hewn blocks, up to 0.25 m thick and about 1.75 m wide. The absence of wheel ruts suggested that it was probably a packhorse route.

In the same period the east side of the causeway, nearest to the watercourse, appeared to have suffered severe erosion, possibly washed away by a torrent in a single flooding event. It subsequently underwent significant repair and widening (Phase 3), yet with less attention to design. The east side of the causeway was extended over the wet ground by about 2 m. It comprised a base layer of clay, *c.* 0.15 m thick, followed by a layer of limestone fragments in a matrix of clay, up to 0.25 m thick, with a concentration of fragments at the surface.

The route appears to have continued in use in the 14th/15th century, throughout which time silts and gravels, washed down-slope, accumulated on either side. By the 16th century the causeway probably resembled an earthwork when a stone-lined drain was built through it to allow water from the west slope to flow into the brook.

The historic landscape context of the causeway and its spatial relationship with the manorial complex was explored by means of aerial photo survey, historic maps, ground walkover and earlier archaeological discoveries (Fig. 12). The results suggest that it was part of a more extensive

medieval route-way, possibly a local trade route. The section revealed at London End may well have been a direct response to severe weather of the period. Overall, the investigation results provided a rare insight to the medieval landscape in this part of Irchester. HER Event No. ENN110321; OASIS ID: souterra1-504965

Brown A E (ed.), 1967. 'Archaeology in Northamptonshire 1966/67 (Medieval)', Bulletin of Northants Federation of Arch Societies, 2/25

Little Houghton, Little Houghton House

NGR 480516, 259755

MARTIN D WILSON

An archaeological investigation was carried out by Souterrain in the walled kitchen garden of Little Houghton House, during groundwork for a new 5-bay carriage house (*c.* 296 sq. m). The investigation comprised monitoring and recording during groundwork and an open-area excavation.

Little Houghton House is a Georgian country mansion which originated in the second half of the 18th century and was substantially altered later that century (Prentice 2018, 72). It stands either on or near to the site of an earlier manor house of the same name. Based on Hall's historic landscape research of Little Houghton village (Hall, 1976), it was thought that the kitchen garden might conceal remains of the medieval settlement which suffered contraction in the 14th to 15th centuries. In this regard, one key objective was to locate the site of a purported tithe barn, mapped in 1829, but gone by 1835.

The investigation revealed the ground throughout the northern half of the garden to be made up by as much as 1.4 m, reducing the severity of a natural incline. The material used was predominantly geological, probably from other landscape works on the estate. It took place in the second half of the 18th century and was possibly contemporary with the construction of the original core of the mansion.

The remains of earlier structures were discovered in two areas of the new building footprint, buried under *c.* 0.9 m of made ground. An area of 40.5 sq. m. was opened-up to clarify one of the structures, after consultation with the county's Archaeological Advisor. It comprised stone wall-footings capped with puddle clay, denoting sill beam pads for a substantial timber-framed structure of more than one bay, and a possible yard (Fig. 14). Only one bay of the building was exposed. The structure stood on a terrace.

It appears to have been removed just prior to making up the ground; pottery sherds and glass left by demolition and salvage workers showed that it took place in the 18th century. A linear rubble heap parallel to the building indicated selective robbing of stones from its foundations. The building was pre-dated by a stone-lined drain. Fragments of late medieval moulded decorative bricks may have derived from the antecedent Little Houghton House. It is plausible that the large building mapped in 1829 once stood above the foundations, but was dismantled to allow ground modification and afterwards re-erected several metres to the southwest.

The other structure was a stone revetment wall, possibly the remains of a Ha-Ha. Household waste dumped against the wall included pottery dated *c.* 1730–1780 and items resonant of horticultural activities. There was no evidence pertaining to the medieval village. The investigation provides

a valuable insight to the environs of the earlier manor house. HER Event No. ENN110205; OASIS ID: souterra1-433659

Hall D N, 1976. 'Little Houghton 1972 - A Parish Field Survey', *Northamptonshire Past & Present*, 295–304

Prentice J, 2018. *A Heritage Asset Survey of Little Houghton House, Little Houghton, Northamptonshire*, ISHS (unpublished report)

Mears Ashby, The Manor House, Mid-Victorian



Figure 14: Little Houghton – Foundations of timber-framed structure [single column]

Century Stable Block NGR 483727, 266644

MERCEDES PLANAS AND MARTIN D WILSON

An 'as found' photographic record was made of a 19th century stable block at The Manor House, Mears Ashby, prior to alterations to the building. The building falls within the grade II listed curtilage of the 18th century Manor House.

The stable block is presently a rectangular, single storey structure of 3 bays, brick-built with slated roof. It was formerly a two-storey building, comprised of harness room, loose box and stalls on the ground floor, with hay loft above. Consent was granted in 1977 to reduce the upper storey. It is proposed to return the building to a two-storey structure for use as a workshop and store. The interior of the stable block witnessed refurbishment and alterations post-2005, and consequently very few original fixtures and fittings survive.

The report provides a descriptive and illustrative account of observations, by means of digital photographs, scale drawings and plans. It is considered that the building originated in the late 1870s, comparative analysis showing that the building in many ways conformed to prevailing ethos for good stable design. HER Event No. ENN110202; OASIS ID: souterra1-418667.

Piddington, 34 Church Road NGR 480252, 254583

MERCEDES PLANAS AND MARTIN D WILSON

An archaeological excavation was carried out by Souterrain at a development plot for a new house (c. 366 sq. m) in Piddington village (Fig. 15), where trial trenching in 2012 confirmed the existence of Romano-British and medieval ditches (Carlyle, 2013).

The earliest features revealed in 2021 were dated approximately to the 2nd century AD. They included

possible cultivation plot divisions. Not all features contained diagnostic pottery, but several could reasonably be assigned to the Roman period based on comparable soil-fill attributes and spatial relationships with dated features. Even though the remains of a substantial Roman villa has long been known beyond the village periphery, c. 630 m to the south, the discoveries at Church Road represent the first appreciation of the Romano-British rural landscape beneath the village itself.

The next tangible evidence of land use at the site occurred in the 12th / 13th century. It included a substantial boundary ditch, a calf burial, a large rectangular pit that may have been part of a structure, and the truncated remains of several rubbish-filled pits. Further pit-digging took place in the second half of the 13th century or in the subsequent century. Most notably there was a substantial elongated pit of indeterminate function that had been in-filled with a rich variety of domestic and culinary waste, including herring bones and oyster shells. The combined ecofactual and artefactual data provides an evocative insight to day-to-day medieval village life, economy and trade links. HER Event No. ENN110384, OASIS ID: souterra1-505669.

Carlyle S 2013. *Land off Church Road, Piddington, Northamptonshire: Archaeological Evaluation*, Cotswold Archaeology (unpublished report)

Shutlanger, 11 Baker's Lane NGR 472746, 250024

MARTIN D WILSON

Two evaluation trenches (each 20 m by 2 m) were excavated in a large, landscaped garden on the north side of Baker's Lane in Shutlanger village, where outline planning was granted for four new dwellings. The site was deemed to have potential for buried remains pertaining to medieval settlement.

From at least the late Victorian period through to the mid-20th century the site was a small enclosure attached to Poplars Farm, a mixed stock farm. The field provided access for cattle herds to and from the farmyard, cow houses and milking sheds. The stratigraphy of one trench reflected this aspect of ground disturbance. In the other trench was a stone-lined drain, perhaps associated with the farmstead. There were no earlier features and no artefacts. OASIS ref.: souterra1-425670; HER Event No. ENN110249

Wakerley, 4 Main Street NGR 495605, 299438

MARTIN D WILSON

An archaeological exploratory trench was excavated within the footprint of a proposed extension at the rear of an unlisted stone-built house which dates from the 17th century. The property adjoins the scheduled site of a former early 17th century manor house with expansive formal gardens. Hence, the site was considered to have potential for buried remains pertaining to historic settlement of Wakerley or to the formal gardens. The investigation exposed a pre-19th century, yet undated, cobbled yard, but otherwise nothing of archaeological significance. HER Event No. ENN110327; OASIS ID: souterra1-502797

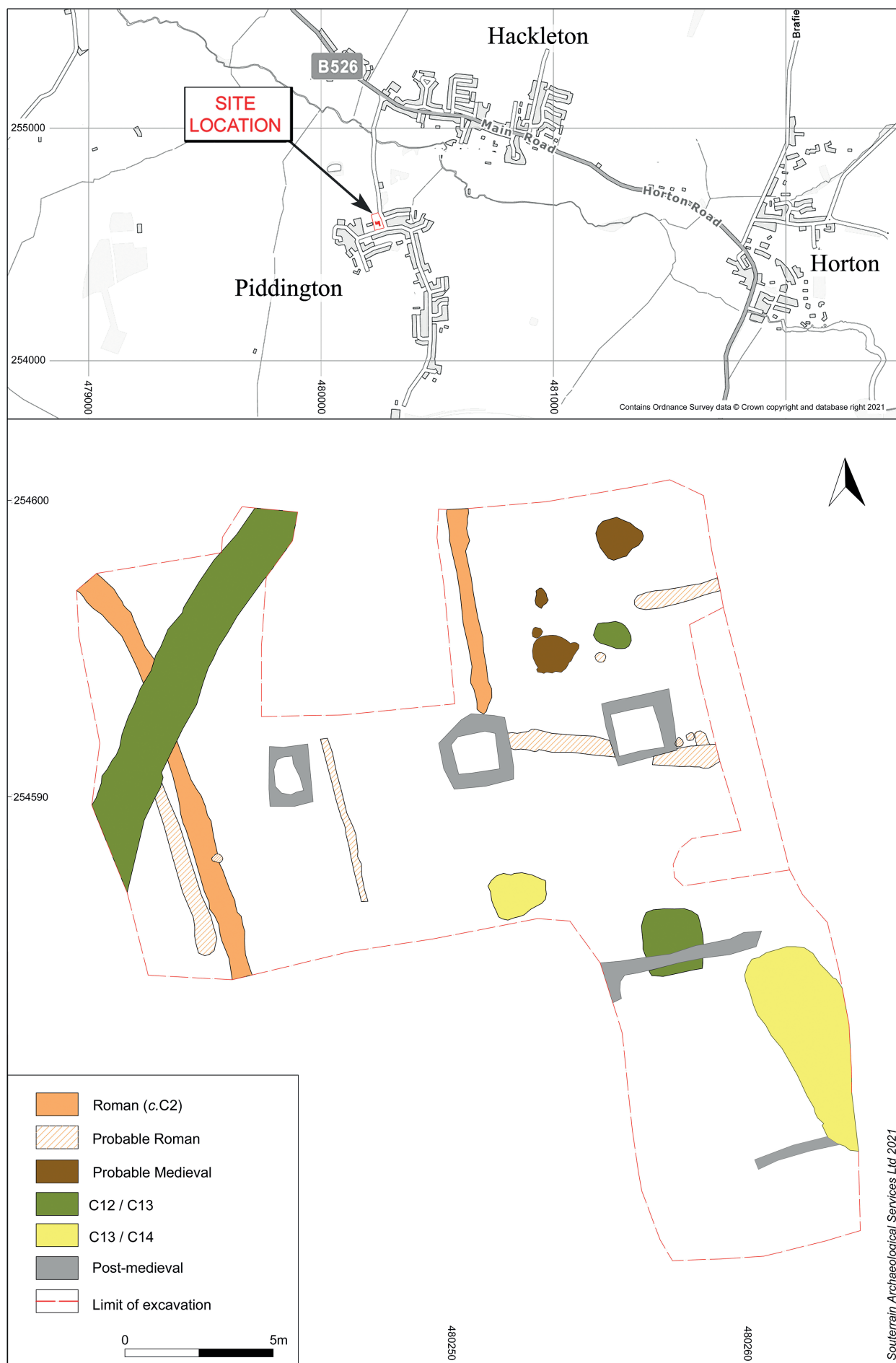


Figure 15: Piddington – Excavation Phase Plan.

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Courteenhall, Three Oaks Hydroponics Farm

SP 7707 5240

KYLE BEAVERSTOCK

A magnetometer survey of a 15ha site in February 2021 in advance of a planning application suggested no features of archaeological interest.

Kettering, land at Wicksteed Park SP 8776 7644

JOSHUA HARGREAVES

An evaluation in March 2021 on a site proposed for a residential development revealed a cluster of ditches, gullies and one posthole, along with a few isolated ditches. Some of these features correspond to anomalies identified during a previous geophysical survey. A small assemblage of prehistoric pottery was recovered.

Wellingborough, Poplars Yard, 300 Thrapston Road, Finedon SP 9375 7370

JOSHUA HARGREAVES AND ELEANOR BOOT

Evaluation on a site intended for new farm buildings in August 2021 revealed no finds or features of archaeological interest. A programme of archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication was required in the area for the new buildings that had previously been disturbed. Unsurprisingly, nothing of archaeological interest was observed.

Woodford, land at Addington Road SP 9650 7651

JOSHUA HARGREAVES

Evaluation trenching in December 2021 on a small mixed-use development site revealed no archaeological features or finds.

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES (ULAS)

Desborough, Desborough Grange SP 80540 84440

TIM HIGGINS

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS on land at Desborough Grange in Spring 2021. The work was undertaken in advance of a proposed residential development. Twenty-one evaluation trenches were excavated in the north and north-west fields, most of the trenches were negative for archaeological features, with the exception of three trenches in the northern field that contained post-medieval field boundaries. In the north-west fields, furrows were visible in some of the trenches and a natural hollow was observed within one trench. HER event: ENN110303

East Haddon, Covert Farm SP 649 689

DONALD CLARK

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS in Spring 2021, in advance of residential development. No archaeological finds or deposits were found. HER event: ENN110208

WARDELL ARMSTRONG (FORMERLY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS)

Warmington, Elton Estate TL 07096 91909

GARETH BARLOW AND LIAM PODBURY

In May 2021 Wardell Armstrong (formerly Archaeological Solutions Ltd) conducted an archaeological evaluation and strip, map and sample investigation at Elton 2, Warmington, Northamptonshire. The work was required as a condition of planning consent. The evaluation recorded features of late Iron Age to early Romano-British date which appeared to represent ditches associated with boundaries and enclosures. During the strip, map and sample investigation, the continuation of what was interpreted as an Iron Age droveway, and which was encountered to the south-east during a previous archaeological investigation, was recorded running west-north-west to east-south-east across the excavation area. To the north of the 'droveway' ditches, three further parallel ditches on a similar alignment were exposed. The probable triple-ditched boundary extended perpendicular to the nearby River Nene and corresponded to ditches that were encountered during the evaluation to the south-east. Multiple parallel ditched boundaries, often running for considerable distances, are commonplace in the ancient landscapes of Northamptonshire. Stratigraphically earlier north to south aligned ditches, which did not yield any datable material evidence, were also identified. These potentially functioned as a three-ditched boundary, like the later ditches.

WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY

Moulton, Land west of the A43, Northamptonshire

SP 78855 65565

L. ROBERTS

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Elliott Group Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation, as part of pre-planning work to develop the site for a proposed school. The site occupies 9.9 hectares of land west of the A43 and south-east of the village of Moulton.

The evaluation comprised the excavation of 20 trenches, each 50 m by 2 m, to provide a 2% sample of the site. Archaeological remains were encountered in five of the trenches; the distribution of the remains suggests a focus of archaeological activity in the central part of the site. A single potential cremation grave, comprising a spread of brownish grey clayey sand with charcoal and burnt bone, 0.6m in diameter, was uncovered in one trench. At the request of the County Archaeological Advisor, this feature was left in situ. Other features comprise pits, ditches, a posthole and a quarry pit. All features were undated, with no artefacts recovered or deposits suitable for environmental sampling observed. A ditch in trench 16, and a quarry pit in trench 8 supported the geophysical survey, matching anomalies interpreted as part of a field system and quarrying activity respectively. Geophysical anomalies running through trenches 12, 14 and 15, interpreted in the survey as parts of a field system, were found to have different origins. The anomaly running through trenches 12 and 15 was found to match a geological formation, while the anomaly running through trench 14

Oxfordshire

was found to be caused by a series of shallow furrows. The evaluation was generally successful in meeting its aims and objectives regarding providing information about the archaeological potential of the site and the character of the

remains. It has not been possible to establish the date of the recorded features, however, due to the absence of artefactual material.

OXFORDSHIRE

ABINGDON ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOPHYSICS

Broughton, Broughton Villa SP402387

ROGER AINSLIE

We carried out an initial small magnetometry survey in **2017** to test whether a local metal detectorists theory of a villa or similar in this location could be verified. As the soil conditions were good for magnetometry we were able to locate several features and continued the survey for the landowner.

Oxford Archaeology has subsequently excavated some trenches across the remains. More recently the Time Team have made a YouTube video of their 2021 survey and excavations there. The archive of our work is at the Oxford History centre digital archives ref. AC21/806. The report is on the ADS grey literature site at: <https://doi.org/10.5284/1091204>

Cholsey SU601875

ROGER AINSLIE

This site between Cholsey and Wallingford was originally surveyed for Communities Against Gravel Extraction and extended as a research survey.

Magnetometry located un-recorded ring ditches and a possible Romano-British settlement of c. 3 hectares and many pit/grave like anomalies (Fig. 1). The report is on the ADS grey literature site at: <https://doi.org/10.5284/1041634>

Combe, nr Woodstock SP418 150

ROGER AINSLIE

In **2021** we surveyed to try to locate the site of the church before it was moved in the 13th century. A cable trench had previously encountered burials in the area and had been re-routed. The magnetometry failed to show the church, although it did find some ditches. Earth resistance appears to have found the church and a barn-like building to its west. It also found ditches which were not detected with magnetometry. A report has been submitted to the OASIS system and should appear on the ADS grey literature library.

Hailey, Showells Farm SP341 134

ROGER AINSLIE

In **2020** and **2021** we surveyed this site to assist John Blair with his research. It appears to be a Romano-British site with water channels from the underlying limestone. Magnetometry detected some short ditch-like features and one was excavated producing Roman pottery. The

report is on the ADS grey literature site at: <https://doi.org/10.5284/1088160> and the rest of the research will soon be in *Oxoniensia*.

Swalcliffe, Upper Lea SP393 388

ROGER AINSLIE

In **2019** we carried out trial magnetometer and earth resistance surveys for the North Oxon Archaeology Group to put their earlier work (see SMA 50, 109) into a wider context.

We appear to have located a Romano-British settlement of round houses within sub-circular enclosures (Fig. 2). A more detailed report will be submitted to the OASIS/Archaeology Data Service grey literature library.

Publications

Many of our surveys can be seen in the publication "Archaeology: In the Service of Property Development? – Lessons from English Archaeological Geophysics" which can be read without subscription on Scribd: <https://www.scribd.com/document/465108410> Our website will also contain updates and more recent surveys. <https://archgeophys.weebly.com/>

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGY

Henley-on-Thames, The Old Foundry 47 Friday Street SU 7622 8256

AMY BUNCE

Archaeological field evaluation was undertaken prior to alterations and extensions to the existing Grade II listed house and garage, the construction of a new carport and pool, and the landscaping of the residential curtilage.

The site comprised a long, irregular plot of c. 1800m² on the N side of Friday Street. Four trenches were excavated by machine. Trench 001 was excavated through a layer of paving slabs and made ground which sealed a buried garden soil containing an isolated dump of animal bone, oyster shell and tile of likely medieval/post-medieval date.

Trench 002 revealed modern topsoil sealing remains of a probable Victorian glasshouse wall and a large pit backfilled with demolition waste; these features truncated the medieval/post-medieval buried garden soil. Trench 003 revealed buried garden soil containing sherds of mid-16th century underlying modern made ground and the remains of a post-medieval cobbled surface and Trench 004 encountered modern topsoil sealing a probable medieval/post-medieval subsoil.

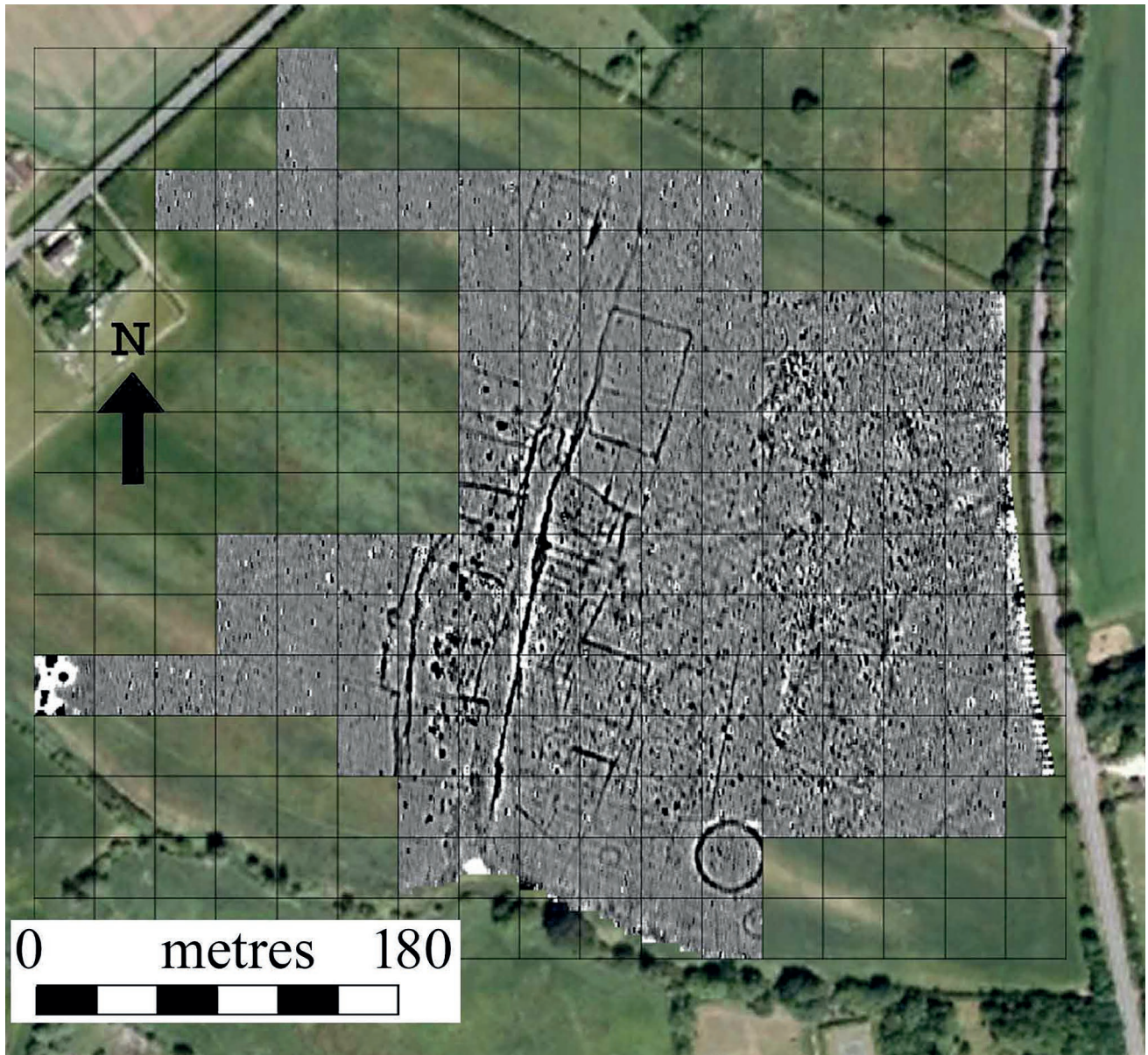


Figure 1: Cholsey, Magnetometer Survey results.

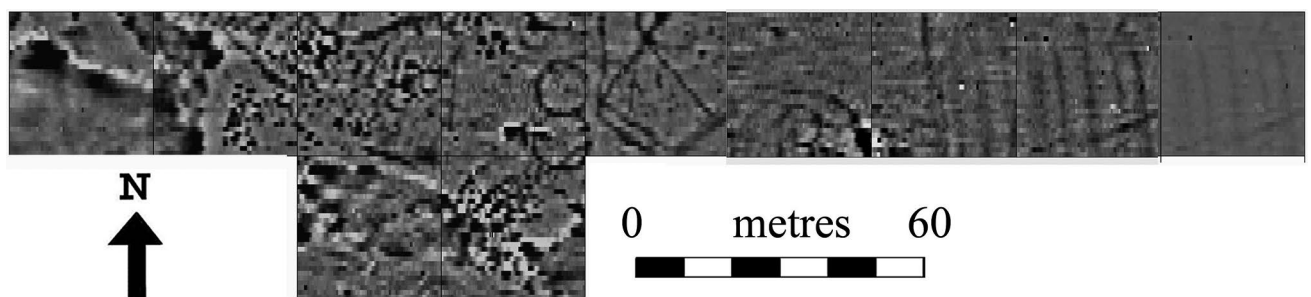


Figure 2: Swalcliffe, Magnetometer Survey results.

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Banbury, Broken Furrow, Warwick Road

NGR 443488 242679

ANNA WOLF

Excavation of 0.51ha by Cotswold Archaeology between March and May was undertaken to fulfil conditions attached to planning consent for a residential development. The work revealed Late Iron Age/Early Roman remains. The earliest activity comprised a large rectangular enclosure with a possible entrance near the south-west corner (Fig. 3). This was remodelled in subsequent phases, along with internal partitions and a further extension and enclosure to the south. Undated features may have been contemporary with the enclosure, these including ditches, pits and postholes, amongst which were clay-lined pits. A small assemblage of residual Neolithic or Bronze Age pottery was also recovered.

Bodicote, Land at Tappers Farm, Oxford Road

NGR 446170 238374

ANDREW WHELAN

An evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August as part of outline planning permission for residential development. A total of 16 trenches were excavated, and three ditches were recorded. Of these, one ditch was undated, one contained a sherd of probably redeposited Middle Neolithic pottery, and one contained a fragment of post-medieval/modern ceramic building material. It is likely that all were post-medieval/modern field boundaries.

Eynsham, A40 Smart Corridor between

NGR 438555 210050 and 448999 210675

ANNA WOLF

Evaluation trenching by Cotswold Archaeology was undertaken in November as part of a road improvement scheme. In total, 69 trenches were excavated. These revealed a crop-processing oven which may have been associated with a post-built structure and ditches. The pottery from these features was Roman, dating to the 2nd to 4th centuries. Further ditches may date to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman transitional period. Later remains derived from medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation and drainage.

Nuneham Courtenay, Nineveh Farm

NGR 455119 200740

ANDREW WHELAN AND ADRIAN SCRUBY

Evaluation trenching was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology between April and May to inform a planning application for a solar farm. In total, 167 trenches were excavated. This followed a geophysical survey which had indicated extensive and complex enclosures and trackways. The evaluation indicated that these date primarily to the Late Roman period. Ridge and furrow cultivation remains were recorded across the site.

Oxford, Northfield Hostel, Littlemore

NGR 454468 203094

EILIDH BARR

An evaluation, comprising seven trenches, was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November. The work was commissioned to inform a future planning application for

residential development. The trenching revealed a ditch which produced pottery of Mid Roman date. The fill of this ditch was cut by a small pit or posthole containing Late Roman pottery, and similar later Roman finds came from a ditch.

Oxford, Phase 2, North Oxford Triangle East

NGR 450375 211562

MARK BRETT

A 53-trench evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology between April and May to inform a planning application for a mixed development. The work recovered a worked flint flake from the subsoil. A ditch produced a pottery sherd broadly datable as Roman, but the small number of other ditches remained undated aside from the remains of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation and some post-medieval or later field boundaries.

Shiplake, Land at Lower Shiplake NGR 476900 179248

ADAM HOWARD AND STEVEN BUSH

An excavation comprising 625m² was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in advance of an extra care residential development. The recording revealed a pit from which a worked flint was recovered.

Wallingford, Land at HR Wallingford, Howbery Park

NGR 461658 189814

STEVEN BUSH

In October, an excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in accordance with a condition attached to planning consent for the erection of a visitor centre and training building. A total area of 218m² was excavated and this resulted in the discovery of two pits containing Middle Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery. Two undated postholes were also found.

Witney, Ducklington Solar Farm NGR 434930 207279

SARA-JAYNE BOUGHTON

Evaluation trenching by Cotswold Archaeology between November and December was undertaken to inform a planning application for the construction of a solar farm. In total, 102 trenches were excavated. The recording revealed an Early to Middle Bronze Age ring ditch. Ditches and pits likely indicative of Iron Age to Roman settlement were also found. Later remains comprised those of ridge and furrow cultivation, and there were also undated pits and ditches.

FOUNDATIONS ARCHAEOLOGY

Longworth, Longworth Manor, Church Lane

NGR 438376 199445

Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief on land at Longworth Manor, Church Lane, Longworth, in February and March 2020. The works comprised the monitoring of machine excavations associated with the construction of a new swimming pool.

A single Prehistoric struck flint and a small assemblage of Roman Pottery was recovered, suggesting activity dating to these periods within the general locale. A number of archaeological features were found, including the remains

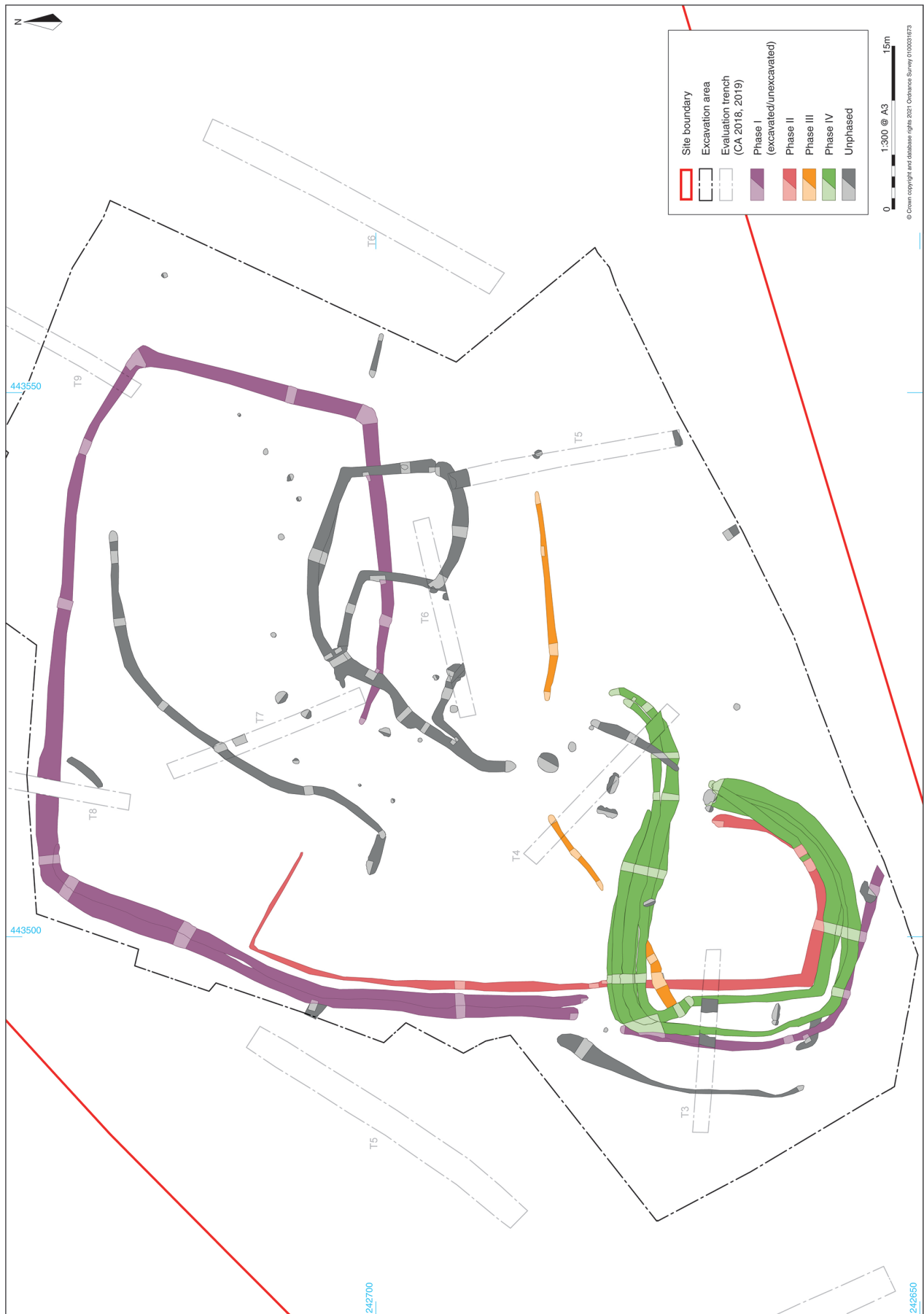


Figure 3: Enclosures at Broken Furrow, Banbury.

Oxfordshire

of a possible co-axial ditch system (which ran on a similar alignment to the church to the north-east of the site), and had possible Saxon or Early Medieval pottery in its fills. A shallow pit or hollow with five associated possible stakeholes yielded similar material, and may date to this period also. This feature was cut by wall and associated parallel ditch along the northern edge of site. This contained Post-medieval - modern CBM and fragments of 19th century or later flowerpot, implying they are likely the remains of a former garden boundary. In the centre of site were two substantial adjacent pits covered by a capping deposit, which were partially excavated by machine sondage. The more circular shaped pit was expected to be the remains of a well or deep cesspit, and both had in their lowest excavated fills material dating to the Post-medieval period or later. An additional substantial feature, extending beyond the south-west limit of the site, was partly excavated, but no dating evidence was found.



Figure 4: Oxford, West facing elevation of the Trinity College Boundary Wall.

HEADLAND ARCHAEOLOGY

Bicester, Land west of Himley Village SP 55809 23215
B. DOYLE

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook an archaeological evaluation of the land west of Himley Village, Bicester, Oxfordshire, between 1st and 15th of November 2021. The work was commissioned by Orion Heritage, in advance of a large development including residential and retirement dwellings. Of the 39 trenches excavated, 15 trenches contained features. The features mostly comprised an area of various shallow ditches and ditch termini. From these 3 sherds of Roman pottery were recovered.

ICKNIELD ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Drayton St Leonard, Drayton House SU 5968 9611
DAVID FELL

A watching brief was maintained during groundworks for the construction of a car port at Drayton House, Drayton-St-Leonard. It lies on the periphery of the medieval village and a number of sites of the prehistoric and Roman periods are known nearby. Ground reduction and the excavation of footing trenches were monitored but no significant archaeological features or artefacts were observed.

Oxford, Trinity College SP 5148 0665
DAVID FELL

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out during groundworks for the construction of a tool shed, glass house and cold frame at Trinity College. The removal of modern garden soil was monitored, which revealed an underlying spread of light orange gravel, likely to be the base of modern garden features. The underlying natural soil, which contained two sherds of late medieval/early post medieval pottery was reached in all three areas and was found to be undisturbed. No significant archaeological features were observed but the opportunity to photographically record the lower courses of the boundary wall fronting onto to Parks Road was taken (Fig. 4).

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

Ambrosden, Home Farm Close SP 6011 1926
GAVIN DAVIS

John Moore Heritage Services carried out two evaluations in January 2021 at land to the north of Home Farm Close, and land behind Home Farm Close, Ambrosden, Oxfordshire, ahead of an application for the erection of 8 dwellings. No archaeological finds or features were identified on either site. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-412467 and johnmoor1-412529

Barford St John, Crown House SP 4392 3320
SIMONA DENIS AND CHRISTOPHER WHITEHEAD

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at Crown House, Church Lane, Barford St John between April and May 2021. The purpose of the archaeological watching brief was for a single-storey extension, external amendments, re-roofing works and associated landscaping. This particular area had potential for medieval and post-medieval remains. Over the course of the watching brief, a single modern refuse pit was uncovered, as well as other modern features; a land drain, soakaway pit, manhole drain, stone-built garden wall and a cut for a pre-existing garden or similar feature. No archaeological remains relating to the medieval, Post-medieval or any other period were uncovered. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-426530

Bicester, A41 Pioneer Roundabout SP 5967 2074
GAVIN DAVIS

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological evaluation in June 2021 on land immediately to the north-west and the south-east of Pioneer Road, near Ambrosden, Bicester, Oxfordshire, where the road forms a junction with the A41. The evaluation was undertaken ahead of the proposed construction of a roundabout. The evaluation identified one archaeological feature; a shallow ditch orientated north-east to south-west, on the north-west side of Pioneer Road. The ditch contained no finds. No other finds or features were identified across the site. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-424842

Bicester, Graven Hill SP 5930 1990

NATASHA DJUKIC

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at Graven Hill, Bicester, Oxfordshire between March and August 2021 during the demolition and removal of various modern structures associated with the former Ministry of Defence site. No archaeological finds or features were identified throughout this phase of work. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-433766

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, The Old Priory

SU 5796 9099

CHRISTOPHER WHITEHEAD

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at The Old Priory, Brightwell-Cum-Sotwell, between September and October 2021 during groundworks for the erection of single storey rear extension. This particular area had potential for prehistoric, Saxon and medieval remains. However, over the course of the watching brief excavations, the only archaeological feature uncovered was a modern refuse pit. No other archaeological artefacts or features were uncovered. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-432540

Bucknell, Bucknell Manor SP 5614 2553

GAVIN DAVIS

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at Bucknell Manor, Bainton Road, Bucknell, Oxfordshire in February 2021. Planning permission had been granted for the construction of a swimming pool. The excavations identified two postholes, one of which was undated and the other broadly dated to the post-medieval or modern. At the centre of the evaluation trench was a shallow ditch with poorly defined edges orientated south-east to north-west. The ditch fill contained undiagnostic brick which might date the deposit to the post-medieval period or later. A pit was identified which contained a pottery which broadly dated the fill to the post-medieval or later. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-414811

Chastleton, Chastleton House SP 2481 2904

STEPHANIE N. DUENSING

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at Chastleton House, Chastleton, Oxfordshire in February 2021. Due to a leak in a water pipe, groundwork was required to allow for the repair to be possible. All excavation was limited to previously disturbed deposits and no archaeological horizons were encountered. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-415315

Chinnor, Tall Trees SP 7570 0097

TOM ROSE-JONES

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at Tall Trees, Chinnor, Oxfordshire in October 2021 during the excavation of footings trenches for a double garage; a chalk foundation wall was recorded which may have been associated with the gardens of the former rectory, though no dating evidence was recovered. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-502594

Harpsden Bottom, Harts Farm SU 7442 8065

STEPHANIE N. DUENSING

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at Hunts Farm, Harpsden Bottom, Harpsden, Oxfordshire between August 2019 and July 2020. The proposed development is located within a late medieval or early post medieval farm. The extension itself is attached to a grade II listed building thought to date from the 15th or 16th centuries. A building survey undertaken in the 1980s has shown that it is a rare surviving cruck and truss building. Except for a single masonry and concrete footer abutting the rear of the cottage, no archaeological evidence was encountered. The former farmyard showed heavy disturbance associated with its use as a modern farm. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-415713

Harwell Campus, Land at Road 15, Rutherford

Appleton Laboratory SU 4747 8601

CHRISTOPHER WHITEHEAD

Between June 2021 and July 2021 John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological strip, map and recording at the land at Road 15, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Harwell Campus. The purpose of the archaeological strip, map and record was for the part removal of the existing mound and the erection of a new class E building. During the course of the groundworks, an excavation area was excavated which covered the footprint of the new building as well as an associated soakaway drain. This particular area had potential for Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and Saxon remains. However, over the course of the excavations, no archaeological remains relating to the above periods or any other periods were uncovered. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-426226

Henley-on-Thames, 56 New Street SU 7619 8281

STEPHANIE N. DUENSING AND CHRISTOPHER WHITEHEAD

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at 56 New Street, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire between February and March 2021 during excavations for a series of new services and foundation trenches. A cobbled-stone path or foundation was uncovered south of the house and a brick-built surface and garden wall were identified within the immediate vicinity of 56 New Street. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-504497

Highmoor, Swanwood SU 6959 8561

CHRISTOPHER WHITEHEAD

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at Swanwood, Highmoor, Oxfordshire, in August 2020. During this stage of the watching brief seven geological trial pits were excavated. This particular area had potential for Iron Age and Roman remains. However, over the course of the watching brief, no archaeological features or artefacts were uncovered. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-401350

Milton, 29 Heather Road SU 4890 9246

CHRISTOPHER WHITEHEAD

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief in May 2021 at 29 Heather Road, Milton, Abingdon during excavation of footings for a consented single storey rear extension. This particular area had

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potential for prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods. However, over the course of the watching brief no archaeological features or artefacts were encountered. OASIS ID: johnmoor1_425251

Mixbury, All Saints Church SP 6093 3399

CHRISTOPHER WHITEHEAD, SIMONA DENIS

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at All Saints' Church, Mixbury, Oxfordshire between November 2020 and April 2021. The purpose of the archaeological watching brief was for the excavation of French drains around the church and a soakaway; to lower ground levels where necessary to reach the church floor and the removal of railings. The excavation of the French drains around the perimeter of the Church revealed activities related to the 19th century interventions on the building; additionally, three inhumations were recorded in the area of the soakaway, at a depth of ca 0.8m below the current ground level. The burials remain extant in their original positions. No other archaeological features were observed. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-426835

Oxford, Warneford Hospital SP 5387 0597

GAVIN DAVIS

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation in February 2021 on land adjacent to the Highfield Unit, Warneford Hospital, Warneford Lane, Oxford. The evaluation identified a modern topsoil deposit overlying a made ground deposit including aggregates that had formed temporary surfaces for a previous construction site compound. The made ground deposit overlay a loamy sand deposit which was the made-ground for a former sports recreation field. This was deposited over a buried soil horizon that had been the original topsoil/ploughsoil. This contained a fragment of Red Earthenware pottery which was broadly dated to the post-medieval period. The buried soil horizon overlay the natural sand geology. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-415629

Oxford, Eastgate Hotel SP 5194 0617

TOM ROSE-JONES

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at the Eastgate Hotel, 73 High Street, Oxford between July 2019 and July 2020 during construction of a detached extension to the hotel.

The most significant feature encountered was a stone foundation potentially associated with bastion 17 of the medieval city wall. No dating evidence was recovered from the wall, while stratigraphic sequences were also limited. This interpretation is therefore tentative; however, this foundation was encountered in the approximate position of the remains of the bastion as depicted on the 1878 Ordnance Survey plan of Oxford. The archaeological evidence encountered appeared to indicate that the substantial stone foundation of the bastion had been reworked at a later date in order to support a brick wall associated with a building situated to the rear of Merton Street

Further evidence of medieval activity was also recorded. A possible pit was identified from which a sherd of pottery dating to the 13th century was recovered. Caution must be employed in relying on a single sherd of pottery as dating evidence, especially as it was found alongside a piece of modern glass. However this does appear to corroborate with

evidence from a previous Cotswold Archaeology evaluation, which identified a range of cut features dating to the 13th and 14th century in this location and stratigraphic depth, sealed by post-medieval soil layers.

Later features comprised a number of thick soil layers and made ground, identified across the site. These were truncated by two boundary walls associated with the post-medieval division of plots to the rear of Merton Street and High Street. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-504486

Oxford, 12 Crick Road SP 5139 0757

TOM ROSE-JONES

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at 12 Crick Road, Oxford between November 2020 and November 2021 during groundworks for a rear extension and associated services. A series of archaeological remains were recorded, the majority of which were undated. However pottery of middle Iron Age date, comparable to that recorded during a previous evaluation on the site, was recovered from a pit. As such it appears that 12 Crick Road is situated within an area of middle Iron Age occupation. The Iron Age and undated features were truncated by a series of later features associated with the construction and occupation of 12 Crick Road from the 19th century onwards. No archaeological remains were encountered in a soakaway excavated at the front of the house, adjacent to Crick Road. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-426250

Oxford, 12 St John Street SP 5107 0661

TOM ROSE-JONES

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at 12 St John Street, Oxford in April 2021 during the construction of a rear extension. A former cultivation soil, likely to pre-date the construction of 12 St John Street, was the most significant finding. This deposit was overlain by a thick garden soil, presumably associated with the construction and occupation of the current building. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-420815

Oxford, 1 Fisher Row SP 5088 0615

STEPHEN J YEATES

John Moore Heritage Services carried out historic building recording, a watching brief and historic research on a building in the rear garden of 1 Fisher Row, St Thomas, Oxford in September 2021, during residential conversion of the building.

The building is a rectangular structure of brick with an east to west roof structure with gable ends and with door and windows in the south wall (Fig. 5). The windows originally had metal shutters. Internally there is a flagstone floor above a void, and a first floor supported on H-profile metal beams. The front door was far larger previously as it appears to have been reset.

Map regression indicates that the structure was constructed in the third quarter of the 19th century. The original purpose of the study building remains uncertain; certain design features of the building perhaps suggest its use as a strong room, either constructed for the banking role of James Morrell or constructed to store deeds and other valuables of the Morrell Brewery. However, this remains tentative given the lack of any further evidence and other interpretations are possible.

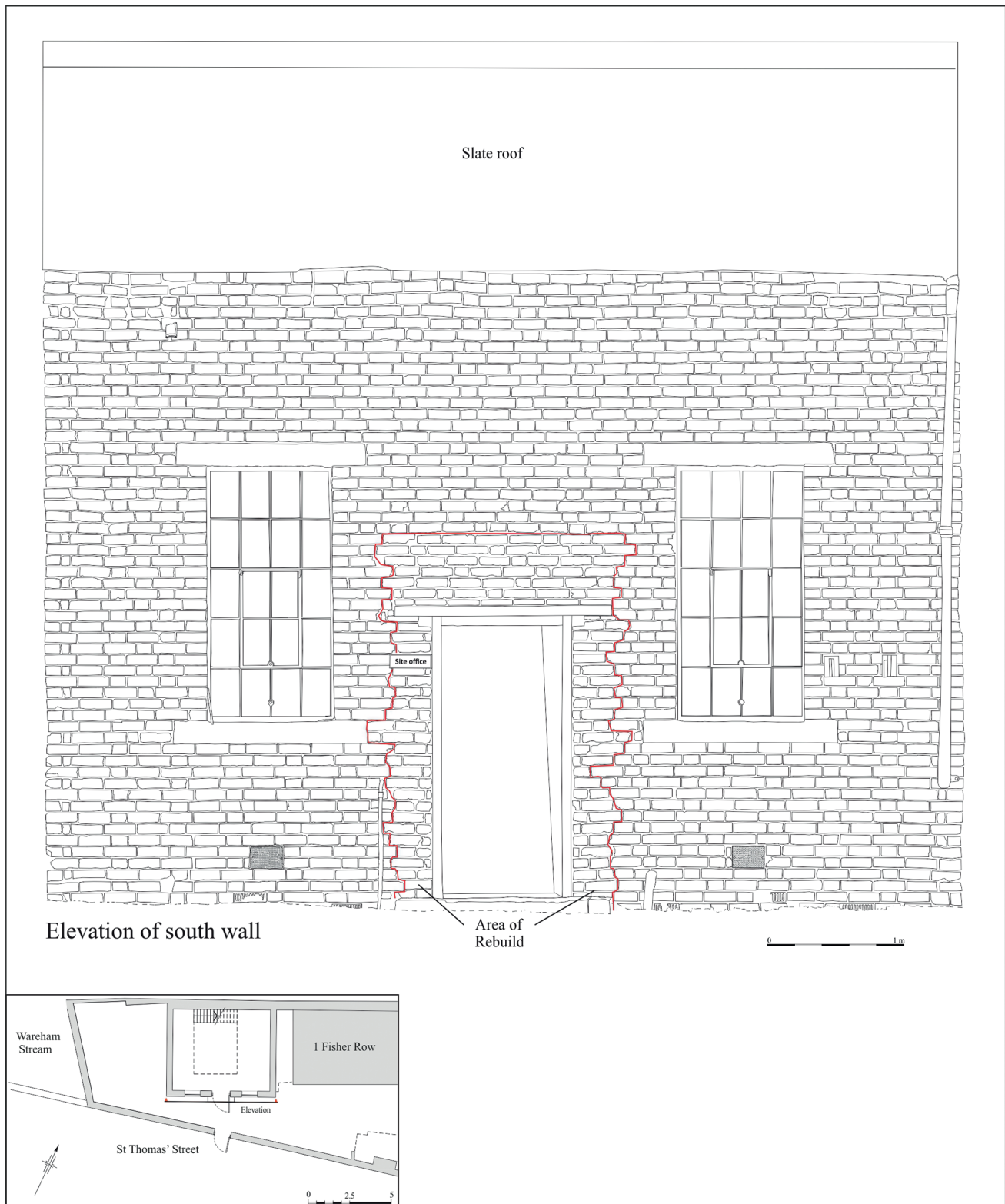


Figure 5: Oxford, Fisher Row, Front elevation.

The archaeological watching brief undertaken during works did not encounter any significant archaeological remains associated with the construction or use of the building. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-336161

Oxford, 74 Walton Street SP 5063 0719
CHRISTOPHER WHITEHEAD

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at 74 Walton Street, Oxford between

December **2020** and February 2021. The purpose of the watching brief was for the demolition of the existing single storey rear extension, as well as the construction of a new single storey rear extension, the erection of a new 1 bedroom dwelling and the conversion of the existing dwelling on the upper floors to be 2 one-bed dwellings. During the course of the watching brief, a series of foundation footings were excavated, as well as a soakaway pit, associated drainage trenches and two test pits. This particular area had potential

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for prehistoric, Roman, early medieval, medieval and post-medieval remains. Over the course of the watching brief excavations, four modern refuse pits were uncovered, as well as two undated pits. Additionally, structural remains for a brick-built outbuilding, with an associated stone-built soakaway drain, and a garden wall were also uncovered. No other archaeological features or artefacts were uncovered. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-412587

Oxford, 80 Old Road SP 5481 0633

CHRISTOPHER WHITEHEAD

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at 80 Old Road, Headington, Oxford in September 2021. The purpose of the watching brief was for the demolition of the existing garden building; the erection of a two storey side and rear extension and alterations to the roof to form hip to gable in association with a lift conversion. During the watching brief, a series of foundation footing trenches were excavated. This particular area had potential for Roman and post-medieval remains. Over the course of the watching brief, a post-medieval linear ditch, containing a single pottery sherd, and a modern refuse-pit were uncovered. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-502720

Preston Crowmarsh, 70 Silver Birches SU 6157 9075

CHRISTOPHER WHITEHEAD

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at 70 Silver Birches, Preston Crowmarsh, Oxfordshire in February 2021. The purpose of the watching brief was for the demolition and replacement of the existing dwelling, as well as the erection of a 4-bay garage. During the course of the watching brief, a series of foundation footings were excavated. This particular area had potential for Roman and medieval remains. Over the course of the watching brief excavations, two undated linear ditches and a single, undated pit were uncovered. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-417259

Shipton-on-Cherwell, Shipton Manor SP 4799 1655

TOM ROSE-JONES

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological strip, map and sample investigation in September 2021 during groundworks for a swimming pool at Shipton Manor, Shipton-on-Cherwell, Kidlington, Oxfordshire. The area of the new pool was located partially within the footprint of an earlier swimming pool, the construction of which extended below the geological horizon and had therefore truncated any remains present. Despite this, a number of extant archaeological features were encountered (Fig. 6). These appeared to represent a ditched trackway or path that extended towards the Church of the Holy Cross. Pottery found within the fill of one ditch dated exclusively to the late Saxon period, though a sherd of glazed roof tile that dated to the medieval period was also present. A shallow ditch and ovoid pit were also associated with this feature; pottery from the ditch dated to the early to mid- Saxon period. Later deposits were predominantly medieval garden soils, though a thick levelling deposit was also encountered, possibly laid in order to create a level surface to the south east of Shipton Manor. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-502515

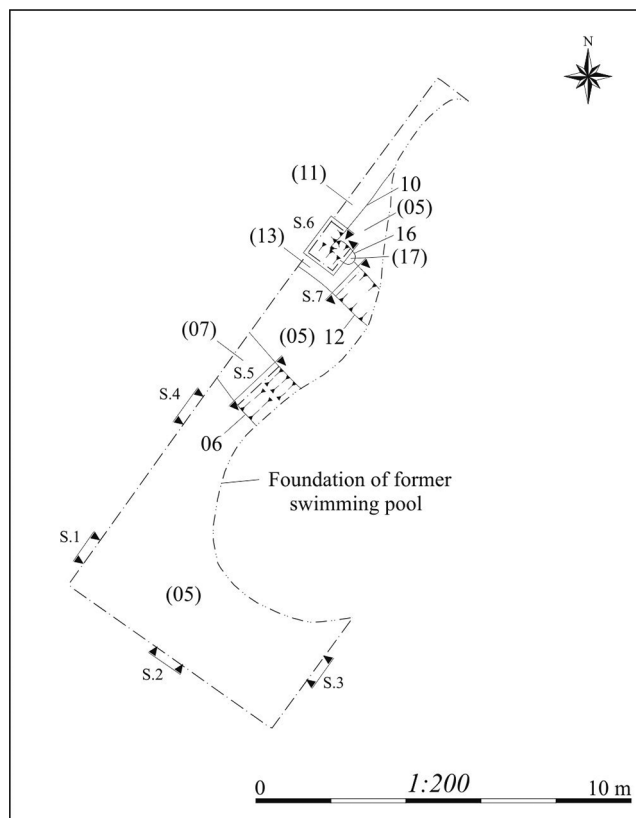


Figure 6: Shipton Manor, Site Plan.

South Moreton, The Manor House SU 5621 8830

POVILAS CEPASKAS

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at The Manor House, Papermill Lane, South Moreton in September 2021 during the erection of a three-bay garage with office/storage room above. No archaeological remains were encountered during the watching brief. The natural geology was not reached; the impact depth of the development was only 0.45m below ground level. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-312689

Wallingford, The Bullcroft SU 6057 8953

TOM ROSE-JONES

John Moore Heritage Services carried out a historic building recording and watching brief during the demolition of The Recreation Rooms (Fig. 7), a non-designated building located within the Scheduled Monument of the Anglo Saxon Town of Wallingford. The recording was undertaken between November 2020 and March 2021. The building was built in 1941 with funding from J.R. Upson, a local businessman, to be used by the armed forces for the duration of the Second World War. The structure was a prefabricated timber framed building, with three blocks arranged in an H-plan. The blocks contained recreational and dining facilities, as demonstrated by extant features that include a brick fireplace and a kitchen and larder. After the war the building was given to the community of Wallingford, being used as a nursery in the post-war period. During this period the building was subject to subdivision and alteration, including the insertion of external doors and internal partitions and ceilings. During demolition no evidence of the Saxon town was encountered. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-417563



Figure 7: Wallingford, The Bullcroft, The Recreation Rooms.

Wallingford, Wallingford School SU 6046 8997

TOM ROSE-JONES

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at Wallingford School, Wallingford, Oxfordshire in April 2021 ahead of the construction of a new school building. Two trenches were excavated within the footprint of a consented two storey building, however no archaeological features, deposits or finds were recorded during the evaluation. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-418900

Witney, 66 High Street SP 3573 0999

GRACE GRIFFITH

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief to the rear of 66 High Street, Witney, Oxfordshire between January and March 2021. The watching brief comprised monitoring the excavation for the footings, two footings pads, and service trenches, in which a series of features and deposits relating to the medieval and post-medieval occupation of Witney were recorded. These included occupation layers and cultivation soils, a stone built wall, a well and two pits; of these the cultivation and occupation deposits were of probable medieval date, containing pottery dating predominantly to the 16th century. The wall was also dated, on the basis of the stratigraphic evidence, to the medieval period. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-421356

Wroxton, Wroxton Quarry SP 4090 4130

NATASHA DJUKIC

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological recording action at land on the south-west side of Stratford

Road to the west of Wroxton, during works for the extraction of minerals. This summary covers excavations that took place between February and July 2021; future work is planned.

A north-east by south-west aligned linear ditch, containing pottery dated to the Middle to Late Iron Age, was encountered. Two flakes of worked flint, dating to between the Mesolithic and earlier Neolithic period were also recovered from the same ditch. Additionally, a single piece of residual Romano-British Greyware was recovered from a medieval or post-medieval furrow, and a residual flint bladelet was recovered from the topsoil. A number of undated features were also encountered.

MOLA BASINGSTOKE

Oxford, Lucy Faithful House, Speedwell Street

OS NGR not supplied

Archaeological investigation on the site of the former Lucy Faithful House, 8 Speedwell Street, Oxford was undertaken by MOLA Basingstoke between December 2020 and February 2022, following an initial trial trench evaluation of the site in 2018. A watching brief was undertaken in December 2020 during the site investigation works and was followed by a series of targeted mitigation from January 2021.

The site stands on part of the 13th century Dominican Friary, designated as a site of National Importance. Mitigation on site was limited to the areas of proposed impacts of the foundations and lift/stairwells. The northern half of the site was preserved *in situ* by large beams straddling the surviving archaeological deposits.

Oxfordshire

Archaeological remains relating to the friary were uncovered in the central part of the site. These comprised a series of stone foundations, with artefacts comprising tile, pottery and stained-glass fragments. Post excavation assessment of the results is currently in progress.

Oxford, Rhodes House, South Parks Road

OS NGR not supplied

Archaeological mitigation was carried out by MOLA on the site of Rhodes House, South Parks Road, Oxford between the end of June and October 2021. This followed a previous archaeological evaluation carried out by MOLA between October and November 2019 and archaeological trial pitting and watching brief on groundworks between December 2020 and February 2021.

The Civil War fortifications, relating to the second line of defences of Oxford (1642–1651) are still visible along the eastern site boundary. The archaeological investigation consisted of the excavation of three areas to the east, west and south of Rhodes House. Undated field boundaries in the shape of possible enclosure gullies comprised the earliest features on site. These appeared to be of late prehistoric date and were associated with pits and gullies located to the northwest of the site. A substantial ditch was uncovered running across the east and western areas. This is believed to be a defensive ditch excavated during the civil war. The post-medieval period was later represented by agricultural land use in the shape of areas of parallel gullies of cultivation strips. Victorian rubbish pits and modern intrusions were also noted. Further works on site will involve a programme of watching briefs during landscaping works later this year.

MOLA NORTHAMPTON

Kidlington, land east of Bicester Road SP 501 125

GRAHAM ARKLEY

A geophysical survey on land east of Bicester Road, Kidlington has detected a compact collection of rectangular enclosures grouped around a T-junction of trackways in the centre and east of Field 2, with an outlying set of enclosures in the south-east of the same field. The overall character and plan of these remains suggested that they may date from the late Iron Age or the Roman period. As mapped by the survey the site appears to cover around 1.5ha, but its full extent may be somewhat greater than this. Many of the features are represented by weak and seemingly incomplete anomalies; for instance the enclosures west of the trackway lack well-defined western edges. Separate groups of archaeological features have been identified in the north-eastern corner of Field 1 and the southern tip of Field 3. In each case these features cover only a small area of ground and probably represent the edges of sites lying largely outside the survey area. Less certain archaeological remains, including two possible trackways, have been detected in a variety of other locations across all three fields. OASIS molanort1-502257.

Mixbury, Middle Farm SP 609 327

ADAM MEADOWS AND CAMILLA COLLINS

An archaeological geophysical survey at Middle Farm, Mixbury identified little of archaeological interest and

the data being dominated by an irregular background patterning of geological anomalies. Apart from faint remnants of medieval or later ridge and furrow cultivation, the only feature of note was a small, indistinct curvilinear feature. This could be archaeological in origin or, more probably, a spurious feature formed by a chance arrangement of geological features and plough furrows. OASIS molanort1-501603.

The subsequent archaeological trial trench evaluation comprised five trenches. No archaeological features, deposits of finds were encountered during the evaluation. OASIS molanort1-501655

Stanford-in-the-Vale, land beside Cottage Road and Faringdon Road SP 335 937

GRAHAM ARKLEY

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) was commissioned to undertake a magnetometer survey across c. 7.9ha of land lying north of the junction between Faringdon Road and Cottage Road, Stanford in the Vale, Oxfordshire. Minor archaeological remains have been detected across the north, centre and south of the survey area. They comprise boundary ditches and other linear and curvilinear features of unknown date. Evidence for quarrying has been detected beside the roads, with further possible quarrying in the north-east. At least one buried cable has also been detected.

NORTH OXON ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP 2021

Once the effects of the pandemic had abated, we resumed field activities for the first time since 2019. In August we opened a small trench adjacent to trench D on our Upper Lea site, which we excavated in 2019.

Upper Lea farm lies directly to the north of the old Lower Lea farm and part of the Roman road- side settlement at Lower Lea has been shown to extend onto Upper Lea as well. This extension lies partly along a ridge of higher ground, along which Iron age or Roman rectangular enclosures have been revealed by aerial photography and Iron age or Roman round houses detected by a geophysics survey.

Small trenches were excavated from 2017–19 on a roman site we first discovered in 1997, which we have now labelled Upper Lea 1. Another small trench was dug in 2021 to see if we could discover any further defining features.

The other fields of Upper Lea lie to the north near Shutford and behind Madmarston hillfort. It is here at the foot of Roundhill that another Roman site existed, which extends over two fields and was conjectured to be a double farmstead. We therefore arranged for Abingdon Archaeological Geophysics to survey it for us. A complicated pattern of enclosures, lanes, round houses and minor buildings was detected, along with a possible Bronze age round barrow. The report will be included in the Abingdon Geophysics section of the Newsletter.

Just a field to the east of Upper Lea 1 site and its Iron Age enclosures lies the Broughton roman villa discovered by Keith Westcott in 2017. He obtained the help of Time team and they investigated it in autumn 2021.

Another big discovery in 2021 was the Roman road- side settlement found at Chipping Warden by MOLAS on the HS2 railway line. All these findings are contributing to a

more detailed picture of Roman and Iron age settlement in the Banbury area.

EDWARD SHAWYER

Upper Lea Site 1 SP 3929 3884

EDWARD SHAWYER

A small 4x3m trench (trench E) was excavated just to the west of trench D. The topsoil and subsoil, (a mixture of dark humus and the local orange-yellow clay soil,) was about 35cms deep. Then we found patches of thick yellow clay, which had patches of charcoal and fire reddening on it.

The clay patches lay upon a 10-20cm thick layer of small stones and cobbles, with a few larger stones mixed in with them. The stone and clay layers are believed to be a roman floor surface. A small amount of pottery was found including grey wares, Samian and some shell tempered Iron age wares. No walls or robber trenches were found.

We hope to carry out a more thorough investigation of the site when all the pandemic restrictions are lifted.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH

Ambrosden, Graven Hill, LTA2 SP 5933 2027

ROBIN BASHFORD

In July and August 2020, Oxford Archaeology carried out a watching brief during a programme of ground investigation within Land Transfer Area 2 (LTA2) at Graven Hill. The watching brief revealed few features, apart from a roughly east-west aligned ditch. This may have been a continuation of a feature previously encountered during an earlier phase of work. The remaining linear features may have been associated with ridge and furrow cultivation, but the small size of the test pits and the paucity of dateable artefactual material made any definitive interpretation problematic. There was evidence for substantial landscaping associated with the MOD occupation of the site, which included areas of truncation and areas where a buried soil horizon was encountered below varying depths of redeposited clay.

Banbury, Easington, Wykham Park Farm SP 4492 3868

KATE BRADY

Oxford Archaeology carried out an excavation between November 2019 and May 2020 south of Easington. A preceding geophysical survey in 2012 and two phases of evaluation in 2013 and 2015 had established the presence of sub-rectangular and sub-circular enclosures, field boundaries and pits along the northern boundary of the site. These features had not produced convincing dating evidence during the evaluation.

The excavation of six areas totalling 5ha revealed several pits containing early and middle Neolithic pottery and three cremation burials containing Neolithic or Bronze Age pottery. In addition, two sub-rectangular enclosures, two roundhouses and several field-enclosures all dating to the late Iron Age to early Roman period were excavated, along with a ditch representing the east side of a contemporary enclosure, three sides of which had been previously excavated at the adjacent site, east of Bloxham Road. Archaeological features were concentrated in the north of the site, with excavation areas in the southern part of the

development area yielding nothing but medieval or post-medieval plough furrows.

Banbury, Hardwick Hill Cemetery Expansion

SP 4547 4348

ADAM FELLINGHAM

In January 2021, Oxford Archaeology undertook an evaluation of the site of a proposed extension of Hardwick Hill Cemetery, Banbury. A preceding geophysical survey had identified anomalies across the development area which were interpreted as possible archaeological features.

The evaluation uncovered a series of ditches, pits and postholes. A pit containing two flint blades and abundant charred hazelnut shells may be of early prehistoric date (Mesolithic to early Bronze Age). Other activity dates to the late Iron Age to early Roman period. This includes a probable double-ditched trackway running on an approximate north-south alignment in the eastern part of the site. The ditches of the trackway had been repeatedly recut, and the first phase of the eastern ditch produced pottery dated to 50 BC to AD 100.

Three ditches on varying alignments were present in the western part of the site, one of which yielded pottery dated to the early Roman period. In the centre of the site a large pit was found that contained pottery dated to 50 BC to AD 100 and may have been a waterhole or quarry. Together, this evidence suggests that much of the site was encompassed by a late Iron Age to early Roman field system or a complex of settlement enclosures located on the drier ground, with a commanding view of the surrounding valley to the west. Multiple parallel post-medieval furrows crossed the site from east to west, completely truncating any earlier features that they intersected.

Chinnor, Greenwood Avenue SP 75346 00264

BEN SLADER AND GERRY THACKER

In November 2020, Oxford Archaeology undertook a trial-trench evaluation comprising 15 trenches targeted on geophysical anomalies south of Greenwood Avenue, Chinnor. Archaeological features were recorded in four trenches within the north-western part of the site, including an enclosure ditch and a possible well of middle Roman date. The enclosure may represent the focus of a middle Roman settlement.

The enclosure ditch was encountered in three trenches and contained 2.7kg of Roman pottery. In two of these trenches, multiple ditches were present, suggesting that the boundary may have been redefined or maintained over time. Another ditch was recorded parallel and c 15m east of the enclosure ditch and this may have defined a driveway. A possible well containing middle and later Roman pottery was recorded in the northernmost trench within the enclosure. Roman activity on this site probably began in the first half of the 2nd century AD and the settlement had access to imported Gaulish wares, providing evidence of Romanised dining practices. The environmental samples indicated a good preservation animal bones and charred plant remains, including the presence of spelt wheat.

The enclosure and related ditches may have survived as earthworks into the post-medieval period as twenty metal finds dating to 1550–1950 were recorded in the upper fills

Oxfordshire

of the enclosure ditch. These finds are almost certainly intrusive.

Cumnor, St Michael's Church SP 46137 04132

JONATHAN GILL

Oxford Archaeology has undertaken recording of extensive graffiti in leadwork at the top of the 12th-century West Tower of St Michael's Church in Cumnor, prior to its replacement. The leadwork was laid in 1796 and the graffiti was added over a long period of time, largely during the 19th century, by people accessing this normally hidden part of the church. The graffiti is informal in nature and largely comprises names, initials and dates, but there are also numerous stencils of hands and shoes as well as simple representations of an animal and a musical instrument. The lead also incorporates a more formal embossed plaque, dated 1796 and naming the two churchwardens, Keary Godfery and William Sellwood, as well as John King the plumber.

Didcot, south of the B4016 SU 5374 9232

CHARLOTTE HOWSAM

Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological strip, map and record excavation within a wider development site to the north-east of Didcot, from August to November 2019. The excavation identified a system of ditches of Roman date, which was probably associated with agricultural or horticultural activity. The system comprised multiple parallel, NNE-SSW aligned ditches, along with a smaller number of ditches on a WNW-ESE alignment, including a boundary ditch that had been recut several times. Further analysis will be required to determine whether the ditches served for drainage or as planting trenches. The ditch system may be related to a double-ditched trackway on a WNW-ESE alignment that was recorded on the geophysical survey immediately south of the excavation area.

The pottery recovered from the excavation is generally of mixed Roman date and, together with the limited range of other find types, attests to the agricultural nature of the landscape. Slight concentrations of ditches, pits and postholes containing greater quantities of pottery in the north-west of the excavation area may be suggestive of nearby occupation activity. Cropmarks immediately to the north-west of the site may relate to settlement and trackways of possible later prehistoric or Roman date. Together with the recovery of Roman finds, including coins and pottery, to the north of the B4016 during the late 19th century, the excavation results suggest that the site lay on the edge of a larger occupation site that extended northwards and north-westwards.

Eynsham, Polar Technology SP 42761 08768

ANDREW SIMMONDS

Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological excavation in advance of construction of an industrial unit at Oasis Business Park, Eynsham between April and July 2018. This comprised an area of open excavation encompassing 0.58ha and an adjacent strip, map, and sample excavation of 1.07ha. Two watching briefs were also maintained during the digging of geological test pits. The excavation lay at the edge of a dense scheduled cropmark complex (HE: 1006333) south of Eynsham that probably represents a monument complex

that developed around the adjacent Eynsham causewayed enclosure.

The excavation uncovered features spanning from the Neolithic to the medieval period. The three earliest pits, associated with Decorated Bowl pottery (c 3770–3245 BC), may have been contemporary with the construction and use of the causewayed enclosure. Eight middle Neolithic pits associated with Peterborough Ware (mid-4th millennium to early 3rd millennium BC) were excavated. One contained the burial of an adult female (Fig. 8), accompanied by an oyster shell pendant and a whelk shell, both exotic items this far from the coast. The burial produced a radiocarbon date of 3340–3030 cal BC (SUERC-98305, 4478 ± 27, 95.4% probability).

Three pits dating from the earliest Iron Age, one possibly a waterhole, represent rare evidence for settlement of this period. Roman activity was restricted to pits that were probably dug for gravel extraction, and Anglo-Saxon occupation was represented by a sunken-featured building. Medieval evidence comprised further quarry pits, field boundaries and plough furrows.

Lockinge, Wantage Eastern Link Road SU 41949 88534

PAUL MURRAY

In May 2021, Oxford Archaeology carried out a trial trench evaluation ahead of the construction of a junction for the Wantage Eastern Link Road. The evaluation comprised two trenches and was targeted on the inner of two ovoid cropmarks. The evaluation revealed that the inner cropmark related to a ditch of late Bronze Age date which is provisionally interpreted as forming part of a hilltop enclosure. A posthole within the enclosed area also contained late Bronze Age material. The outer enclosure, which was not investigated, may be of later Iron Age date as is the case with local examples at Taplow, Rams Hill and Castle Hill, Little Wittenham.

Marcham, Anson Fields SU 45799 96750

JOHN BOOTHROYD

Oxford Archaeology undertook an excavation at Anson Fields, Marcham between April and May 2018. A preceding geophysical survey and evaluation across the wider development area had identified evidence of extensive Bronze Age activity, including a barrow with suspected central burial, and the remains of a possible Iron Age settlement in the form of post-built roundhouses, pits, and boundary ditches. The excavation revealed the remains of three post-built roundhouses, a cluster of storage/refuse pits and a pit alignment, all indicative of a small Iron Age settlement.

A cluster of 14 storage or refuse pits were recorded along the north-west edge of the site and these were enclosed by a ditch. The pits contained significant quantities of animal bone and Iron Age pottery indicative of use as refuse pits. Two of the pits contained crouched inhumation burials, both of juveniles. It is unclear if the pits were excavated as graves but the presence of pottery fragments and animal bone within them demonstrate they were also used for refuse. Iron Age storage/refuse pits were also located in the south-east corner of the site. A rectangular structure comprising four postholes – probably a granary – lay in the north-west corner of the site.



Figure 8: Eynsham, Burial of an adult female, dated to the Middle Neolithic.



Figure 9: Marcham, The largest roundhouse with 27 postholes and a diameter of 11.5m.

Oxfordshire

The three roundhouses varied in size but were all post built and consistent in their form. The northernmost roundhouse only partially extended into the site and had a diameter of about 9m. The second roundhouse was located to just to the south, with a diameter of approximately 6m. Four additional postholes were recorded within the structure and may represent roof supports. The third roundhouse was considerably larger than the other two, with a diameter of 11.5m, and it also had four internal postholes indicative of roof supports (Fig.9). Artefactual evidence from the structures was minimal, but their form is indicative of an earlier Iron Age date.

All three roundhouses had two additional postholes on the south-east corner, slightly offset from those forming the structural ring of post. These posts were also noticeable larger than the others and are therefore suspected to form supports for entrance porches, indicating that all three structures had entrances on the same alignment.

Middleton Stoney, Dewars Farm Quarry Extension SP 5473 2547

CHARLOTTE HOWSAM

Oxford Archaeology undertook an evaluation on the site of the proposed extension to Dewars Farm Quarry in September 2021. A total of 107 trenches were investigated, some of which were targeted on selected geophysical anomalies. Of these, 15 trenches were found to contain archaeological remains.

The most notable remains comprised an assemblage of late Mesolithic flint artefacts recovered from a series of natural hollows or depressions within a trench in the south of the site. This part of the site overlooks Trow Pools, formed at the intersection of the Gagle Brook and Trow Pool stream. Small quantities of charred remains were also recovered in association with the flint artefacts.

A possible ring ditch or enclosure ditch recorded in a trench in the south-east of the site, together with a small number of undated ditches nearby, may provide limited evidence of activity during the late Iron Age/Roman period. Limited late post-medieval/modern remains include a former field boundary ditch.

Oxford, St Aldates, Museum of Oxford SP 51379 06117

JONATHAN GILL

Oxford Archaeology has undertaken historic building recording in the Town Hall in Oxford, focusing on the south-western part of the building, which originally housed a public library but which since the 1970s has formed the Museum of Oxford. The Town Hall was constructed in the 1890s and it is now a Grade II* listed building.

The building recording took the form of a watching brief during a refurbishment of the museum and covered the basement and ground floor levels of this part of the building. The refurbishment included an extensive soft strip, as well as the removal of plaster from walls and ceilings. Various elements of the building which are normally hidden were exposed including the floor structures which in this area largely comprise a clinker concrete slab with steel filler joists embedded within them. This was a relatively common type of flooring in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Other primary features which were exposed include extensive parquet flooring, evidence of former decorative colour

schemes and a former lift which would have been used to transfer books between floors.

Oxford, 1–4 Broad Street, Former Boswells Department Store SP 5129 0640

BEN M FORD

Oxford Archaeology undertook an evaluation in February 2021 comprising ten geotechnical test pits and three boreholes at the former Boswells Department Store, 1–4 Broad St, Oxford. The results demonstrated the presence of significant archaeological deposits relating to successive phases of the defensive town ditch. Two phases of the ditch were recorded, including a possible late Saxon phase and a medieval phase. Both ditches appear to have had a similar size and form, c 27m wide and c 5m deep, and neither appeared to reach the Oxford Clay bedrock. The ditch was infilled during the medieval and Tudor periods. Waterlogged deposits were recorded in both ditches and there is good potential for organic remains. Evidence of 17th/18th century occupation also survives within the site, despite the presence of extensive basements.

Part of the medieval town wall was also recorded during the evaluation. The position and alignment of this structure matches with its depiction on the 1:500 OS map of Oxford dated 1878, and excavations in the churchyard of St Michael at the Northgate during 1971–2.

Oxford, Castle Hill House SP 51100 06212

JONATHAN GILL

Oxford Archaeology has undertaken historic building recording at Castle Hill House, an early to mid-19th-century building (c 1838–40) located immediately outside the historic line of the castle ditch. The building was converted to a Conservative Club in the 1920s and then greatly altered during the 20th century. It was unlisted, although it had some historic interest, and it has now been demolished as part of a redevelopment of the site by St Peter's College.

Documentary evidence shows that the building was inhabited in the mid-19th century by a master Carpenter called William Bartlett and the nature of the building's external shell, constructed from a simple timber frame with render cladding, may suggest that he erected it himself.

Internally the building had a high level of architectural detailing, contrasting with the relatively crude timber in the external shell, and it may be that Bartlett used the house as an advertisement for his work. A remarkable sweeping staircase within the building would support this.

Part of the building was set on a series of brick vaults against a retaining wall by Bulwarks Lane, and it may be that at least part of these were incorporated into the 1838–40 Castle Hill House from an earlier building.

Oxford, Corpus Christi College Kitchen Redevelopment SP 51646 06065

JONATHAN GILL

Oxford Archaeology has undertaken an historic building investigation and small-scale archaeological watching brief at Corpus Christi College, Oxford during development works. The development comprised remodelling and updating areas within three separate listed buildings including the kitchen, which it has been suggested may partly survive from the complex of buildings on the site predating the foundation

of the college in 1517. The other two buildings impacted were the 18th-century Gentlemen Commoners' Building and the early 20th-century Emily Thomas building. The refurbishment works very largely impacted on 20th century features of limited heritage interest and very little previously hidden historic fabric was exposed.

Corpus Christi College, Oxford Porters' Lodge SP

51617 06082

JONATHAN GILL

Building recording has been undertaken by Oxford Archaeology at Corpus Christi College in Oxford during the refurbishment of the Porters' Lodge in the Grade I listed north range of the Front Quadrangle. This building formed part of the original layout of college buildings constructed in 1516. The works have included historic building recording in the form of an intermittent watching brief during alterations to the building, as well as an archaeological watching brief during excavations for an external ramp.

The principal feature exposed was a short section of timber-framed partition, between the central chimney stack and the south wall, which it is thought survived from the original construction of this range. At some point a doorway was inserted into this partition but then this was subsequently infilled and covered over. Adjacent to the framed partition the works have also exposed evidence of a former single-light window which is shown on a view from 1733 but which was probably also blocked in the 18th century.

Oxford, Exeter College, Porters' Lodge SP

51439 06372

BELLE NEILSON

Oxford Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological investigation at Exeter College, Oxford in 2021 during refurbishment of the Porters' Lodge in the west range of the main quadrangle. This building is Grade I listed and was constructed in 1682 during a period of great prosperity for the college.

The investigation included a watching brief to record elements of the Porters' Lodge revealed during the soft strip and was supported by historical research. An archaeological watching brief was also undertaken to monitor excavation in the Turl Street gatehouse. The principal discovery was that the timber ceiling was designed to be plastered and had evidence for only one stud partition wall. This suggests the space was built as one main room with a fashionable ceiling as found in high-status 17th century interiors.

Oxford, 16 St Giles' SP

5120 0681

PAUL MURRAY

Oxford Archaeology undertook an intermittent watching brief between September 2019 and April 2020 at 16 St Giles', Oxford. The works involved the archaeological monitoring of the refit/repair of timber and stone flooring within the basement and the excavation for a lift pit to the rear of the property. The watching brief recorded a medieval domestic refuse pit during excavation for the lift pit. Medieval refuse pits were typically located within the rear of tenement plots, and as such, this provides evidence for the urban development of St Giles'. An ash and cinder deposit, possibly representing the remains of an earlier floor, was recorded within the basement, although it only survived in small patches and did not produce any finds.

Oxford, Hertford College, New Library SP

51631 06431

ADAM FELLINGHAM, ROBIN BASHFORD AND RACHEL LEGGE

In 2020, Oxford Archaeology undertook an intermittent watching brief of six test pits at Hertford College. This was undertaken to examine underlying deposits within the Old Quadrangle prior to the excavation of a proposed basement extension of the library. A subsequent three-trench evaluation followed the watching brief in March 2021. The results indicate that possible late Saxon, as well as extensive medieval and post-medieval remains survive within the site and have remained relatively undisturbed by later activity.

Two of the 2021 evaluation trenches targeted an area previously investigated by the watching brief and GPR in 2020. This indicated that possible archaeological features extended up to 4m below ground level. Within these trenches archaeological deposits and features dating from the late Saxon to the medieval periods were encountered between 2.32m bgl (61.55m OD) and 1.40m bgl (62.47m OD). Residual late Saxon pottery was recovered from later medieval features. Medieval features consisted of possible gravel extraction pits infilled with demolition rubble, garden soils, occupation deposits and a stone-lined drain (Fig. 10). The drain may have formed the boundary between two medieval academic halls, Black Hall and Hart Hall, which were both extant until the 16th-17th century.

The medieval features were overlain by late medieval and early post-medieval garden soils. These were in turn overlain by post-medieval mortar surfaces with a single robbed east-west foundation wall, possibly relating to a mason's yard (16th to 18th century). These were truncated by later post-medieval quarry and rubble-filled pits.



Figure 10: Hertford College, stone lined drain (with capstones removed).

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A third trench was located within a passage immediately adjacent to the foundations of the existing chapel. A stone-lined cess pit was the only feature encountered within the trench and was excavated to 3.20m bgl (60.91m OD). Artefactual evidence suggests that this dates from the 16th and 17th centuries; however, the structural elements could be earlier in date as there was evidence for clearing out of the fills.

Oxford, Littlemore, Armstrong Road SP 5350 0218

CHARLOTTE HOWSAM

Oxford Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological excavation and monitoring south of Armstrong Road, Littlemore between November 2019 and May 2020. A total of 62 pits were revealed, mostly in two concentrations located in the west and north-east of the excavation area. The pits were similar in size, shape and profile, typically sub-circular in plan with steep, near-vertical sides and flat bases. The pits generally contained single fills suggestive of rapid infilling, though several contained two fills. Of those that produced datable material, the majority were shown to belong to the early–middle Iron Age. One pit in the west of the excavation area contained an inhumation burial with a small quantity of possible middle Iron Age pottery. An Iron Age pit in the west of the site truncated a small L-shaped ditch from which Iron Age pottery was also collected.

Several ditches revealed in the central-southern part of the excavation area provide evidence of late Roman land division. A c 6.5m-wide ditch crossed the excavation area on an NNE–SSW alignment. Directly to the east was a slightly irregular linear feature, c 11m long, on a roughly ENE–WSW alignment. Adjacent to this was a roughly N–S aligned ditch that may have been related to a shallow, c 1m-wide, L-shaped ditch on a NW–SE and NE–SW alignment located farther to the east. Together these two ditches may have delineated an enclosure with a south-west-facing entranceway. All the ditches contained late Roman pottery, though a couple of sherds of possible middle Roman date were also present. A shallow pit to the west of the largest ditch, and isolated from the Iron Age pit cluster here, contained late Roman pottery, while another late Roman pit lay in the north-east.

Oxford, 1–7 Longwall Street SP 51960 06295

BELLE NEILSON

Oxford Archaeology has undertaken a programme of historic building recording at Nos 1–7 Longwall Street, Oxford during the refurbishment of the properties by Magdalen College. The terrace is Grade II listed and the project comprised a watching brief to record timber framing and other previously hidden elements during the removal of render on the south and east elevations. This revealed the terrace to be arranged in chronological order from south to north. Nos 1–3 date from the original development of Longwall Street in the 17th century and Nos 4–7 replaced earlier buildings in the 18th century. Evidence was seen of building against former exterior elevations and of various phases of re-fronting and repair.

Oxford, Magdalen College, Winter Common Room

SP 5210 0616

JON GILL

Oxford Archaeology carried out historic building recording at Magdalen College, Oxford between July 2019 and February 2020, focusing on two Grade I listed buildings: the south range of Cloisters (or the Great Quadrangle) and the northern part of Chaplains III. The main recording work in the Great Quadrangle focused on the Old Bursary area where the removal of modern elements exposed structural features of historic interest.

The original floor joists substantially survive above the Old Bursary together with a north-to-south partition which divided the main room from a pair of smaller rooms to the west. The plaster has been lost from the partition but four of the main studs survive together with much of the head rail and part of the sole plate. Dendrochronological analysis shows that both the floor and the partition were constructed with trees felled in 1474, corresponding with the date when construction works are known to have started in this range.

The work in the Old Bursary also exposed another partially surviving partition on the north side of the main room and dendrochronology has shown that this was constructed with timber from trees felled in 1583. This partition incorporates a doorway, and it retained historic plaster, including a daub which is likely to be primary. The doorway would have provided access to a small room serving the bursary.

The north range of Chaplains III is believed to have been constructed in the early 17th century and although little original fabric survives the investigation identified apparent evidence of a substantial phase of alterations probably from before 1850. Tall joists and several stud partitions at first floor were exposed, the character of which appeared to suggest a mid-19th century or earlier date. The creation of a new doorway at the north end of Chaplains III showed that this part of the wall incorporated a series of reused moulded stones, set backwards with the flat side facing outwards. These stones were suggestive of a post-medieval date.

Oxford, New Inn Hall Street, St Peter's College, Linton House Basement Works SP 5110 0620

PAUL MURRAY

In August 2021, Oxford Archaeology undertook a watching brief on remodelling works in the basement of Linton House. The watching brief revealed a series of probable pits dating from between the 11th and 14th centuries. The pits were probably situated in the rear plots of tenements fronting onto New Inn Hall Street (formerly Little Bailey).

Oxford, New Inn Hall Street, Wesley Memorial Church SP 5110 0630

ROBIN BASHFORD

Oxford Archaeology undertook a phased archaeological watching brief at the Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, New Inn Hall Street, Oxford between 2015 and 2020. The work was in advance of the construction of an extension to the rear of the Church Hall at the northern extent of the site. The watching brief was maintained during two main phases of works: the breaking out of the existing foundations and the subsequent excavation of strip foundation trenches along with replacement drainage.

In 2015, the excavation of the strip foundations and a subsequent auger survey revealed a series of interleaved layers of organic-rich silty clays and redeposited brickearth and gravels. These may have represented a surviving element of the rampart around the northern limit of the late-Saxon burh. A single sherd of SE Oxfordshire ware (AD 875–1250) was recovered from the deposit at the top of this sequence. This would support the rampart interpretation, although the general lack of artefactual material and the limited exposure of the deposits make it difficult to establish with any degree of certainty.

Post-medieval cartographic sources show the area of the new extension as an orchard or garden, and the uppermost deposits were consistent with this interpretation. The remaining deposits encountered related to the recently removed courtyard surface to the rear of the Church Hall. In 2020 monitoring of the replacement drainage works revealed only garden soils disturbed by service trenches.

Oxford, Paradise Street, Simon House SP 51028 06058

CARL CHAMPNESS AND CHARLOTTE HOWSAM

Oxford Archaeology undertook excavation and a borehole survey on the site of Simon House, Paradise Street, Oxford. The borehole survey was carried out in March 2019 and the excavation of a lift shaft was undertaken between June and August 2021. The site is located adjacent to the scheduled monument of Oxford Castle and overlies part of the infilled bailey ditch, which was the object of the investigations.

Seven boreholes were drilled: five in a north-south transect along the eastern margins of the site, and two in the alley towards the back of the building to the west. Not all the boreholes were successful in sampling the underlying sequence, with four encountering obstructions or contaminated layers and only three reaching the castle ditch. The data indicated that the ditch survives in places to a depth between 6.00–6.80m. The ditch deepens slightly to the north, but the ditch sides were not identified in the survey due to the site constraints. This suggests that the ditch has been partially truncated by the basement of Simon House to the south of the site, with perhaps half of the ditch's width surviving beneath this building.

The excavation of the lift shaft recorded the sequence of fills of part of the bailey ditch. The base of the ditch was not reached, with the earliest deposits possibly dating to the 13th or 14th century. The ditch was later recut in the second half of the 15th century. The recut ditch appears to have infilled rapidly, as the open channel shrank and became restricted to the central part of the ditch, somewhere north of the trench, although a row of wooden stakes demonstrated the maintenance and revetment of the sides during the 16th century. A barrel-lined pit (Fig. 11), probably a cesspit, dating from the 17th century was cut into the upper fills of the ditch and was probably associated with tenements that fronted onto Paradise Street at this date. A sequence of dumping/levelling deposits suggest that the part of the ditch within the lift shaft was completely infilled by the early 18th century.

Oxford, Rewley Road Swing Bridge SP 50447 06580

JONATHAN GILL

Recording work has been undertaken during the restoration of the Rewley Road Swing Bridge (Fig. 12) just to the north of Oxford Railway Station. The bridge is a scheduled

monument which was constructed in 1851 to carry a new Buckinghamshire Railway, affiliated with the London and North Western Railway, over the Sheepwash Channel, a short but important navigable waterway. The line passed over the channel at a low level and the rotating swing bridge allowed the waterway to remain in use for boats and river craft.

In c 1890 the rotating deck was replaced but it appears that the original 1851 turntable carriage was retained and reused in the remodelled bridge. Further modifications were undertaken in the 1940s and 1960s. In 1984 the bridge ceased operations and it has been left abandoned since then. It gradually became an overgrown eyesore, and it was added to the Historic England Heritage at Risk Register.

The bridge has recently undergone a major restoration which has transformed its appearance and enhanced appreciation of the structure. During these works Oxford Archaeology has undertaken an investigation to record the structure, including elements which are normally hidden such as the underside of the deck and the turntable carriage, with its roller bearings on which the hand-operated bridge would rotate.

Oxford, 18 Walton Street SP 5092 0676

KATE BRADY

Oxford Archaeology undertook a watching brief between February and March 2020 at 18 Walton Street, Oxford. Four test pits were excavated to mitigate the impact of footings for a house extension. The test pits revealed the foundations and lower parts of the boundary walls on either side of the garden. They revealed that the extant brick wall was built on a limestone wall foundation which was probably the original property wall, contemporary with the house, which was built during the development of Walton Street in the 19th century. Within the garden area the test pits revealed a made ground layer of the same date overlain by garden soil down to impact level (a maximum of 0.65m below ground level).

Sibford Ferris, Woodway Road SP 35425 37068

JOHN BOOTHROYD

In late 2021, Oxford Archaeology undertook an excavation at Woodway Road, Sibford Ferris. This uncovered a pit containing Beaker pottery and a series of middle Iron Age features. The latter included a rectangular enclosure aligned NNW-SSE which was 60m long and 40m wide. The enclosure was probably the focus of settlement activity, and several larger pits were located along the eastern and southern boundary of the enclosure. Several substantial sinuous ditches (including one over 3m wide) were located east of the enclosure and along a similar alignment. These are suspected to be stock enclosures or paddocks. A series of pits were also recorded 25m east of the enclosure on an NNE-WSW alignment.

South Hinksey, Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme, Field 3 SP 5040 0473

ADAM FELLINGHAM AND BEN M FORD

Oxford Archaeology undertook an evaluation of Field 3 of the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme between July and October 2020. The evaluation followed on from a desk-based assessment, geoarchaeological surveys, geophysical



Figure 11: Oxford, Paradise Street - A barrel lining a probable cesspit dating from the 17th century.



Figure 12: Oxford, Rewley Road Swing Bridge.

surveys, and an archaeological evaluation on Old Abingdon Road and along the proposed route of the scheme. The previous investigations had divided the wider scheme into different Geoarchaeological Zones. Field 3 covered two of these zones: Zone VII to the north-east lay within the valley floor and was dominated by underlying Northmoor Gravel and alluvium, and Zone XI to the south-west comprised lower valley slopes dominated by colluvial ploughwash.

The archaeological results identified deposits and features principally dating from the early–middle Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods, as well as numerous undated features. The archaeological features were encountered at varying depths between 0.30m and 0.80m below the existing ground level. Datable early prehistoric activity was limited to a handful of residual pieces of flintwork, many of which were either undiagnostic or broadly attributable to the Mesolithic/Neolithic. Some of the undated features may have been created in the Bronze Age as they have similar characteristics to dated examples from the earlier evaluation.

Evidence for Iron Age activity was located along the valley slopes (Zone XI) and in the valley floor (Zone VII). The ditches recorded probably relate to land divisions and agrarian uses of the wider landscape associated with dispersed farmsteads. A continuation of a probable NE–SW orientated routeway, evaluated in 2017, was revealed to extend up-slope beyond the cropmark features. The absence of late Iron Age evidence in this area was notable. The presence of Roman finds such as glass, a brooch, ceramic building material and a rotary quern within several ditches and pits may indicate that Roman settlement activity is present within or very near to the site.

The geoarchaeological results identified a palaeochannel in Zone VII which was overlain by several trackways. Whilst no dating was recovered it is possible these are continuations of deposits observed in the preceding evaluation which dated to the late Saxon–medieval periods. A single medieval ditch was also identified during the evaluation.

Sutton Courtenay, Sutton Courtenay Lane

SU 50100 92400

CHARLOTTE HOWSAM

Oxford Archaeology carried out an excavation in 2019 east of Sutton Courtenay Lane, Sutton Courtenay. Preceding trial-trench evaluation in 2016 and monitoring work in 2018 of the c 10ha development site established the presence of prehistoric and Roman remains, including ditches, gullies, pits, and postholes indicative of a multi-phase settlement site. The excavated area, totalling c 1.4ha, was subsequently targeted upon these remains in the north-west of the development site.

A small quantity of residual worked flint from across the excavated area provides evidence of limited earlier prehistoric activity. The first evidence of settlement belongs to the earliest Iron Age in the form of a possible roundhouse ditch and small quantity of pottery. Evidence of more substantial settlement dates to the early Iron Age, comprising a series of curvilinear ditches defining several roundhouses. The pottery assemblage dates to the latter part of the early Iron Age (c 400–350 BC), suggesting that there was a hiatus in activity on site during the 6th and 5th centuries BC. The inter-cutting nature of many of the roundhouse ditches demonstrates a sequential pattern of occupation. There were also numerous Iron Age pits and postholes, some of

which formed four-post structures. Occupation continued throughout much of the middle Iron Age when the layout of the site developed with the establishment of several large enclosures, possibly for livestock management. Multiple recuts within the ditches demonstrate the maintenance of existing enclosures.

The extent to which the occupation of the middle Iron Age settlement continued into the late Iron Age/early Roman period is unclear. An inhumation burial radiocarbon dated to 120 cal BC–cal AD 63 (UBA-43690, 2038 ± 33, 95% probability) and a small assemblage of pottery and metal finds demonstrate that some activity occurred on the site at this time, and may indicate the earliest phase of a Romano-British rural settlement.

Evidence of activity spanning the Roman period was revealed across the excavated area, predominately composed of land boundaries and a trackway that underwent several phases of maintenance and modification. Other subsidiary ditches were inserted to reorganise the landscape during the middle and late Roman periods. Evidence of associated activity was limited to a small number of pits and postholes. Nonetheless, the quantity and variety of finds indicate the deposition of domestic waste from nearby settlement. Signs of more deliberate, placed deposits are evident, including a probable coin hoard. The addition of a corndryer and a rectangular post-built building in the late Roman period are suggestive of a developed arable farming regime, while the animal-bone assemblage highlights the importance of a mixed agricultural economy. A small number of Roman cremation and inhumation burials were present, some showing signs of trauma, including those that were placed within the latest phases of the Roman ditches and potentially associated with the abandonment of the site.

A few intercutting pits and an inhumation burial provide evidence of limited activity during the early–middle Anglo-Saxon period, with the focus of settlement perhaps located elsewhere.

Upper Heyford, Upper Heyford Airbase, Building 2010

SP 50643 26971

JANE PHIMESTER

The former RAF base at Upper Heyford in Oxfordshire is a site of international heritage significance, particularly for its well-preserved Cold War landscape, and many of its surviving structures are either listed buildings or scheduled monuments.

Recording has been undertaken on Building 2010 (Fig. 13), a crew quarters which formed part of the ‘Quick Reaction Alert Area’ constructed in 1979. The area, which includes nine hardened aircraft shelters, is a Scheduled Monument and reflects a significant period in NATO policy, with a move away from the strategy of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) to one of ‘flexible response’.

Building 2010 is in a poor condition and the recording was undertaken prior to proposed remedial works. Among the primary surviving features relating to the use of the building are ventilation towers from decontamination suites, bedrooms for the pilots, and a burger bar incorporating American signage, with corn dogs and burgers priced in dollars and cents. The United States Airforce were based at Upper Heyford during the Cold War, and such cultural features provide a time capsule of Cold War Britain.



Figure 13: Building 2010 at Upper Heyford Airbase.

OXFORDSHIRE BUILDINGS RECORD

For most of 2021 the pandemic inhibited group recording work, though a total of 30 buildings were recorded. Our projects in the north of the county continued apace, with the recording of the sixteenth century Guildhall in Chipping Norton (see below) and nine individual houses in Hook Norton, information from these will feed into the forthcoming Victoria Country History volume for the area.

In Oxford city, work has continued on a group of properties associated with the former Rectory Farm at Church Cowley, part of a project to understand the development of this former Christ Church holding. In the Vale, six houses were studied, including two small cottages in Steventon and Marcham.

We were also invited to study a number of houses of some status in their communities, and perhaps due to periods of ownership by people with resources and ideas, these in most cases entailed such radical changes as to make interpretation difficult. In this group were Coscote Manor (East Hagbourne), Grandpont House (Oxford), Charney Manor (Charney Bassett) and Duck End House (Great Rollright). Reports on all these buildings will be available in due course at the Oxfordshire History Centre.

Also partly as a result of the pandemic we have been running a number of Research Projects, aimed at encouraging members to get out and about and record things readily available in the public domain. The most successful of these so far have been the District Valuation transcripts, where 16 volumes have been completed (and available on the OBR website: <https://obr.org.uk/district-valuation-survey-transcripts/> and the collection of Inscribed Dates on

buildings of which 850 had been collected by 31 December. These will also be available on the OBR website.

DAVID CLARK

Chipping Norton, The Guildhall, Middle Row
SP 31385 27230

PAUL CLARK

Dendrochronology funded by Historic England, new documentary research and inspection during renovation works have allowed a revised interpretation of the Guildhall's developmental history, adding to past interpretations in 1937 by Thomas Rayson and 1983 by Steane & Aylwin (South Midlands Archaeology 14 (1984)). The new research was carried out by the Chipping Norton Buildings Record in association with the OBR as part of the Historic England project on Early Fabric in Historic Towns.

The present Guildhall building (Fig. 14) comprises a north-south oriented main range, a central rear range and a stair block at the south west corner. The main range is of two principal elements of almost equal size, divided by a stone wall which rises to divide the attics, and a central through-passage. The passage acts as main entrance to the building and is embellished by an ornately-moulded stone doorway. Above this are three stone-mullion first-floor windows which, together with the doorway, provide the only external features to suggest an early building. Inside is a first-floor hall with a pair of arched-braced timber roof trusses partly obscured by a match-boarded high ceiling. The trusses are ostensibly supported on four corbels and present a Gothic

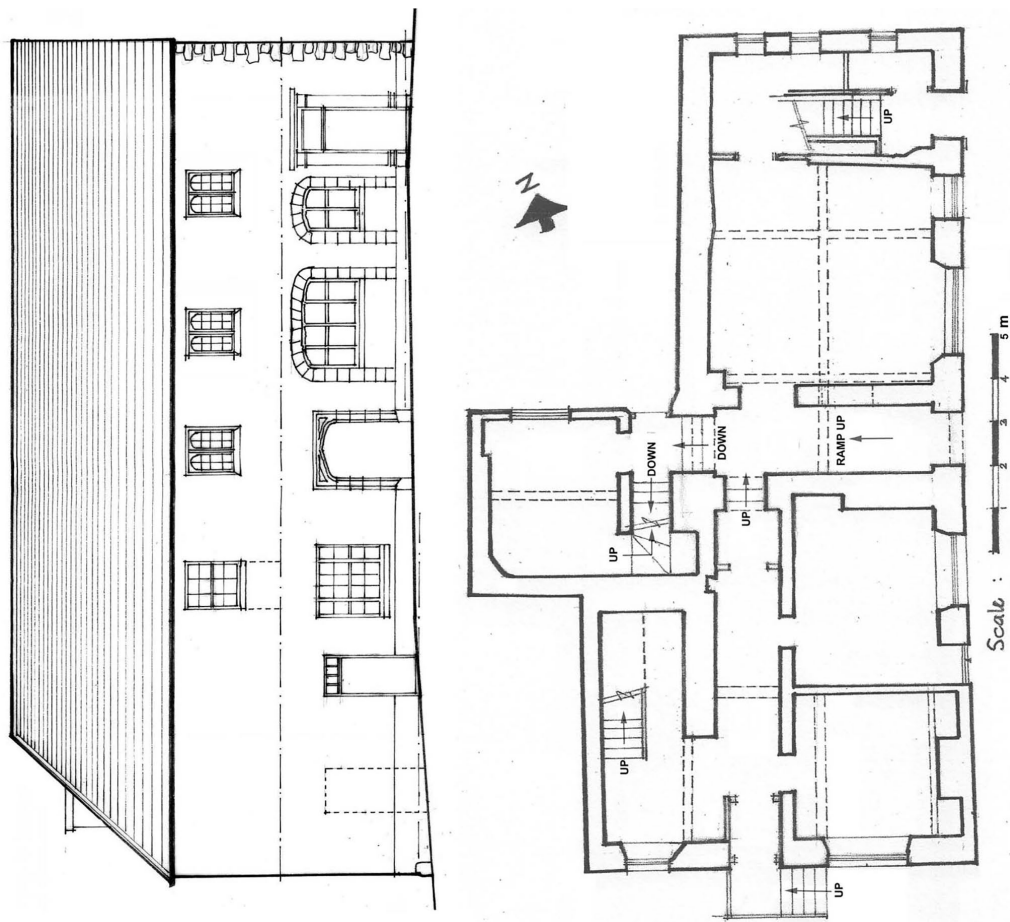


Figure 14: Chipping Norton, Guildhall plan and east elevation. © J. Cliffe.

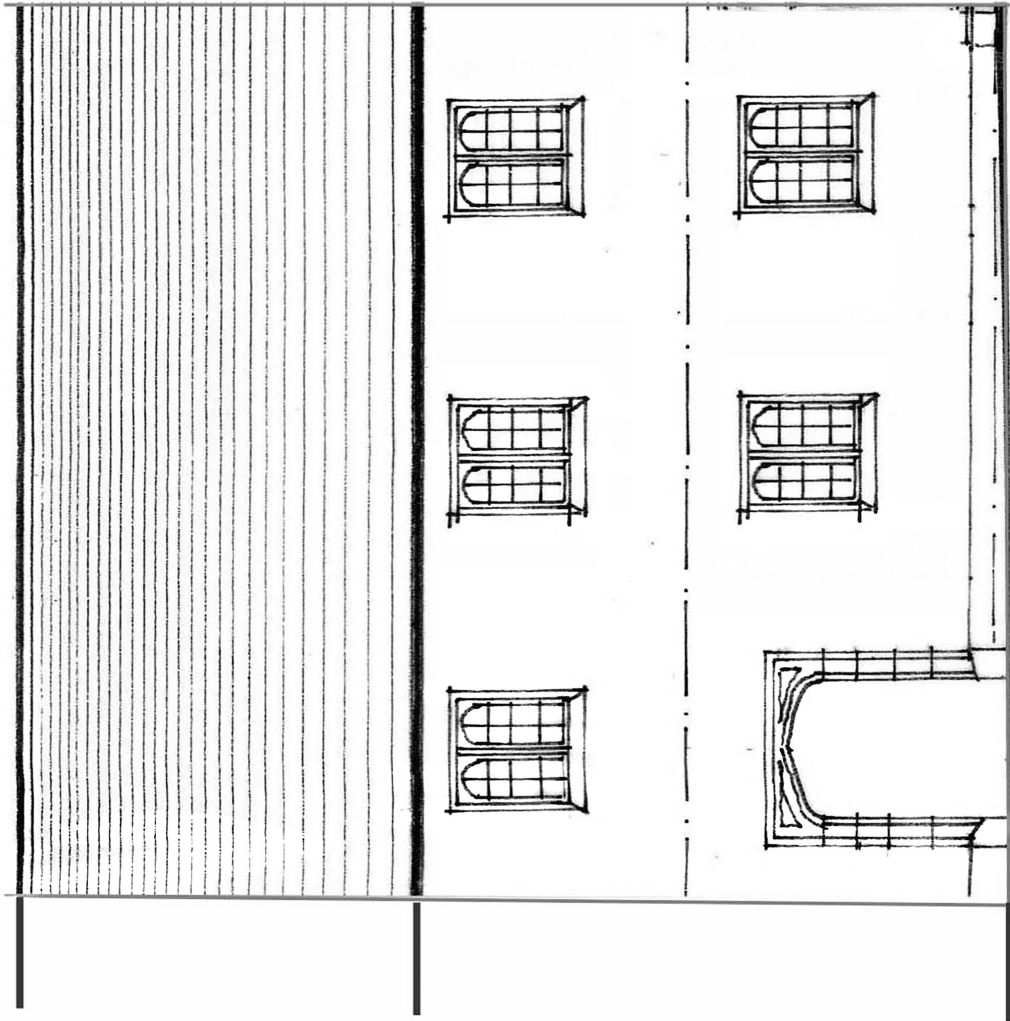


Figure 15: Chipping Norton, speculative sketch of the Guildhall as finished c.1521. This may have incorporated a building to the left. © J. Cliffe.

Oxfordshire

atmosphere to the chamber while in the room below, plain-chamfered crossing ceiling beams and some exposed stone walls compliment the building's historic character. The ground-floor ceiling beams have now been confirmed to be part of the surviving Guildhall, as are the roof trusses, but the arched braces are no more than twentieth-century embellishments with the corbels just ends of the truss's severed tie beams, which once presented deeply moulded crossed ceiling beams over the Guildhall principal chamber. The rest of the building, including the roof over the southern half, comprises eighteenth and nineteenth-century additions with only hints that earlier elements may be hidden within.

The Guildhall, as it survives today, was constructed as a hall for the Guild of the Holy Trinity in, or just after, 1520/1521 (Fig. 15). The Guild was dissolved in 1547 and the building sold to the town in 1562 after which it served as housing, shop, warehouse, reading and school rooms, fire station and even gaol, as well as Town Hall from at least 1612 until 1842.

The first-floor windows, of which there is a fourth almost hidden in the west elevation, stylistically date to the sixteenth century. The style of the main entrance suggests it is likely to date either to this time or to the Guild's foundation in 1450. The doorway suggests that the ground floor was always enclosed, unlike some halls which stood above open ground floors.

An absence of smoke blackening in the roof suggests, if there was heating, there was a hearth, although no evidence has been found for that or for primary stairs. However, the rear west wall includes many rebuilt elements and the primary north wall, which was about a metre thick, was demolished in the eighteenth century, so there are sites where these may features have existed.

Documentary evidence for the south range of the building only begins in 1776 but architectural evidence suggests an earlier date of construction. The west wall of both north and south ranges is disproportionately thick compared with other external walls, suggesting both north and south elements may have even earlier origins than 1521, although a misalignment of the two halves in the east elevation confirms they have different developmental histories.

The hipped south roof is an uncommon local feature but it may have had a structural purpose when built in the eighteenth century, to support the sixteenth-century north roof which had by then severely racked to the south. At the north end an extra roof truss with extended purlins shows the north wall and hall chamber ceiling were rebuilt on two occasions, firstly in the eighteenth century and then again in 1901 when the north part of the building was returned to public ownership and upgraded to a Technical Institute. That was when the chamber ceiling was raised to the present height with arched braces added to the roof trusses and their tie beams truncated to represent corbels. Lavatories and a straight flight of stairs were installed in the space gained by demolishing the eighteenth-century wall. At the same time the present ground-floor windows were reformed, including adding the narrow basket arch over north one, matching the wider eighteenth-century arch to its left. Heating was then provided by a ground-floor hearth in the west wall and a first-floor hearth in the principal cross wall.

The central rear range may be an early structure and remains a potential site for the primary stair. It is currently linked by a sixteenth-century doorway at the west end of

the through passage, although that seems to have been an external entrance. That range, as well as the south stair block, have been substantially rebuilt over subsequent centuries, so there is little evidence for their earlier forms, if any.

The Guildhall survey and conclusions will be published in CNBR/OBR Report OBR.468 available on the OBR website at www.obr.org.uk

Wallingford, 13–15 High Street SU 60849 89485

DAVID CLARK

These houses (Fig. 16) are located on the south side of the High Street prominently sited on this main thoroughfare from the centre of Wallingford to the bridge crossing of the River Thames. The property forms one continuous range located parallel to and opening directly onto the street. The building is timber-framed, re-fronted in brick with painted render. The main roof and those of the rear extensions are of old red clay tiles. There is an off-ridge brick stack between Nos. 13 and 14.



Figure 16: 13–15 High Street, Wallingford.

The origin of the building was a three bay hall house, with no jetting and without evidence of Wealden construction, as can be seen further along the street. The hall (No 14) and service end (No 15) were separated by a through passage at the lower end of the hall. The ground floor plan is shown in Fig. 17. There was a further bay to the east, which we were unable to access as it is part of the adjacent property (No 13 High Street). Although there was a considerable amount of smoke-blackening of the roof timbers, there was also a large brick stack of an early date on the south side of the western bay. In the late 16th or early 17th century the building was adapted with a floor inserted into the hall and low end service bay. A stack was built within the open hall at the high end, against a supposed solar partition. Possibly at the same time a rear range with a clasped purlin roof was added behind the already existing stack parallel to No 15. Interestingly, there was no evidence that the service end was floored in the primary phase.

The cellar to No 15 contained a number of unexplained niches as well as two large, squared blocks of limestone, which may be medieval in date, in a circular headed recess in the east wall. It is probable that the brick chimney stack was formerly external and related to the service function of the lower end of the hall house.



Figure 18: 13–15 High Street, Wallingford, Fragment of late C16 wall-painting.

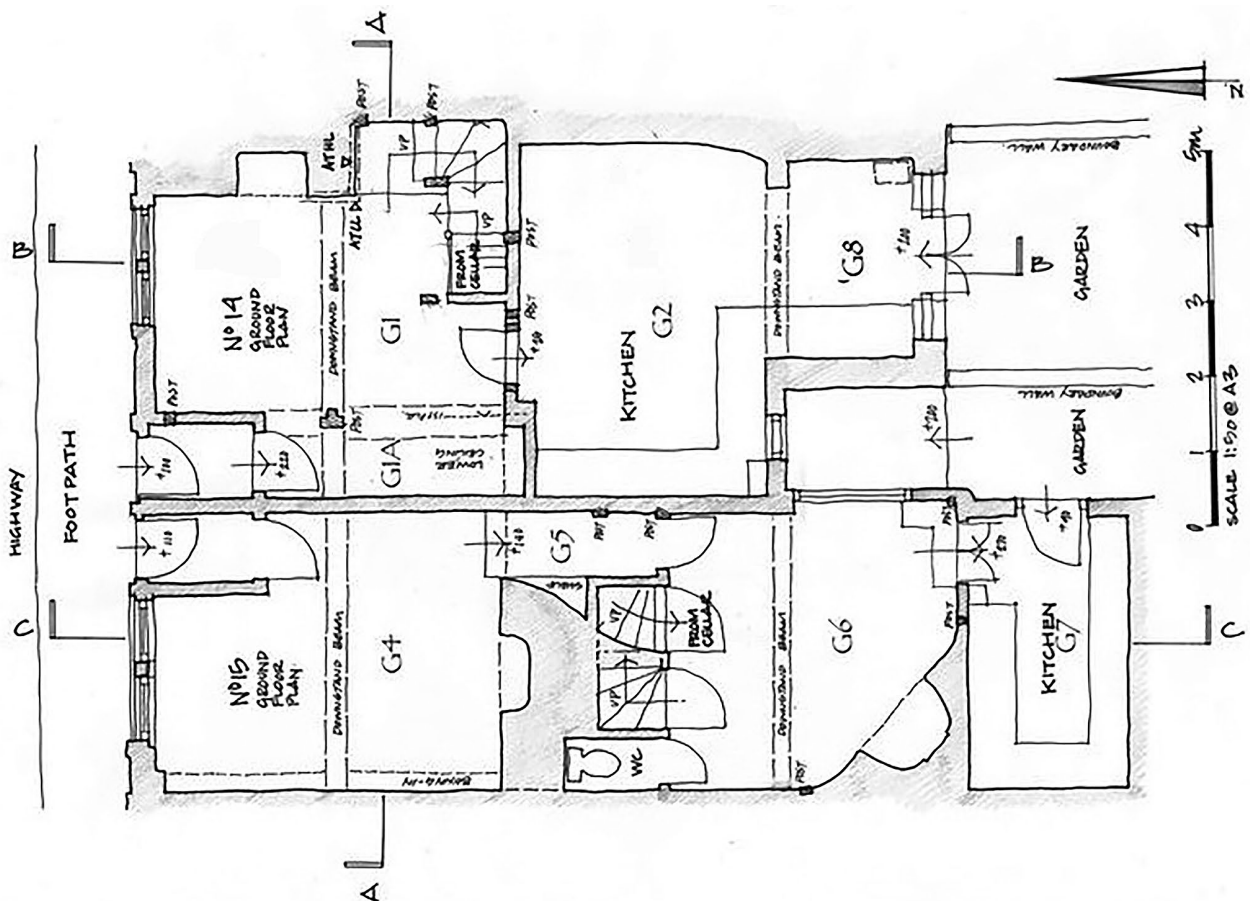


Figure 17: 13–15 High Street, Wallingford, Ground floor plan.

Oxfordshire

Primary fabric included a smoke blackened principal-rafter roof with clasped purlins (the purlins visible today seem to be later replacements), raking struts and evidence for wind braces. Further medieval evidence included soot encrusted plaster to the inner face of one of the roof trusses, wattle and daub infill and trestle-sawn timber with its characteristic triangular 'snap'.

Later interventions, probably late 16th century, include the inserted floors in the hall/service range with stop chamfered beams with ogee or lambs tongue stops and ceiling beams in the rear range to No 15. A wall painting with a simple outline strapwork design is also indicative of this date (Fig. 18). (More elaborate examples of the same period are at No 19 High Street, Nettlebed, 3 Cornmarket, Oxford, and 126 High Street, Oxford).

A 17th century phase is indicated by various features including a bolection moulded fireplace and plank doors in the rear range. The corner fireplace in the rear range to No 15 may be late 17th or 18th century. In the 18th to early 19th century the rear wall of the hall bay (No 14), was largely or wholly removed and a new rear range added in brick with a hipped tiled roof and dentilled eaves. This roof comprises re-used flatways smoke blackened rafters bridled at the apex and alternating north/south, with evident lathing scars on the underside of the timbers.

Various repairs and alterations were carried out to the main hall/service roofs probably in the late 18th or 19th century as well as the 20th century. Interventions are shown in the form of clean secondary purlins without smoke blackening, inserted below the primary smoke blackened flatways rafters. The purlins are nailed into position with various cleats and braces and the primary rafters are pegged to their upper faces.

The building was sub-divided and re-fronted in the early 19th century by which time the eastern bay (No 13) had been separated off and was treated differently. Evidence for the re-fronting includes masonry and render applied on the front face of the timber-frame, sash windows, two front doors with incised panels and doorcases with medallion decoration and reeded pilasters. Internal alterations include partition walls between Nos. 14 and 15.

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL: ARCHAEOLOGY IN OXFORD CITY 2021

DAVID RADFORD, OXFORD CITY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGIST

The pace of archaeological work in Oxford increased dramatically over the last year as Covid restrictions receded. A number of targeted investigations examined a range of key assets in the town, reflecting the continuing pressure of development in the historic core, including the second site of the Blackfriars, Oseney Abbey, the Castle Bailey ditch, the town ditch, medieval Shidyerd Street and the Civil War defences. Beyond the city centre a number of proposed housing developments sites were evaluated, revealing previously unknown Roman domestic sites in Iffley and Littlemore.

A selective summary of 2021 fieldwork projects

In January an evaluation was undertaken at Court Place Gardens by Cotswold Archaeology revealing Roman ditches and pottery approximately 25m west of Iffley Church,

indicating the presence of a previously unrecorded domestic settlement in the vicinity of mid to late first century AD date.

An evaluation was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology in March within and to the south of the Old Quad at Hertford College. Recorded medieval features included possible gravel extraction pits, building demolition debris, garden soils, a stone-lined waste pit and drain (possibly used as a boundary between two academic halls) as well as gravel surfaces associated with occupation deposits. Post-medieval features included mortar surfaces with a single robbed east-west foundation wall possibly relating to a mason's yard (sixteenth to eighteenth century).

Between March and July intermittent excavations were undertaken by MOLA at the (second) site of the medieval Blackfriars. The excavations recorded medieval internal and external wall foundations, floors and an arrangement of stones that might perhaps be a staircase base belonging to the western range of the main cloister. A structure west of the church, possibly part of the galilee, produced fragments of painted window glass. A nearby coffin lid was preserved in-situ.

In April evaluation trenching by Oxford Archaeology on land at the Tinbergen Building site on South Parks Road revealed the line of the outer Royalist defences and enabled preservation in situ of the surviving ditch (Fig. 19) below the development works compound.

Between July and August Oxford Archaeology undertook a targeted excavation of the Castle Bailey ditch to its full depth at the former Simon House site on Paradise Street. Provisional phasing from the dig suggests that the original eleventh century ditch was re-cut in the mid to late fifteenth century and infilled and encroached upon in the sixteenth or seventeenth centuries.

A programme of phased recording, comprising boreholes, excavation and watching brief, was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology between July and November in the basement of the former Boswells department store on corner of Cornmarket and Broad Street. The project investigated the line of the late Saxon and medieval town ditch and the scientific dates from borehole samples are keenly awaited.

Between July and December the Cathedral Archaeologist Graham Keavill undertook building recording during upgrading works to the Old Library at Christ Church which forms part of the southern cloistral range of the medieval Priory of St Fireside's. The removal of twentieth century plasterboard surrounds from the third floor revealed previously unrecorded thirteenth century colonettes. Other discoveries included fifteenth century arcading on the north, south, west and east interior wall of the building and the uncovering of a medieval door in the west wall (Fig.20).

A small trench by Oxford Archaeology at Corpus Christi College in August investigated the line of Oriel Street (formerly Shidyerd Street), recording a series of possible (as yet unconfirmed) Late Saxon and medieval road surfaces and peripheral pits and an early compacted gravel layer that was covered by a thin organic silt and pierced by a wooden stake.

Between September and October Oxford Archaeology undertook an excavation at the former Osney Power Station site located just within the projected northern extent of the former medieval precinct of Oseney Abbey. A series of medieval make-up layers, walls, floors and pits were recorded that were associated with one or more buildings.



Figure 19: Oxford, Royalist Civil War ditch at Rhodes House, South Parks Road, looking west (Courtesy of MOLA) .



Figure 20: Oxford, Medieval door exposed by renovations at the Old Library, Christ Church (Courtesy of Graham Keevill).

Oxfordshire

Investigations by MOLA between December 2020 and October 2021 in the grounds of Rhodes House, South Parks Road, revealed a palaeo-channel incised into the Summertown Radley gravel terrace and a large ditch that is likely to form part of the inner line of the Royalist Civil War defences. Towards the end of the project drip gullies and pits of Iron Age date were recorded.

In November an archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land near Northfield Hostel, Sandy Lane, Littlemore by Cotswold Archaeology, revealing ditches, post holes and pottery belonging to a previously unknown second to fourth century Roman site.

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Cholsey, Land southeast of Wallingford Road

SU 59439 86784

DOUGLAS KILLOCK

Pre-Construct Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological excavation on land off Wallingford Road, Cholsey. The investigations revealed Early Bronze Age through to Late Iron Age/Romano-British field systems that were set off a central trackway/droeway as well as an early Bronze Age cremation urn (Fig.21), two later inhumations and several deliberate animal burials. Scanning of the cremation urn prior to micro-excavation indicated the presence of a metal object. On excavation this proved to be a pyrite pebble which along with a flint plano-convex knife (Fig. 22) may have formed part of a strike-a-light, or 'fire-kit', attested to in prehistoric mortuary contexts throughout Britain. A publication report is in preparation.

Fringford, Land Adjacent to Old School House, Farriers Close SP 60373 28919

WAYNE PERKINS

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in November 2021 as a condition of planning permission for the residential development of the site. Two evaluation trenches were excavated. Natural deposit of clayey sand was observed at the base of the stratigraphic sequence, truncated by a refuse pit of late 18th- to early 19th-century date. A short section of a north-east to south-west orientated wall was recorded to the southeast of the pit. It was built of a combination of fragmentary sandstone and brick and was interpreted as a foundation structure. The masonry was also dated to late 18th century to 19th century. Both features were possibly associated with an agricultural outbuilding within a paddock, as documentary evidence suggested that the area remained open fields until late 19th century. The upper sequence on site consisted of modern topsoil.

Radley, Radley Primary School SU 52340 99403

ROBIN WEAVER & GARETH MORGAN

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in the grounds of Radley School and an adjoining agricultural field. The investigations demonstrated that the school grounds had been subjected to modern truncation during the construction of the school and as a result, any archaeology, if present, had been removed at that time. In the field to the east, an undated pit and a single linear feature were revealed but the lack of artefactual material suggested that these features

were associated with agricultural land management and lay away from any areas of occupation.

Wantage, Land at Pewit Farm, Manor Road SU 4048084632

GARETH MORGAN

Pre-Construct Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation within the curtilage of Pewit Farm, south of Wantage. The site was located immediately northeast of a probable Bronze Age barrow. However, in this instance no features or deposits of archaeological interest were identified.

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

Harpsden, High Wood, Romano-Celtic Temple Complex SU 75117956

ALAN HALL

Over 7 seasons of excavations, **2015–2021**, South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group (SOAG) have investigated the partial remains of a Romano-Celtic Temple complex with the *ambulatory* and *cella* set within a rectangular *temenos* enclosure (Figs. 23 & 24) which encompasses a range of at least 3 rooms. These rooms appeared to have been of low-middle status with a concrete floor in Room 2, but no tessellation or hypocaust heating, which was probably supplied by a brazier. Evidence from tile forms and coin deposition suggest that the buildings were constructed in the mid-3rd century AD and appear to have suffered a catastrophic collapse into a solution sinkhole in the late 4th century AD.

The complex overlies evidence of Late Iron Age/Early Romano British exploitation of the site and there is evidence, from the find of an EBA "basket" ear decoration, of a possible Beaker period burial in the locality.

The site has been subject to the depredations of illegal metal detectorists over the last 40 years and there was clear evidence of "antiquarian" excavation in the mid- late 18th century, which had removed stratigraphy and, possibly much artefactual evidence.

Despite the difficulties of working in a woodland setting, much of the plan has been established and the close proximity of the *ambulatory* and *cella* to a range of buildings in the *temenos* wall is noteworthy. The southern part of the site had been destroyed with no remaining structures, but a buttressed entrance way was found in the eastern wall. The areas of the eastern and western *temenos* walls which were excavated showed substantial roof falls, but with no evidence of structural support apparent. The existence of some form of colonnade or "cloister" may be postulated.

209 Coins have been recovered, dating from the Late Iron Age to mid C4 which suggests that the religious significance of the site endured throughout the Roman period. The site compares in size and orientation with the temple at Wood Eaton (Goodchild and Kirk, 1954).

Dating of the construction of the excavated buildings is reliant on the early votive coin deposits – largely mid-3rd century AD and on interpretation of the lower cutaway inserts of the *tegulae* (roof tiles) which comprise Warry types 4 and 5 [AD 160–260] and Warry types 1, 15 and 16 [AD >240] (Warry, 2006).



Figure 21: Cholsey, early Bronze Age cremation urn.



Figure 22: Cholsey, possible 'strike-a-light' kit from early Bronze Age cremation.

Oxfordshire

Fortunately, the sinkhole had not been excavated previously and the undisturbed fill contained a range of “votive” coins which had collapsed into it from the *cella* area and dating from mid-3rd century AD to AD367.

Also, of note, the fill of the sinkhole contained a white-patinated pointed and flaked ovate handaxe of Paleolithic or Neolithic date. Other possibly “votive” finds of note from the site were 4 encrusted masses of Roman chain mail, a possible pilum point, and fragments of over 60 quern stones. There was no evidence of earlier phases of construction.

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Stadhampton, Ascott Park, C17 Manor House

SU 6114 9823

IAN CLARKE & ROELIE REED

Introduction

A detailed introduction to the Ascott Park project and a summary of earlier work on the site appeared in *SMA No 44 (2014)* and *SOAG Bulletin No 68 (2014)* (Clarke 2014a & 2014b). Interim reports for the current project appeared in *South Midlands Archaeology No 49 (2019)* and *SOAG Bulletin No 73 (2019)* (Clarke & Reed 2019a & 2019b) and in *South Midlands Archaeology No 50 (2020)* (Clarke & Reed 2020).

In brief, the current project covers an investigation by excavation of the site long held by local tradition to be that of William Dormer’s new manor house at Ascott, which burnt down in 1662 when close to completion and was never occupied. The current excavations were planned to take place over three years, 2018–20, but due to Covid-19 restrictions the 2020 Summer excavations were postponed to Spring 2021. This interim report gives a summary of the findings from that final 2021 season.

The provisional ground plans of the house and terrace are shown in Fig. 25 superimposed on the earthwork survey by English Heritage (Historic England) (Bowden & Rardin 2007).

Progress summary 2021

It was agreed in early 2020 that there were two areas of concern arising from the 2018–19 excavations which should be addressed: the lack of truly convincing evidence for the line of the house north wall and a continuing uncertainty over the original depth of the basement cut. It was also noted that we did not have a clear understanding of the surface geology through which the basement had been excavated, which it was agreed must be investigated by test boring in advance of further excavation. With Covid-19 restrictions still in place in the Spring of 2021 and not wishing to further extend the excavations, the 2020 plans (Clarke & Reed 2020, pp 128, 129) were reduced to a minimum to give a high probability of completion, the tasks selected being those that directly supported the project aims and addressed the above areas of concern.

Surface geology

Ascott Park is located on a remnant of the Upper Thames 2nd Terrace, the Summertown-Radley Sand and Gravel Member, which here overlies Gault clay bedrock. The surface geology in the area of the basement was examined by three 25mm hand-auger borings made from level ground close to the hollow: AU1 to the west, AU2 and AU3 to the north. Ground Level for these borings was 60.0+/-0.1m. The land is free draining and was very dry in the upper levels, so in all cases the fine, black, friable topsoil was not recovered.

AU3 – max. depth 2.250m

The topsoil was c. 0.5m thick. Below that was a sandy clay subsoil with an indistinct transition to 2nd Terrace sand at c. 0.75–1.0m. (Excavation has confirmed that this transition is much disturbed by bioturbation, largely mole activity.) Below that, the terrace geology is of successive reddish-brown sand deposits of varying fineness and compaction, becoming yellowish-brown, softer and wetter below c. 1.9m.

AU2 – max. depth 1.200m

The results were the same as AU3 to the limited depth reached.

AU1 – max. depth 2.780

Below a thinner topsoil c. 0.2m thick, AU1 passed through a ‘demolition layer’ of mortar and brick fragments, below which were the same sand layers as AU3 down to c. 1.9m. Below that the sand was yellowish, much wetter and ‘gritty’, containing fine gravels.

Basement floor level and depth

A small hand-auger cannot tell us anything about larger inclusions. Excavation has shown that the upper terrace sand deposits down to c. 1.7m include moderate small/medium, angular/sub-angular flints; below that level flints are rare and very small. The basement pit was therefore excavated through the upper deposits of flint-bearing sand down to the underlying deposit of largely flint-free and more compact sand; the interface between these two being distinct and easily detected with the trowel. The natural deposit that forms the floor of the basement cut is sensibly flat. Its average level from readings in five widely separated trenches is 58.31+/-0.1m.

Whilst the ground level close to the hollow is 60.0m (see above), survey levels taken north of the hollow in 2018 showed that this is lower than the surrounding area, indicative of soil erosion towards the hollow over time. The average level further away from the hollow was 60.48m. Allowing say 0.3m for turf and soil stripping from the construction site gives a cleared ground level of 60.18m. These figures give us an average depth for the basement cut of 1.87m, or just over 6ft.

East enclosure ground plan

Earlier work had shown that the end of terrace retaining walls were contiguous with the walls of the formal garden south of the terrace; the east wall is extant but the west robbed out. Furthermore, these walls also extended northwards of the terrace, presumably to form walled enclosures on each side of the house (Dix 2012; Clarke & Reed 2020). The resistivity geophysics supported this on the east side and suggested that the NE corner might be curved (Clarke & Latham 2015). In



Figure 23: Harpsden, High Wood, Site plan.



Figure 24: Harpsden, High Wood, Aerial photo of temple structure.

Oxfordshire

2021, Dix's Trench 5 was reopened to reveal the NE terrace corner as a reference point. The northward continuation of the east terrace wall was then traced by probing to a point where it appeared to come to an end about 9m north of the terrace. A 1.5x1m trench (Tr40) excavated at this point revealed the robbed out end of the wall foundation (Fig 26). Brick rubble in the bottom of the trench showed that the wall had continued into the north baulk, as expected.

The end of the wall coincided with the point where geophysics suggested the westward curve of the NE corner might commence. Two small trenches (1x0.6m) were now opened: the first (Tr40A) 1m north of Tr40 and the second (Tr40B) 1.5m NW. A U-shaped robber trench profile could clearly be seen in the north baulk of 40A with an iron strap protruding from the backfill, so the wall had continued straight rather than curving to the west. Tr40B, opened to look for the curve, was in fact about 1.5m SW of where it should have been; beneath 0.15–0.2m of topsoil was the compacted subsoil surface of the enclosure, with inclusions of small flints, pea gravel and mortar.

A third small trench (Tr40C) was opened 0.25m north of 40A. The robber trench profile in its south baulk was less obvious but fragments of rough-hewn limestone at the bottom confirmed it. No profile could be seen in the north baulk. It was suggested that perhaps the enclosure wall had a square corner (rather than curved) and turned west at about this point. The narrow baulk between 40A and 40C was therefore removed and the west section examined for where the north wall had been robbed out but without success. Later, all three trenches were linked.

House ground plan

The presumed line of the house north wall is indicated by a shallow, linear depression which Dix (2012) interpreted as a robber trench. This feature is bounded on its north side by a sand glaciis sloping upwards at *c.* 20° (Clarke & Reed 2020). The wall line is also coincident with a distinct, high resistance linear anomaly in the resistivity geophysics (Clarke & Latham 2015). No masonry or clear evidence of demolition had been found but Dix noted that: “*A line of stonework visible in the surface nearby could represent the more complete survival of the wall that was otherwise taken away...*”. Unfortunately, the location of this was not recorded and the masonry is no longer visible. Extensive probing in 2021 failed to locate it but did indicate a stony or rubble layer at basement depth along the wall line.

On the basis that the most likely masonry to survive might be central steps leading down to the basement, a trench (Tr42) was placed astride the centre point of the wall line and excavated to the level of the basement floor. No masonry was found but again there was a shallow linear depression on the wall line with the sand glaciis on its north side. A narrow sondage at the east end of the trench sectioned the shallow depression which proved to be filled with a densely packed deposit of flint gavel in a sandy soil matrix.

The eastern half of the trench was then extended northwards and a box section excavated to reveal more of the glaciis. Although the interface between the glaciis surface and the overlying subsoil is much disturbed by bioturbation, it was clearly a deliberate cut made at *c.* 20° through ‘natural’ terrace sand. It constitutes the northern cut of the basement hollow. The overlying deposits are neatly stratified, representing natural erosion of sand and heavier flints first

and then mixed sand and soil, each layers increasing in depth from top to bottom of the slope. It is concluded that the flint gravel accumulation at the base of the glaciis is the origin of the linear anomaly seen in the geophysics. It is worth noting that 20° is a stable angle for sand.

A red herring

During the back-filling in 2019, the mechanical excavator accidentally uncovered what appeared to be masonry that it was thought might be on the line of the house east wall. When relocated in 2021 it was found to be well east of the wall line. It was excavated (Tr43) and found not to be masonry but rather a deliberate placement of closely packed, very large/boulder sized rough limestones, all laid with bedding planes horizontal. There is an alignment along one side but at an acute angle to the house and terrace. It had something of the appearance of a rockery but there was no evidence of planting, the stones being embedded in clean soil just below the turf. It is perhaps more likely to be the remains of a drystone foundation for something heavy. It may simply be unused constructional stone.

Basement construction

Excavation along the south wall of the house in 2018/19 had offered *prima facie* evidence for basement vaulting, either groin or barrel. The probable location for groin vault pillars is easily calculated for a 5x4 bay house. For barrel vaulting, the most likely configuration would be two vaults springing from a central lateral wall. If the basement was not vaulted, a popular construction for double pile houses at the time was a substantial lateral spine wall to support flooring timbers and to house fireplaces and flues. A 2m square trench (Tr44) was opened on the lateral centreline of the house plan at a location where a pillar would be located for a 5x4 bay groin vault, thus covering the three possibilities. The basement floor was reached at a depth of *c.* 0.5m and the lowest level carefully trowelled; a thin layer of windblown soil covering the basement floor (first noted by Dix) gives further confirmation of this level. There was no evidence of either a pillar base or spine wall construction or of any demolition of such.

Re-examining the terrace fill

Our ambitious project plan for reopening and extending the full section of the bank made by Everett (1969) was cancelled and replaced in 2021 by a part section (Tr45) along the line of Dix's Tr7 (2009). First a two metre length of Dix's trench was reopened on the flat top of the terrace bank northwards from the lateral centreline. With topsoil removed the trench was cleaned up to expose the upper surface of the terrace fill (the maximum depth reached by Dix). This proved to be a deposit of *c.* 25% irregular large limestone rubble, brick fragments and medium sub-angular flints in a lime and sandy soil matrix. Levels were taken giving an average of 60.80m.

The trench was then extended northwards to the line of the south wall of the house and excavated by hand. The terrace consisted of a wide variety of different layers, including lime mortar, yellowish sand, a mixture of these and finally a layer of reddish-brown silty sand. All layers had inclusions of a wide variety: limestone fragments, flints, cobbles, fine gravel and CBM.

There was insufficient time to excavate the entire trench to ground level, this being reached only at the north end;

for the remainder excavation stopped with 0.1–0.2m to go. There was no evidence of fire damaged material such as that found by Everett (1969). A Charles II copper farthing dating to the 1670s was recovered from an undisturbed deposit at a level of 60.26m, i.e. very close to ground level. It has yet to be conserved.

Discussion

The surface geology report needs no further comment other than to note that this was far from a geological survey, merely sufficient to understand the nature of the ground through which the pit for the basement had been dug.

The cleared ground level is estimated at 60.18m. It is appropriate to note here that the average of ten spot levels taken at various points around the terrace limestone foundations is also 60.18m, i.e. the foundations were built up to the cleared ground level.

Our failure to trace the NE corner of the east enclosure (Tr40–40C) was a clear case of misdirection from the top. The suggestion that the corner was perhaps square rather than curved was not unreasonable but to look for the turn within the confines of trenches 40A/40C was patently wrong, as these were c. 4m south of the line of the north wall indicated by the geophysics. There are no excuses but we all lose our way sometimes.

The failure to locate Dix's lost 'north wall' masonry was serious so a final attempt will be made to find it when resources permit. However, from the work in Tr42 we are now confident that the floor of the basement cut and the line of the north wall proposed by Dix are correct. The diggers had no difficulty in detecting the contextual change between overburden and undisturbed natural when the floor was reached. And rising from this level is the 20° glacis of the north cut with the adjacent linear declivity giving the line of the north wall. Whether the 20° cut was the original basement cut for the house construction or was made after the house was demolished, is under consideration.

The absence of evidence for a robbed out pillar base or spine wall foundation on the basement floor in Tr44 was a disappointment but not a surprise. It simply confirms the findings from all previous excavations: that within the hollow there is a notable absence of evidence for the house construction and subsequent demolition. This does not mean these events did not happen, rather that there was a post-demolition process that removed the evidence. We do not yet fully understand what that process was but it is a subject of discussion.

The level of 60.80m in Tr45 on top of the terrace bank is essential data toward an estimate of the height of the terrace. A level was also taken at the top of the scar in the east boundary wall where the south terrace wall was robbed out, which gave 61.82m. The 1m difference in these heights must be made up from the thickness of the surfacing material of the terrace (robbed out for reuse), the settlement and slumping of the terrace bank over time and the height of any terrace parapet. The thickness of the brick retaining walls is part of the equation as this defines the maximum height of earth fill that can be supported. Research on this area is well advanced and will be published later.

The copper farthing from the bottom of the terrace fill is a major find. These Charles II farthings were minted from 1672–79. It gives us a *terminus post quem* date for the filling of the terrace and confirms that the terrace was empty at the

time of the 1662 fire. The proposition that the terrace could contain material from that fire is therefore justified.

Acknowledgements

Our sincere thanks go to: Oxfordshire County Council for permission to excavate in the delightful surroundings of Ascott Park and to Richard Oram of County Archaeological Services for his valued advice and support; to Oxfordshire Buildings Trust for their continuing support and encouragement; to the many in the local community who have been keen supporters of the attempts to unravel the mystery of Ascott Park, not least to our good friends John and Arlene Osbourne, former tenants; to the ever-helpful Jeremy Mogford (current tenant) and Phil White of D'Oyleys Farm who look after the Park; to the SOAG Committee for their enthusiastic and unwavering support and lastly to the many volunteer diggers from SOAG and elsewhere who have worked so incredibly hard and successfully.

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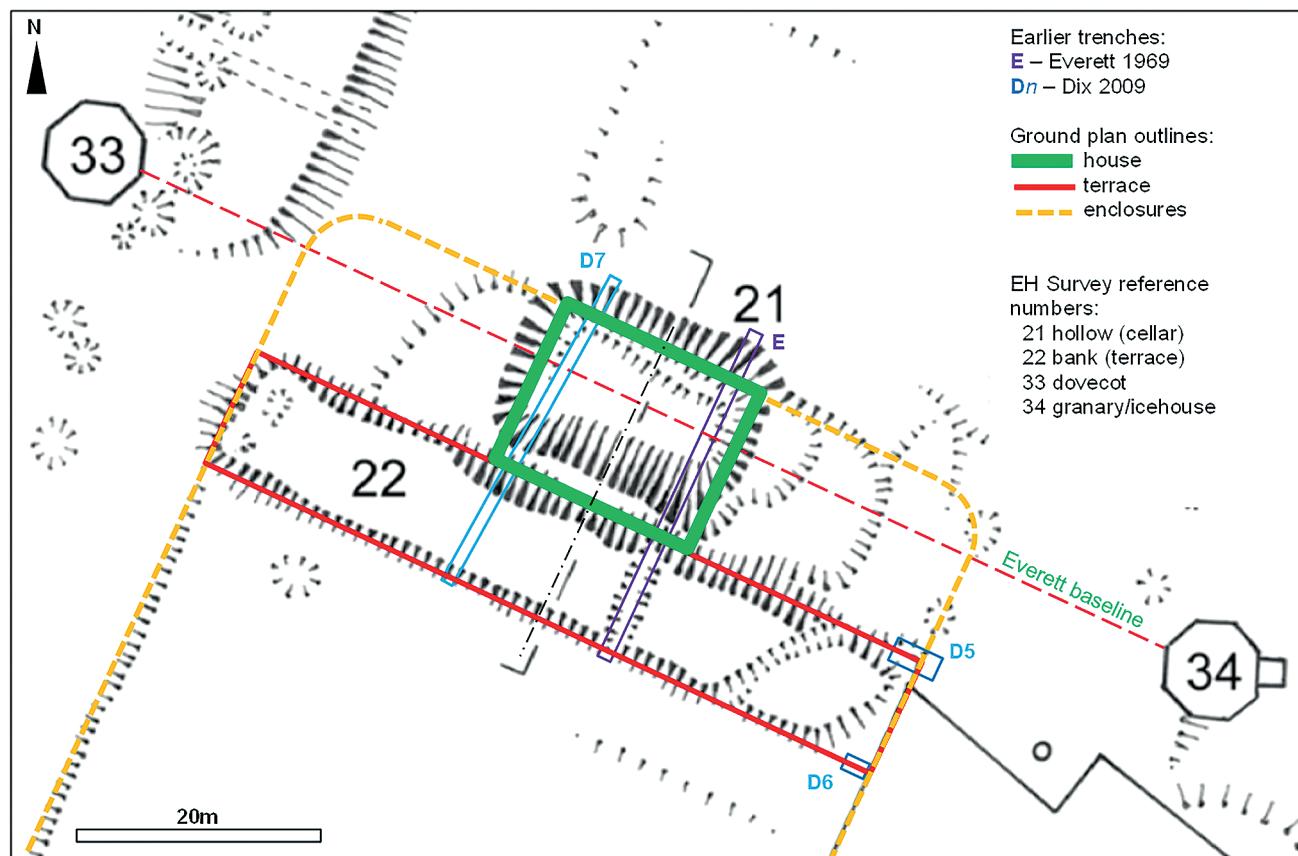


Figure 25: Ascott Park, ground plan of the house and terrace superimposed on the earthwork survey of the traditional 'hollow and bank' site.



Figure 26: Ascott Park, Trench 40, looking east at the robbed-out end of the east enclosure wall, 9m north of the terrace.

**Thrupp, nr Faringdon, Smokedown Farm SU 30322
98851**

BILL ANNAN

This site, a new SOAG project, is located in the gravel terrace of the Upper Thames Valley and is a hitherto unknown Late Iron Age and Romano-British enclosure, with surrounding field systems. It is within a working arable field, so fieldwork has to work around the farming activities (Fig. 27).

Our 2021 programme, which enjoyed tremendous support from the landowning family, was carried out in accordance with a project plan approved by Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service, and with the consent of the Rural Payments Agency pursuant to Environmental Stewardship arrangements to which the land is subject. The programme had the dual objectives of continuing the geophysical survey of the field initiated in 2020 and the excavation of two trial trenches to test the underlying archaeology.

The magnetometry survey of the 'enclosure area' (Fig. 28) shows a range of ditches, gullies and other potential features indicative of multi-period occupation and reorganisation and which may potentially belong to an Iron Age/Roman phase (although of course at this stage earlier or later features cannot be ruled out). These include inner and outer perimeter ditches and, within the enclosure itself, four possible ring gullies (potentially indications of roundhouses and/or ancillary buildings/enclosures) and a rectangular feature at the western end. The survey of the wider field shows complex field systems and enclosures.

The excavation of the two trial trenches (marked in red on Fig. 28) confirmed the existence of substantive archaeology beneath the agricultural topsoil and subsoil.

In Trench 1 we concentrated on taking a section of the inner northern enclosure ditch and investigating a wall on the southern (internal) side of the ditch and a limestone/mortar feature on the northern (external) side of the ditch.

The perimeter ditch was found to be nearly four metres wide from lip to lip and is believed to be Late Iron Age in origin – the lower fill contained pottery sherds from the first half of the 1st Century CE, as well as livestock bones and (indicating standing water and therefore accumulation during use) freshwater snails. The upper ditch fill, which appears to be back-fill, contained pottery from a wide range of dates from the 2nd to 4th Centuries CE. There was a scatter of limestone masonry lying on top of the ditch fill, likely tumble from the demolition of the wall.

The wall foundations comprised heavily mortared small to medium limestone in places up to 4–5 courses deep and followed the line of ditch. Pottery sherds found immediately beneath the wall dated from the 2nd Century CE.

The limestone/mortar spread comprised a hard and compact surface formed with small to medium limestone with copious mortar and pebbles. It also followed the line of the ditch and overlapped its outer edge. Its function is uncertain at this stage – possibly a platform forming the base of a structure (it seems too narrow to be a trackway or a floor surface). Pottery finds beneath the feature date from the early Roman period.



Figure 27: Thrupp, Smokedown Farm, working shot.

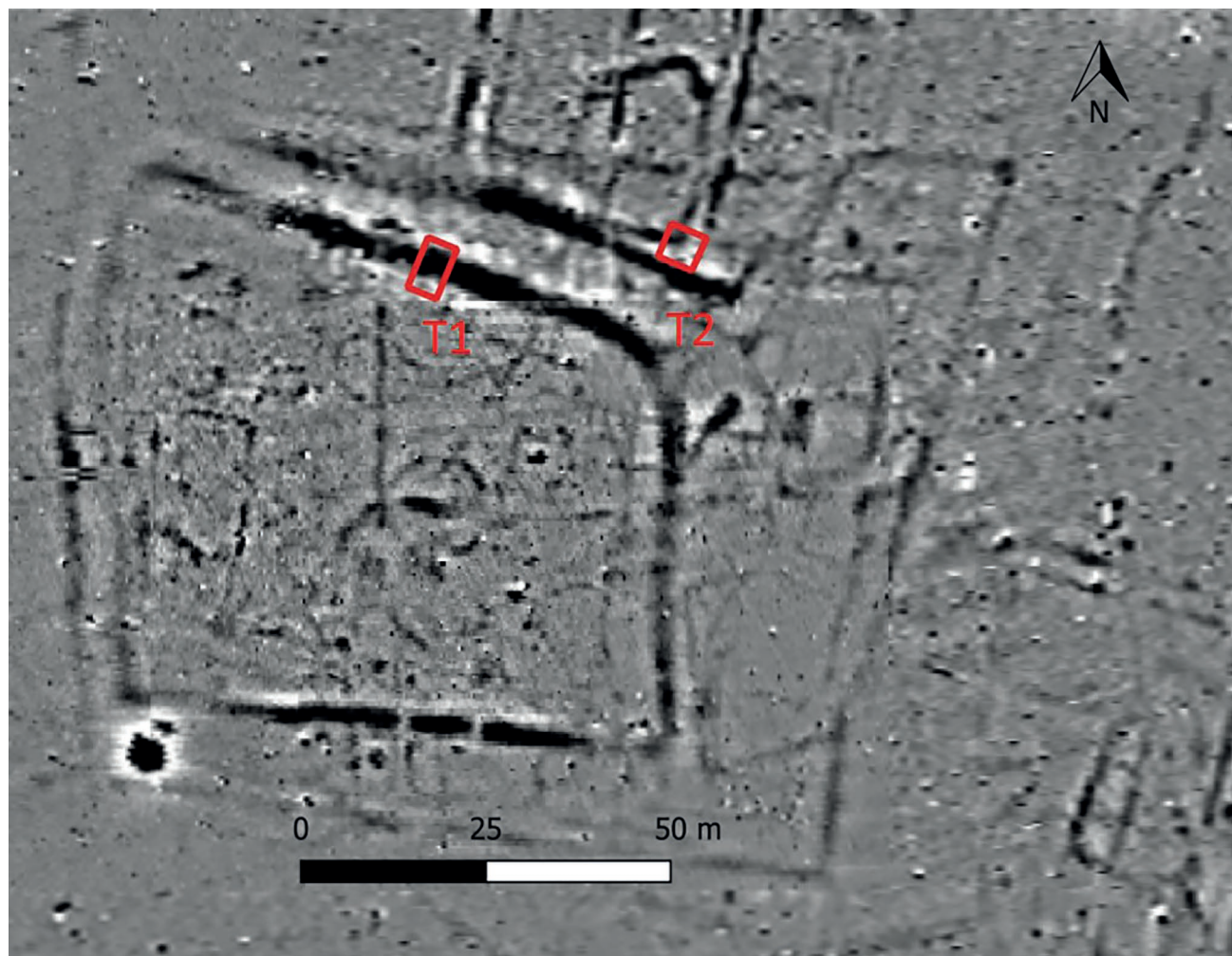


Figure 28: Thrupp, Smokedown Farm, magnetometer survey plot showing trench positions.

Trench 2 revealed two fairly uniform gullies, which the magnetometry indicates meet to form one corner of a rectangular enclosure. Pottery indicates that the gully fills date from the later 1st Century CE onwards.

851 pottery sherds were found. There were a few post-Roman sherds in the topsoil/subsoil layers, but otherwise the pottery covers a full range of dates from the beginning of the 1st Century to the end of the 4th Century CE.

No coins or other special finds were found except in the topsoil layers. The eight coins and bracelet fragment that were found all came from the topsoil/subsoil layers and were badly degraded. All date from the 3rd/4th Centuries CE.

607 fragments of bone and teeth were found, largely in the ditch and gully fills. 96% of the identifiable bones came from domestic livestock, predominantly sheep and cattle, but pigs and horses were also present to a small extent. 16% of the identifiable bones showed signs of butchery (chopping and knife cuts).

Significant quantities of limestone were found, both masonry and (in particular) roof-tile. Limestone is the locally available building material. Surface and topsoil scatter included flue tile fragments and tesserae.

Whilst it is clearly too early in our investigations to draw conclusions, the combination of the magnetometry, excavation, pottery review, and bone/shell reports are consistent with continuous and changing occupation of the

enclosure from the late 1st Century BCE/early 1st Century CE through to the end of the 4th Century. Indications are that the enclosure had a high degree of domestic occupation as part of a site principally engaged in livestock husbandry. The flue tiles and building materials suggest the possible presence of a villa. Further excavation and geophysics are planned for 2022.

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Ambrosden, land off Merton Road SP 5997 1916

PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

Archaeological evaluation of a 4ha site for a new housing development in April 2021 confirmed the archaeological potential of a circular geophysical anomaly indicating it was likely to be a prehistoric ring ditch or ring gully. Several pits were mainly of early post-medieval and modern date. Other trenches confirmed the presence of a backfilled pond.

Banbury, land at Hanwell Fields SP 4469 4253

KYLE BEAVERSTOCK AND DAVID SANCHEZ

Magnetometer survey in September 2021 on a 3ha site in advance of a planning application detected anomalies clearly

relating to ridge and furrow but also a positive penannular anomaly and two positive linear anomalies which may indicate the presence of buried archaeological features. Subsequent trenching in **2022** revealed only features of post-medieval ridge and furrow, or other agricultural features perpendicular to the same, with no other finds or features of archaeological interest.

Barford St Michael, Blackingrove Farm, Summer Ley
SP 4493 3284

WILL ATTARD

In April 2021 the footprint of a new swimming pool was stripped under archaeological supervision. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered.

Baulking, nr Faringdon, land adjacent to Middle Green Farm SU 3168 9107

ANDREW MUNDIN

Stripping for a new track to provide access to a proposed house development was monitored in July 2021. No archaeological deposits were observed but a small assemblage of pottery with dates raging from late Saxon through to post-Medieval was recovered.

Beckley, Sandy Acre, Woodperry Road SP 5658 1116

DAVID SANCHEZ; WILL ATTARD

Stripping of the footprints of two new buildings was subject to a watching brief between May and July 2021, but no archaeological features were present nor were any finds recovered.

Benson, 12 St Helen's Crescent SU 6204 9146

JAMIE WILLIAMS

A watching brief in April 2021 on construction of a house extension revealed no archaeological features or finds.

Culham, 22 High Street SU 5062 9503

ANDREW MUNDIN

The excavation of foundations for new side and rear extensions to the house, foundations for a new garage, and services were observed in a watching brief between May and September 2021. A possible well was found but not dated and a small pit was probably early Post-medieval. A few sherds of medieval pottery were recovered.

Dorchester-on-Thames, Bishop's Court Farm
SU 5745 9466

KYLE BEAVERSTOCK

An evaluation on a site where a barn was to be relocated in September 2021 revealed only a small number of post-medieval furrows, with no finds nor deposits of archaeological interest.

Dorchester-on-Thames, Overy Barn SU 5820 9406

WILL ATTARD

The footprint of a new swimming pool was stripped under archaeological supervision in November 2021. Two modern features and a ditch most probably of late Medieval or early Post-medieval date were recorded.

Dorchester-on-Thames, 10 Tenpenny SU 5772 9391

KYLE BEAVERSTOCK, PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE AND
ANDREW MUNDIN

An extended watching brief on construction of a house extension and access from **April 2019** to March 2021 observed no archaeological cut features, but a thick deposit with abundant early and middle Roman pottery was recorded, suggesting the presence of occupation and rubbish disposal of this date in the vicinity.

Drayton, 24 High Street SU 4778 9405

ANDREW MUNDIN

A watching brief during excavation of footings for a new car port in May 2021 recorded a single undated ditch.

East Hanney, land at Yew Tree Barn, The Paddocks
SU 4189 9287

PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

Evaluation trenching in March and April 2021 in advance of a residential development uncovered features of certain and possible archaeological interest in all four trenches. A series of furrows aligned parallel to the road was seen in three trenches and one of these produced medieval pottery. Six ditches or gullies did not provide any clear dating evidence except that stratigraphically at least some of them predated the furrows, and one contained a small prehistoric struck flint. A possible posthole and a pit, were also undated. An animal burial in a ditch was partially excavated.

Faringdon, land at Highworth Road SU 2780 9473

DAVID SANCHEZ

Excavations running from **November 2020** to January 2021 in two areas of 1450 sq m and 3700 sq m on a site for new housing, revealed two areas of occupation with pits and postholes including one post-built rectangular building of Late Neolithic date and two round houses of the Early and Middle Iron Age, with simpler associated structures. The chronology of the site is supported by five radiocarbon dates. A few struck flints of Mesolithic and later date, a Middle Bronze Age pit, and a few sherds of Roman pottery were also recorded. A full publication report will be available shortly.

Fifield, Church of St John the Baptist, Church Street SP 2394 1874

ANDREW MUNDIN, PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

A watching brief extending from June to August 2021 on drainage works at the church exposed stonework of a probable doorway in the south wall of the chancel at foundation level. These remains are likely to predate the rebuilding of this face of the chancel in the late 19th century, but by how much is uncertain. Human burial was represented by fragmentary remains found to the west, north and south of the church including three *in-situ* burials and modest amounts of disarticulated bone. A single sherd of Medieval pottery and some clay pipes were noted in the graveyard soil.

Oxfordshire

Frilford, Dry Leys, Kingston Road SU 4280 9720

DAVID PLATT

A site for proposed new houses was evaluated in November 2021 and just a single undated ditch was observed. There were no finds.

Garford, South Oxfordshire Crematoria, Wantage Road SU 4331 9514

JAMIE WILLIAMS AND ANNE-MICHELLE HUVIG

A watching brief in April 2021 on an extension to the crematorium complex showed that most of the work did not penetrate below topsoil but in the areas that did only a single undated small pit or posthole was uncovered.

Goring-on-Thames, land east of Manor Road SU 6011 8017

KYLE BEAVERSTOCK, AIDAN COLYER

Magnetometer survey in July 2021 covering 2.62 ha on a site proposed for a housing development revealed a small number weak positive linear anomalies which may represent features of archaeological interest. This was confirmed in trenches opened in August to September, revealing features in three trenches including linear features associated with earlier Neolithic pottery.

Great Milton, Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons SP 6295 0229

PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

Evaluation trenching over an area of 9ha (August to October 2021) revealed a very limited number of archaeological features: just one wall, three ditches and three gullies. Two of the ditches were of Late Roman date and the third one likely slightly later (Saxon).

Henley-on-Thames, Tree Tops House, Gillott's Lane SU 7480 8122

WILL ATTARD

Evaluation trenching and test pitting in November 2021 on a site proposed for residential re-development could only be partially completed. No archaeological features cut into the top of the gravels were present, but early Palaeolithic flints were recovered from two of the test pits.

Long Wittenham, The Grange, High Street SU 5474 9383

WILL ATTARD

No deposits nor finds of any archaeological interest were encountered during a watching brief on excavation for a new swimming pool in July 2021.

Marcham, Upwood Park, Tubney SU 4550 9999

ANNE-MICHELLE HUVIG AND PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

Long running monitoring of a quarry continued in 2021, with ditches, enclosures and pits being recorded, mostly being a continuation of the Roman 'ladder' settlement seen in previous years. Much of this year's area, however, contained nothing of archaeological interest. Work continues.

Shiplake, land adjacent to Tower House, Reading Road SU 7696 7938

ANDY TAYLOR

No deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were observed in a watching brief (September 2021) on construction of two houses.

Sonning Common, land on Kennylands Road SU 7093 7943

MAISIE FOSTER

Evaluation trenching in November 2021 on the site of a housing development revealed features in two trenches but these proved to be of natural origin. A small collection of struck flints was recovered, including a pick or axe of Mesolithic or Neolithic date.

Sonning Eye, Caversham Quarry, Playhatch Road SU 7530 7685

ANDY TAYLOR AND AIDAN COLYER

The 2021 phases of this long-running recording action at the quarry identified further linear features, likely to be contemporary with those identified immediately to the east (mostly Roman) showing wider use of field systems. Another flint built well was also recorded.

Stanton Harcourt, land at Butts Piece, Blackditch SP 4127 0563

JAMIE WILLIAMS

Open area excavations (ongoing) have been revealing a densely-packed site with multiple archaeological phases. The Iron Age, Roman and Saxon periods all feature prominently, and the Neolithic is also represented. The site is located very close to the well-known site of Gravelly Guy, with which it shares much in common. Iron Age roundhouses, enclosures and storage pits are present in abundance, with Roman features including more enclosures and wells, and several Saxon timber halls, including at least one exceptionally large example.

Stanton Harcourt, Greensleeves, Blackditch SP 4129 0574

THOMAS STEWART

An evaluation of a site proposed for new houses in October 2021 identified linear features, pits and a posthole of medieval date in two of the five trenches.

Wallingford, 24 Winterbrook SU 6036 8814

ANDY TAYLOR

No deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were observed during the course of a watching brief (July 2021) on construction of two houses.

Woodcote, Chiltern Rise, Reading Road SU 6510 8200

JAMIE WILLIAMS AND DAVID SANCHEZ

Evaluation trenching on the site of a residential development in March 2021 revealed ditches, gullies and a pit, of which only one post-medieval gully could be dated. However, a 2450 sq m excavation in May uncovered several features

of archaeological interest. A cluster of pits of Neolithic date provided a small assemblage of pottery and returned a radiocarbon date of 3704–3533 (most probably 3657–3625) cal BC (UBA-45324). A second cluster of features could have been shallow pits, but with no dating evidence, along with two linear features also of uncertain date.

Woodstock, Blenheim Palace Pleasure Garden

SP 4488 1555

KYLE BEAVERSTOCK AND DAVID SANCHEZ

A magnetometer survey in October 2021 of c. 1.64ha in part of the garden in advance of an application to enhance its amenity value, showed that a significant portion of the site is dominated by magnetic disturbance and magnetic debris. The survey did, however, detect two weak positive linear anomalies which have potential to indicate the presence of a previous field boundary or enclosure. Subsequent trenching in 2022 revealed a series of 19th and 20th century made ground deposits overlying the mudstone natural geology. One field drain of the 18th or 19th century, along with modern services, were the only features uncovered.

Wroxton, The Chantry SP 4140 4205

JOSHUA HARGREAVES

The area affected by the construction of a new swimming pool was stripped in June 2021 to the natural geology under constant archaeological supervision. No archaeological features or finds were observed.

TVAS Publications of potential interest to SMA readers:
(available from TVAS, email tvass@tvass.co.uk)

Published in 2021:

Pierre-Damien Manisse, *Neolithic, Iron Age and Saxon occupation at Milton Road, Shipton-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire*, TVAS Monograph **42**, Reading. ISBN: 978-1-911228-56-1

Andy Taylor, *A Middle Bronze Age field system, occupation and burial with Neolithic and Saxon pits and Roman ditches at Littleworth Road, Benson, Oxfordshire*, TVAS Occasional Paper **46**, Reading. ISBN: 978-1-911228-58-5

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, DEPT. FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

Geophysical Survey at Hampton Gay 2021 and 2022

David Griffiths, Olaf Bayer and William Wintle

Introduction

Hampton Gay is a small parish north-east of Oxford which lies south and east of the River Cherwell. It contains a number of buildings and monuments of historical and archaeological interest. It is possibly best known for the ruins of its Elizabethan manor house but relevant for this report is the following record by Historic England:

Monument Number: 336633

Summary: Cropmarks of a group of eight circles, including four in a row were seen 1/4 mile SE of Hampton Gay church in 1942.

The cropmarks at Hampton Gay were first observed by Derek Riley (1942, 113). A summary of the known historic and archaeological features was provided in a desk-based

assessment by the Oxford Archaeological Unit (1999). This referenced the Historic England record and mentioned the group of possible ring ditches. A range of archaeological features are now being recorded and researched by the Oxford University Department for Continuing Education (OUDCE) as part of field work by students on the Undergraduate Certificate in Archaeology and the MSc in Applied Landscape Archaeology.

The Magnetometer (Gradiometer) Survey

This report describes the results of two magnetometer surveys undertaken by students from the MSc ALA course on the 8th to 10th May 2021 and the 5th to 6th March 2022. Over these five days 39 survey grids, each 30m squares, were laid out and surveyed using a Bartington Instruments' GRAD601-2 fluxgate gradiometer. The grids were walked in a clockwise "zig-zag" pattern with traverses one metre apart and readings taken four times a metre along each traverse.

The magnetometer survey was located over the area where ring ditches had been previously observed on aerial photographs. The survey has confirmed their existence and added considerable additional detail (Figs. 29 - 30). Eight ring ditches are shown clearly, possibly divided into a group of five and a group of three. In addition, what may be a long barrow lies to the east of the group of five ring ditches. To the north and south of this possible long barrow are two further small ring ditches. A linear ditch, containing a small gap, runs north-east from the long barrow and may be associated with it. The geophysical survey also hints at a number of pits of unknown date. The line of ploughing (south-west to north-east) may represent the direction of earlier ridge-and-furrow.

Ring Ditch	Diameter (m)
1	23.5
2	35.0
3	25.0
4	24.5 (east-west)
5	37.5
6	32.5
7	22.0
8	21.5
9	12
10	17.5 and 11.5

Table 1 – Ring Ditch Diameters

These diameters support the interpretation of the ring ditches as representing ploughed-out round barrows, which mostly range in size from 10m to 40m. For instance, at Barrow Hills, Radley the largest barrow, barrow 7, had an internal diameter of 40m and an overall diameter of 45m. Similar in size was barrow 5 with a diameter of 44m. Barrows 1, 2 and 3 had diameters in the range 23m to 24.5m (Barclay and Halpin 1999).

The possible long barrow measures about 33m in length and 26m in width. This matches Historic England's description of a mound up to about 50m in length and 25m in width with flanking ditches. The barrows may have a slightly trapezoidal or oval form, with one end wider and

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higher than the other (Historic England 2018, 2). The 26m width given above is from the ditch centres and therefore the mound would have been less than 26m wide.

Small ring ditches 9 and 10 may hint at a continuity of significance for this locale spanning the apparent chronological gap between the early Neolithic long barrow and the early Bronze Age barrow group. These two small ring ditches both appear to directly reference the long barrow, and are similar in scale and morphology to examples of early ring ditches excavated elsewhere in the wider Thames valley. Illustrative examples include:

- A mid-Neolithic double ring ditch (G2007) excavated at Imperial College Sports Ground, Harlington (Powell et al. 2015)
- A Beaker ring ditch at Dorchester on Thames. Originally identified by a geophysical survey conducted by MSc ALA students in 2008 (Wintle et al. 2016), this feature measured c. 10m in diameter and cut one of the ditches of the Dorchester Cursus. Subsequent excavation located a Beaker burial within the ring ditch (Hey 2012).

Conclusions

The geophysical survey has revealed traces of a previously unknown early Neolithic long barrow, and has accurately located, and added further detail to, an early Bronze Age round barrow cemetery previously recorded by aerial photography. To date the survey suggests that this slightly elevated position overlooking the floor of the Cherwell valley became a focus of funerary activity spanning the first half of the 4th millennium BC to the middle of the 2nd millennium BC.

Acknowledgements

We are very grateful to Mr Tim Thompson for permission to conduct these geophysical surveys as part of OUDCE's research and teaching in Landscape Archaeology.

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Sylva Foundation, The House of Wessex Project: Excavation at Long Wittenham, Oxfordshire, 2019 SU 55089 93789

JANE HARRISON, LESLIE WILKINSON, LEIGH MELLOR AND WILLIAM WINTLE

Introduction

Fieldwalking, geophysical survey and excavation in Little and Long Wittenham was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology and Northmoor Trust volunteers between 2003 and 2006 (Allen et al. 2010). More recently, the University of Oxford has been researching the Anglo-Saxon archaeology of the Upper Thames Valley, and in particular the area around Sutton Courtenay and Long Wittenham, as part of its 'Origins of Wessex Project' (Hamerow et al. 2013). The research at Long Wittenham is based on a set of cropmarks provisionally identified in the 1980s as a probable Anglo-Saxon 'great hall complex' (Hawkes 1986, 89).

The fieldwork at Long Wittenham began in early 2015 as part of the DPhil research of Adam McBride in collaboration with his supervisor, Professor Helena Hamerow. The first element was a geophysical survey in two adjacent fields, which led to an excavation in the western field, owned by the Earth Trust, in 2015, and in the eastern field, owned by the Sylva Foundation, in 2016 (McBride et al. 2020). This second excavation located the foundation trenches of an Anglo-Saxon hall (Fig. 31). A further excavation was undertaken in the eastern field in 2017 to investigate a small Iron Age complex (Harrison et al. 2019).

Following the 2016 excavation the Sylva Foundation applied to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a grant to reconstruct the Anglo-Saxon hall. The grant application was successful and in 2019 the Sylva Foundation planned and directed the building of the reconstruction, called 'The House of Wessex' (Martin et al. 2020).

The new hall was planned to be located almost *in-situ* as the centre piece of the HLF-funded project to form an educational facility. An Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing the proposed archaeological mitigation work to be undertaken prior to the development was approved on 21 May 2019 (REF: P19/S0566/DIS). The excavation was carried out from 5–7 June 2019 in accordance with the approved WSI to meet the requirements of Condition 4 of the Planning Permission P18/S2825/FUL.

Jane Harrison and her team were commissioned by the Sylva Foundation to undertake the required archaeological mitigation works. This consisted of excavating a narrow foundation trench for the reconstruction, 0.5m wide and one metre deep, to form a rectangle 12m in length and 6.25m in width. This new foundation trench was offset from the centre line of the original wall trenches by 1.5m eastwards along the long axis and 1.5m southwards along the short axis (Fig. 32). Apart from two points of intersection, the new trench was one metre from the original Anglo-Saxon wall trench.

This new trench intersected the 2016 investigations at three locations, each of which exposed a length of archaeological features 0.5m wide. These were a part of the original south wall trench, a part of the original east wall trench, and a shallow internal partition wall trench. At these three points the new trench was hand-excavated and recorded. Three possible postholes were also recorded. Very few finds were made in the hand-excavated contexts.

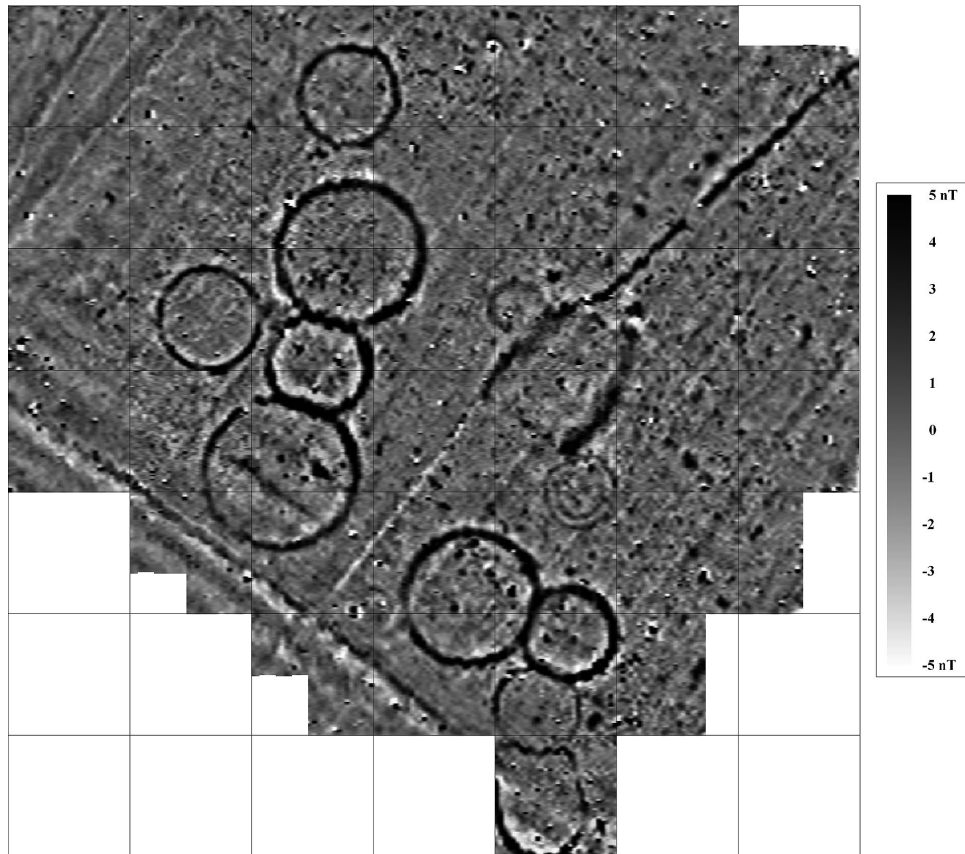


Figure 29: Hampton Gay, processed magnetometer survey.

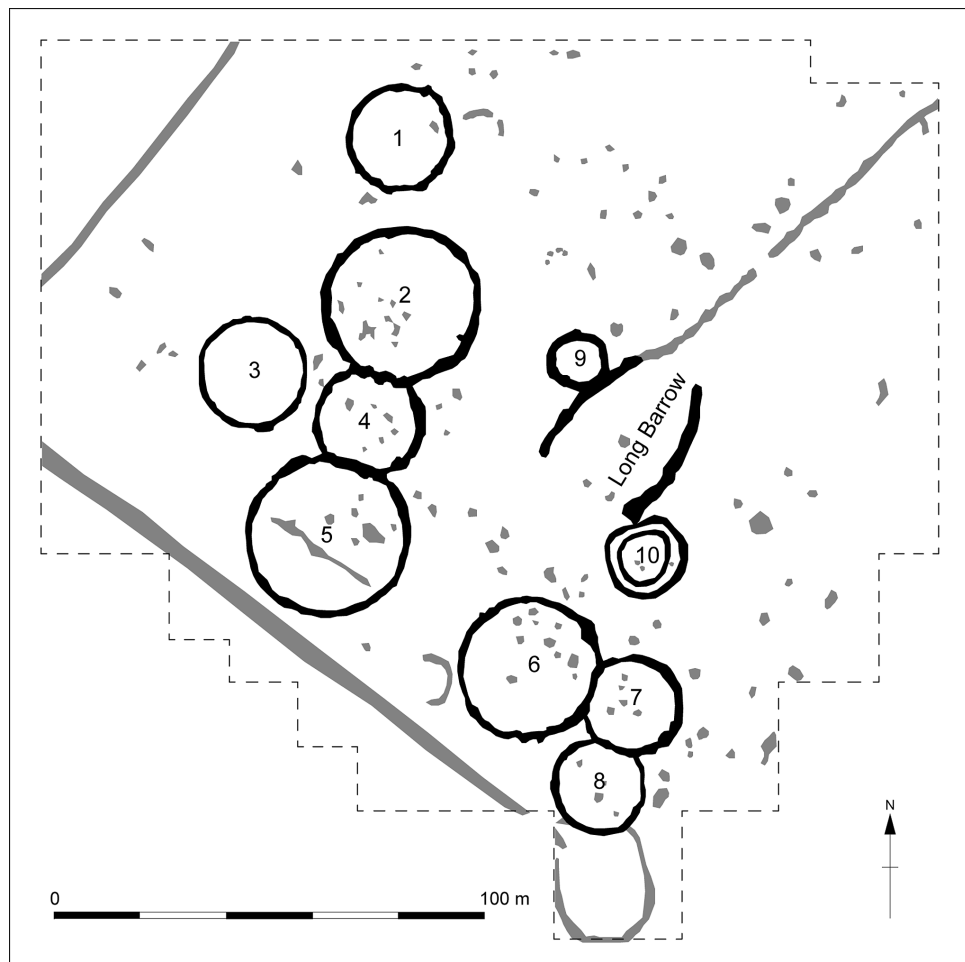


Figure 30: Hampton Gay, interpretive plot.

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The Site

The site (Fig. 31) lies in a field south of the Wood Centre buildings and is now largely planted with saplings as part of the Sylva Foundation's research work. It is located some 500m south-east of the Thames at 51mOD, on the gravel terrace and just east of the village of Long Wittenham. The geology belongs to the Northmoor Sand and Gravel Member, locally characterised by lenses and layers of sand and gravel, with detached and occasionally substantial fragments of limestone. The field is subject to a seasonally fluctuating water table leading to localised flooding.

The area around Long Wittenham forms part of the late-sixth to mid-seventh-century heartland of the early West Saxon kingdom (Hamerow et al. 2013). Two Anglo-Saxon cemeteries were excavated at Long Wittenham in the nineteenth century: Long Wittenham I, a large fifth to sixth-century mixed-rite cemetery, and Long Wittenham II, a small mid-seventh-century inhumation cemetery. Four possible Anglo-Saxon post-in-trench buildings were proposed at Long Wittenham based on aerial photograph interpretation (Booth et al. 2007, 91); a fifth building was identified in 2012 during the *Origins of Wessex* pilot project (Hamerow et al. 2013, 63). It was suggested that Long Wittenham may have been a great hall complex, or high status seventh century settlement, similar to Sutton Courtney, characterised by large buildings with a complex constructional history and planned layouts (Hamerow 1999; Hamerow et al. 2013; Thomas 2018; McBride 2020).

A number of possible sunken-feature buildings have also been identified at Long Wittenham from aerial photographs in the vicinity of the putative great hall complex (Benson and Miles 1974, 66; McBride et al. 2020, Figs. 31 & 32). The Sylva Foundation field and the field to the immediate west were fieldwalked and sherds of chaff-tempered early-middle Anglo-Saxon pottery recorded in the western field, but none were found in the area of the building excavated in 2016 (Lamdin-Whymark and Allen 2006). An Iron Age and/or Roman trackway running to the south of the possible great hall site had been identified from aerial photographs: to the west this continues past the Sutton Courtenay great hall complex and to the east it appears to terminate at Dorchester-on-Thames (Hamerow et al. 2013, 64). The Sutton Courtney excavations suggest the track was still being used in the early Anglo-Saxon period (Hamerow et al. 2007, 154).

A possible Romano-British ladder settlement was recognised at Long Wittenham from aerial photographs and the Roman date of some of the plotted features were established in field walking (Lamdin-Whymark and Allen 2006) and in the 2015 excavation (McBride et al. 2020).

Methodology

The excavation was conducted within the general parameters defined by current government guidance, including the National Planning Policy Framework (2012) and Historic England good practice advice, and conformed to Oxfordshire County Council Archaeological and ClfA guidelines.

The aim was to work within the research parameters established by the 2016 excavation and to establish the presence or absence of any archaeological remains within the new wall trench footprint. It was important to be able to combine the 2019 results with the earlier 2016 excavation for reporting, analysis, publishing and archiving. It was planned to excavate by hand any archaeological remains encountered

and to preserve by record. It was known in advance that two stretches of the original Anglo-Saxon wall trench would be encountered. Any archaeological deposits and features with environmental potential would be sampled and subsequently processed, analysed and reported. Any suitable artefacts would be submitted for radiocarbon dating.

The machine excavation took place under close archaeological supervision and was accomplished using a small 360° digger with a sharpened 0.45m toothless ditching bucket to create a 0.5m wide trench. Surviving subsoil and the 2016 backfill were removed in a small dumper truck to a designated area where it was hand-sieved to achieve an approximate 10% sample. The machining ceased at the highest archaeological horizon: in the case of the original wall trenches this was marked by the 2016 Terram. All three areas with archaeological features were hand-excavated.

The two sectors where the new trench was expected to impinge on underlying archaeology were marked out. Those areas and the identified partition wall trench were hand-excavated below ploughsoil/subsoil (c. 0.35–0.40m deep as in the 2016 excavations) by appropriately qualified archaeologists. The MI/A-level site director was present at all times. After stratigraphic excavation, full sections of the wall trenches and partition wall trench were established and recorded in profile.

All archaeological features and deposits were identified by unique context numbers and all context recording done in accordance with established practices as detailed in the OUDCE Fieldwork Recording Manual, which is based on the Museum of London Site Recording Manual. There were no small finds but two environmental samples were taken from the wall trench fills and allocated unique numbers. All of the very few bulk finds were collected by context.

The archaeological features were drawn pre-, mid- and post-excavation as necessary, and also photographed at the same stages. Overall and working photographic shots were collected. Figure 32 relates the new trench to the features recorded in the 2016 excavation.

The County Archaeologist visited on 7 June 2019 to observe the completed hand-excavation and machining.

Results

Ground conditions throughout the works were good as the ground was neither very dry nor too wet. The 5th and 6th of June were dry days and all hand excavation and recording was accomplished before heavy rain on the morning of the 7th of June, when the final machining was completed. The soils were generally more amenable to hand excavation than in 2016 as they were less dry. The results are presented below and include a full stratigraphic description of the archaeological features with dimensions and depths.

The new trench was designated Trench 7 to follow the sequence of trenches excavated at Long Wittenham in 2015, 2016 and 2017. All context numbers begin with 7. Context 711 is the very variable gravel- and sand-dominated natural. The backfill/subsoil above the level of natural and plough-truncated archaeological features cut into natural was also variable.

The two wall trench fills (contexts 704 and 705) were sampled for possible environmental assessment. The samples were not marked by the presence of charcoal or charred remains and it is considered unlikely that flotation will produce any meaningful results. However, OCAS



Figure 31: Drone photograph of the 2016 excavations at the Sylva Foundation (Photograph: Aerial-Cam).

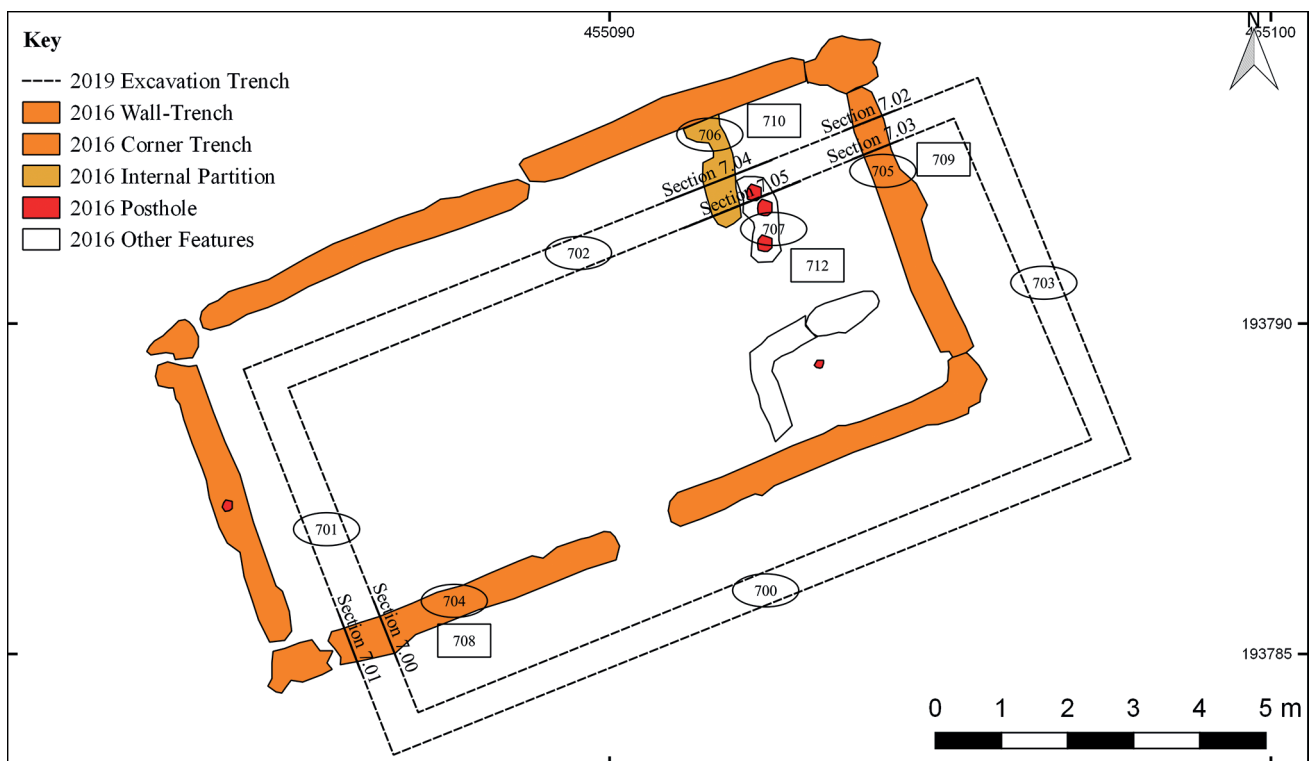


Figure 32 – Trench 7 layout with archaeological features and contexts (from McBride, Hamerow and Harrison 2020, 31, Fig. 6).

Oxfordshire

will be consulted for a final decision on this matter. No material suitable for radiocarbon dating was identified during excavation but in the unlikely event that any suitable material is identified from environmental samples then that will be submitted for dating.

Work began on the southern side of the new trench. Layer (700) above the sand-gravel natural (711) was nearly all non-homogenous backfill from the 2016 excavation as all the new works were contained within the original 2016 Trench 4. Some subsoil may have survived above the natural but was indistinguishable from the backfill; an approximate 10% sample of (700) and the other backfill layers (701–703) was sieved but only a few fragments of CBM, two iron nails, twelve small and abraded sherds of post-medieval and modern pottery, and one Romano-British sherd were recovered. No archaeological features were seen cut into surviving subsoil or the natural on the southern side. The eastern side of Trench 7 was similar and no archaeological features were discerned. Both the south and east sides of Trench 7 were outside the Anglo-Saxon hall's footprint and no archaeological features had been discerned in that area in 2016.

Archaeological features were encountered in three areas in the western and northern sides of Trench 7 (Figs. 32 & 33).

Western side of Trench 7, wall trench [708]

At the position marked at ground level prior to excavation the cut [708] for the Anglo-Saxon building's southern trench-wall was seen in the subsoil at *c.* 50.42mOD. The fill (704) was excavated stratigraphically then opened out in a box-section for a better view of the wall trench profile. All the silty sand fill was sieved but only one small, degraded fragment of large mammal tooth enamel was discovered. An environmental sample was taken from (704) although there was no evidence for charcoal or charred fragments of organic material.

The wall trench as seen in the intervention was initially *c.* 0.7m wide including a possible post-hole. It then narrowed to 0.45m for most of its depth and survived to a depth of *c.* 0.5m. The sides were nearly vertical, narrowing slightly with depth and the base a shallow, concave U-shape (Figs. 33 & 34). The profile had been affected by leaching and spreading.

A probable posthole was identified on the southern edge of the wall trench; the fill was indistinguishable from (704) but the posthole was possibly originally square in profile and *c.* 0.16m² in area, surviving to no more than 0.1m in depth. The size and location of this posthole is similar to one detected in 2016 on the outside of the northern Anglo-Saxon wall trench. In 2019 the plank-mark and postholes were seen more clearly as the ground conditions were damper. (For further details on the 2016 postholes see McBride et al. 2020).

Northern side of Trench 7, wall trench [709]

The cut for the Anglo-Saxon buildings wall trench [709] was detected in the subsoil at the position marked at ground level – this time for the eastern trench wall. This was discovered at 50.52mOD. The fill (705) was excavated stratigraphically then opened out in box-section for a better view of the wall trench profile. All of the silty sand fill was sieved but only one small fragment of clay pipe was found at the boundary

with the subsoil. An environmental sample was taken of the fill (705).

The wall trench as seen in the intervention was 0.5m wide, reducing to 0.42m wide with depth and clarity, surviving to a depth of *c.* 0.5m (Figs. 33 & 35). The sides were near vertical, with some spreading at the top, narrowing slightly with depth and the base a shallow, concave U-shape. The profile had been affected by leaching and spreading. The wall trench profile was thus similar to that seen in the western side of Trench 7.

At *c.* 50.32m OD a probable posthole was recorded on the external (eastern) side of the original wall trench. This was probably sub-square in shape – *c.* 0.15m² – surviving to 0.2m deep. The fill was slightly sandier than (705) but otherwise very similar (figure 6).

At 50.19m OD a plank mark was recorded in the centre of the wall trench fill (705). The plank mark was sandier than the surrounding context (705) and its northern end was very close to the northern edge of the excavation trench. The plank outline was oriented north-north-west to south-south-east (i.e. along the foundation trench) and was 0.25m long, 0.04m wide and 0.02m deep. This plank mark was therefore similar in dimensions to those discovered in 2016.

Northern side of Trench 7, partition wall trench [710]

The improved soil conditions enabled a 0.5m section of the north-west to south-east partition wall trench [710] to be excavated stratigraphically. The partition wall trench was, as with all the truncated features, spread at the top and affected by leaching. The fills of the trench (706) and the recut posthole (707) to the east of the wall against the southern baulk were indistinguishable. Originally the trench sides may have been vertical but, surviving only to a depth of 0.2m, they had been sloped under the impact of post-depositional processes. The trench was *c.* 0.4m wide at the top but narrowed to *c.* 0.1m at the base. The silty sand fill (706) produced one fragment of much degraded animal tooth enamel.

A recut posthole was visible against the southern baulk and to the east of the partition wall and was probably cut into the east side of [710] (see the bottom row of figure 3 and figure 8). Both the original and recut postholes were *c.* 0.15m west-south-west to east-north-east and a square profile was visible in plan. The recut posthole [712] was 0.2m deep with the original some few millimetres deeper. The sides were probably vertical and the bases near flat. The fill (707) was the same as that of the partition wall trench.

Conclusions

Despite the limited nature of the 2019 interventions, the better ground conditions enabled the recording of additional archaeological detail about the Anglo-Saxon building revealed in plan in 2016. Two 0.5m metre stretches of the Anglo-Saxon wall trench were investigated and recorded in plan and section in Trench 7: their depth and profile were very similar to those recorded in 2016. Two further postholes were revealed on the outside edges of these wall trenches: both probably originally had a square or sub-square profile and a size of *c.* 0.15–0.16m². Furthermore, the internal north-north-west to south-south-east aligned partition wall trench seen in plan in 2016 was detected and recorded in section, along with a recut posthole presumably for posts supporting the partition superstructure. These posts were also square or

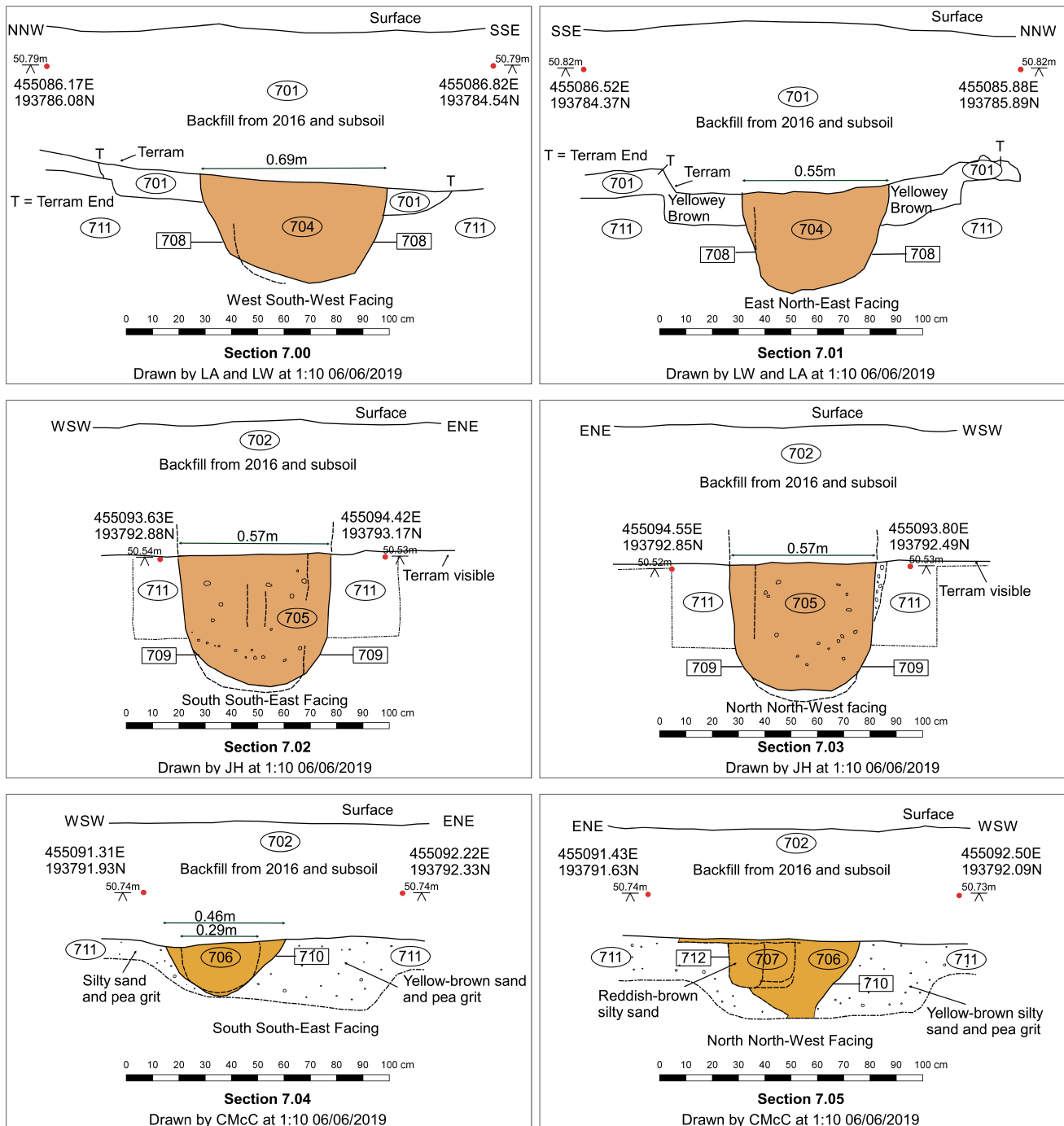


Figure 33: Trench 7 Sections.

sub-square and had a similar dimension (*c.* 0.15m²) to those recorded in the wall trenches themselves. No artefacts, apart from two fragments of very degraded tooth enamel, were recovered in hand-excavated contexts.

After the hand-excavation and recording were complete, Trench 7 was machined to one metre in depth around the full circuit of four sides to provide the foundation trenches for the new 'House of Wessex' hall.

The House of Wessex Reconstruction

Following the successful application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a grant to reconstruct the Anglo-Saxon hall as the 'House of Wessex', the reconstruction project was directed by Dr Gabriel Hemery and managed by Lesley Best of the Sylva Foundation. Eighty trees, including oak, sweet chestnut, ash and birch, were donated by Blenheim

Palace. Volunteers from the Carpenters Fellowship (<https://carpentersfellowship.co.uk>) prepared the wood and erected the timber frame, most of which was from oak trees about 100 years old. The timber frame was erected in only five days but previously over 500 person days had been invested in preparing the timbers and frame.

The main wall posts were placed into the new trench and slotted into wall plates running along the four walls. The frame was braced by tie beams running across the building. Roof trusses were prepared and hoisted into position as seen in figure 36. The roof was filled in with hazel wattle panels and covered by an insulating layer of turf. Finally, a layer of straw thatch was applied. The walls were completed with hazel panels daubed with a mixture of clay, dung and straw (Martin et al. 2020, 32–33). The completed building is illustrated in figure 37.

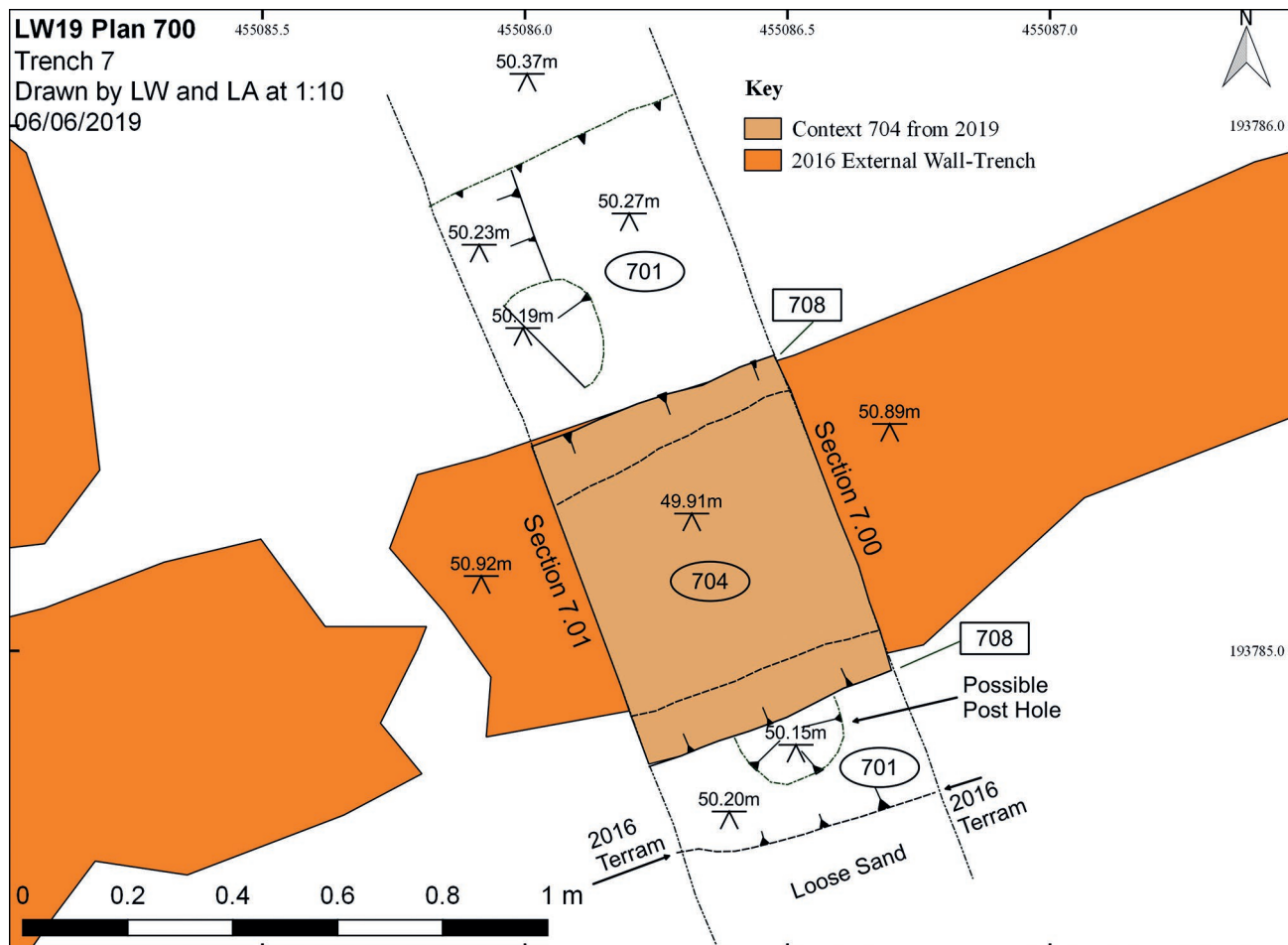


Figure 34: Plan 700, wall trench [708], post-excavation.

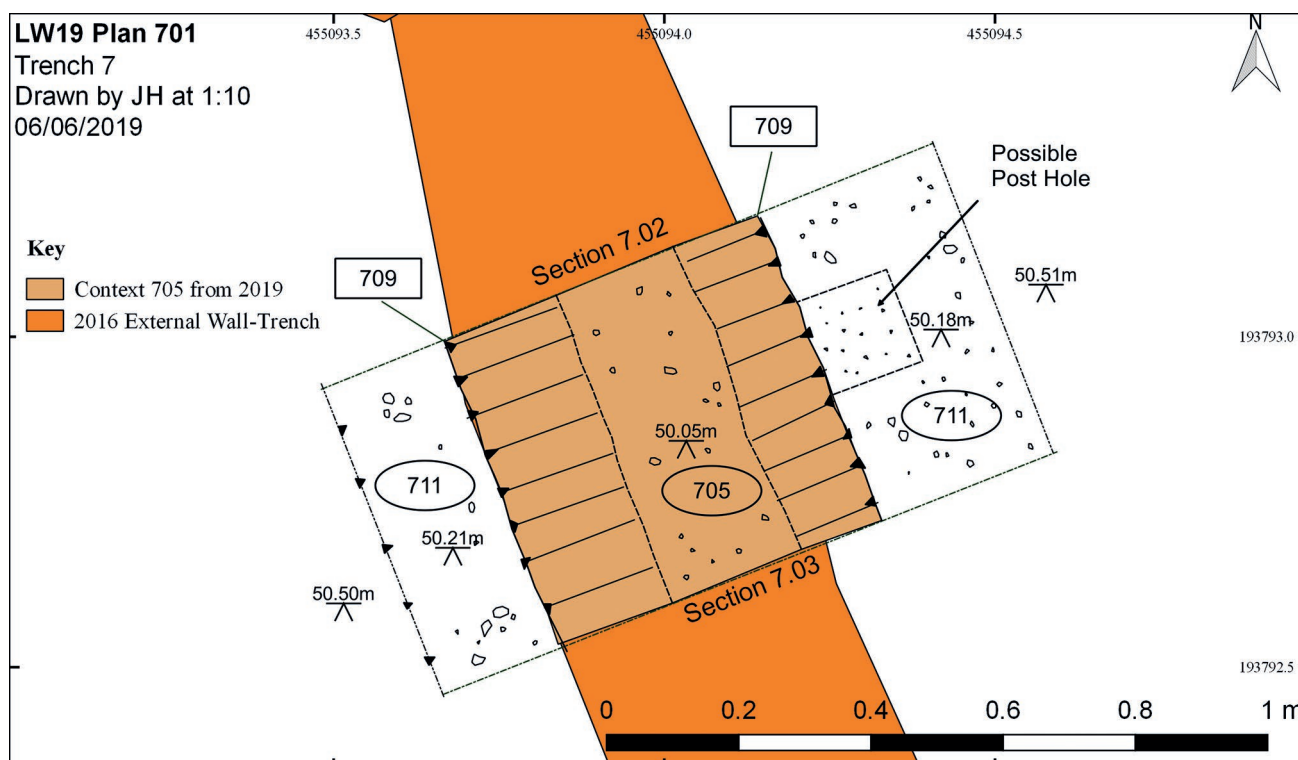


Figure 35: Plan 701, wall trench [709], post-excavation.



Figure 36: The Wulfheodenas, a living history society, at the raising of the Oak Frame, July 2019.



Figure 37: The House of Wessex, August 2021.

The primary purpose of the building will be as an education facility for school children and others to engage with both history and the use of wood. (<https://sylva.org.uk/wessex>).

Acknowledgements

Jane Harrison and her team would like to thank the Sylva Foundation for commissioning the work, Dr Gabriel Hemery, the Chief Executive of the Sylva Foundation, Lesley Best of

the Sylva Foundation for managing the House of Wessex Project, and Richard Oram for monitoring the excavation on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council and providing advice and guidance.

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WALLINGFORD HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Coldharbour Farm, Crowmarsh Gifford SU 631 891
LINDSEY BEDFORD AND JANET RIDOUT SHARPE

Introduction

Following the discovery of part of a lead coffin by a metal detectorist in a field at Coldharbour Farm in 1993, The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) excavated a small Romano-British cemetery (see the report by Colin Clarke in *SMA* 26 (1996), pp 71–76). Subsequent investigations by TWHAS in the 1990s revealed a series of late Iron Age pits in the same field and a Romano-British corndryer and ditch in an adjacent field.

More than 20 years later, TWHAS has initiated further investigations at Coldharbour Farm in an attempt to locate the villa or farmstead associated with the cemetery and corndryer. A long-term project commenced in 2020, with the aim to survey one of nine different fields each year using four methodologies: magnetometry, resistivity, fieldwalking and metal detecting (Fig. 38). The surveys may be followed by small-scale excavation, should the results pinpoint a likely focus of Romano-British activity.

The first field was investigated in August 2020 with the help of members of TWHAS, the South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group (SOAG) and the Berkshire Archaeology Research Group (BARG). This field (CHF5) contained the corndryer and ditch towards its northern margin. Disappointingly, the geophysical surveys proved inconclusive, partly due to the dry soil conditions and ferrous contamination across the field. Magnetometry picked up a faint ditch crossing the field in a north-west to south-east direction in its southern half that corresponded with one of several old field boundaries revealed by LiDAR; the metal detecting survey found a linear cluster of Roman and medieval coins along one of these boundaries, suggesting that it may pre-date or be contemporary with Roman activity in this field. Fieldwalking produced 1052 pottery sherds distributed across the field with a definite Romano-British concentration towards the north, which was reflected by the metal finds. Fifteen of the 25 coins found were 3rd- to 4th-century Roman in date. Metal detecting highlights included a Roman snake ring and a ‘pelican in piety’ vesica seal inscribed with the name ‘Radulf’. Although it was a very popular name at the time, one possibility is that it belonged to a 13th-century chaplain and warden of that name from St John the Baptist church in Wallingford. Ceramic building material (CBM) was found across the field but was predominantly post-medieval or modern in date. It was concluded that field CHF5 did not contain the main focus of Romano-British activity.



Figure 38: Crowmarsh Gifford, study area.

Fieldwork in 2021

The first field to become available after harvest in August 2021 was CHF3 to the north of CHF5, which contained the Roman cemetery and Iron Age pits explored by TWHAS in the 1990s. The same methodology was applied as in 2020, with the establishment of a field grid followed by magnetometry, resistivity, fieldwalking and metal detecting, again with help from members of SOAG and BARG. The geophysical survey revealed the presence of one large and one small trapezoidal ditched enclosures and a scatter of pits. These features were found in the western half of the field and were attributed, based on the previous work undertaken by TWHAS, to the late Iron Age and Romano-British periods. The old south-south-west to north-north-east

field boundary marked by a coin cluster in CHF5 continues into CHF3, again marked by coins, where it is visible as an extant shallow ridge.

Fieldwalking produced fewer finds than in 2020, with just 202 pottery sherds recorded. By weight, the pottery formed a distinct cluster of earlier material at the western end, near the pits and cemetery, and a secondary cluster of more recent material in the north-east corner which corresponded to most of the CBM finds, suggesting that a post-medieval building may have stood in this corner of the field at some time in the past.

Once again it was the metal detecting that produced the most interesting results. Twenty-four of the 43 coins found were Roman. Most of these were found in the western half of the field and most are badly worn but appear to be low denomination copper alloy nummi dating to the 4th century. The metal finds spanned the centuries but included two Romano-British items: an incomplete copper alloy trumpet brooch dated to *c.* AD 75–250, and a hooked necklace clasp. Again, both were found at the western end of the field. A 9th-century ‘Thomas type A’ strap end was the first Anglo-Saxon find. One particularly notable medieval find was an enamelled, heraldic horse harness pendant bearing the arms of the Breton branch of the d’Aubigny family – four conjoined white lozenges against an originally red background (Fig. 39). Philip d’Aubigny (1166–1236) was present at the signing of Magna Carta and in 1227 he was made Sheriff of Berkshire and Constable of the Honour of Wallingford; the pendant, which dates to the later 13th or early 14th century, may have been lost by one of his descendants.

Conclusion

The Roman metal finds from fields CHF3 and CHF5 fall into two clusters: one in the north-west corner of CHF5 near the corndryer and continuing into the western end of CHF3, and a linear scatter following the line of the old field boundary

that passes through both fields (Fig.5). This appears to be contemporaneous with, and to form the eastern boundary of, the Roman cemetery and it may have been used as a footpath or trackway into the medieval period as again most metal finds came from the west side of it. Over time this boundary became less prominent and post-medieval metal finds are more widely dispersed.

Nevertheless, despite this concentration of Roman finds, evidence for Roman occupation remains elusive and the search continues. In 2022 we hope to be able to explore field CHF1 which lies to the north of Clacks Lane and CHF3, and which has not been investigated archaeologically before: watch this space.

Acknowledgements

We are very grateful to the landowner, Jonathan Edwards, for allowing us onto his fields. Jonathan and his family have supported this project from the start and their interest and enthusiasm are much appreciated. Grateful thanks are also due to the dedicated members of TWHAS, SOAG and BARG who set up the field grid, did the geophysics, organised and carried out the fieldwalking and finds processing, metal detected and volunteered with unfailing enthusiasm to undertake all those other tasks so necessary to the success of the project.

WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY

Bampton, Shifford Weir Fish Bypass, Chimney Meadows Nature Reserve SP 36372 00269

J. WHELAN, L. NEWTON AND S. LEGG

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Atkins Limited, on behalf of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust to undertake archaeological strip, map and recording works on a 450 m long channel which serves as a fish bypass of Shifford Weir. The work was carried out within the Chimney Meadows Nature Reserve in a semi-improved (neutral) grassland, hedgerows and scattered trees adjoining embankments alongside the River Thames and Duxford Loop (part of the River Thames).

The work comprised of the archaeological monitoring and supervision of the topsoil strip to a depth of *c.* 200 mm along the *c.* 450 m length of the proposed channel to a width of 6 m; followed by the excavation of a 2 m wide trench following the centre line of the channel to a maximum depth of up to 1.50 m. The trench was not excavated any deeper than the proposed maximum profile depth of the channel in order to maintain its engineering integrity. An undated ditch of likely post medieval or more recent date was recorded at the southern end of the channel, presumed for drainage, along with two land drains on the same orientation. No other archaeological features were observed.

Oxford, Cherwell School, Marston Ferry Road

SP 51440 08880

J. WHELAN

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by S&C Slatter Limited on behalf of Cherwell School, Oxford to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a 2.9 hectare parcel of land prior to the construction of a new football pitch with associated hardstanding, vehicular access and floodlight system. The evaluation was carried out in playing fields

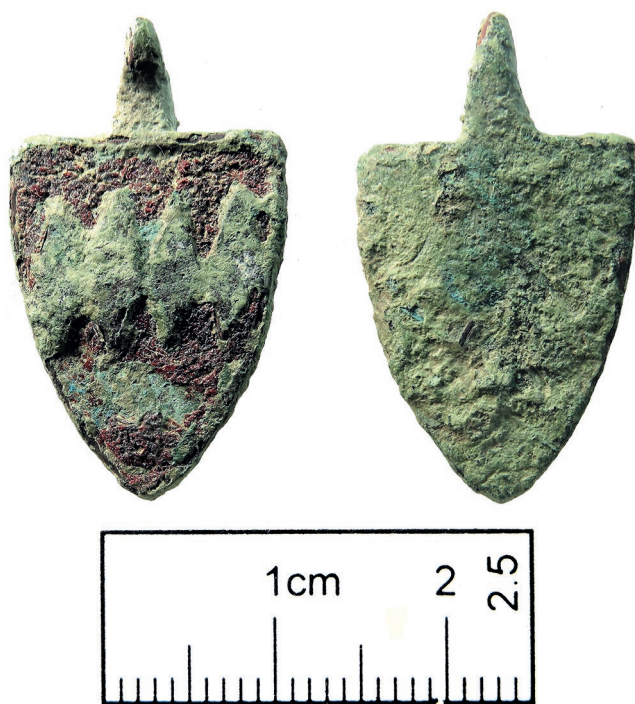


Figure 39: Crowmarsh Gifford, medieval harness pendant bearing arms of d’Aubigny family.

Oxfordshire

immediately east of Cherwell School, north of Marston Ferry Road.

Three trenches measuring 30m in length by 1.8m in width were mechanically excavated. No archaeological features were observed and no pre-modern finds were recovered. Areas of modern disturbance were recorded within each

trench and this was especially prominent to the south of the site, close to Marston Ferry Road. The likely cause of the disturbance is related to the use and abandonment of former allotments on the site and the subsequent landscaping works associated with the construction of the school playing fields.

NOTES FOR CONTRIBUTORS:

1. The submitted article should follow the format of South Midlands Archaeology. That is:
 - name of the County followed by;
 - name of the organisation (if applicable) followed by;
 - name of the writer or compiler followed by;
 - body of the article with suitable headings and sub-headings.
2. If the article consists of many separate site reports, each site should be reported as follows:
 - name of the site followed by;
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3. One purpose of SMA is to act as a record of the work carried out in the area; this does not mean that it need be dull. Contributors are asked to be as interesting as possible for the many members of CBA South Midlands who are not archaeologists but who have a lively interest in the past.
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NAC

Revised: 20th February 2018

