

SOUTH
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It should be noted that the reports in this volume refer, unless indicated otherwise, to work carried out in 2022.

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EDITORIAL

Welcome, from your editor and committee to the 53rd volume of South Midlands Archaeology.

Firstly, thanks to MOLA Northampton for providing the images and sponsoring the front and back covers. As ever, this edition begins with a colourful selection of the many treasures reported to the region's Finds Liaison Officers. Thanks again 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 at Bedford Borough, Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes City, North Northamptonshire and Oxford City Councils of interest.

This edition also features a number of longer illustrated notes and articles including: Mike Luke on Iron Age and Roman settlement West of **Bedford**, Headland Archaeology on Iron Age metalworking in **Maulden**, Beds and the highly significant Mesolithic pits excavated by MOLA in **Houghton Regis**, Beds, plus a probable medieval bailey ditch observed in **Bradwell**, Bucks/MK by Souterrain Archaeological Services. The amateur/educational sector is well represented by entries from the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society in **Great Linford**, Bucks/MK, and work across **Oxfordshire** by South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group (SOAG), The Charney Bassett Archaeological Research Project, Oxfordshire Buildings Record and the Appleton Area Archaeological Research Project (AAARP).

2022 also saw our return to in-person conferences with a well-attended Autumn conference in Bugbrooke, Northants (programme below). Earlier, in April Adam Sutton of MOLA Northampton hosted a sold-out workshop on Iron Age Pottery in the South Midlands for members, an event we hope to repeat.

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 54. Please refer to the Notes for Contributors (page 128).

Nick Crank
Editor

CBA SOUTH MIDLANDS WEBSITE

cbasm.archaeologyuk.org

On this site are (Journals):

Scanned / PDF copies of South Midlands Archaeology 1 - 51

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: Houghton Regis, Linmere Phase 1, Reconstruction drawing of late Mesolithic site (MOLA)

Back cover: Overstone Leys (North), Burial 21 (c.6th C AD) with grave goods (MOLA)

CONFERENCES IN 2022

Northamptonshire Archaeological Review, Bugbrooke, Sunday 23rd October

Simon Markus (MOLA) – 3000 years of life and death at Overstone

James West (MOLA) – Blackgrounds Farm: excavations at an Iron Age to Roman settlement on the route of HS2

Dane Wright (Cotswold Archaeology) – Northampton by the beach: a prehistoric landscape

Mike Luke (Albion Archaeology) – Excavations at Earls Barton and Thrapston: a Bronze Age ring-work and Iron Age, Roman and early Anglo-Saxon settlements

Paddy Lambert (Oxford Archaeology East) – The weird and wonderful Roman villa estate at Priors Hall, Corby

THE PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME IN THE SOUTH MIDLANDS 2022

By ELEANORE COX. With contributions from NAOMI BERGMANS, ANGIE BOLTON, SUE BRUNNING, ANDREW BROWN, EDWARD CASWELL, ELEANORE COX, JENNY DURRANT, MATTHEW FITTOCK, HELEN FOWLER, RACHEL KING, KEVIN LEAHY, SIMON MASLIN, EDWIN WOOD and SALLY WORRELL

INTRODUCTION

2022 has seen the continued process of building relationships between professional archaeologists and metal detector users, amateur archaeologists as interest in heritage and metal detecting continues to grow year on year. This of course presents challenges in terms of capacity for Find Liaison Officers (FLO's). However, in order to process the remnants of finds awaiting recording due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and those which continue to be discovered each week, each FLO has found regionally specific ways in which to increase capacity. For example, some may have trained volunteers to assist with aspects of recording and allow for more objects to be recorded onto the Portable Antiquities Scheme database.

2022 saw a total number of 96 Treasure cases from the South Midlands, an increase of 60% from the previous year. This takes the total cases to just above pre-pandemic numbers; however it is less than may have been anticipated given the scale of increase prior to the pandemic, which is possibly attributable to ground conditions, with waterlogged or extremely dry conditions for parts of the year.

By period, the finds for 2022 are as follows:

	Beds	Bucks	Northants	Oxon
Palaeolithic	1	2	1	1
Mesolithic	0	10	26	3
Neolithic	0	8	25	19
Bronze Age	1	16	15	30
Iron Age	12	21	23	45
Greek & Roman Provincial	0	1	0	0
Roman	143	261	276	1,021
Early-Medieval	16	48	44	71
Medieval	60	283	380	344
Post-Medieval	29	226	239	400
Modern	1	5	14	11
Unknown	28	9	1	22
Total	329	889	1,044	1,967

The following artefacts represent a selection to highlight some of the finds recorded across the South Midlands in 2022. To see the object's full record please visit www.finds.org.uk/database and search using the record ID e.g. CAM-C156C2.

Bedfordshire

Total Objects: 329, Treasure Cases: 4



Figure 1: CAM-C156C2: Copper alloy Strap Union from Sutton

A copper-alloy strap union of Late Iron Age to early Roman date (100 BC-AD 100). The central part of the artefact is comprised of two lunate forms arranged with the concave sides pushed together so as to create a figure-of-eight shape with circular aperture at the centre. The upper surfaces of these lunate forms is convexly curved and undecorated. The reverse surface of this central section is flat and undecorated. However, on the front surface the upper and lower lunate are joined by an annular ring moulding over the central aperture. To either end of each bar is a pair of collars. Seen from the front or rear of the object these appear as rectangular collars. Taylor and Brailsford's (1985) Type 1



Figure 2: BH-007F16: Copper alloy Pin from Meppershall

A cast copper-alloy silvered figurine of a cockerel, a hair Pin or Mount of Roman date (AD 43-410). The head is small and oval in shape, with a forward pointed beak, shallow wattle and prominent comb. The neck is long and starts narrow before gradually widening into an arched back and rounded breast, extending into the rounded underside. A horizontal groove extends across the body from one side to the other.

the other. The tail is plumed and arches upwards, tapering at the tip. Two legs, one straight and one bent, extend from the underside of the body onto a rectangular plate. Projecting from the underside of the plate is a square-sectioned shank that tapers to a broken point. The object is covered with a patchy white metal coating, possibly a silver wash.



Figure 3: BUC-17DE2B: Silver Gilt Pendant from Near Toddington

A silver gilt pendant set with an amethyst of Medieval date (AD 1200–1400). The object comprises an oval pendant with a flat back and single suspension loop at the top. The front of the pendant is an open collet setting with rounded 'scallop' settings to hold the gemstone in place. The gem itself is a purple amethyst stone. Beneath the settings are three successive collars. The reverse of the pendant is flat but decorated with black lettering reading IHC, a devotional monogram commonly found in jewellery of this period, as a sacred trigram for the name of Jesus.



Figure 4: CAM-BBFE27: Silver Gilt Hooked Tag from Sutton

A silver gilt Hooked Tag of Late Medieval to Post-Medieval date (AD 1500–1700). The object is of composite form, with a domed central plate, applied backward curving hook and applied loop to the back of the plate. The front of the plate is extensively decorated with applied circlets and pellets. The circlets are formed of filigree cut or twisted wire formed into complete annulets.

Buckinghamshire

Total Objects: 899, Treasure Cases: 28

A complete two-piece, copper alloy Brooch of Middle Iron Age date (350–150 BC). The head is formed by two circular lobes or 'ears' each with a circular hole (off centre). The high bow forms an elongated oval decorated with four vertical



Figure 5: HAMP-E2D360: Copper alloy Brooch from Amersham

lines, comprising two parallel inner lines contained by a single line to each side which bends slightly at each end. The four lines merge at both ends to form a point. The solid catchplate is broad with a sunken groove forming the pin rest. The foot has a single circular hole of same appearance to those at the head. The separate pin is present but now bent upwards. It is attached to the pin mount by an iron rivet which is now corroded.

A zoomorphic gold appliqué Mount of Early-Medieval date (AD 570–630). In the form of a fish. The object, which has been bent over at both ends, is made from sheet gold with applied beaded-wire filigree decoration. The decoration represents the features of the fish, with a spine of five rows of filigree wire which separate two flanking sets of panels containing filigree annulets divided by rounded curved lobes of filigree wire. The fish has a trapezoidal tail, which flares and is decorated with two triangular panels containing rows of three filigree annulets within a frame of filigree wire. This tail is bent, with one corner curling around and behind. The head of the fish is also bent back on itself, but has filigree decoration with circular eyes, elongated nostrils and pointed ears/horns on the forehead. The eyes have raised collets at their centres, both of which are now empty but which may once have had gem or glass inlays. The reverse of the object is undecorated and there is a small solder scar in the centre suggestive of a broken attachment.

Fish depictions, especially those of predatory species, such as perch or pike, are known to have adorned early medieval shields and vessel fittings (Dickinson 2005). Similar gold filigree appliqué zoomorphic mounts, likely used on weapons or scabbards, are known from the Staffordshire Hoard (e.g. STAFFS-D39217) and these close stylistic parallels provide a good dating proxy to c. AD 570–630 (Fern, Dickinson and Webster, 2019: 259).

A silver gilt Brooch of Early-Medieval date (AD 525–575). The object is a Keystone Disc brooch, Avent class 1.1. The object is composed of a sub-circular plate with a break resulting in the loss of the upper portion of the plate. The front of the object is extensively decorated with four integrally-cast cells, comprising three rectangular cells spaced evenly around a central circular cell. One of the complete rectangular cells retains a polished garnet inlay. The cells between each rectangular cell are decorated in relief with stylised zoomorphic motifs in Salin's style I. The central portion of the plate retains its gilding. The outer rim of the plate is not gilded and is decorated with repeating



Figure 6: SUR-FACB24: Gold Mount from Creslow (designated find of note, Regional importance)



Figure 7: NARC-DC1199: Silver gilt Disc Brooch from Leckhampstead

punched rings. The back of the plate is flat and retains a short length of the catchplate, the upper break resulting in the loss of the upper fittings.

This brooch fits within Avent's Class 1.1 (Avent 1975, pp. 23–24) and Hines and Bayliss (2013) Type BR2-b1 (p. 221). These publications illustrate numerous examples from furnished burials. The majority of examples have been found in south-eastern England, specifically Kent and to a lesser degree on the Isle of Wight.



Figure 8: OXON-60FD29: Copper alloy Strap End from Preston Bissett

A copper alloy Strap End of Medieval date (AD 1350–1450). The strap end is made of one piece which can be divided into two zones the strap box and projecting openwork decoration. The strap box is trapezoidal with a wider open top and narrow lower edge with a rectangular open slot at its upper end. Both sides of this body have been pierced by two holes placed just below the mouth of the bow. The front surface is decorated with a transverse collar at its lower edge and incised foliate pattern between this and the open mouth.

Below the strap box the object becomes flatter and solid in cross section. Broadly the projecting plate is a large oval shape in plan with trefoil terminal at its terminal apex. This is moulded into an open work design depicting a bird flanked by foliate decoration.

Northamptonshire

Total Objects: 1,044, Treasure Cases: 26



Figure 9: NARC-E3BCDD: Copper alloy Strap Fitting from Titchmarsh (designated find of Regional importance)

A copper alloy Strap Fitting of Late Iron Age to Early Roman date (50 BC-AD 100). The object is composed of an openwork circular upper loop with a rectangular plate, which projects from a right-angled joint at the back of the lower end of the upper loop. This expands with the collar aspect, below which is a short rounded rectangular plate. The circular aspect is decorated with two circular plates within the upper inner portion, this extends into an openwork pelta shaped component. The circular frame is decorated with three upper incised ring and dots, flanked by five rectangular incised cells and a single incised chevron. The inner "dot" and rectangular cells retain some yellow enamel. The inner circular plates have an inner circular cell, inlaid with yellow enamel, and an outer circular border around the inner cell, which retains some red enamel.

At the expansion of the rectangular plate is a thickened, stepped, transverse collar. The lower portion of the rectangular plate is decorated with a pair of incised transverse line, between which is a transverse line of three incised ring and dot motifs. The central "dots" retain yellow enamel, while the outer "rings" retain some red enamel. The back of the object is undecorated and retains a projecting rectangular strap slide at the point at which the plate broadens, marked by the collar at the front of the object.



Figure 10: NARC-B27398: Copper alloy Mount from Grafton Regis

A copper alloy Mount of Late Iron Age to Roman date (AD 1-410). The object is in the form of a sitting bird, such as a duck. The bird is shown in three-dimension. The body is



Figure 11: NARC-7CF3C5: Copper alloy Mount/Handle from Dingley

flat in cross-section and tapers to the tail. The details of the head are not well defined. The beak is prominent, and the wings are folded. The edges are rounded, and the underside extends into an integral circular loop with an integral rectangular shaft expanding from the bottom of the loop. The shaft tapers slightly in toward the lower end where the shaft is split.

A copper alloy Mount of probable Roman date (AD 43-410). The object is a terminal from a key, knife or vessel. The object is zoomorphic in form, cast in three dimensions with moulded characteristics akin to a bear or boar including round ears, a rounded snout and closed mouth. The face is broadly sub-rectangular in plan with flat sides.

The details of the head are highlighted by moulding and incised decorative motifs composed of, at the crown of the head, between the ears is decorated with repeating incised pairs of incised chevrons which run to the base of the neck. The head has a protruding brown ridge; however the eyes are abraded and the details are now missing. The muzzle/snout has a raised circumferential ridge, with details consisting of two pellet nostrils and two incised transverse lines denoting the mouth. The ears are cast and protrude slightly above the crown of the head, with shallow, longitudinal grooves denoting the inner portion of the ears.



Figure 12: NARC-49D06E: Gold Aestel from Near Greeton (designated find of Regional importance)

A gold 'Aestel' of Early Medieval date (AD 850-900). The object is composed of a globular/hemispherical body with domed upper surface and flat lower face. On the side of the dome is a projecting cylindrical socket. Both parts of the object are hollow. The upper surface is formed from an embossed sheet of gold, with the lower face consisting of a second, flat, sheet of gold, the two parts soldered together.

The domed surface and cylinder are extensively decorated with beaded filigree wire and granulated gold pellets. A beaded wire has been soldered along the joint between the decorated upper parts and the flat backing. At the apex of the dome is a group of six pellets, one central, the others around it, all enclosed in a filigree wire ring. Four radial strands of filigree run from the centre of the dome to its edge dividing it into four segments, each containing a scrolled filigree motif, with granulated pellets within each terminating loop. The socket is decorated with a beaded wire running along its length to form two cells, each of which is decorated with a symmetrical filigree design consisting of a scrolled motif with pellets within the loops. At the end of the socket

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terminal are two rings of filigree, both of which appear to have central perforations, obscured by adhering soil. These suggest the presence of a securing rivet. The socket is filled with soil. The lower plate of the object is undecorated, but with a small circular perforation near its socketed end.

This object fits well into a group of objects which are thought to be pointers used while reading from books and are often referred to as 'aestels'. 'Aestels' have riveted sockets to hold a shaft, and flat undecorated reverses which would move smoothly across the vellum surface.

The recent discovery of three filigree gold 'aestels' in a Viking-Age hoard from Galloway, Scotland (Goldberg, 2021) has some significance for our understanding of these objects. The Galloway 'aestels' were found wrapped in a bundle with woven silk cord, the diameter of which matched that of the socket on the aestels suggesting that they form part of a girdle or belt.

Oxfordshire

Total Objects: 1,967, Treasure Cases: 38



Figure 13: OXON-51F3A7: Copper alloy Dirk from Brize Norton

A copper alloy Dirk of Middle Bronze Age date (1600–1200 BC). The dirk has a small break around one rivet hole in its hilt, is missing one rivet (which would have been placed in this hole) and has been intentionally broken before its burial.

The hilt of the blade is trapezoidal in plan and mostly flat in cross section. It has a slightly convex butt; from this point it widens before narrowing quickly in smooth concave arcs to the blade. It then narrows more gradually down its remaining length to end in a still sharp point. The dirk is flat at its hilt but becomes lozenge shaped in cross section after a short distance due to a medium sized midrib which runs down the centre of the blade from its tip to just before the butt of the hilt. The hilt is pierced by two circular holes for rivets.

The hilt is decorated by a shallow incised line (visible on one surface only) marking the interface between the thicker blade and the hilt. This is crescent shaped (the apex pointing towards the dirks' hilt) with a protruding second crescent at its apex creating an omega (Ω) shaped design. While the incised line is only visible on one surface the differing

patination on the opposite surface would suggest it was visible on both surfaces originally.

The edges of the blade have been bevelled and are still sharp, as is its point. The blade has been bent into a shallow U-shape in profile and then snapped at the apex of this bend. This creates a triangular fragment, representing the tip of the blade.

Similar examples have been illustrated by Burgess and Gerloff (1981: pl 12 no. 79–85) which they define as a Group II, type Taplow dirk. Further similar forms are illustrated by this text (ibid: pl 61) defined as Group IV with Group II affinities. The defining difference between these being cross section. Those of Group II are described as having a flattened lozenge cross section while Group IV has a sub-oval cross section. A Group II type Taplow type is therefore appropriate. The authors discuss how these forms appear in contexts dating from the Arretton phase through until the Taunton Phase of the Bronze Age.

The object is broken into two pieces. The bending of the blade coupled with a transverse break would suggest that this was due to the deliberate destruction of the object. The patination of the break may also suggest that this occurred before the item was deposited in the ground. The breaking of metal objects in the Bronze Age has had increased attention with recent research (Knight 2019) setting out traits that may identify the deliberate destruction of objects. This fits these traits which would further support an interpretation that this item was deliberately broken before deposition. The reasons for this breaking may be functional, such as breaking it into pieces more easily recycled (see Wiseman 2018) or symbolic, such providing the opportunity to enchain two communities together (e.g. Bradley and Ford 2004).



Figure 14: OXON-09BB3B: Copper alloy Brooch from Filkins and Broughton Pogges (noted as an interesting find by the recorder)

A copper alloy Continental plate type Brooch of Roman date (AD 43–400). The body of the brooch is triangular, and the outer surface is divided into 4 triangular cells, all filled with enamel now a light green-brown colour. At one terminal, off-set with the lower and upper surface of the triangular body, there is an integral semi-circle. On the reverse this section has two parallel integral perforated lugs which would have hinged the pin. The axis bar and pin are missing. The lower edge of the triangular body has a

narrowed central, protruding stem. This stem has a high-relief collar at junction of the body and stem. The stem has three columns of small, low-relief crescents which were probably stamped. The terminal of the stem has two flat rounded discs with a spur between. On the reverse of the stem, which is off-set, and retains a solid catchplate.

The brooch is a continental type brooch, which Mackreth comments is not possible to date yet due to the lack of examples discovered in dated contexts. Mackreth classifies these brooches as a continental import (Chapter 7, Part 2 Continental [PL CONT] 1b).



Figure 15: OXON-105633: Gold Solidus from Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor (noted as an interesting find by the recorder)

A gold Roman solidus of Theodosius I (AD 379–395), dating to the period AD 378–383 (Reece Period 20). The obverse reads: D N THEODOSIVS P F AVG and depicts the bust of Theodosius, Rosette-diademed, draped, and cuirassed facing right.

The reverse reads: VICTORIA AVGG and depicts Two emperors seated facing, together holding a globe. Behind and between them the upper portions of a Victory with outspread wings, between them below a palm branch. Mint of Aquileia. RIC IX, p. 99, no. 21c.

A gold inscribed Finger Ring of Late Medieval to Post-Medieval date (AD 1530–1625). The object consists of a round hoop which is D-shaped in cross-section, with a flat internal surface and slightly convex external surface. The outer surface of the ring also has a slightly flattened border along each edge. Within the flat section of the band is a small equal-armed cross design followed an inscription in black Gothic all capital script with serifs, reading “TIME TRIETH * AL * THING” followed by a character which looks like a mirror image ‘9’ in place of the letter ‘S’ one might expect.

On the raised part of the external surface there is a central band consisting of alternating black niello and white enamel chevrons. On the flattened borders of the external surface are outer bands consisting of alternating roughly equal-length sections of two repeating designs: 1) diagonal hatchings with remains of black niello and 2) a simple incised line parallel to the edge with remains of white enamel.



Figure 16: OXON-B09AB6: Gold Finger Ring from Swyncombe

Conclusion

To summarise, 2022 was a year which produced a wide variety of intriguing finds from the region, discovered and reported by members of the public, as part of the continued development of the collaboration between professional archaeologists and responsible enthusiasts.

For information regarding other finds from 2022, please visit www.finds.org.uk/database and use the advanced search facility.

To contact a specific Finds Liaison Officer for more information please see the list of email contacts below.

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BEDFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGY IN BEDFORD BOROUGH 2022

Vanessa Clarke, Geoff Saunders & Matthew Tuohy
Planning Services, Bedford Borough Council

During 2022/23, Bedford Borough's Historic Environment Record has taken part in the Forestry Commission's Project E, carried out by the Borough's new HER officer. This project focused primarily on the enhancement of the SHINE layer, and the assessment of its potential value as a resource in the creation of new woodland (Fig. 1). It also allowed for a more in-depth study of historic woodland within the Borough than has been possible previously, with the amendment of existing monuments and creation of new features for woodland extant and lost. The outcome was the identification of the most prominent areas of historic tree cover on the Bromswold, in the former parklands in the west of the Borough, and on the Greensand Ridge to the south of Bedford.

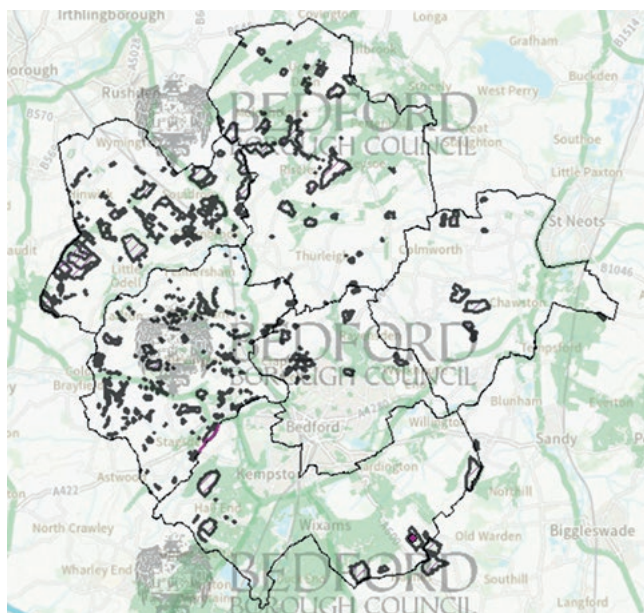


Figure 1: Woodland Monuments created or substantially amended on the HER as part of Project E [single column]

This work has itself fed into efforts to provide a more detailed landscape layer in the Borough, in particular the detail of the open-field and ancient enclosure present

on the Inclosure and Estate Maps of the 18th and 19th centuries. During 2022 and into 2023, a programme of HER enhancement has focused on extracting cartographic data from these documents and has resulted in substantially more detailed set of monument data on a large and small scale. It has also been possible to take advantage of this process to improve the clarity of the HER at all scales and provide a clearer dataset for commercial and academic users.

Fieldwork Projects

Archaeological fieldwork undertaken during 2022 as part of the development process has continued to identify new and interesting archaeological sites within Bedford Borough.

Two large-scale evaluations to the west of Great Barford have been completed ahead of development proposals for housing and quarrying. To the north of Bedford Road a total of 183 trial trenches were opened by Albion Archaeology across a site area covering almost 65ha which was known to contain significant cropmarks. The trenching identified four areas of significant archaeological activity all relating to Iron Age/Romano-British settlement or activity. Settlement appears to have been established along an extensive linear boundary which may have been used as a trackway in the mid-late pre-‘Belgic’ Iron Age. Within the western portion of the settlement enclosures along this boundary activity continues through the late Iron Age and expanded in the Romano-British period when a further series of rectilinear enclosures were established. Several discrete features including pits and postholes were investigated whilst the presence of dark overlying deposits on parts of the site indicate the possible survival of occupation layers. In addition to the 3 areas of Late Iron Age/ Romano-British settlement a further area in the northern part of the site suggests more limited seasonal activity comprising a small cluster of ditches and pits likely associated with domestic activity.

Meanwhile, to the south of Bedford Road Archaeological Research Services Ltd opened a total of 157 trial trenches over an area that largely fell within Bedford Borough but also encompassed parts of Central Bedfordshire. Extensive Roman agricultural and domestic activity was identified comprising a complex of multiphase enclosure ditches containing domestic waste from the 1st–4th centuries. A further settlement area comprising a likely enclosed farmstead of 2nd–4th century date was revealed to the west along with evidence for dispersed cremation and inhumation burials. Later activity in the form of a possible Saxon ironstone quarry was also identified in one of the trenches. Should development proceed at both sites the archaeological

mitigation work will provide a relatively unique opportunity to investigate a large area of the Ouse Valley landscape to west of Great Barford.

Archaeological investigations have also continued along the route of the new Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet bypass. This has included an open area excavation covering almost 2.5ha of land close to the Black Cat roundabout undertaken by MOLA Northampton. Settlement at the site appears to originate in the middle to late Iron Age with the establishment of an enclosure system together with two or more possible roundhouses. The roundhouse ring ditches exhibited multiple recuts indicating that they were likely to be long lived features. Internal features comprised a number of pits containing finds including quern stone fragments, animal bone, and dumps of middle to late Iron Age pottery. Occupation appears to have continued and expanded into the transition from the Iron Age to Romano-British periods. The enclosure system was expanded to comprise three areas of rectilinear enclosures connected by routeways. One of these enclosures contained dumps of burnt material along with fragments of ceramic building material and possible kiln or oven furniture indicative of industrial or domestic activity. Three large pits, tentatively identified as watering holes, were excavated in the central part of excavation areas suggesting the possibility that some of the enclosures may have acted as animal pens. Whilst activity continued into the Roman period across much of the site with evidence for some of the features being recut at this time it appears as though the main focus of the settlement shifted to the north beyond the excavation limits. Detailed post-excavation and analysis of the findings is underway and further sites along the bypass route are due to be investigated.

WEST OF BEDFORD: LATE IRON AGE AND ROMAN SETTLEMENT

by Mike Luke

Extensive, developer-funded, archaeological investigations over the last two decades have revealed the likely pattern of late Iron Age and Roman settlement within a c.13km² area to the west of Bedford/Kempston. Geographically this area includes the River Great Ouse and to the south its tributary, the Elstow Brook; there is gravel near the river and brook, with clay elsewhere. It is likely that we now know the location of all late Iron Age and Roman settlements within the meander of the Great Ouse that contains the modern village of Biddenham (Fig. 2). The majority were located adjacent or close to the modern floodplain and those to the south, near Marsh Leys, were in the vicinity of the Elstow Brook.

Late Iron Age farmsteads

The eight late Iron Age settlements were all located within 50m of the modern floodplain. They were typically less than 1.5ha in extent and featured both enclosed and unenclosed elements with evidence for roundhouses, e.g. Marsh Leys (Luke and Preece 2011, 142, fig. 9.1) and Biddenham Loop (Luke 2016, 241–2, fig. 5.23). Small cremation cemeteries were associated with the farmsteads on the Biddenham Loop (Luke 2008, 213–26), Kempston Church End (Luke 2016, 302) and Marsh Leys (Luke and Preece 2011, 26–7).

Roman farmsteads

At least half of the 15 Roman settlements originated in the late Iron Age, but the number is almost certainly higher as four of these settlements lie outside the main areas of investigation and have, therefore, only been subject to limited archaeological fieldwork. Apart from the roadside settlement at Kempston Church End all the known settlements can be described as farmsteads, although they exhibited some variety.

Around Biddenham, the farmsteads were spaced at intervals of c.350m–1.2km (Luke 2008, 57; Luke 2016, 263; Luke and Barker 2022, 13–4). If the south half of the Biddenham Loop is discounted – due to the presence of an unusually large farmstead (possibly a villa) and its proximity to the roadside settlement at Kempston Church End – then the farmsteads in this area occurred at intervals of c.350–600m. This is comparable to the spacing of the string of farmsteads along the north side of the Elstow Brook around Marsh Leys (Luke and Preece 2011, 168–70, fig. 9.18). These farmsteads, located between the brook and a tributary to the north, seem to have been deliberately set out at regular intervals, with extensive boundaries extending between the two watercourses delimiting the land utilised by each individual farmstead.

The farmsteads comprised rectangular enclosures often with an integral trackway extending beyond the settlement area. They typically contained 4–5 main enclosures and were 1.5–2.5ha in extent (Luke 2008, 56–8; Luke and Preece 2011, 142–52; Luke 2016, 241–51). The largest (6ha) – also with the most enclosures (ten) – was located centrally in the south part of the Biddenham Loop (Luke 2016, fig. 5.26). Only the periphery of it has been excavated, but the layout of its associated trackways, the way they connect with an E–W boundary ditch that appears to ‘cut off’ part of the Loop, and the absence of contemporary farmsteads within that area make this farmstead stand out from the others – possibly suggesting some social stratification (Luke 2016, 337). This may explain the presence on its periphery of an inhumation cemetery; by contrast the number of burials associated with the other farmsteads was typically fewer than four (Luke 2016, 303–9).

Kempston Church End roadside settlement

The settlement at Kempston Church End was adjacent to the Great Ouse, largely between two small tributary streams (Luke 2016, 217). At 17ha in extent it is the largest Roman settlement in the Bedford area. It originated in the late Iron Age, probably next to a fordable part of the Great Ouse. The settlement comprised a large number of ditched enclosures, containing stone and timber buildings, yards, stone-lined wells and numerous pits; some of the latter were interpreted as cesspits (Luke 2016, 237–41). The enclosures were laid out along a SE–NW aligned, well-built road, comprising a cambered and compacted gravel surface with side ditches (Luke 2016, 214). Two inhumation cemeteries (believed to have contained at least 100 graves) were associated with the settlement: one on the northern periphery (Luke and Preece 2017, 185) and one to the west (Dawson 2004, 48 and 55–7). At least 23 dispersed burials, both cremation and inhumation, are known along the settlement’s western periphery (Luke and Preece 2017, 187).

The ‘road’ network

The nearest ‘small towns’ are Irchester, c.20km to the north-west, and Sandy, c.16km to the east. Before the size and nature of the settlement at Kempston Church End was fully

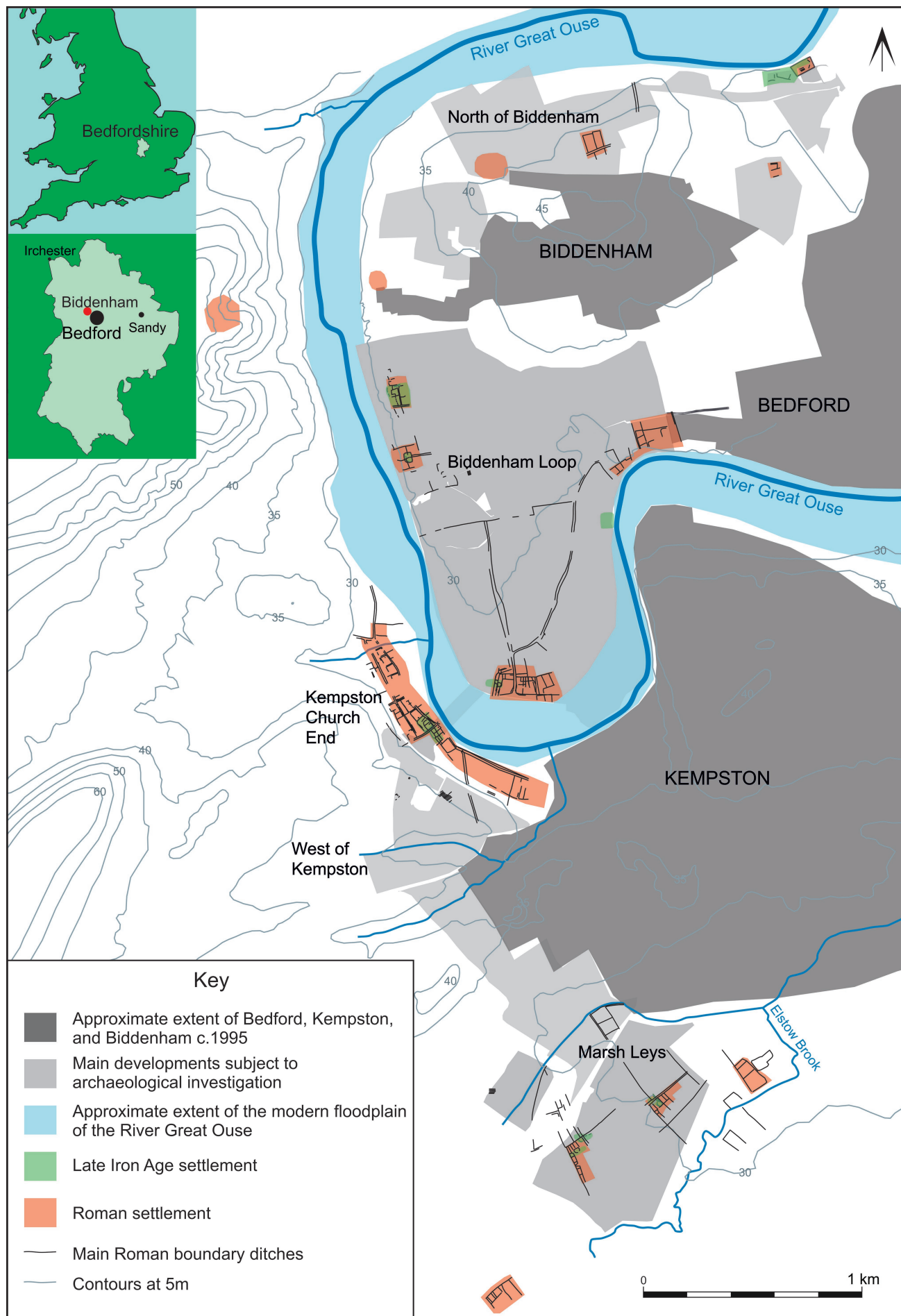


Figure 2: Distribution of late Iron Age and Roman settlements to the west of Bedford

understood, it had been suggested that 'roads' from Irchester and Sandy passed through the Bedford area (Simco 1984, 65–6). It now seems more likely that these 'roads' linked with the settlement at Kempston Church End. Their precise course has been the subject of much speculation, and the postulated evidence was recorded by the Viatores (1974) as 170a for the Bedford to Irchester 'road' and 224 for the Sandy to Bedford 'road'.

However, the only length of 'road' where convincing evidence has been identified (albeit not tested by excavation) is between Bedford and Sandy where at least three lengths of straight, parallel, linear cropmarks are suggestive of roadside ditches. The limited extent of the evidence could suggest that these were localised attempts to create a planned route, rather than a more centralised construction project. Certainly, neither route was a major highway like Watling Street and away from the Kempston Church End settlement they might well have been created by linking a series of pre-existing, local trackways. The latter are less easy to detect archaeologically than roads because they often lack any engineered elements, such as parallel ditches or a metalled agger. For these reasons no attempt has been made to show these possible routes in figure 2.

Overall settlement distribution

The influence of the roadside settlement on the distribution and number of farmsteads in its vicinity is perhaps indicated by the absence of farmsteads between it and those at Marsh Leys to the south – a gap of c.1.8km. There appears to be a similar gap to the north, on the west side of the Great Ouse, although only limited investigation has taken place in this area. It may also be significant that the unusually large farmstead within the southern Biddenham Loop (described above) was on the opposite side of the Great Ouse to the Kempston Church End settlement.

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the first draft of this article. Needless to say any errors in the content of this article are my own.

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Arlesey, Arlesey Farm (Phase 1) TL 1960 3730

HEATHER WHITE, MARCIN KOZIMINSKI and DREW SHOTLIFF

Arlesey Farm is a large, multi-phase housing development, located to the east of High Street, to the south of Stotfold Road and to the west of the A507. It is bisected by the Arlesey Relief Road (see below). Phase 1 is located in the north-west corner of the site; 3.3ha were subject to archaeological investigation in advance of development. Analysis of the results is underway but a preliminary summary of the five main phases of identified activity is given below (Fig. 3).

A c.235m-long, late prehistoric pit alignment traversed the site. It was perpendicular to the Pix Brook and may have served to demarcate a triangular block of land defined by the confluence of the brook and the River Hiz. Part of an undated, possible ring-ditch, flanked by a concentric ring of pits, was exposed. A late Bronze Age cremation burial (radiocarbon-dated to 1214–1016 cal BC (Beta-641853)) was inserted into one of the pits; oak had been used as fuel for the pyre. Limited assemblages of pottery and animal bone suggest the site was not a focus of settlement during this period.

The early–middle Iron Age saw the pit alignment replaced by an extensive boundary ditch, which broadly mirrored the earlier boundary. It was recut at least once and was integrated with a series of enclosures to the west. The latter were a focus of settlement, evidence for which included a roundhouse and a number of sub-square enclosures containing four-post structures and storage pits. A single inhumation, dug into one of the pits near the prehistoric ring-ditch, was radiocarbon dated to 343–49 cal BC (Beta-644923). Not all these features were contemporary, suggesting that the settlement developed over time; four potential sub-phases are shown on Fig. 1.

Limited evidence for late Iron Age/early Roman activity included boundary ditches that crossed the late prehistoric landscape divisions and at least two sub-rectangular enclosures. Sparse pottery and animal bone were recovered, indicating that once again the site was not a focus of occupation.

Evidence for medieval activity was largely confined to the southern fringes of the site where a rectangular, post-built structure (which produced fragments of a whittle-tang knife) and a boundary ditch followed a NNE–SSW alignment. Occasional traces of furrows were present across the site. Two areas of post-medieval/modern quarrying completed the site sequence. OASIS no.: albionar1-404318; accession no.: BEDFM 2020.62

Arlesey Relief Road TL 1971 3700

MATEVZ GROSELJ, ALLAN KING and JEREMY OETGEN

Open-area excavation, totalling c.0.6ha, in advance of road construction uncovered remains dating from the Bronze Age to the 20th century (Fig. 4). Area 1 was situated to investigate an extant earthwork.

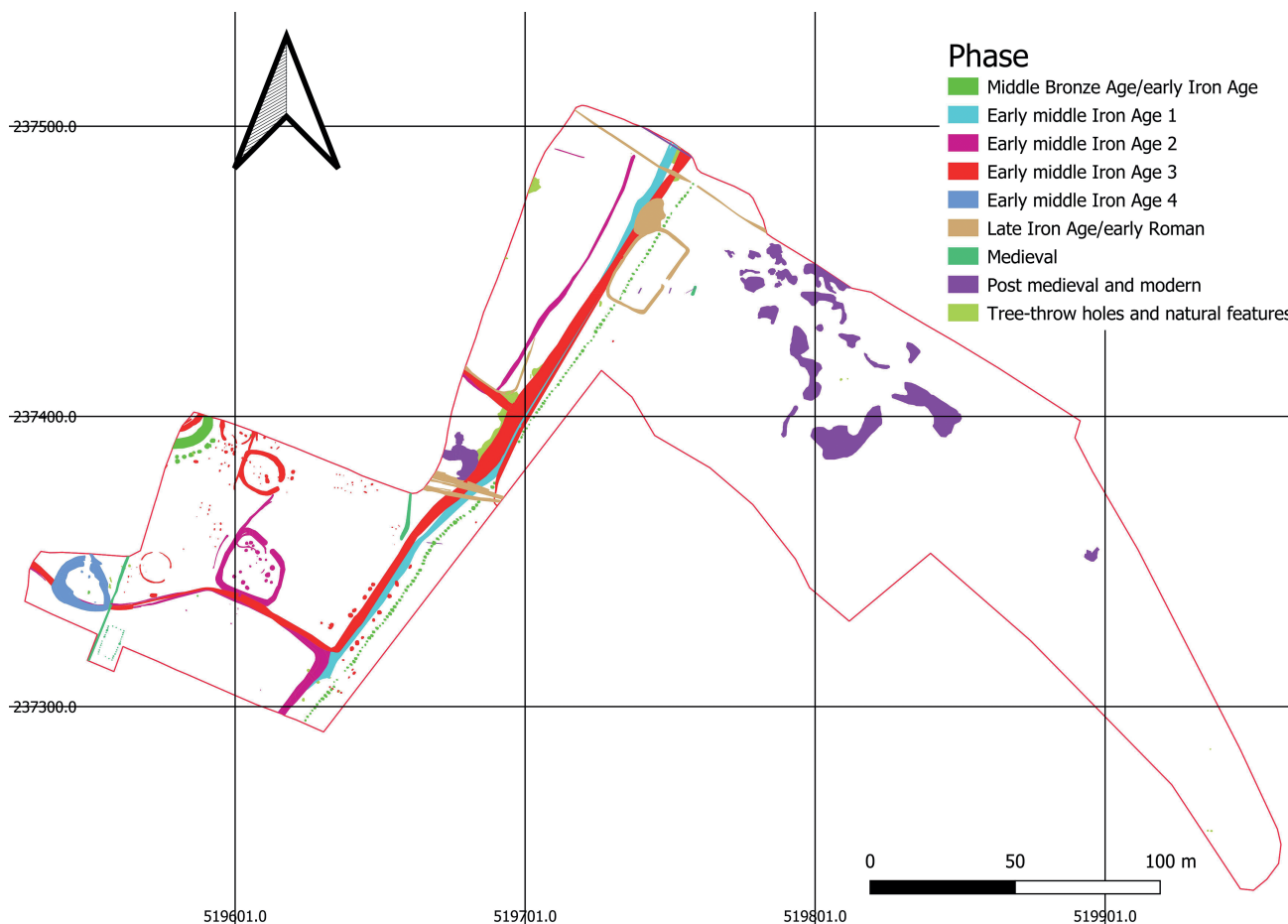


Figure 3: Arlesey Farm (Phase 1), all-phases plan [half page, full width both columns]

Middle to late Bronze Age

Two cremation burials and an inhumation were located within Area 1 on the crest of a low ridge between the adjacent catchments of the Pix Brook and the River Hiz. Radiocarbon dating of human bone from the inhumation and one of the cremation burials both returned middle to late Bronze Age dates; the remaining cremation burial contained fragments of a Bronze Age collared urn. Whilst no other features could be securely dated to this period, another cremation burial excavated at Arlesey Farm (Phase 1), c.550m to the north-west, returned a similar radiocarbon date (see above).

The burials were situated adjacent to the late Bronze Age to early Iron Age features, suggesting that the boundary marked by these features may have had its origins in the middle Bronze Age. The association of Bronze Age burials with boundary features is not unusual; five cremation burials were found adjacent to the boundaries of a largely unenclosed zone between two field systems at Biddenham Loop (Luke 2016, 182–3).

Late Bronze Age to early Iron Age

Remains dating to this period comprised a NW–SE aligned boundary, which was the focus of a large cluster of postholes and pits in Area 1, and two smaller clusters of pits and postholes in Areas 2 and 3, located to the north-east, towards the Pix Brook. Several structures were identified from the postholes, including four four-post structures and at least one larger rectangular building.

The paucity of finds suggests that the excavated areas were some distance from any settlement – the nearest identified to date is at Arlesey Farm (Phase 1) (see above) where an

early–middle Iron Age settlement was investigated. There was little evidence for the function of the pits and post-built structures. The most interesting find was a near-complete cattle skull in the base of a posthole in Area 2. No Iron Age burials were found but, given that mortuary use of the site was already established in the middle to late Bronze Age, it is perhaps plausible that it continued as a place for ritual activity into the early Iron Age. The topography may also have been a relevant factor: even though the contours are relatively gentle, Area 1 was located fairly prominently on the crest of a low ridge and structures on this ridge would have been visible unless obscured by woodland.

Earthwork embankment

Although no direct dating evidence was recovered relating to the earthwork, it was almost certainly an earthen embankment constructed between the early Iron Age and the medieval period. Buried topsoil beneath the earthwork sealed the late Bronze Age to early Iron Age features. Medieval furrows were absent from the tallest part of the earthwork, probably because they did not cut deep enough to reach the underlying geology; the embankment was on the crest of the ridge so was most likely a deliberate construction rather than a headland or lynchet. The earthwork also overlay the late Bronze Age to early Iron Age boundary ditch on the same NW–SE alignment, suggesting that its purpose was to re-establish the boundary and that it may potentially date from the middle to late Iron Age. Centuries of cultivation had reduced it to an almost imperceptible feature, but it was visible as a cropmark (HER 1767), and it is one of several slight earthworks around Arlesey that are recorded on

LiDAR surveys (Defra 2023) (Fig. 5). These sources show that the earthwork was not aligned either with the furrows or Enclosure field boundaries, suggesting it had an early origin.

Medieval and post-medieval

Medieval remains were limited to a series of NE–SW aligned furrows across Area 1. Post-medieval remains comprised a number of sub-rectangular and sub-circular pits of uncertain function; they appeared to be targeting chalk deposits, but their form was far more regular than is typical of quarry pitting.

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OASIS ID: albionar1-280091; accession no: BEDFM 2017.27

Bedford, Land off Clapham Road and Manton Lane TL 0416 5188

MATEVZ GROSELI and KATHY PILKINTON

Planning permission was granted on appeal for the construction of new school buildings and sports facilities, with an archaeological condition that required an initial field evaluation.

The development area principally comprises two former arable fields and, at its south-west extremity, a small area of pasture, which is part of a much larger field on the east side of Clapham Road. It lies on a west-facing slope on higher ground overlooking a substantial loop in the River Great Ouse. The north-east part of the site is fairly level but still rises gently from east to west to a ridge at c.67m OD. The site then slopes steeply down to the west to its lowest point of 35m OD along Clapham Road.

Ridge-and-furrow earthworks in the south-west corner of the site were recorded and a geophysical survey was carried out before a total of 35 trial trenches were opened. The evaluation revealed a late Iron Age (c.100 BC–AD 50) landscape, with features of this date spread across the entire site in varying concentrations. The main settlement at the top of the hill was formed of at least two large enclosures, containing roundhouses, storage pits and post-built structures. It was relatively short-lived, falling out of use in the early 1st century AD. An area to the south of the settlement was largely devoid of archaeological remains. A large N–S aligned ditch and two E–W aligned ditches were undated but are likely to relate to the adjacent late Iron Age settlement. A small separate area at the base of the hill to the south-west revealed late Iron Age ditches, which produced c.50% of the pottery recovered during the evaluation, suggesting further settlement activity in the vicinity.

In addition, the remains of possible Roman bedding trenches and furrows associated with medieval open fields were identified across the site, along with a small number of

modern and undated features. OASIS no.: albionar1-433262; accession no.: BEDFM 2021.99

Bedford, Land off Telford Way TL 0741 4853

ERNIE RIZZO, IAN TURNER and KATHY PILKINTON

Ahead of a proposed commercial development, four trial trenches were opened on a site on the south-east fringes of Bedford. The small number of revealed features comprised three medieval furrows, a post-medieval/modern field boundary and an undated ditch. Three tree-throws were also excavated. The undated ditch contained a small fragment of undatable, but possibly Iron Age, pottery. Its alignment is broadly consistent with Iron Age ditches previously identified to the west but also with the medieval furrows and post-medieval/modern field boundary – as such it may be contemporary with any of these field systems. One of the tree-throws produced a Neolithic flint scraper. OASIS no.: albionar1-506308; accession no.: BEDFM: 2022.141

Bedford, Richardson Milling, Mile Road TL 0583 4799

MATTEO PALOMBELLI, JEREMY OETGEN and BENJAMIN CARROLL

A small part of this site was evaluated in 2021 pursuant to outline planning permission for redevelopment of the mill (SMA 52, 11). A further programme of trial trenching was undertaken following approval of a new planning application. Seventeen trenches targeted the north-west portion of the site, which had previously been occupied by buildings. An alluvial or colluvial layer of variable depth was identified in most of the trenches and a buried subsoil in a smaller number of them in the south-west. Only two trenches contained archaeological features: a Roman and an undated ditch in one, and a post-medieval boundary ditch in another. All these features were sealed by the alluvial deposits. OASIS no.: albionar1-410705; accession no.: BEDFM 2020.88

Bedford, St John's Street Car Park TL 0511 4929

ERNIE RIZZO and JEREMY OETGEN

In 2018, open-area excavation in advance of residential development revealed repeated use of the site (located in the core of the southern *burh*) from the early medieval period onwards (SMA 49, 12–13, fig. 1). Following a hiatus in the development process, additional investigation took place in 2022 towards the St John's Street frontage. This found similar features, dating from the early medieval period onwards, and the results are being incorporated with those of the previous work to provide a unified report. A watching brief continues on construction works. OASIS no.: albionar1-317892; accession no.: BEDFM 2018.32

Biggleswade, Symmetry Park Phase 3, Stratton Business Park TL 2131 4239

MATEVZ GROSELI, BENJAMIN CARROLL and IAIN LESLIE

Geophysical survey and trial trenching were carried out in support of a planning application for three distribution warehouses, together with associated access, vehicle parking and landscaping. Archaeological features (excluding furrows) were identified in 33 of the 44 trenches. In the north-west part of the site was an area of dense Iron Age settlement, characterised by enclosures, ditches and pits. Spread across much of the remainder of the site was evidence

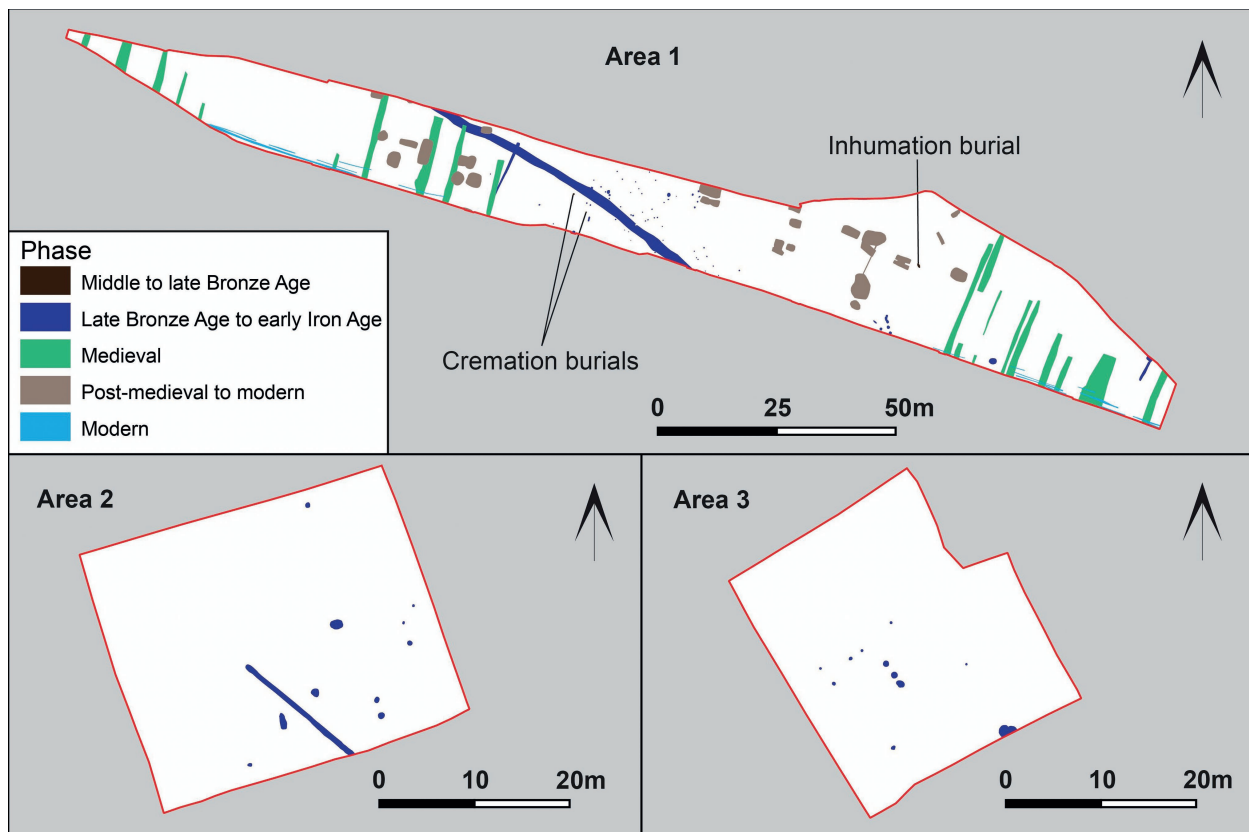


Figure 4: Arlesey Relief Road, plan of all archaeological features

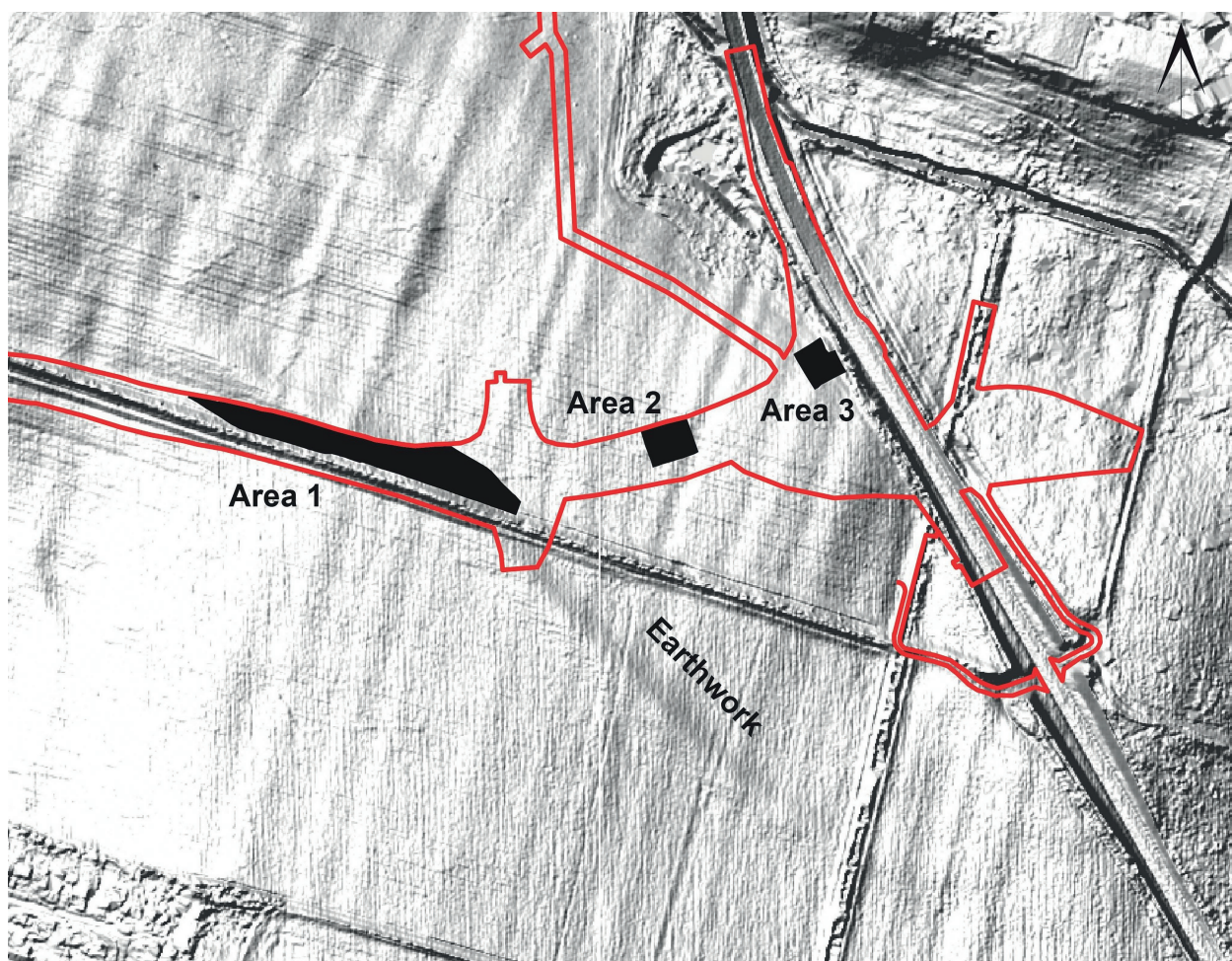


Figure 5: LiDAR hill shade model showing location of Arlesey Relief Road and excavation Areas 1-3 (LiDAR data © Environment Agency, contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.)

for trackways, enclosures and field systems associated with, but peripheral to, the settlement. One boundary ditch contained late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery, hinting at earlier activity in the vicinity. The south part of the site, where multiple geophysical anomalies had been classified as 'possible archaeology', proved to be predominantly devoid of archaeological remains. OASIS no.: albionar1-505362; accession no.: BEDFM 2022.73

Bletsoe, Redhouse Farm, Riseley Road TL 0315 6097

MARK PHILLIPS

Redhouse Farm is located c.2.7km north-northeast of Bletsoe. Notwithstanding its postal address, it lies in the parish of Riseley just north of the parish boundary. The farmhouse lies in the south-west corner of the complex, with outbuildings on three sides of the yard. The available historical map evidence suggests that the present farm was established during the 19th century. The three outbuildings were subject to historic building recording prior to their planned demolition ahead of residential development.

Building 1 at the west end of the yard consisted of a timber-frame building in lightweight primary bracing on a low brick sill wall. It was mostly clad in weatherboard with some areas of brick infill. It contained five compartments and had four doors opening onto the yard. It had a modern loft floor and rebuilt roof covered with interlocking concrete tiles.

Building 2 (Fig. 6), on the north side of the yard, contained two enclosed compartments. The eastern compartment appears to have been open-fronted when first built. It contained a feed trough across the rear wall with tether rings

for five animals. This building formed part of a continuous north range which included a barn (now demolished) and a two-bay shed at the east end. The buildings in the north range were on a substantial brick sill wall, c.1m high. Above this the walls were primary-braced timber-frame and weatherboard.

Building 3 at the east end of the yard was L-shaped in plan. A two-bay shed at the north end was part of the north range and was of similar construction to the other parts of that range. The main part of Building 3 was a north-south aligned range, originally in three compartments; it was in lightweight, primary-braced timber-frame and weatherboard on a low brick sill.

The 1882 OS map shows the west (Building 1) and north ranges (Building 2 and part of Building 3). The buildings contained no closely dateable diagnostic features, but the use of primary-braced timber-framing is consistent with a construction date in the 18th or 19th centuries.

It is not known when the farmstead was first established. The 1793 Inclosure map for Riseley indicates a single building close to the present location of the farm. The 1882 OS map shows the farm largely as it survives today. The farm is labelled 'Park House' on the latter but by 1913 it had been renamed Redhouse Farm. It was not possible to trace the earlier documentary history of the site – made more difficult by the change in name and the relatively common occurrence of 'Park' as a name element. Documents show that the farm formed part of the Melchbourne Estate held by Lord Saint John of Bletsoe. It is possible that the land formed part of the Great Park owned by Lord Saint John from at least the early 17th century. OASIS no.: albionar1-506641



Figure 6: Bletsoe, Redhouse Farm – Building 2

Bedfordshire

Bletsoe, Redhouse Farm, Riseley Road TL 0315 6097
MARCO CAPARDONI, IAN TURNER and KATHY PILKINTON

Six trial trenches were opened ahead of planned residential redevelopment of the farmyard. Middle-late Iron Age features in the north-east corner of the site comprised a large, almost vertical-sided pit; a smaller, shallow pit; and a ditch. An inhumation burial was also identified beneath deposits on the edge of the larger pit; it was left *in situ*. The limited artefactual assemblage suggests these features may be on the periphery of a settlement rather than at its core.

An extensive modern soakaway covered a large part of the former farmyard and much of the south half of the site was truncated beyond the archaeological level. Small pits and a modern boundary ditch represent further modern disturbance. OASIS no.: albionar1-506639; accession no.: BEDFM: 2022.143

Caddington, Chaul End Reservoir TL 0607 2127
TORI GUY and KATHY PILKINTON

Archaeological field evaluation was undertaken in support of Affinity Water's planning application for a new reservoir with associated valve house and pipework.

Geophysical survey comprised magnetometry to search for archaeological features, and electromagnetic EM31 and electrical resistivity tomography (EMT) survey to search for evidence of dolines (solution features). The magnetometry survey revealed no definite archaeological anomalies; however, numerous uncertain responses had the potential to be archaeological or geological in origin. The EM31 and EMT surveys identified 'areas of interest' and a potential doline along the south-west side of the site.

Nine trial trenches and seven geoarchaeological test pits were subsequently opened. A ditch in Trench 1 contained a sherd of 13th–14th-century pottery and a post-medieval tile fragment; both were abraded, suggesting a post-medieval (or later) date for the ditch. It may be part of the field systems related to the hamlets of Chaul End to the north or Caddington to the south. A small ditch in Trench 9 could not be dated; it is likely to represent agricultural activity possibly of similar date to the larger ditch to the south. No Palaeolithic material or paleoenvironmental evidence was recovered from the geoarchaeological test pits. OASIS no.: albionar1-506569

Caddington, Land at Mancroft Road TL 0610 1882
JON DURMAN, ALLAN KING and WESLEY KEIR

Planning permission for residential development included a condition for a staged programme of archaeological investigation. Four trial trenches were opened but only one contained archaeological features: a ditch and a tree-throw. No dating evidence was recovered, although the ditch had a similar alignment to existing field boundaries and is most likely post-medieval or later in date. OASIS no.: albionar1-504838; accession no.: LUTNM 2022/12

Chalgrave, Chalgrave Manor, Luton Road
TL 0214 2673
MARCO CAPARDONI, BENJAMIN CARROLL and IAIN LESLIE

In connection with a proposed new solar farm, five geotechnical test-pits and a small area of topsoil stripping were monitored. No remains of archaeological significance

were encountered during the works. OASIS no.: albionar1-506687

Clophill, 1 High Street TL 0825 3775
GARETH SHANE and KATHY PILKINTON

Archaeological monitoring was carried out during excavation of foundation trenches, ground reduction for a patio, and excavation of a soakaway. Undisturbed geological deposits were reached in all excavated areas, but no archaeological features or deposits were identified. OASIS no.: albionar1-505470

Cranfield, Broadlands, Broad Green SP 9630 4328
GARETH SHANE, ALLAN KING and KATHY PILKINTON

Planning consent for two residential units had a condition for a programme of archaeological works. The initial trial trenching identified only two modern tree-pits. OASIS no.: albionar1-505741; accession no.: BEDFM: 2022.77

Dunstable, Scotson Chambers, 80 High Street South
TL 0203 2168
MARCO CAPARDONI and KATHY PILKINTON

Planning permission was granted for conversion of an office, including a two-storey rear extension and loft conversion, to create five residential flats. Archaeological monitoring of the foundation trenches for the extension revealed a series of make-up layers, containing post-medieval/modern building material with a final layer of compacted chalk presumably used to level and consolidate the ground prior to construction. No features earlier than the modern period were identified. OASIS no.: albionar1-427801

Flitton and Greenfield, Thatch End, 54 Mill Lane, Greenfield TL 0528 3521
LEWIS BUSBY, BENJAMIN CARROLL and WESLEY KEIR

Planning permission was granted for two extensions to the listed building with a condition for a programme of archaeological work. Initial trial trenching revealed no archaeological features or deposits and there was no evidence of previous ground reduction that might have removed former archaeological features. OASIS no.: albionar1-428500

Haynes, Northwood End Road TL 1020 4181
GARETH SHANE, ALLAN KING, JACKIE WELLS and KATHY PILKINTON

Geophysical survey and trial trenching were carried out ahead of proposed residential development. Middle to late Iron Age features comprised a large sub-circular enclosure and a boundary ditch that bisected the enclosure. A posthole was located on the side of the boundary ditch. A further posthole and a possible ditch terminus were undated, but their location within the enclosure suggests that they were contemporary. The features produced a reasonable artefact assemblage, including 2.5kg of Iron Age pottery and 0.6kg of animal bone, suggesting domestic occupation of the enclosure. Post-medieval remains were limited to NE–SW aligned ditches and two pits. OASIS no.: albionar1-505396; accession no.: BEDFM: 2022.74

Houghton Conquest, Mill View TL 0443 4288

JON DURMAN and IAIN LESLIE

Monitoring of geotechnical test pits, dug in connection with a proposed residential development, revealed no remains of archaeological significance. OASIS no.: albionar1-425161; accession no.: BEDFM 2021.60

Houghton Regis, Kingsland Centre, Parkside Drive TL 0141 2464

IAN TURNER and WESLEY KEIR

Geophysical survey and trial trenching were carried out ahead of the development of a new leisure centre and associated facilities at the former Houghton Regis Academy. A number of ditches were revealed but most could not be dated due to a lack of artefacts. Three of the ditches did correspond with two field boundaries marked on a 1762 estate map and the 1887–9 OS map, suggesting they are no earlier than post-medieval in date. The only pre-modern, dateable finds were a small sherd of Roman pottery and a small quantity of post-medieval roof tile fragments (recovered from topsoil and subsoil). OASIS no.: albionar1-507501; accession no.: LUTNM 2022/14

Houghton Regis, Land adjacent to Red Cow Farm, Bidwell TL 0141 2464

MATEVZ GROSELI, ALLAN KING and WESLEY KEIR

Trial trenching ahead of proposed residential development revealed a series of pits, ditches and postholes. Although few finds were recovered, tentative dates can be assigned to some of the features. Five ditches shared a similar N–S alignment and they broadly match the alignment of medieval field boundary ditches excavated in the site immediately to the north. Two pits produced a small quantity of pottery; none is diagnostic, but it could be Iron Age or Anglo-Saxon in date, with the presence of Roman brick fragments suggest that the latter is more likely. Only one of seven postholes produced any finds – a single, small sherd of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery. Two similar clusters of postholes excavated in neighbouring sites were dated as medieval, suggesting the single sherd of pottery may be residual. OASIS no.: albionar1-508186; accession no.: LUTNM 2022/16

Houghton Regis, Linnere TL 0350 2559

LEWIS BUSBY and WESLEY KEIR

Monitoring of geotechnical trial pits failed to reveal any archaeological deposits, features or artefacts. OASIS no.: albionar1-507840

Houghton Regis, Red Cow Farm, Bidwell TL 0138 2465

MATEVZ GROSELI, ALLAN KING and WESLEY KEIR

Trial trenching ahead of proposed residential development revealed pits, ditches and postholes. Although few finds were recovered, tentative dates can be assigned to some of the features. Two very small sherds of pottery from a group of postholes could be either Roman or medieval in date. However, the postholes' proximity to medieval pits and postholes identified within a previous excavation to the north suggests that they too are medieval in date. Two pits and a ditch terminus yielded no datable finds. OASIS no.: albionar1-508188; accession no.: LUTNM 2022/15

Kempston, 19 Barnard Avenue TL 0223 4716

MATEVZ GROSELI, ALLAN KING and KATHY PILKINTON

A watching brief on a house extension identified only a soakaway associated with the current residential property. No artefacts were recovered from the overburden. OASIS no.: albionar1-433233; accession no.: BEDFM 2021.98

Kensworth, Maylords, Common Road TL 0239 1837

GARETH SHANE and KATHY PILKINTON

Trial trenching ahead of proposed residential development did not identify any archaeological features; nor were any artefacts recovered during machine excavation of the soil horizons. The only evidence of former activity on the site was a single clay drain of modern origin. OASIS no.: albionar1-420991

Maulden, Land off Silsoe Road TL 0587 3749

ERNIE RIZZO, ADAM WILLIAMS and WESLEY KEIR

Trial trenching of a proposed residential development revealed few archaeological features: three post-medieval/modern ditches, and three undated ditches and a pit. OASIS no.: albionar1-419401; accession no.: BEDFM 2021.30

Milton Ernest, The Old Maltings, Bedford Road

TL 0196 5594

MARCO CAPARDONI, ALLAN KING and KATHY PILKINTON

Ahead of residential development, the site of the former maltings was subject to an archaeological watching brief. The excavation of six geotechnical test-pits and the foundation trenches for the new dwellings were monitored. The observed deposits related solely to modern levelling of the site, construction of the maltings in the late 19th century, and its subsequent demolition. The only surviving structural remains relating to the Old Maltings belonged to the larger foundations/retaining wall along the side of the stream on the site's south-east side – probably larger and deeper for this reason. Variation in the building material and form of the foundations may be due to phases of repair or extension of the original wall. No archaeological features or deposits relating to earlier activity were present. OASIS no.: albionar1-503208

Northill, 65 Biggleswade Road, Upper Caldecote

TL 1687 4598

JON DURMAN, ALLAN KING and KATHY PILKINTON

Archaeological trial trenching of a single house plot revealed a late medieval/early post-medieval ditch, a modern ditch, the remains of a modern animal burial and tree-root disturbance. The two ditches were broadly parallel to existing property boundaries and Biggleswade Road itself; as such, they are likely to represent former property or field boundaries. OASIS no.: albionar1-505471; accession no.: BEDFM 2022.76

Northill, Land off Caldecote Road, Ickwell

TL 1529 4586

GARETH SHANE, ALLAN KING and IAIN LESLIE

Trial trenching ahead of proposed residential development revealed only medieval furrows in one trench and modern

Bedfordshire

ditches in another three. OASIS no.: albionar1-413597; accession no.: BEDFM 2021.07

Shortstown, College Farm TL 0682 4654

MARCO CAPARDONI, BENJAMIN CARROLL, JACKIE WELLS and IAIN LESLIE

A total of 120 trial trenches were excavated ahead of proposed residential development. Archaeological features (excluding furrows) were identified in 89 of them. Datable artefacts were recovered from 21 trenches, indicating activity mainly dating to the early–middle Iron Age, late Iron Age/early Roman and late Anglo-Saxon periods. A small amount of residual late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery was recovered from later deposits.

The early–middle Iron Age remains at the north end of the site represent a small-scale, rural settlement, characterised by circular and sub-rectangular enclosures defined by ditches. They were part of a larger settlement, related to enclosure ditches and a possible roundhouse found in the adjacent Shortstown Primary School. The same part of the site contained a number of late Anglo-Saxon pits that produced domestic refuse – pottery, animal bone, an iron knife blade and fragments of lava rotary quern stones. Again, similar remains were found on the adjacent school site.

A late Iron Age/early Roman field system, defined by ditches, was revealed in the central part of the site. The remains of furrows associated with medieval to post-medieval open fields were present throughout the site, as were a few undated features. The furrows correlate with the alignments recorded on the 1794 Cardington inclosure map. OASIS no.: albionar1-41255; accession no.: BEDFM: 2021.02

Shortstown, Shorts Park TL 0831 4656

ERNIE RIZZO, TORI GUY and IAIN LESLIE

Geophysical survey and trial trenching were carried out ahead of a proposed residential development within the former RAF Cardington site on the east side of the A600. Part of a late Bronze Age/Iron Age settlement was identified on the southern limit of the site. It was 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, undated features and medieval furrows were present across the site, as were modern features most probably associated with the former airfield. OASIS no.: albionar1-412379; accession no.: BEDFM 2021.01

Wyboston, Chawston & Coleden, Dove House Farm, The Lane TL 1620 5660

JON DURMAN, ALLAN KING and KATHY PILKINTON

Ahead of proposed residential development, five trial trenches were opened, revealing only a series of undated/modern ditches and scattered tree throws. Two undated ditches had a similar alignment to the existing field boundaries, suggesting they represent former boundaries or land divisions. Although they are possibly post-medieval or later in date, given the proximity of the site to the postulated core of the medieval settlement of Wyboston, a medieval

date cannot be ruled out. OASIS no.: albionar1-507048; accession no.: BEDFM 2002.144

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGY

Bedford, The Willows, Shakespeare Road

TL 04005 50726

ROSS SHURETY

A programme of field evaluation was carried out in connection with the redevelopment of The Willows Care Home, Shakespeare Road, Bedford. Five evaluation trenches, representing approximately 4% of the development area, were set out across the 0.2ha site to provide a comprehensive assessment of its archaeological and palaeoenvironmental potential.

No features of archaeological interest were encountered. A working surface for the demolition contractors consisting of topsoil and modern demolition material had been deposited over made ground deposits, which either provided a sub-base for the elements of the former nursing home or were associated with the construction of a now-demolished dwelling at the northeast of the site; these in turn overlaid the natural clays.

Bedford, The Old Chapel, Stevington SP 99170 53120

STEPHEN PRIESTLEY

An archaeological standing building record was made to Historic England/RCHME Level 2 of The Old Chapel, Park Road, Stevington, Bedfordshire prior to conversion for residential use. The Old Chapel is not a listed building but is a non-designated heritage asset recorded on the Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record.

The building comprised a single-storey former Primitive Methodist Chapel, a rectangular gabled structure aligned north-northeast-south-southwest. Cracks were noted in external and internal walls. The Park Road gable end was constructed in yellow brick with a central doorway beneath an Italian gothic surround of alternating red and yellow brick, either side of which was a round-arched sash window with alternating red and yellow brick quoins to the arch. A roundel above the doorway identified the building as a Primitive Methodist Chapel 1863 and at the eaves was a coggled brick cornice in yellow brick between contrasting bands of red.

The side elevations were four bays long, in red brick and each had four-arched sashed windows with alternating red and yellow brick quoins to the arches. Three later timber buttresses had been tied into the east wall. The rear elevation was in yellow brick and contained two small segmental-headed windows and an ancillary gabled structure lower than the rest of the chapel. This contemporary extension (likely to have been built as the vestry) was in yellow brick and contained a chimney at the gable end and sash windows in the side elevations. An external door in its west wall served as a second entrance into the building. A rear lean-to structure in red brick with yellow quoins had a pitched slate roof, a single casement window to the rear elevation and a door within the west wall.

The chapel was bounded by a narrow garden on all sides representing its historic boundary. A low brick wall with a central wrought-iron gate and railings formed the northern boundary. Inset on either side of the gate were 10 stone

name-plaques thought to identify contributors to the chapel's construction.

The interior of the building comprised the chapel and a smaller room to the rear. Apart from the doors, windows and two ventilation vents, very few original fixtures or fittings of architectural or historical interest were noted within the interior but indications of timber panelling were visible at ground level. Evidence of original polychrome decorative brickwork was noted within the interior. This included a horizontal course of red brick crosses on a white background just above eaves level on the north and south walls, framed between two courses of red brick, above which was a red brick lozenge at the apex of the roof.

The roof was partly concealed by timber panelling, but three sets of curved roof trusses were exposed, these being of modified queen-post type with scissor struts connected by longitudinal scissor braces. Apart from a quarry-tile floor, no fixtures or fittings of architectural or historical interest were noted within the second room or the lean-to structure.

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Colmworth, Honeydon Barn NGR 511456 258487

JOAO HEITOR

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified medieval ditches and a clay extraction pit. A post-medieval pond depicted on the 1883 six-inch Ordnance Survey map was also present.

Dunton, Land west of Cambridge Road

NGR 523737 244581

ANNA WOLF

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology confirmed the results of a preceding geophysical survey and identified activity of 12th to 14th-century date including a possible

kiln/hearth (Fig. 7), ditches, pits, possible narrow field strips and the remains of ridge and furrow cultivation. The relatively large pottery assemblage was primarily 12th to 14th century in date and, together with the possible kiln/hearth, may suggest the site was located on the edge of the medieval settlement at Dunton, in an area of specialised activity.

Hockliffe, Land at Grounds Farm NGR 495461 226647

EILIDH BARR

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recorded the remains of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation and an undated but possibly post-medieval gully.

Luton, Luton Airport Phase 2 NGR 512623 221934

ANNA WOLF

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified an undated pit and ditch as well as an undated possible ditch or natural channel.

Sandy, Phase 2 Caesar's Lodge, Caesar's Camp

NGR 518069 249199

RALPH BROWN

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology recorded a possible pit from which small quantities of Middle to Late Iron Age and Late Iron Age to Early Roman pottery was recovered.

Sutton, Manor Farm NGR 522030 247337

RALPH BROWN

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology revealed brick wall foundations, relating to a building depicted on Ordnance Survey maps dating from 1884 into the 1960s. The walls likely represent the remains of a former outbuilding of 18th/19th century date belonging to Manor Farm.



Figure 7: Dunton, possible kiln/hearth, looking north-east (1m scales)

Bedfordshire

Wootton, Land on south side of Keeley Lane

NGR 500750 246017

ANNA WOLF

An evaluation and earthwork survey by Cotswold Archaeology recorded the extant remains of a medieval ridge and furrow agricultural system and a large medieval quarry pit. Evaluation trenching identified a cluster of four Late Iron Age to Early Roman pits and an undated possible former field boundary ditch.

HEADLAND ARCHAEOLOGY

Central Bedfordshire, Dunton to Potton Burst Water

Main TL 24115 44819 to TL 23051 48625

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook an evaluation and open area excavation across a linear scheme required for the replacement of a burst water main, on behalf of Anglian Water. The works took place between April and June 2022 and comprised the excavation of 21 trenches of various lengths and an open area excavation measuring 145m by 15m. Limited archaeological features were observed in trenches 10 to 21, with more concentrated features recorded in trenches 1–9. The densest concentration of archaeological features were recorded in the open area excavation, which was located between Trench 02 and Trench 03. This was characterised by linear field boundaries, a large ring ditch enclosure and three areas of occupation represented by possible sunken featured buildings. Finds recovered from the site suggest activity in the area from the Romano-British period through to the Early-medieval period.

Maulden, Iron age metalworking at Old Farm, Clophill Road

SARA MACHIN and OWAIN SCHOLMA-MASON with contributions from DAVID DUNGWORTH and JACKIE WELLS

Introduction

An archaeological excavation was conducted from 28th September to 18th December **2020**, by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd on land located at Old Farm, Clophill Road, Maulden. The excavation was in response to a planning condition related to the construction of a residential estate (Planning ref: APP/P0240/W/18/3208772). Following geophysical survey and initial trial trenching works, a single area, Area 2, was targeted for excavation alongside a watching brief (Fig. 8). The excavation covered an area measuring 1601m² whilst the watching brief area measured 3433m².

The excavation revealed evidence of three phases of middle to late Iron Age settlement enclosures comprising ditches, pits, and post-holes. Metalworking debris evidenced iron smithing with the nature of the assemblage considered to be of national importance. Full details of the site can be found in the archive report (Headland Archaeology 2023; OASIS: headland1-507879). The site archive will be deposited with the Higgins Art gallery and museum, Bedford (BEDFM 2019.89).

Archaeological activity at the site

The principal period of activity at the site dates to the late Iron Age, with limited activity from the middle to late Iron Age period. A series of enclosures have been defined and are described in terms of their morphology and chronology (Fig. 9). The recorded features closely correspond with those identified on the geophysical survey.

There is limited evidence of earlier activity, represented only in the small residual assemblage of lithics (24 examples, 275g). The material forms a low density spread across the site and suggests a background scatter of human activity. Technologically the material is reminiscent of later Neolithic and Bronze Age industries, with a single example of a Mesolithic or early Neolithic bladelet.

Dating & chronology

The dating and chronology of the Iron Age activity at the site rests on three sources of evidence: stratigraphy, typological dating of artefacts, and radiocarbon dating (Table 1). Two samples from late Iron Age features returned dates spanning the late Iron Age to mid Roman period. The third sample returned a date of cal. AD1270–1400 and derives from intrusive material within an Iron Age feature. Stratigraphic relationships between features have aided the identification of three phases of activity.

The artefactual dating rests largely on the assemblages of Iron Age pottery and metalworking debris. The pottery assemblage comprises 2487 sherds with a total weight of 37.106kg. Analysis of the pottery, alongside the stratigraphic relationships, suggests three phases of activity: middle to later Iron Age activity including a post-built structure, and associated pits and ditches, followed by two phases of later Iron Age activity with reconfiguration of the space.

Middle to Late Iron Age

The earliest phase of Iron Age activity is dated to the middle to late Iron Age with the features assigned to this period suggesting a dispersed pattern of occupation, on a roughly north-east to south-west axis, during the middle to late Iron Age. Activity was centred on Enclosure 3 and

Enclosure	Context	Parent Context	Lab code	Material	Radiocarbon age BP	Calibrated date (95.40% probability)	δ13C ‰
E4	558	557	Beta-625526	Charred seeds	1960±30	50BC–AD130	–21.8
E3	691	676	Beta-62557	Charred seeds	660±30	AD1270–1400	–22
E2	728	729	Beta-625528	Charred seeds	1940±30	AD10–210	–23.3

Table 1: Radiocarbon dates

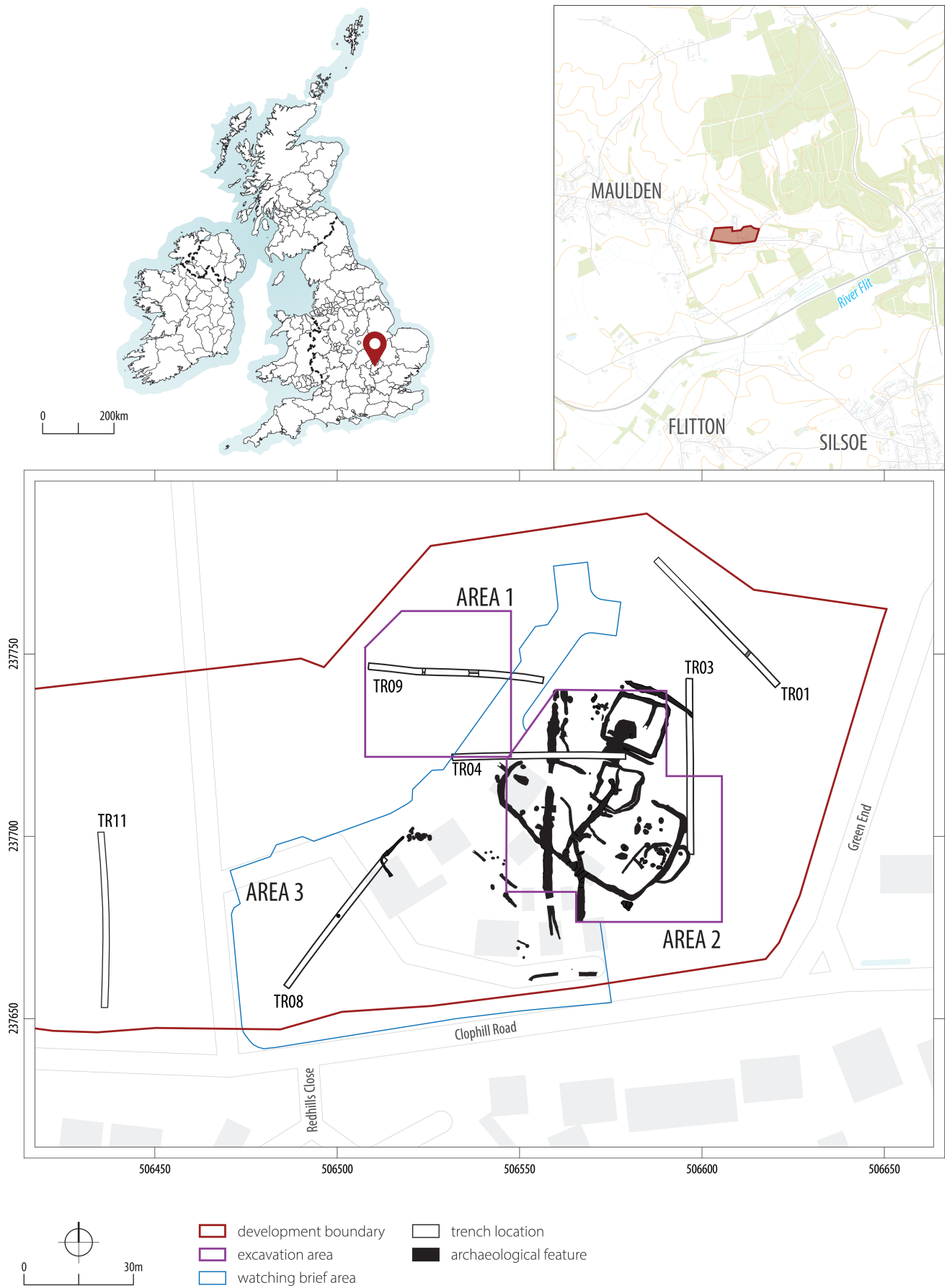


Figure 8: Maulden, Clophill Rd – Site location

Figure 9: Maulden, Clophill Rd – Phase plan

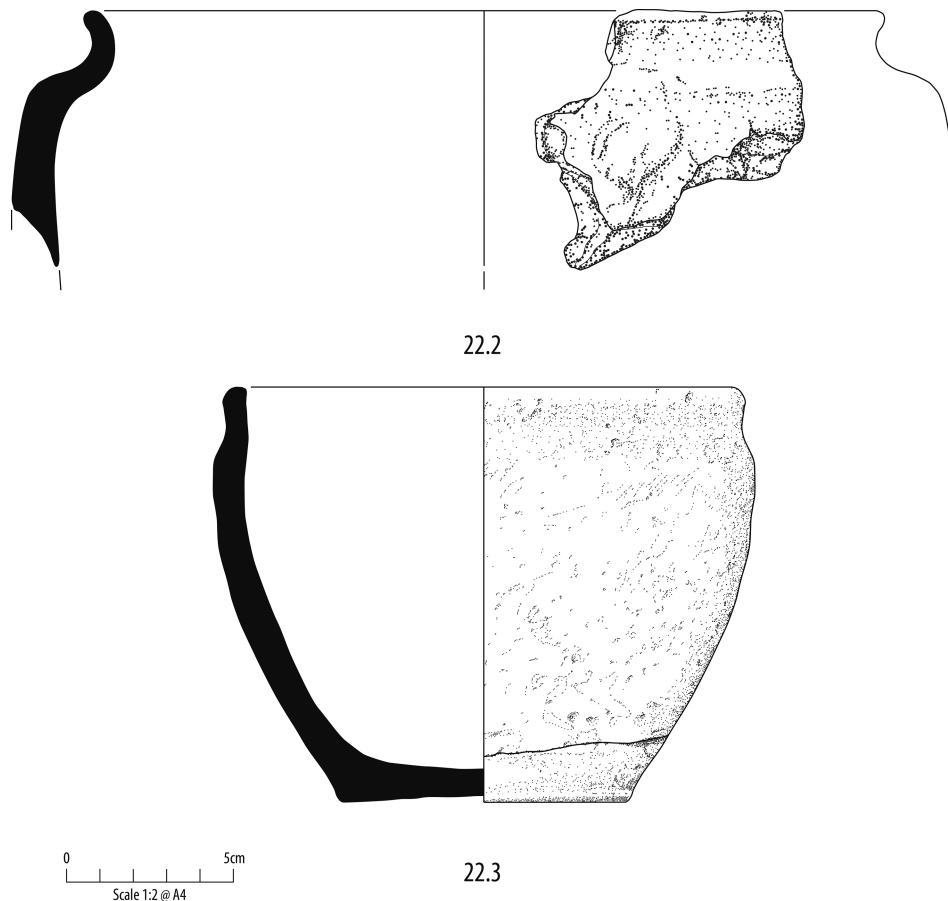


Figure 10: Maulden, Clophill Rd – Mid-to-late Iron Age round shouldered jars

Structure 10019 within the eastern half of the site. In terms of function, Enclosure 3 served to enclose an area associated with iron smithing, although no ovens or hearths relating to this activity were noted. Enclosure 3 was defined by two discontinuous ditches [10021] and [10020] creating a sub-circular enclosure. The contexts associated with Enclosure 3 contained a substantial assemblage of industrial waste (17.235kg), of which 17kg was recovered from Ditch [10021].

The metalworking debris included fifteen examples of smithing hearth cakes (Fig. 11) and an assemblage of vitrified clay, likely derived from the lining of an oven or hearth. The remains of a triangular crucible were also recovered (Fig. 12). The crucible is a shallow bowl with three corners produced by pinching to make a 'triangular' crucible (Bayley & Rahren 2007). The smithing hearth cakes are striking in their completeness. Of the fifteen examples recorded from Enclosure 3, only one or two were less than 100% complete. This contrasts with most ironworking assemblages where material tends to be more-or-less fragmentary.

The significance of the Old Farm assemblage is further raised by the quality of the preservation of the material. The smithing hearth cakes show almost no sign of abrasion, suggesting that they were deposited soon after they were produced. The vitrified clay lining has preserved parts of tuyere holes through which air was blasted into the hearth to achieve high temperatures. The survival of this extremely fragile material also indicates deposition soon after use. Whilst this is not the largest prehistoric Iron smithing assemblage from England, there are only a few assemblages of Iron Age smithing slag which appear to be larger (e.g.,



Figure 11: Maulden, Clophill Rd – Smithing hearth cakes

North Cave, Maiden Castle, and Beckford) (Dungworth & McDonnell *forthcoming*).

A total of 117 sherds (2594g) of pottery was recovered from features associated with Enclosure 3. The pottery was established to be of local manufacture with the site well placed for the exploitation of raw materials from the



Figure 12: Maulden, Clophill Rd – Triangular crucible

Lower Greensand with the overlying boulder clay and gravel terraces of the River Flit. The assemblage included two round shouldered jars of mid-to-late Iron Age date, one sand-and-organic tempered (Fabric F19) and one grog-and-sand tempered (Fabric F03) (Fig. 10, above), typical of middle-to-late Iron Age assemblages in the region. Typical

decorative techniques comprise scoring with more rare examples of fingertip impressions noted to the tops of two rims. Parallels for this material can be found readily across the region, and more locally forms and fabrics have affinities with assemblages recovered from excavations at Broom (Brudenell 2007).

A feature likely to be associated with the iron working, albeit undated, was oven/hearth [10027] located to the south-west outside of Enclosure 3. It comprised a small steep sided pit with channel identified as a potential flue. Multiple compressed layers of burnt material were identified within the pit. Large fragments of oak charcoal were recovered from the fill, alongside a small quantity of industrial waste. Oak has a high thermal capacity, and it would have been the prime choice of wood to sustain temperatures high enough for activities such as metalworking.

Other features dated to the mid-to-late Iron Age include Structures 10019 and 10020 along with a series of ditches and pit groups to the west of Enclosure 3. Structure 10019 is comprised of a series of pots and post-holes defining a sub-rectangular structure. Pit [0820] was truncated by Enclosure 3 suggesting that the Structure predates the Enclosure. Pit group 10026 contained a relatively large assemblage of pottery comprising 29 sherds (2370g) including an example of a globular jar with strap handle (Fig. 13). Ditches [10015] was located to the north-west of Enclosure 3, immediately south of this was Ditch [10016]. Owing to truncation by Enclosure 4, no direct relationship with [10015] was established but their alignment and orientation suggest that they are related to the same phase of boundary enclosures. A further small ditch section, [10001], located to the north-east of [10015] has been dated to the same phase of occupation.

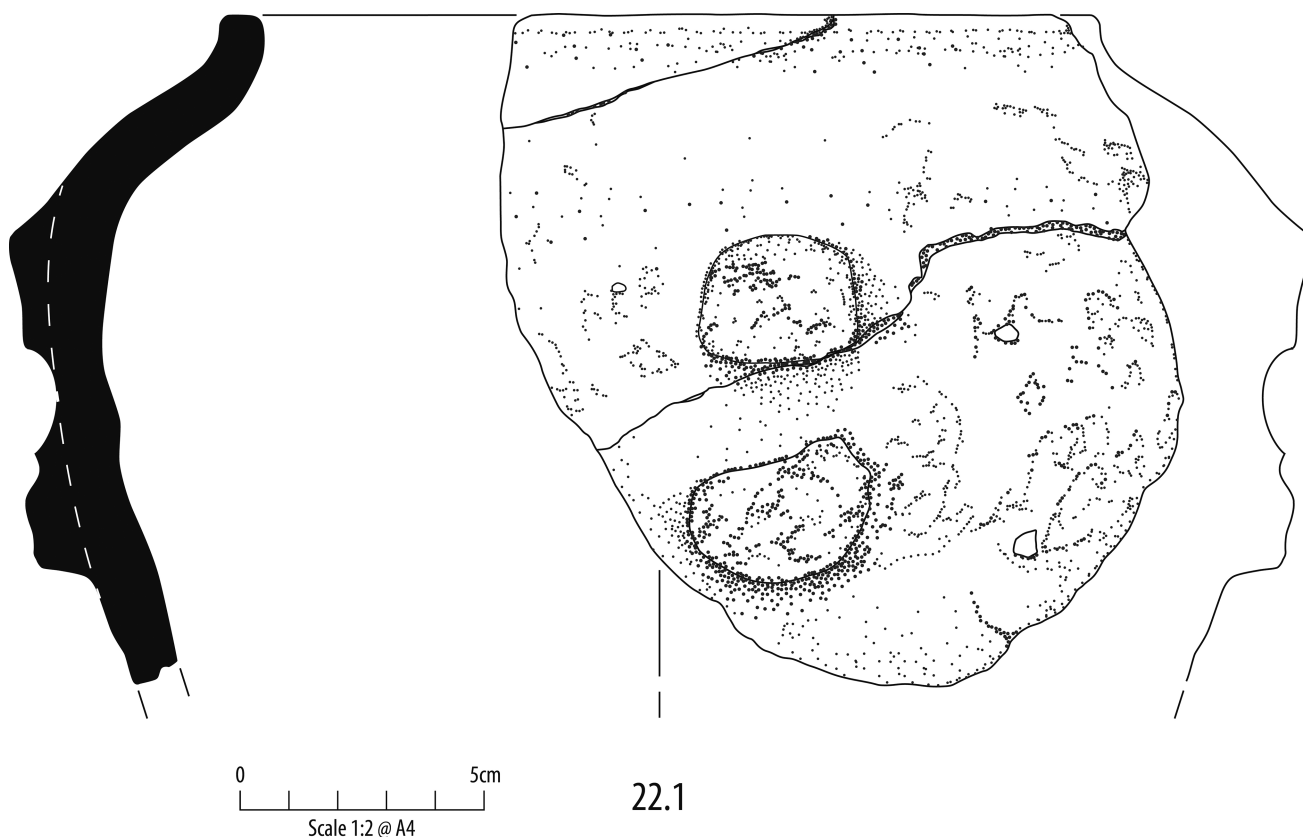


Figure 13: Maulden, Clophill Rd – Mid-to-late Iron Age globular jar with strap handle

Late Iron Age – Phase I

Based on the ceramic evidence, two phases of late Iron Age activity have been identified. The presence of wheel-made pottery, alongside the absence of Thompson forms, indicates that this phase probably dates to at least the early to mid-1st century AD.

Enclosure 1 takes the form of a sub-square enclosure enclosing an area of 177m². Within the enclosure, ditch [0704] represents a north-to-south internal division. Radiocarbon dating of the upper fill of the Enclosure ditch [10002] returned a date of cal.AD10–210 (95.4% Beta-625528), partly overlapping with the date range of the later Iron Age pottery assemblage with a total of 64 sherds (693g) of later Iron Age pottery were recovered from features associated with the enclosure. This assemblage includes typical late Iron Age forms of Thompson C3 and C5 (Thompson 1982). The southern edge of the enclosure was overlain by a layer of colluvium (0590) from which a copper alloy spiral finger ring of late Iron Age to early Roman date was recovered (Fig. 14). The ring is a triple coiled hoop with sub-rectangular section and plain rounded terminals. Typologically, this example matches a Guiraud type 7c (1989), though rings of this type are difficult to date accurately with examples occurring from the late Bronze Age to the early medieval period (Clarke 1971, 25–8). A similar ring was recorded at Biddenham (Duncan 2008, 189), where it was found in association with early to middle Iron Age pottery. An assemblage of 37 sherds of late Iron Age pottery and a single sherd of Roman pottery were also recovered from the deposit.



Figure 14: Maulden, Clophill Rd – late Iron Age–early Roman Cu alloy ring

To the south of Enclosure 1 was a second sub-rectangular enclosure, Enclosure 2, the main ditch of which defined a space of 105.93m². The ditches forming Enclosure 2 contained a total of 55 sherds (459g) of later Iron Age pottery, again including an example of a Thomson C5 form (Thompson 1982). No clear entrances were noted to these enclosures, though later recuts may have obscured some of the original features.

The northern extent of the site was defined by a sequence of boundary ditches, the earliest [0715] being truncated by later ditches [10003] & [10004]. Amongst the pottery recovered from these features were sherds dating from the late 1st century BC to the early 1st century AD alongside a copper alloy Colchester derivative brooch dating to the mid

to late 1st century AD (Fig. 15). It is a plain bow brooch with pseudo-hook, plain and curved wings and a solid catchplate. The pin and chord are both incomplete. The brooch is typologically a Mackreth (2011) type 2e dated c.AD43–100 and belongs to the Nene groups style commonly found in Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire. Pit Group 10009 & pit 0094 were also associated with this phase of activity.



Figure 15: Maulden, Clophill Rd – mid to late 1st century AD Cu alloy brooch

Late Iron Age – Phase II

Activity in this phase was centred on Enclosure 4, a rectangular enclosure that was remodeled with the addition of a partition ditch dividing the space into two smaller cells, potentially defining different zones of activity. The enclosure defined an area of 960m² with the entrance marked by a c.35m wide gap in the northern part of Ditch [10013]. Pottery recovered from the ditch fills comprised 609 sherds, typologically the assemblage spans the late 1st century BC to the early 1st century AD. The enclosure was divided into two cells during its use with the establishment of the north-east to south-west partition ditch [10005]. The pottery assemblage recovered from this ditch is similar in composition to that recorded from ditch [10013] and spans

Bedfordshire

the late 1st century BC to the 1st century AD. Further subdivisions within Enclosure 4 are indicated by a shallow t-shaped ditch [10018] from which 17 sherds of later Iron Age pottery were recovered.

Later activity

Evidence for Roman activity is sparse comprising a handful of sherds of heavily abraded Roman pottery, a single fragment of Roman ceramic building material, and an early Roman brooch. Later activity dating to the medieval or post-medieval period comprised two shallow furrows [0340], [0342] and [0344]. The furrows were aligned roughly north-south, were relatively shallow, and contained no finds. Boundary ditch [0189] is also assumed to be part of a medieval to post-medieval field system. Indirect evidence of medieval activity was recorded in the form of various rabbit warrens. These may form part of the postulated rabbit warren in the study area that was probably established around the 13th century. However, the possibility that these represent wild animal habitats cannot be wholly ruled out (Henderson 2017). Linear Boundary 1 is a poorly preserved north-to-south aligned ditch identified across the centre of the site. The ditch was heavily truncated by burrows and the small pottery assemblage was not considered to be stratigraphically secure. However, the alignment of this ditch, along with the enclosures recorded, may suggest it is contemporary with an earlier phase of activity.

The Site in its wider context

The activity recorded at Old Farm, Maulden, forms part of a wider landscape of prehistoric activity stretching from early prehistory to the late Iron Age. The earliest enclosure, Enclosure 3, appears to have enclosed a small area associated with iron smithing, although no hearths or ovens directly associated with this activity were noted. The undated oven [10027] to the south of the site may have been associated with this activity.

The later Iron Age saw the development of further enclosures, the siting and alignment of which mark a departure from the middle Iron Age and may suggest a reorganisation of the landscape during this period. Similar patterns of reorganisation, typically from the 2nd century BC onwards, have been noted at other sites in the area including Biddenham Loop (Luke 2008, 56) and Marsh Leys (Luke & Preece 2011, 140). Internal divisions were noted within the enclosures of this period and though their purposes are uncertain, they could represent the creation of small sub-enclosures for the division of livestock within the larger space. Enclosure 4 represents the latest phase of Iron Age activity with the reconfiguration of the internal space during the lifetime of the enclosure.

Within the immediate vicinity of Old Farm there are few documented Iron Age sites (Fig. 16). Located to the south-east of the site are a series of cropmarks, which could represent the remains of further Iron Age enclosures. Within the wider vicinity, examples of middle to late Iron Age farmsteads have been recorded. The settlement at Hinksley Road, Flitwick (Luke 1999) comprised two phases of settlement, an unenclosed pre-Belgic phase, with pottery of ovoid forms and restricted decoration, similar to those recorded at Old Farm. The fingertip jar recovered from trial trenching at Old Farm is comparable to an example from Flitwick (Luke 1999, 66). At Flitwick, the later enclosed settlement also showed evidence of small-scale metalworking, and again the pottery

assemblage was of the same fabrics as Old Farm and of local production. A similar pattern of occupation was noted at Stagsden Bypass, where continuous occupation from the middle Iron Age to the mid-Roman period was recorded (Dawson 2000). The pottery assemblage is also comparable to that recorded at Barford (Timby *et al* 2007) where the assemblage is dominated by locally produced wares. There is evidence of local Gallo-Belgic pottery production, with kilns recorded at Doolittle Farm (Simco 1984, 87) with late Iron Age pottery production also recorded at Biddenham (Luke 2008).

The most notable aspect of the artefactual assemblage from the site is the large quantity of industrial waste, relating to on-site iron smithing. The metalworking assemblage at Old Farm is exceptional in terms of its quantity and preservation. Its general condition, including the presence of well-preserved elements of clay lining, is indicative of on-site iron smithing, rather than material that was brought to and dumped at the site (Paynter 2008, 269). Industrial waste has been noted at other Iron Age sites within the region, but these typically comprise smaller quantities of material (Fairfield Park, 1032g, Webley *et al* 2007; Site 2 Barford By-pass, 238g, Timby *et al* 2007; Hinksley Road, Flitwick, 1140g, Luke 1999). The individual fragments are largely intact and unabraded with good associations between different categories of material, e.g. slag, ceramics and hammerscale. The overall composition of the assemblage is suggestive of iron smithing rather than smelting. Iron smithing can form part of primary and secondary iron working, but the general absence of smelting slags suggests secondary ironworking (Historic England 2015, Paynter 2008, 268). The source of the raw material is unclear as the ironstone on site does not appear to have contained sufficient iron to have been considered an ore.

The overall function of the site during the late Iron Age is unclear, but probably represents a small farmstead practicing a mixed agricultural regime, with enclosures used for livestock. The acidity of the soil at the site has impacted the preservation of bone in the faunal assemblage. The principal species identified were cattle and occasional sheep, typical of this period (Hambleton 1999). Horse remains were noted alongside several wild species including a single amphibian from pit [0094]. Considering this it is probable that the contribution of livestock to the overall site economy is underrepresented.

Similarly low levels of preservation were noted among the plant remains. Where recorded within pit fills, these remains are accidental inclusions and not indicative of function. The range of charred cereal remains, principally wheat and emmer, are typical crops of the period (Cunliffe 2005, 408; see also Can der Veen 1992). None of the grain appeared to derive from primary deposition, but rather reflects material that became accidentally incorporated into features. The presence of charred cereal remains within several pits at Old Farm is therefore not indicative of function.

The sequence of enclosures extends into the late 1st century AD, but evidence for activity beyond this was not identified. It is possible that the focus of settlement shifted during the Roman period, with a low density of settlements in the Greensands region at this time, when compared to other regions (Smith *et al* 2016, Table 5.1). During the medieval period the site was used for high value rabbit farming, with much of the later disturbance on site attributed to this. The latest phase of activity dating to the post-medieval period

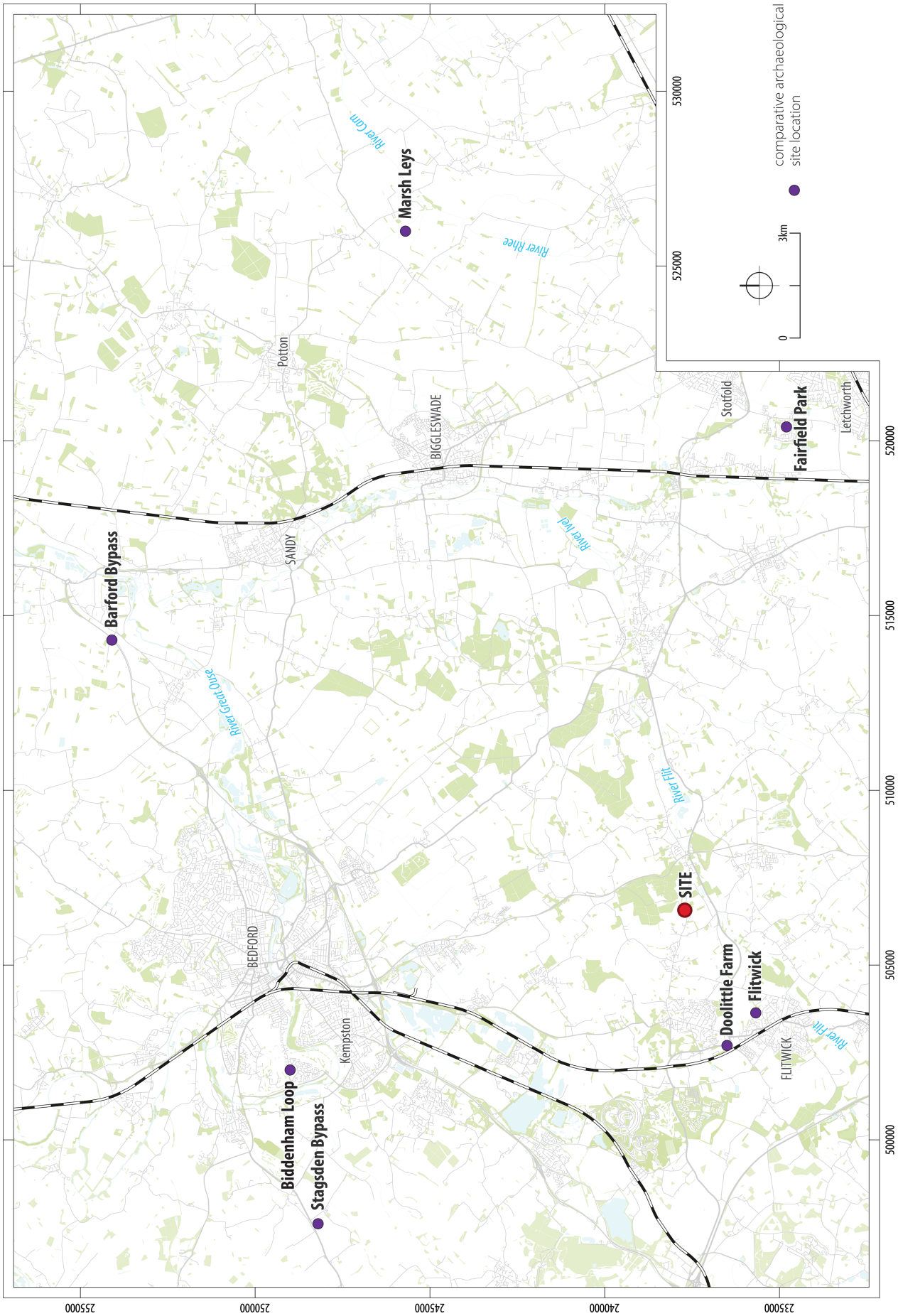


Figure 16: Maulden, Clophill Rd – Wider landscape context

Bedfordshire

relates to arable cultivation, and the extensive ridge and furrow in Area A.

The site is especially noteworthy because of the evidence of prehistoric iron smithing. The metalworking assemblage from Old Farm is of high significance being one of the largest and best-preserved assemblages of prehistoric iron smithing slag, being a near complete assemblage of waste that was deposited quickly after production/use.

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MOLA LONDON

Cranfield, Cranfield Air Park TL 01730 43536

ALISON TELFER

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by MOLA on two agricultural fields ('Site 1') on the landside of Cranfield Airport between 17th October and 11th November 2022. This followed a geophysical survey across the area in June 2002, which revealed a concentration of potential archaeological features in the south-eastern area of the site. A total of 31 trenches were investigated, spanning an area of approximately 16ha across the two fields. Archaeological features were recorded in 26 of those trenches, which appeared to represent two general activities: a late Iron Age/early Roman settlement to the south-east, with patterns of undated agricultural activity to the west. The former was represented by at least five roundhouses within two phases of enclosure ditch; the latter by a mixture of possible early Roman horticultural trenches and medieval furrows.

MOLA NORTHAMPTON

Amphill SP 94550 36897

ESTHER POULUS and RACHEL CLARE

MOLA were commissioned by Anglian Water to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation at the proposed location of a pumping station, in Amphill. Two evaluation trenches were excavated, and neither trench contained archaeological features or deposits.

Flitton, Ashmoor TL 05994 35723

LAUREN WILSON

MOLA were commissioned to undertake a programme of historic building recording at an outbuilding to the rear of Ashmoor, Flitton. This was required as part of a condition attached to consent for the proposed development and demolition of the existing brick outbuilding and erection of a new outbuilding as an annex.

The outbuilding likely has an original construction date sometime between the late 18th and mid-19th century. Although currently associated with Ashmoor House the outbuilding predates the construction of the house itself and may have originally been associated with other nearby historical homesteads or with the vicarage to the north. The primary construction was a red brick building with some attention given to structural details like the chequerboard

pattern to the brick walls. The structure is a typical outbuilding and could have been used for storage of tools and produce, potentially for the keeping of livestock, but like many outbuildings; it was likely multipurpose.

Harlington, Sundon Road, TL 037 299

CHRIS MANKTELOW

A magnetometer survey with a cart-mounted array of Bartington Grad-01-1000L fluxgate gradiometers was carried out across c.6ha of land. Only a few possible archaeological features were detected in the survey area and the actual likelihood that these are of archaeological origin is low. The survey also found a known historic field boundary and part of a ridge and furrow field system. An area of strong magnetic disturbance was detected in the west of the survey area and has been attributed to recent groundworks alongside the Midland Mainline railway.

Houghton Regis, Bidwell, The Bungalow, Bedford Road TL 0126 2454

ADAM REID

MOLA were commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological mitigation, the development area comprised c1.45ha of rough pasture (Fig. 17). Low-level early prehistoric activity was present in the form of recovered worked flint. Five periods of occupation were identified during the investigation, relating to low-level middle Bronze Age activity comprising a single ditch. The first permanent settlement identified on the site was two phases of early to middle Iron Age activity of a farmstead. During the 3rd to 4th centuries AD, sequential activity occurred within a relatively short period of time in the life of the settlement. A field system was established that was subsequently reorganised at least twice over the course of its use. The last

settlement occupation recorded within this site encompassed four buildings. These form together a 15th to 16th century farmstead laid out in a loose courtyard arrangement, which is a typical arrangement found across south-east England and southern East Anglia and scattered post-medieval and modern land usage.

Houghton Regis, North 1, Parcel 1, Linnere Phase 1 TL 02875 25684

MOLA Northampton were commissioned by Bellway Homes Limited (Northern Home Counties) to carry out and archaeological excavation and a strip, map and sample of Parcels 1–4, Linnere Phase 1 Development, Houghton Regis North 1, Central Bedfordshire.

The main feature group investigated comprised twelve large pits which dated to the late Mesolithic (Fig. 18 & Front Cover). Previously, to the west, a further 11 large pits had been excavated in 2020 (Albion Archaeology 2020). No other features of this period have been recorded in Bedfordshire. In England and Scotland there have been a limited number of sites, including Stonehenge, where there have been groups of large Mesolithic pits, and all these sites have fewer number of pits than Linnere. Similar pits and alignments have been found in Europe in relatively small numbers apart from France.

At Linnere most of the pits were in probable sinuous alignments up to 300m in length with perhaps four alignments found (Fig. 18). These alignments were north-east to south-west and perpendicular to this and were roughly parallel or perpendicular to a water course to the north. Some pits were outside the suggested alignments and collectively the pits were recorded over a 600m by 200m area. Radiocarbon dates of seven of the MOLA and Albion pits have ranges over nearly 800 years from c6500BC to up to c5700BC with only a minority of these dates overlap.

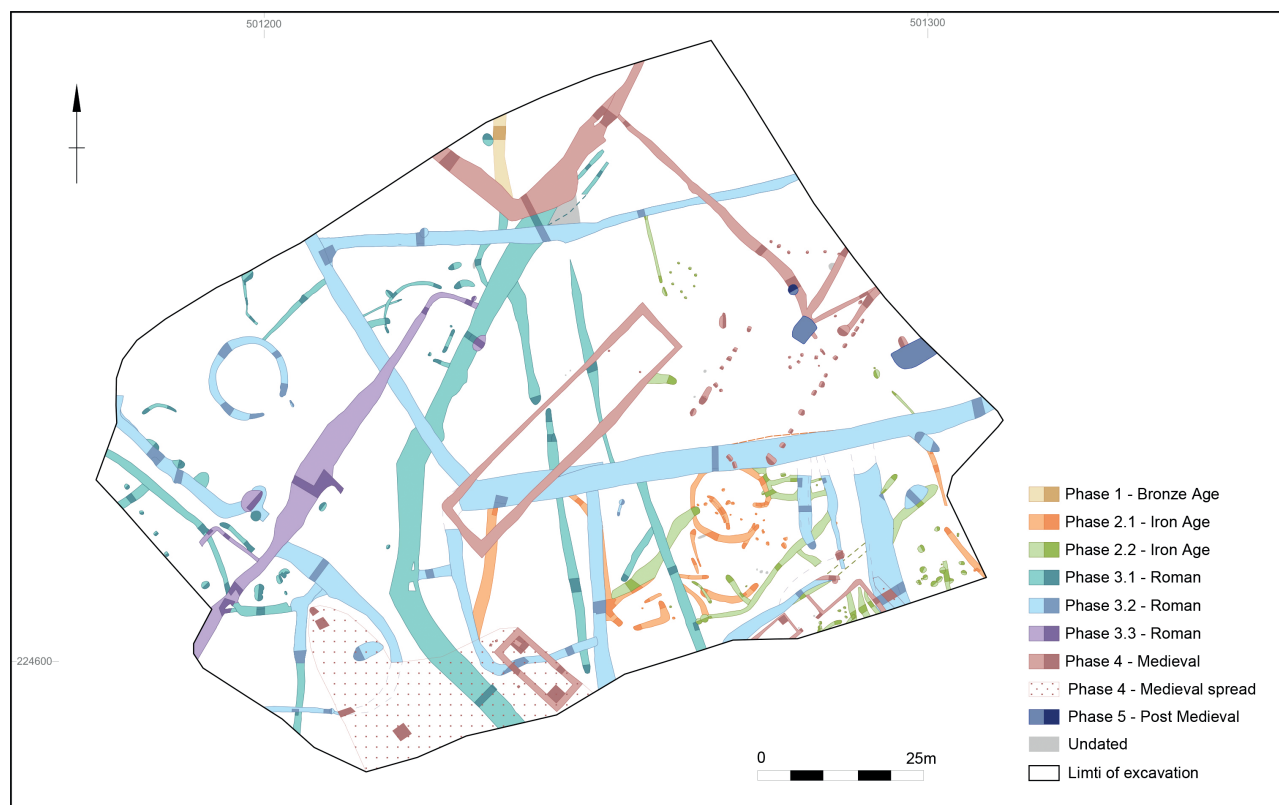


Figure 17: Houghton Regis, The Bungalow – All features plan

Bedfordshire

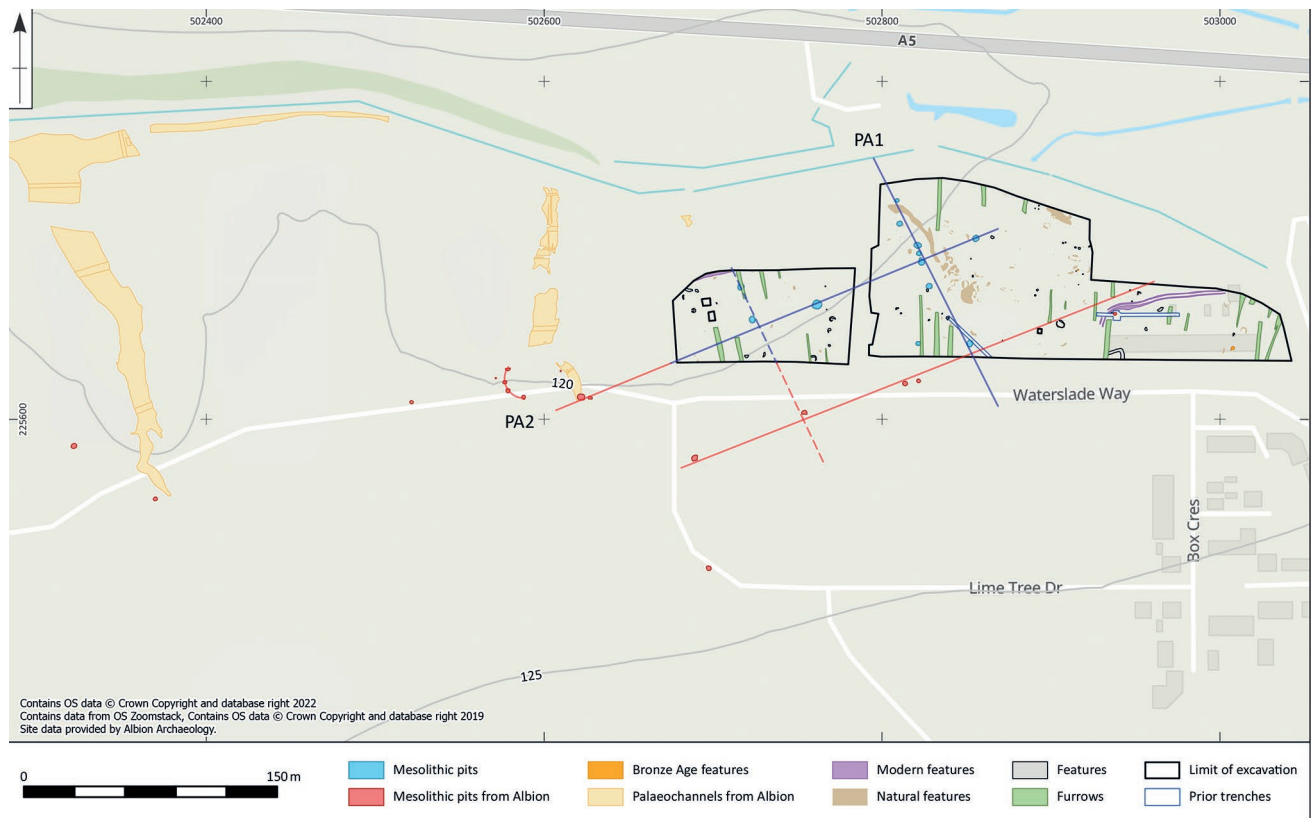


Figure 18: Houghton Regis, Linnere Phase 1, Mesolithic pits and suggested alignments



Figure 19: Houghton Regis, Linnere Phase 1, Late Mesolithic pit being recorded

Some of the pits were relatively large with the size of the pits ranging from 2.3m to 5m in diameter and between 1.25m and 1.85m deep (Fig. 19). The pits had certain phases of deposit build-up. It appears that pits were left open, and bands of alternating dark/light silting layers had accumulated, this was overlain by more rapid deposition of slumping or deliberate backfilled deposits. Often the pits were recut, but not completely removing the earlier deposits. Finally, some of the pits have a dark silting layer that may be the infilling of a hollow that remained visible in the landscape. Limited finds were recovered from the pits, with small quantities of worked flint and a faunal assemblage including aurochs, deer and wild boar.

Other features in the excavation comprised a palaeochannel, tree throws, a middle Bronze Age cremation and a pit with late Bronze Age/early Iron Age sherds of the post-Deverel Rimbury (PDR) plainware tradition. A four-post structure may be of a similar late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date. Otherwise, undated pits, ridge and furrow were, and modern field boundary ditch recorded.

Husborne Crawley, an outbuilding at The Old Vicarage SP 95545 36191

LAUREN WILSON

MOLA were commissioned to undertake a programme of historic building recording at The Old Vicarage, Husborne Crawley. This was required prior to works being undertaken on an outbuilding (Planning Ref. CB/21/00038/FULL) in line with demolition and erection of a replacement building.

The outbuilding has been constructed with various elements of timber but using a single constructional method. These include some elements of oak, some timber with evidence of multiple nails (for lath and plaster), and some timber with empty notches and mortises, all of which suggest a previous purpose before their use in their current position in this building. However, evidence of multiple repair and replacement isn't forthcoming and as result much can be dated to the original construction.

The original construction comprises the L-shaped areas and it is clear these areas were used for utilitarian functions, indicated partly by the brick flooring. Store C indicates usage as a stable, the usage of the other areas may have been multifunctional. The date of this phase is difficult to be certain of, but the scantling and carpentry would certainly suggest a 19th century date. The datestone on the house of 1851 would certainly provide appropriate context for its construction.

The flat-roof outshot is a clear modern insertion, likely mid-20th century in date. This removed the north wall of Store A which was likely of the same studwork as elsewhere.

Leighton Buzzard, Chamberlains Barn, Vandyke Road NGR not supplied

An archaeological trial trench evaluation of a c2.2ha parcel of land at Chamberlains Barn, immediately north of Vandyke Road, was carried out prior to re-submission of a full application to develop the land for housing. Seven trenches were excavated and other than a recent ceramic field drain, no archaeological features were identified.

Ravensden, Graze Hill TL 0585 5360

ADAM REID

An archaeological excavation took place in advance of residential development of up to 165 dwellings and an extension to the Country Park. Three excavation areas were targeted on Iron Age and late Saxon/medieval archaeological features identified by the preceding geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation of the development area.

An isolated early Neolithic cremation burial deposit was identified in Area 2. It had a symmetrical U-shaped profile, measured 0.66m wide, 0.08m deep and was filled by a deposit of firm dark grey sandy clay that contained a dense concentration of cremated human bone with a mass of 44.3g. The bone fragments were tightly packed and potentially represent the remains of an un-urned cremation burial. An environmental sample taken from the deposit yielded a



Figure 20: Ravensden, Graze Hill – Medieval Structure 1, looking south-west

Bedfordshire

large quantity of charcoal, which may have been the fuel source for the cremation pyre. A sample of bone from the cremation deposit was submitted for radiocarbon dating, which provided a date range of 3715–3638 cal BC (83.7% probability), 3766–3725 cal BC (11.7%), 4910 $\pm$ 30 BP, Beta- 639736. This cremation is one of only few known examples from this period, suggesting that it is regionally, if not nationally significant. The use of cremation as a burial practice is not thought to have become common until the middle Neolithic period (Willis 2019).

No other Neolithic activity was identified in the excavation and only a single pit which produced a flint flake of similar date was identified to the north of the development during the previous evaluation. The results of the archaeological fieldwork indicate sporadic Neolithic activity and the early Neolithic date of the cremation burial is very rare as this burial practice is generally only seen from the middle Neolithic period onwards.

Sporadic middle Iron Age ditches and pits were identified across Areas 1 and 2; these may represent peripheral agricultural activity associated with the nearby Mowsbury Hillfort. There was a lull of activity in the Roman period and thus the results of the excavation can do little to address the research objectives of these periods.

Late Saxon to medieval features (9th to 11th centuries AD) were identified and these comprised a small enclosure, a ditch and several pits, which produced metal working debris. Activity continued and intensified into the medieval period (12th–14th centuries AD) when several possible enclosure ditches and a timber structure (S1) was established in Area 1. At 8m long by 4m wide, the size and layout of structure S1 is comparable to agricultural buildings known from the county (Fig. 20). Two ditches noted in Area 2. In the 14th to 16th centuries the enclosure ditches in Area 1 were recut and additional pits were established in the same area. A single ditch and pit dated to this period were present in Area 2. This activity may be able to contribute to our knowledge of the medieval rural landscape in Bedfordshire. In the late medieval or post-medieval period, the site was agricultural

land and evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation were identified in Areas 1 and 2.

Willis, C.C., 2019 *Stonehenge and Middle to Late Neolithic cremation rites in mainland Britain (c.3500–2500 BC)*, unpublished PhD thesis, University College London

Roxton, High Street TL 15200 54800

GRAHAM ARKLEY

A magnetometer survey identified a rectilinear network of probable banks and ditches, which correspond in broad terms, though not in all details, with a series of boundaries that are depicted on the Roxton inclosure map (1813). These may be a set of probable tenement or garden plot boundaries, presumably of medieval or post-medieval date, located west of the High Street. It also detected an area of quarried ground, some probable medieval or early post-medieval ridge and furrow, and a possible cluster of undated pits.

Toddington, Land east of Leighton Road

TL 00375 28320

ROBERT PEARCE

MOLA were commissioned to conduct an archaeological evaluation on land east of Leighton Road, Toddington, Bedfordshire. The archaeological evaluation was carried out prior to the submission of a planning application for residential dwellings and associated infrastructure.

Eight trenches were excavated across four fields and sondages were dug to confirm that natural soil had been reached. One possible field boundary of unknown age was found.

Turvey, Priory Farm SP 95613 52263

LAUREN WILSON

MOLA were commissioned to undertake a programme of historic building recording at Priory Farm, Turvey, Bedfordshire. This was required prior to the conversion of a granary barn, stable block and piggery unit into three



Figure 21: Turvey, Priory Farm- North elevation of the Stables and Cart Shed, looking south-west

dwellings, the conversion of an outbuilding into a carport and storage building, and the construction of a parking area for the existing farmhouse and other ancillary works.

Priory Farm is an interesting collective of agricultural buildings that represent an accretive development of farm practices that have been preserved during the current ownership. The farm during the 19th century represented a courtyard layout of mixed use, with cattle, pigs and corn as mentioned in documentary sources. The farmhouse, not the subject of this report reportedly has 17th century origins but was largely remodelled in the 19th century in the Neo-Gothic style.

The Stone Barn lies to the north of the historic farmyard and retains the most interest in terms of age and phasing. The robustness and type of timber, combined with evidence for pegging, and mortise and tenon joints suggest this barn has roots somewhere in the 17th century. The East Range extends from the Stone Barn to the east and has two phases seen in the southern elevation. The stone element to the west appears consistent with a structure seen in this position on historic maps and it is likely pre-19th century in date. The weather-boarded section to the east is a later addition likely mid/late-19th century in date. The Stables and Cart Shed have suffered from the gentrification of the farm in the mid-19th century (Fig. 21). The fine stable partitions, brick open-sided front and overarching roof, with decorative gables can all be attributed to this date. The Piggery, as the name suggests has been used to keep pigs in the 19th century, but it is unclear what previous purpose it may have served, or a date associated with its original construction.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY EAST

Marston Moretaine, Millbrook Power Station
TL 01021 40350

Toby Knight and Maria Anna Rogers

Oxford Archaeology East conducted an excavation to the south-east of the village of Marston Moretaine as a requirement for the Millbrook Power Scheme. Excavation revealed that supposed Romano-British ditches recorded during evaluation were in fact paleochannels formed from the infilling of seasonal watercourses. A small amount of later 2nd century AD Roman pottery was present, probably washed in from a nearby Iron Age/Roman settlement (EBD1172), the edge of which is located around 50m north-east of the excavation area. No further archaeological features were identified during the excavation.

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Keysoe, Land at X-Country Arena TL 0729 6140
TIBI NICA and CHRISTIANE MECKSEPER

An evaluation and excavation were undertaken ahead of expansion of the Keysoe International Equestrian Centre. The investigations revealed a series of boundary ditches and rectangular enclosures dating to the Late Iron Age and Roman periods. One ditch, in the northernmost trench of the evaluation, was a continuation of a complex of sub-circular enclosures and boundary ditches, visible as cropmarks (Bedford Borough HER MDB 16633), that may represent a settlement to the north of the site.

The excavated features contained a small amount of pottery, largely dating to the Late Iron Age and early Roman period and comprising utilitarian domestic vessels, predominantly jars. A few sherds date to the mid-2nd to mid-3rd centuries, suggesting some continuity of occupation. Also of note is a small and very abraded copper-alloy *antoninianus* dating to the mid- to late 3rd century. Animal bone and environmental remains were, unfortunately, poorly preserved, and add little to the interpretation of the site. Overall, the features and finds assemblage most likely represent an area of agricultural enclosures on the periphery of the settlement to the north. The Roman features were overlain by the ditches of a medieval field system. Accession no.: BEDFM2022.140.

Langford, Land at Cambridge Road TL 19002 40059
LAWRENCE MORGAN-SHELBOURNE

An archaeological excavation on land north of Lower Stondon, Bedfordshire was undertaken between 20th September and 29th October 2021.

The investigations revealed a Middle Iron Age farmstead, which was focused on a single large roundhouse, represented by two phases of ring-ditch with an elaborated entranceway to the south-east. This roundhouse was itself set into a small complex of other enclosures, representing ancillary 'working areas' of the farmstead, which continued out of the site area to the north-west. The farmstead core enclosures were themselves situated in a wider system of agricultural boundaries, some of which continued into the western field, which formed larger field systems that would have supported the inhabitants of the farmstead.

As part of the core of the settlement, finds were consistently present in moderate quantities in the excavated features, with many of the fills having a dark, humic appearance. However, assemblages recovered were not indicative of high-status occupants or specialized function(s) for the settlement. There was also little indication during excavation of a definitively Late Iron Age phase of use of the site. This, when combined with the relatively 'simple' nature of the enclosures and the stratigraphic sequences present on the site suggests the site was not long-lived, possibly representing only a generation of two of settlement on 'de novo' farmland in the Middle Iron Age, before abandonment took place.

Further activity mainly comprised a scattered post-medieval system of shallow north-west to south-east furrows, in the eastern half of the site, as well as boundary ditches and quarry pits of a comparable date. Small numbers of isolated, undated features were also identified, as well as a single, Early Neolithic tree throw which contained a small assemblage of struck flint and pottery. Site code BEDFM2021.55

Lower Stondon TL 1606 3594
RITA PEDRO

An archaeological excavation on land north of Lower Stondon, Bedfordshire was undertaken between 21st September and 10th November 2021.

The excavations found a Middle to Late Iron Age settlement, with seven roundhouses and a variety of features associated with pastoral and other agricultural activities. Notable elements include a cultivation channel system composed of parallel equidistant linear ditches

Bedfordshire

and two unusual structures composed of 'staple'-shaped enclosures encompassing four-post structures. Three phases of development of the settlement were identified, which showed shifts in the organisation and function of this area throughout the Middle to Late Iron Age. The intensive and continued occupation of the area during this period is remarkable but consistent with the archaeological evidence identified at other sites in the Bedfordshire claylands.

The archaeological evidence from later periods was limited and comprised a small number of agricultural features dating from the Romano-British and post-medieval periods. Site code BEDFM.2019.68

SOUTERRAIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Meppershall, Chapel Farm, Chapel Road
NGR 514657, 236253

MARTIN D WILSON

A programme of archaeological investigation and recording was undertaken by Souterrain during the conversion of a historic 6-bay timber-framed barn at Chapel Farm, near Meppershall, Central Bedfordshire. The barn is situated in the curtilage of Chapel Farmhouse, a Grade II-listed 18th century building. The farm takes its name from St Thomas' chapel (Grade II*- listed), a medieval building which stands alongside the farmhouse, about 40 m southeast of the barn. The chapel is the only surviving extant element of a medieval grange farm. Hence, the primary consideration

of the investigation was to augment understanding of the developmental history of the grange. In addition, the locality has reasonably high potential for buried remains pertaining to Romano-British rural settlement.

The removal of modern sheet-metal cladding from the barn enabled close examination of its framework (Fig. 22). Comparative analysis suggested that it was erected in the late 18th or early 19th century. It underwent substantial alteration and repair in the later 19th or early 20th century. Internal groundworks revealed that it had been erected directly upon geological stratum. There was no archaeology present.

Some 210 sq. m of adjacent pasture-land was reduced to form a new access, but it proved to be devoid of archaeological features, historic soils, or artefacts. Neither was there any trace of past cultivation. It was not possible to draw meaningful conclusions about historic land-use. The report (OASIS ID: souterra1-513228) provides an illustrative and descriptive account of observations.

Thurleigh, The Manor, Whitwick Green Road
NGR 504452, 259055

MERCEDES PLANAS and MARTIN D WILSON

Two archaeological evaluation trenches (c. 9.6 sq. m) were excavated within a medieval moated enclosure at The Manor, c.0.8 km to the northwest of Thurleigh village, in the Borough of Bedfordshire. The purpose of the investigation was to determine whether significant buried archaeological remains might be affected by the construction of a new garage and storage building.



Figure 22: Late 18th to early 19th century barn: Chapel Farm, Meppershall, Bedfordshire

The moated enclosure is situated in grounds adjoining a Grade II-listed early 19th century farmhouse, formerly known as Manor Farm. The site was extensively landscaped in the late Victorian period. The farmhouse is set in an isolated rural location, midway between the village of Thurleigh to the southeast and the site of a former medieval outlier settlement at Whitwick Green to the northwest. In addition to the potential for medieval archaeology, there is a marked incidence of Iron Age to Romano-British remains in the locality; primarily known from cropmarks.

The evaluation trenches attained a representative sample of the proposed development area, yet there were no archaeological features present. A layer of post-medieval soil lay directly above the geological horizon throughout the site. The absence of earlier layers or features is likely to have been the result of late 19th century landscape works. OASIS ID: souterra1-506770

Turvey, Homelands, High Street NGR 494388, 252428
MARTIN D WILSON

An archaeological investigation was carried out by Souterrain during groundwork for a rear and side extension to Homelands, an 18th century house (listed building) situated in the historic core of Turvey village, in the Borough of Bedfordshire.

The investigation revealed eight distinct phases of occupation and land-use. The earliest phase pertained to stone-quarrying in the 13th / 14th century. The quarry was in-filled in the later medieval period (c.14th / 15th century) and a cobbled area, possibly a yard, was formed above it. Subsequent layers reflected tenement occupation throughout the 16th to 19th centuries. Other features comprised robbed-out wall foundations (possibly early 18th century) and a mid-19th century well with brick-built cupola.

Significantly, the discoveries at Homelands represent the first archaeological evidence of the medieval period

recorded from stratified contexts at Turvey. OASIS ID: souterra1-504946

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Totternhoe, Lockington Farmhouse, Church Road
SP 9905 2112
DANIELLE MILBANK

In advance of a change of use, a barn in the curtilage of the listed farmhouse was subject to photographic recording in April 2022. The barn shows four main phases of construction and modification beginning in the 17th century.

WARDELL ARMSTRONG

Sharnbrook, Hill Farm TL 00696 59453
TANSY COLLINS

In May 2022, Wardell Armstrong undertook historic building appraisal and at Hill Farm, Sharnbrook, Bedfordshire. The investigation of listed, curtilage listed and undesignated buildings was commissioned in order to inform forthcoming plans. It provides a general outline of the buildings within the farm complex followed by an assessment of what, if any, building holds heritage value.

Technical analysis found a small number of 17th century buildings forming the core of the historic farmstead, with a few later ranges that saw the evolution of the complex in line with similar farmsteads elsewhere, creating enclosed yards with associated ideas around efficiency and model farming developed throughout the 19th century. The farm complex changed dramatically over the course of the 20th century when the agricultural buildings went out of viable use and were superseded by new portal frame buildings.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Buckingham, Land off Tingewick Road SP 6865 6649
GARETH SHANE and WESLEY KEIR

Initial open-area excavation of four discrete areas within this housing development (SMA 49, 47) was followed by a watching brief on part of the remainder of the western field and on a rising main within the eastern field.

In the western field the full extent of the ditches forming two small, adjoining enclosures (identified previously) were revealed. The recovered finds confirmed the late Iron Age/early Roman date of this small farmstead. Limited evidence of other activity was revealed in the form of three small pits.

No archaeological features or deposits were revealed within the rising-main trench in the eastern field. OASIS no.: albionar1-340542; accession no.: AYBCM: 2017.224

Stoke Mandeville, AGT1 East (Phase 1)
SP 8368 1121
CATIE WATTS, TORI GUY and KATHY PILKINTON

Following desk-based assessment and geophysical survey, trial trenching was undertaken in support of a planning application for residential development. The 88 trial trenches revealed 101 archaeological features, only seven of which produced any dating evidence. The features primarily comprised a series of small, largely undated ditches (on varying alignments) and pits spread across large sections of the site; they are likely to be the remains of former field systems. Features in the north-west of the site may have been related to the potential Romano-British site to the west, seen on the geophysical survey. A concentration of more substantial features in the south field was tenuously dated to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age. No settlement foci were identified. Although dating of the features is uncertain, there is nothing to suggest that they were of post-medieval or modern origin.

Ridge and furrow cultivation was also evidenced across the whole site. A small field at the south end contained extant ridge and furrow earthworks on two perpendicular

Buckinghamshire

alignments. OASIS no.: albionar1-502996; accession no.: AYBCM:2021.52

Stoke Mandeville, AGT1 East (Phase 2)

SP 8368 1109

TORI GUY and KATHY PILKINTON

Following desk-based assessment and geophysical survey, trial trenching was undertaken in support of a planning application for residential development. The 47 trial trenches revealed 89 archaeological features, only 22 of which produced any dating evidence. Most of the features were related to a late Iron Age/early Roman farmstead in the north of site. It was characterised by ditched enclosures, largely rectilinear in form, along with a possible palisaded boundary and droveway. A small number of discrete features, including a possible well, were identified largely within the 'core' enclosures.

To the south of the settlement a series of small, largely undated ditches (on varying alignments) and occasional pits spread across the rest of the site. Dating of these dispersed features is uncertain. Two ditches contained post-medieval pottery but there is nothing to suggest that the majority were of post-medieval or modern origin, and they are presumed to pre-date the furrows that were present across the site. OASIS no.: albionar1-506686; accession no.: AYBCM 2022.49

Stoke Mandeville, Castlefields SP 8400 1111

MATEO PALOMBELLI TORI GUY and KATHY PILKINTON

Following geophysical survey, trial trenching was undertaken in support of a planning application for residential development. The 19 trial trenches revealed 10 archaeological features, one of which produced dating evidence, and the remains of ridge and furrow cultivation. The features primarily comprised a series of small, undated ditches (on broadly N-S alignments) and small dispersed pits across the site; they are likely to be the remains of former field systems.

A large ditch on the south-east periphery of the site contained two fragments of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery. It was significantly larger than any other ditches within the site or adjacent trial trenching. The fills of the ditch contained a small amount of charcoal indicative of low-level activity of some form in the vicinity. The ditch was not visible on the geophysical survey and was not identified within any other trenches.

Ridge and furrow cultivation was also evidenced across the whole site. A change in alignment (not detected by the geophysical survey) was identified along the western boundary of the site. OASIS no.: albionar1-506663; accession no.: AYBCM: 2022.44

Stony Stratford, Tower House, 96 High Street

SP 7858 4062

MARK PHILLIPS

Historic building recording was undertaken in support of an application to convert Tower House into four separate dwellings. The building comprises a three-storey range on the street frontage, two rear ranges, and a coach house and stable.

The building is Grade II listed and is described as an earlier house rebuilt in 1746 after the 1742 fire, which destroyed more than 140 buildings in Stony Stratford. The

carriage house and stables to the rear appear, on architectural grounds, to belong to the 18th-century, post-fire building. The building was altered during the early 19th century by the addition of a geometric stair and rear residential range. In the later 19th century the building was re-fronted and a second floor was added to the front range. At this time it was used as both a residence and as lawyers' offices. The listed gate piers and the courtyard walls are also part of this phase. OASIS no.: albionar1-506672

Woburn Sands, Hogsty End Quaker Burial Ground, Hardwick Road SP 9281 3554

MATEVZ GROSELJ, ALLAN KING and KATHY PILKINTON

A watching brief was undertaken during the hand-excavation of a foundation pit for two stone sculptures within the former burial ground. One grave was partially revealed within the north-east corner of the foundation pit. The grave cut appeared to be on the same E-W alignment as the burials still marked with gravestones within the burial ground. Skeletal remains were not encountered and the grave was not investigated past the depth required for the foundation pit. No disarticulated bone was recovered during the excavation.

A post-medieval brick fragment and a single sherd of pottery were recovered from the subsoil. No archaeological deposits relating to earlier activity were observed. OASIS no.: albionar1-505023

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING SERVICES

Amersham, Market Hall Clock Tower, Market Square SU 95754 97321

An archaeological standing building survey and monitoring works were carried out in advance of conservation works to secure the clock tower structure. Amersham Market Hall is a known heritage asset, listed at Grade II*. The building dates to 1682, having been built by the then lord of the Manor and MP William Tyrwhitt-Drake. There is documentary evidence to suggest that the clock tower itself may be a later addition, added to the Hall in the early 18th century, potentially to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the building. The clock tower is timber framed housing four clock faces, a mechanism and a bell frame and bell. It is likely that the clock tower has undergone a number of phases of repair. The bell tower consists of eight jowled bay posts carrying a lapped and pegged wall plate supporting a flattened conical roof. The bay posts have been severely truncated, leaving a much-reduced cross section at the bases. There is evidence to suggest that the bell frame is later, although still of some antiquity.

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGY

Bletchley, Cable House (Mercury House)

SP 8681 3350

JOE FRANCE

Archaeological standing building recording to Historic England/RCHME Photographic Survey level was undertaken ahead of proposed alterations to Cable House (Mercury House), Buckingham Road, Bletchley, Milton

Keynes. A full photographic record was made of the exterior and of the ground and first floors.

Cable House is a five-storey office building of 1973–4 of identified architectural significance as being a notable example of a mid-1970s office building in the Milton Keynes area. The building was co-designed by David Harbord and Derek Walker, Chief Architect to the Milton Keynes Development Corporation. Although not designated as a listed building Cable House is considered by Milton Keynes Council to be a non-designated heritage asset.

The design of the building is clearly indebted to the influence of the renowned American Modernist architect Mies van der Rohe (1886–1969). Whilst the ancillary buildings and much of the original soft landscaping have been lost, the main building facades largely survive in their original form, the curtain wall glazing being defined by vertical mullions (extending from first floor to the roof) with horizontal opaque banding marking the divisions between each floor. At ground-floor level was a colonnade punctuated by square columns with aluminium cladding.

Much of the internal cladding and carpeting, floor surfaces, suspended ceilings and some temporary partition walls have been removed. However, the original layout of the building appeared largely intact as detailed in a building description in an article published in the RIBA Journal dated September 1977 (published shortly after its completion). The article describes two distinct cores at the east and west ends of the building (containing staircases, lifts, lavatories, offices and storerooms) and defined by concrete breezeblock walls and plasterboard cavity-wall partitions. The central part of the building comprised an open-plan space (which housed a computer room and offices).

The first floor was broadly representative of the upper floors and exhibited a similar layout to the ground floor with two distinct core compartments to east and west, flanking a large central open-plan area subdivided by metal-frame and plasterboard partitions. Most of the internal fixtures and fittings had been removed, although internal glazed and plasterboard partition walls had survived.

Great Missenden, Misbourne School SP 89650 00745

ANDREW NETTLETON

Archaeological observation was carried out at Misbourne School, Great Missenden, prior to the construction of a new car and coach access with a 101m long soakaway trench running alongside.

Four engineering trenches were opened, of which three revealed no features or deposits of archaeological significance. However, the soakaway trench revealed the three separate purpose-dug rubbish pits. These contained much carbonised cereal grain, pottery sherds of the late 1st to the 2nd and 4th centuries AD, Romano-British ceramic building material, animal bone fragments, iron smelting slag and a small assemblage of disarticulated human bone. Several linear features also ran northeast-southwest across the soakaway trench, which contained fragments of modern house brick indicative of later activity on the site.

Quainton, 159 Station Road SP 73929 19116

JOE FRANCE

An archaeological standing building record was made to Historic England/RCHME Level 2 of No. 159 Station Road,

Quainton, Buckinghamshire, in advance of the proposed demolition of the existing building to make way for two detached houses.

No. 159 Station Road, Quainton, is a former public house, known as The Railway Arms, which appears probably to have been built in or shortly before 1868, when the adjacent line of the Aylesbury to Buckingham Railway, including nearby Quainton Road Station, was opened. It remained as a public house at least until the late 1930s and was converted to a private residence in 1957.

The house is identified as a non-designated heritage asset comprising a two-storeys two-unit dwelling built in yellow stock brick with a tiled roof. Red brick quoins and dressings are used for the central round-headed doorway and sash windows with gauged brick headers in the main northwest-facing elevation. To the right of the central doorway at ground-floor level is a canted bay window which may represent a slightly later, possibly early 20th century, addition. Two single-storey lean-to extensions attached to the rear of the house appear in their present form to be of late 20th century date.

Except possibly for the canted bay window on the ground floor, there were no visible architectural features relating to the previous use of the building as a public house, and there have evidently been extensive alterations to the property following its conversion to a private dwelling in the 1950s.

At the time of recording, the house was considerably overgrown and in a dangerous state of repair. A collapsed roof and internal floors precluded access to the interior of the building for recording purposes.

Drawn and photographic records were made of the exterior of the building and photographs were taken of the adjoining outbuildings which appear to be of 19th/20th century date. These included a two-storey brick stable range, which, although partially rebuilt, may well be of mid-to-late 19th century date, contemporary with the original house.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (BAS)

Great Linford Manor, Milton Keynes SP 85350 42300

DOUG STUCKEY

BAS was invited to organise a community dig to confirm that the 18th century Ha-ha (found by Cotswold Archaeology in 2019) continued south at the end of the Manor Gardens. Our excavation started in September 2020 and will conclude later in 2023 – once we clarify the south terminus of the wall. 21 individuals have participated to-date. Several sections of the Ha-ha have been exposed showing slightly different construction methods along its length (Fig. 1). Our initial assumption was that the ditch, which meanders along the eastern edge of a natural ridge, was dug for the Ha-ha and had received considerable quantities of dumped material – both historic and modern. The ditch directly to the east of the Manor was considered to have had least disturbance and provided a solid 4m section of wall in our third trench.

In some sections the wall had slumped forward into the open ditch, likely caused by a combination of additional dumped soil on the west bank, tree growth and the collapse of the hammered soil footing at the front of the wall. The depth of the wall ‘footings’ varies along the length of the wall, from zero in the south to over 55cm of footing depth

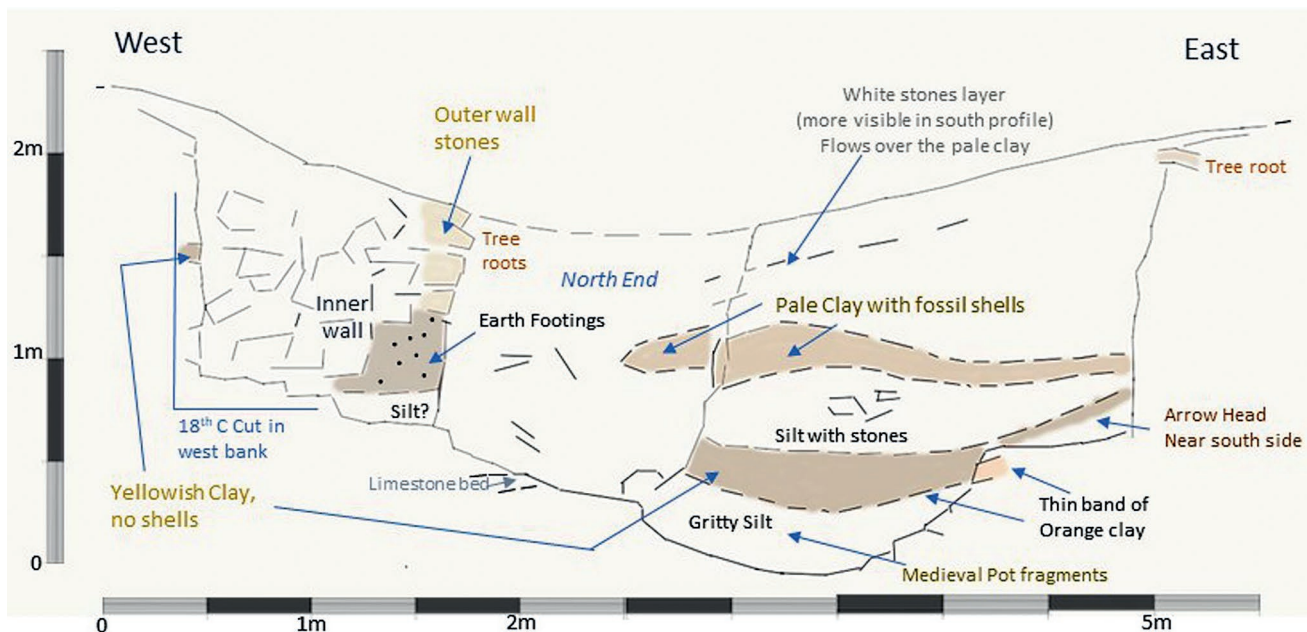


Figure 1: Great Linford Manor Park, Trench 1 profile

under the wall in Trench 1, indicating that the wall had been 'fitted' into an existing ditch. The footing depth being adjusted to provide a near horizontal base for the wall front in a ditch that not only meandered but also varied in depth. In places the west side of the wall has been 'sealed' into the bank with heavy blue clay.

Finds from the whole excavation include pottery from the Iron Age (South East Midlands type) though Saxon, Medieval, Georgian glass and brick, Victorian and Edwardian domestic ware to 21st Century carrier bags and a beer can. Most of these finds came from the material dumped into the ditch; the very low count of pipe stem pieces (4) is a still a puzzle for an 18th C construction.

To explore the 'old' ditch profile, the shell-rich clay layer at the base of the footing in Trench 1 was followed into the east bank. At first it rose with the ditch profile but at 0.5m into the bank the clay surface started to decline. Under the shell-rich clay a stoney silt, containing a few small, abraded fragments of mid-medieval pottery, also showed as a deposit in a ditch bottom that would have been 1.6m east of the wall front. Below the stoney silt context in Trench 1 is a solid

layer of yellow (when exposed) clay, in which a 14th C bodkin type arrowhead was embedded. We were fortunate to have the arrowhead X-rayed.

The yellow clay had few other finds and had been cut by the wall builders to provide a base for the back of the wall. This layer then gave us a secure context to understand the ditch before wall construction. Beneath the yellow clay, bands of gritty silt led down to the original ditch bottom, exposing a small limestone bed (dipping to the west) and a good set of early medieval pottery fragments, include some St Neots ware.

Our current conclusion is that the southern section of the Ha-ha was built in the first half of the 18th Century in a 'boundary' ditch that was created before the end of the 14th Century. The ditch may show as a pale orange line on an estate map of Great Linford from 1641 (Bucks Archives). If so, then the ditch continued north of the Cotswold Archaeology site and is now truncated by the Grand Union Canal. The Ha-ha wall in the 83m length of the southern section was built of dry dressed limestone, to a height of circa 1.4m and depth of 1.2m. Some of the 'local' infill stone is fossil rich with examples of *Gryphaea* and *Belemnite*.



Figure 2: Great Linford Manor Park, C14th bodkin arrowhead from Trench 1

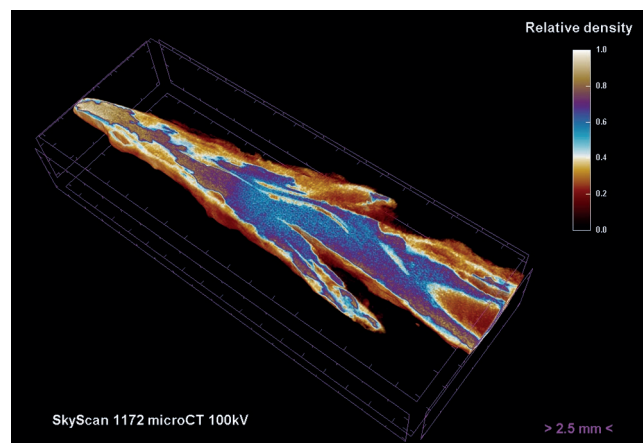


Figure 3: Great Linford Manor Park, 3D scan of C14th bodkin arrowhead

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL: ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE 2022

The Council's Archaeology Service is part of the Heritage and Archaeology Team within Environmental Specialists which forms part of the Planning, Growth and Sustainability Directorate. We have one Senior Archaeology Officer, an Archaeology Officer, a Historic Environment Record Officer, and a Historic Environment Record Assistant.

Development Management

High Speed Two

2022 was a busy period with HS2/EKFB Teams meetings on numerous topics including, updated method statements, landscape design issues and assessing no further works proposals as sites and areas came to a close. Interim reports, reports, and post excavation assessments (PXAs) being supplied for comment but with very tight turnaround times. Schedule 17 pre-application meetings took place most weeks; these are similar to planning applications and involve road, design and planting issues which could impact on the historic environment. FUSION, HS2's archaeological contractor undertook this work and was wound up in October as the field work had largely have been completed. RSK/Headland will be undertaking archaeological works during the construction phase.

Grim's Ditch Scheduled Monument/Hunts Green Farm, Great Missenden

Archaeological investigation was undertaken including a geophysical survey, a topographic survey, trial trenching and excavation. A couple of trenches were excavated across the Scheduled Monument and the results of this will inform the full excavation of the monument. It is hoped that some of the monument can be preserved, and this depends on the EKFB construction design which has yet to be supplied. The works to the monument will be undertaken by a Schedule 19 application which will need to be approved by the Secretary of State under Historic England's guidance. Discussion is ongoing as construction design is yet to be finalised. It is understood that further geotechnical investigations will be undertaken.

South-East Aylesbury link Road (SEALR)

The archaeological monitoring of the early phases of the South-East Aylesbury link Road (SEALR) progressed with AECOM and CFA. Ditches relating to a Roman settlement have been excavated together with human burials and a 'well pit' (Fig. 4) which contained well preserved waterlogged planks and timbers. Excavation conditions were very difficult later in the year. By far the earliest artefact so far discovered is an 'Acheulian' hand axe (Fig. 5) dating to the Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age) period about 200,000 years BC.

Further evaluation began at the Hampden Fields development between Aylesbury and Weston Turville. This major development is for up to 3,000 dwellings and a 60-bed care home/extra care facility; provision of land for a Park and Ride site; a total of 6.90ha of employment land; provision of two primary schools (one 2 form entry and one 3 form entry); a mixed-use local centre (3.75ha) with provision for a food store of up to 1,200 square metres, further retail (including



Figure 4: South-East Aylesbury link Road, Roman "Well Pit" with waterlogged timbers (CFA Archaeology)



Figure 5: South-East Aylesbury link Road, 'Acheulian' hand axe (CFA Archaeology)

a pharmacy), restaurant and café units, a doctor's surgery, gym, public house, multi-functional green infrastructure (totalling 108.43ha) including parkland, sports pitches, sports pavilions, children's play areas, informal open space, allotments, community orchards and landscaping. It was decided that to de-risk the development by undertaking further evaluation in the form of trial trenching. Evaluation was undertaken approximately ten years ago and included geophysical surveys and trial trenching. This phase of evaluation includes a further 460+ trenches which are being undertaken by RPS and PCA. Areas of excavation are being drawn up from these results.

Historic Environment Record (HER)

The HER Assistant dealt with the bulk of the Countryside Stewardship applications, freeing up the HER Officer to work on the Local Heritage List project.

Countryside Stewardship Scheme in 2022

HER consultations to support Countryside Stewardship funding applications continued in the same format as 2021 while the transition to the proposed new Environmental Land Management Scheme is still in the pipeline (expected to go live in 2024). This year the HER has received and dealt with 33 applications for nearly 7,000 hectares of land

Buckinghamshire

in Buckinghamshire with 13 applications at Mid-Tier and 20 applications at Higher Tier.

HER Enhancement and Volunteer Projects

The two consultants from Skylarkeology began working on the first of the Aerial Investigation and Mapping projects in north Buckinghamshire. This is an Historic England-funded project which records and map evidence from aerial photography and LiDAR directly in the HER database. The data will be a significant new source of information and will be particularly useful for development management, strategic planning and for the Buckinghamshire Local Plan. To date they have recorded 204 new sites and enhanced the records for 95 existing sites.

The HER volunteer continues to work on enhancing the records for milestones.

Local Heritage List

The first tranche of sites for inclusion on the Local Heritage List was formally adopted by Cabinet on Thursday 5th January 2023. This is the first county-wide Local Heritage List that Buckinghamshire has had and is the result of a collective effort from the Heritage and Archaeology Team, alongside representatives from the Bucks Garden Trust and the Buckinghamshire Archaeology Society. 771 sites were adopted in the first phase, with work ongoing to assess the remaining sites in time for a second phase at the end of 2023.

Outreach and Publicity

Members of the Team have undertaken several outreach and partnership activities:

Buckinghamshire Council Archaeology Day

As part of the Festival of Archaeology and Bucks Open Weekend, Buckinghamshire Council Heritage and Archaeology Team ran an Open Day on July 30th in North Marston (Fig. 6). The residents of North Marston came out *en masse* when the Buckinghamshire Council Heritage and Archaeology Team ran an Open Day as part of the Festival of Archaeology and Bucks Open Weekend on July 30th. Adults and children enjoyed the activities and displays on offer, whilst guided tours around the village helped promote the Local List project.

With stalls from the Young Archaeologist Club, Buckinghamshire Archaeology Society and the North

Marston Historical Society, visitors were able to learn all about the archaeology and built heritage of the county. The Buckinghamshire Finds Liaison Officer was on hand to identify residents' mysterious artefacts, with the star find a Palaeolithic hand axe!

The Mystery of Grim's Ditch at the Young Archaeologist Club

As part of the Chalk, Cherries and Chairs project, we joined up with the Chilterns branch of the Young Archaeologist Club to share recent research and discoveries at Grim's Ditch and encouraged the children to consider what this enigmatic heritage feature may have been for. The children had brilliant ideas and suggestions and produced some amazing drawings and short stories about the monument.

Bucks County Show

The Heritage and Archaeology Team joined colleagues from the Council at the Bucks County Show at the beginning of September. It was a great opportunity to meet residents to showcase our work and allow them the chance to ask questions and learn more about what we do and how we can help. The dressing up clothes were a huge hit with younger visitors whilst the archaeological handling collection and historic building timeline activity were of huge interest to all ages.

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Between Astwood (Bucks.) and Stagsden West End (Beds.), Snakes Meadow Solar Farm

NGR 496451 247098

JAMES COYNE

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology confirmed the results of a preceding geophysical survey and identified Iron Age/Roman settlement remains, comprising a series of enclosures and associated internal and external features. Several ditches contained 12th to 14th-century domestic occupation waste. The remains of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, post-medieval field boundary ditches and a post-medieval drainage ditch were also identified.

Beachampton, Land off Stratford Road

NGR 477797 235744

JOAN ROIG

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology revealed an undated but probably medieval or post-medieval field boundary ditch and several medieval or post-medieval furrows.

Bishopstone, Moat Lane, Bishopstone Road

NGR 481937 210081

JAMES COYNE

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a small Bronze Age rectilinear enclosure and possibly related features. A single Iron Age pit was also recorded. The remains of medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation and several post-medieval/modern ditches and pits were also present.



Figure 6: North Marston Archaeology Day

Bow Brickhill, Land off Station Road

NGR 490146 234751

DANE WRIGHT

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recorded the remains of medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation and a single post medieval field boundary ditch.

Buckingham, Bourton Solar Farm

NGR 471646 233665

RALPH BROWN

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology confirmed the results of a preceding geophysical survey and identified an area of Roman peripheral settlement activity comprising ditches, small ring gullies and pits, including possible refuse pits containing dumped domestic waste. To the north, Roman field boundary ditches and ditches possibly demarcating a trackway or droveway were recorded. The pottery assemblage provides evidence for activity during the Late Iron Age and Roman periods, with a focus from the 2nd century AD onwards. Utilitarian forms dominated the assemblage suggesting low status activity probably associated with a rural settlement. The remains of medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation were also present.

Kimble, Land north of Kimblewick Road

NGR 481780 206610

JULIAN NEWMAN

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified Late Iron Age/Early Roman agricultural features comprising rectilinear enclosures and a lazy bed field-system. Late Roman activity was defined by the backfilling of three large pits and several ditches, including structural CBM within the backfill material, suggesting a building in or within the immediate vicinity of the site which is located within a known Roman landscape. Medieval/post-medieval furrows were also present.

Walton (Milton Keynes), New Roundabout, Land adjacent to Walton Manor

NGR 488711 236631

JAMES COYNE

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology recorded field system ditches associated with an Iron Age and Roman settlement to the north of the site.

HEADLAND ARCHAEOLOGY**Winslow, Tuckey Farm Solar Development**

SP 75304 26724

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by Scottish Power Renewables to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation exercise on land either side of East Claydon Road, Winslow (NGR SP 75304 26724). The evaluation consisted of 102 trenches, each measuring 50 meters by 1.8 meters wide, distributed over 5 fields, totalling c. 37ha. One field was located on the southeast side of East Claydon road, and all others were on the northwest side of the road. Few archaeological features were encountered during the works, though evidence of post-medieval ridge and furrow

agricultural systems were identified in 14 trenches. Some trenches contained land drains and/or tree throws, and trenches 7, 8 and 9 contained what may be the remains of the base of a hedgerow, potentially relating to an agricultural field boundary. One deposit showing evidence of burning was identified in Trench 51. A 20-litre sample was taken from this feature and revealed exceptionally well-preserved charcoal and seeds, which are likely modern.

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES**Castlethorpe, North Street SP 7977 4451**

GAVIN DAVIS

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological strip map and record at Castle House, 5 North Street, Castlethorpe. The excavations, undertaken ahead of the construction of an extension, revealed the southerly continuation of a stone wall foundation that had been identified during a previous stage of archaeological evaluation. The wall was orientated north-north-east to south-south-west and was at a right angle to the current building, although the excavations were not extensive enough to ascertain if the wall continued to the limits of the current building. The wall may relate to the original 16th century structure which stood on the site or to a later phase; part of the current extant building is recorded as being occupied in the 18th century. The wall was overlain by a demolition deposit which in turn was overlain by layers of made ground and levelling deposits.

With the exception of the latest modern deposits, the deposits did not contain any dating material. During the previous evaluation, a fragment of glazed roof tile of Potterspury type was recovered and that would suggest that a high-status building stood on or near to the site in the medieval period. During these excavations only one unstratified, small sherd of Potterspury type fabric was recovered from the excavations. The latest feature that was identified was a curving feature of unknown purpose which consisted of two parallel lines of roughly squared cobblestones inserted into the made ground levelling deposit which was below the current topsoil. The surviving length of the feature was approximately 3.6m and the gap between the parallel cobbles was 0.2m. The feature was orientated east to west at its eastern end and turned west-south-west at its westerly end where it appeared to continue beneath the floor of the extant building under the western doorway. The inclusion of two bricks towards the eastern end of the feature identified a repair of post-medieval date. Three fragments of modern pottery were recovered from between the cobblestones which might suggest that the feature was still extant into the modern period. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-511518

Chearsley, Manor Farm SP 7190 0970

GRACE GRIFFITH

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at Manor Farm, Chearsley during wetland creation. A series of archaeological investigation trenches were excavated in the western field, which monitored the removal of topsoil in this area. The topsoil was removed to the subsoil level, and no archaeological features or horizons were uncovered. Additionally, ponds in Areas C, D, and E

Buckinghamshire

were monitored, as well as an investigation trench within the backwater in Area F. A single undated ditch was observed in Pond 8, within Area C. No additional archaeological features or horizons were encountered within the other monitored areas. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-509020

Ludgershall, Church of St Mary SP 6598 1720

SCOTT GORDON

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at the Church of St Mary, Ludgershall, during groundworks for the installation of a toilet and servery unit. Test pitting and ground reduction in the vestry and Wesley Room uncovered a subsoil layer containing medieval and post-medieval artefacts, beneath a concrete floor. A service trench excavated outside the western wall of the church uncovered a subsoil layer containing medieval and post-medieval artefacts, overlain by the churchyard topsoil. This phase of works discovered no buried structural elements, and no evidence was seen of earlier church remains. Finally, work to reshape the font plinth was also monitored; discounting the plinth itself, there was no impact on the historic fabric of the church, and nothing further of historic or archaeological significance was revealed. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-512568

KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Beachampton, Homefield House, Manor Farm, Stratford Road SP 77279 37133

CHRIS MARTIN-TAYLOR

In November 2022 an single trench evaluation at Homefield House, Manor Farm, Beachampton revealed five archaeological features consisting of a gully, a ditch, a possible linear, an unidentified feature and a pit. The unidentified feature contained a sherd of Saxon pottery, however this may be the result of secondary deposition. The linear features appeared to be part of a system of drainage and dated to the post-medieval period or possibly earlier. A large rubbish pit was interpreted as post-medieval or modern. OASIS: kdkarcha1-509655; Accession No.: AYBCM 2022.125

Burnham, Tithe Barn, Lake End Road SU 9296 8025

LAURA DODD

In July 2022 an Archaeological Evaluation was undertaken at Tithe Barn, Lake End Road, Burnham, Buckinghamshire as a condition for the planning permission for the installation of a tennis court and fence. A single trench measuring 30 x 1.8m was excavated within the footprint of the proposed tennis court revealing the remains of a late medieval structure (Fig. 7). A high concentration of Penn-type roof tile was found in association with the structure, including a number of waste tiles. This may indicate that tile production was being undertaken on site before the dissolution of the monastery in 1539 although the location of the kiln is unknown. OASIS: kdkarcha1-506082; Accession No.: AYBCM: 2022.48

Fenny Stratford, Land to the rear of 20 to 22 Simpson Road SP 8834 3421

FLORIAN WEBER

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in September 2022 at Land to the rear of 20 to 22 Simpson Road, Fenny Stratford, Bletchley, Buckinghamshire. Six trenches were excavated prior to the development of the site, which is located within a wider Iron Age/Roman landscape, but no archaeological finds, deposits or cut features were revealed within trenches.

Slapton, New Bury Farm, Mill Road SP 92744 21568

LAURA DODD

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in November 2022 as a condition of the planning permission for the construction of a solar farm at New Bury Farm, Slapton. Four trial trenches and nine test pits were excavated within a 36.2ha area. A single pit of unknown date was observed within Trench 1 and three of the evaluation trenches contained an imported soil, likely from the construction of the Grand Union Canal to the west. No further cut features or archaeological deposits were encountered during this investigation. OASIS: kdkarcha1-511327 Accession Number: AYBCM2022.126



Figure 7: Burnham, Tithe Barn Structure and associated features

Wolverton, Former Fire Station, Stratford Road SP 8098 4105

CHRIS MARTIN-TAYLOR

In May 2022 an Archaeological Evaluation was undertaken at the Former Fire Station, Stratford Road, Wolverton, Buckinghamshire in order to fulfil a planning condition for demolition of the extant building and construction of four terraced dwellings on the site. Two trenches were excavated, measuring 19m and 9.5m in length. Despite the presence of a possible Romano-British or early Saxon cemetery in the vicinity of the site, no archaeological features or finds were identified during the project. OASIS: kdkarcha1-505958

MILTON KEYNES CITY COUNCIL: CONSERVATION & ARCHAEOLOGY IN MILTON KEYNES 2022

NICK CRANK, SENIOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL OFFICER, with contributions from MARTIN ELLISON, CHRIS HOOPER and SIMON PEART, CONSERVATION and ARCHAEOLOGY TEAM, MKCC

Fieldwork

Highlights in 2022 included further excavations in relation to a large (461 hectare) mixed-use development to the east of the M1 between Milton Keynes and Newport Pagnell, known as MK East Strategic Urban Extension (MKESUE). A second phase of excavations by Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) was well underway with the focus on a very extensive middle to late Iron Age settlement to the west of Moulsoe.

A watching brief on a new dwelling in Bradwell village by Souterrain Archaeological Services in July and August 2022 encountered a substantial medieval ditch which, it is suggested, may be part of the bailey ditch of the nearby

Bradwell Castle a motte and bailey presumed to date from the Anarchy (see summary by Souterrain, below).

In late November 2022 excavations by Oxford Archaeology in advance of the construction of a supermarket at Warrington Road, Olney, unexpectedly revealed a mosaic floor within a partially excavated building. The mosaic, which was not entirely excavated comprised a double guilloche outer border and a red, white, and blue repeating “swastika-peltae” pattern central panel. Dr David Neal, who visited the site, suggested that the mosaic may be attributed to the Durobrivan group found in the east Midlands, due to its similarity to a mosaic recorded and preserved *in situ* at Great Staughton, Cambridgeshire in 1958. Due to the unexpected nature of this discovery discussions were undertaken in relation to potential preservation *in situ* of the mosaic and surrounding structure within the proposed scheme.

Historic Environment Record (HER)

Good progress was made with items on the HER Action Plan stemming from the recent full audit. Idox/Exegesis have recently been commissioned to undertake enhancement work including the incorporation of the results of the Bedford Borough National Mapping Programme data into the HER leading to a substantial increase in mapped heritage assets in the eastern third of the borough.

MK New Town Heritage Register

The MK New Town Heritage Register is a ‘local list’ that aims to identify and document the significant architectural areas, places and spaces which were built from 1967 – 1992, identifying them as having local interest and as ‘non-designated heritage assets’. In addition to central government funding, Milton Keynes City Council (MKCC) has awarded



Figure 8: The Olney Mosaic (Oxford Archaeology)

Buckinghamshire

additional funds and recently listed the project in its Council Plan – Delivery Plan 22/23.

A selection panel of 11 members has been appointed to consider a range of new town era assets nominated by the public. The panel covers a broad range of knowledge and expertise, coming from both local and national backgrounds. The Conservation and Archaeology Team completed the final stage of the public consultation on the nominations to its New Town Heritage Register (a “local list”) in March and April 2022. This last stage engaged commercial landowners. In 2023 the Selection Panel will consider the first 160 nominations against the adopted selection criteria and any representations made.

Conservation Areas

The team is continuing to review our 27 Conservation Areas. Following the successful adoption of the Woughton Conservation Area Review in March 2022 work commenced on the next four conservation areas: Emberton, Ravenstone, Sherington and Weston Underwood. The completion of these documents later in the year will bring the total number of areas reviewed to 16.

Bradwell Windmill

Bradwell Windmill is a Grade II Listed, early 19th Century windmill located on the parish boundaries of New Bradwell and Stantonbury. It was built to mill flour for the local populace in 1803 by Samuel Holman for over £500, a substantial sum at the time. Although its working life lasted for less than eighty years, it is much loved by its local communities and ownership passed to Milton Keynes Council in 1997.

The Council worked in partnership with Milton Keynes Museum who are based near the mill and who manage it on the Council’s behalf, to bring the windmill back to running order. Extensive works of almost £150,000 were delivered in 2014 to achieve this and since then the Museum, thanks to its dedicated Mill Volunteers, has opened the mill to residents, community groups and visitors, including the annual Heritage Open Days (HODs).

However, a regular maintenance check highlighted some additional emergency works were needed and led by the MKCC Build Estates Team, capital works to stabilise the Mill foundations and replace some moving parts is being undertaken in time for the Mill to reopen at HODs in September 2022. Again, working with MK Museum, MKCC is developing a plan to secure the Mill’s future as one of the most important heritage buildings in Milton Keynes.

Community & Outreach

After a 3-year hiatus MK Archaeology Day will return to the Central Library on Saturday 4th November 2023.

The BAS Active Archaeology Group continued their excavations on the Ha-Ha at Great Linford Manor Park (commenced in 2020). Discussions were also underway in late 2022 with the Parks Trust and Senior Archaeological Officer for the AAG to target trenches on the post-medieval landscape garden and manorial site in Stanton Low Country Park.

As a follow-up to the successful 2018 geophysical survey the Senior Archaeological Officer was developing a plan for a community archaeology excavation on the Scheduled Civil

War defences at Bury Field Common, Newport Pagnell with the Commoners and Newport Pagnell Town Council.

MOLA NORTHAMPTON

Charndon, Main Street, land south of Valley Farm
SP 67126 24275

ANDY SHERMAN

MOLA Northampton were commissioned to conduct an archaeological evaluation on land to the south of Valley Farm, Charndon. The archaeological works consisted of two 40m long evaluation trenches. A series of ditches and possible hedgerows were encountered during the evaluation attesting to the areas long standing agricultural cultivation, along with two possible paths or yard features made from irregular shaped and sized chalk blocks. This feature is similar to a potential 15th century yard surface identified a short distance away in 2006. A small artefactual assemblage was recovered from the archaeological works including medieval ceramics and animal bone likely derived from the backfilling of pits and ditches. A residual assemblage of Roman and prehistoric pottery was also recovered.

Winslow, Land off Great Harwood Road
SP 77165 28745

SERGIO LOPEZ MEDEL

MOLA was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological trial trench evaluation at land off Great Harwood Road, Winslow. The evaluation comprised 30 trenches dispersed across the development area. Very few features of archaeological interest were observed, with most of the remains relating to medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. There was also a probable post-medieval boundary ditch and a small number of undated features. The results of the evaluation have confirmed that the development is outside of the *foci* of Iron Age and Roman occupation and field systems identified to the north of the site.

Woburn Sands, Bow Brickhill Road SP 92100 35900

JOHN WALFORD

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) undertook a magnetometer survey across c.17ha of land north of Bow Brickhill Road, Woburn Sands. The survey identified a small area of probable archaeological remains in the north of the survey area. The arrangement of these resembles a series of probable Iron Age washing line enclosures, in which small enclosures and roundhouses are grouped tightly along a sinuous boundary ditch. There is perhaps a second archaeological site in the southern field, comprising a large and irregular enclosure of uncertain date, but the evidence for this is less conclusive. A few lesser features may also be of archaeological origin but are too fragmentary and widely scattered to be confidently discussed.

The survey has also identified a number of modern features, including a pipeline which follows the southern and eastern boundary of the site, and an expanse of ferrous debris in the south of the northern field. The latter seems likely to be associated with the former brickworks which occupied the land immediately north-east of the survey area during the mid-20th century.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH

Fawley, Fawley Court SU 76512 84214
BERNADETTE RZADEK

Oxford Archaeology undertook building recording in 2021 at Fawley Court, a Grade I listed mansion near Henley which was originally constructed in the late 17th century. The building is currently being restored and investigations have focused on the stair hall at the south-western corner of the building.

A set of WCs were inserted in this area beneath the stairs and a historic building watching brief was undertaken during their demolition. This indicated that the female WC probably dated to the first half of the 19th century, and the rest to the 20th century.

Primary windows had been blocked in this area either during the construction of the rooms under the stairs, or in connection with the reconstruction of the staircase. There was no obvious evidence that the south-west window had originally been a door.

Stowe, Stowe House SP 67459 37427
ANGELA WARNER

Oxford Archaeology carried out a historic building recording at Stowe House in 2020 during a programme of repairs and conservation works at Stowe House. The works focused on three rooms to the west side of the house: the Temple Room (or State Drawing Room), the Dining Room and the West Corridor.

Stowe House is a Grade 1 listed mansion of exceptional historic significance and the conservation works have provided an opportunity to investigate parts of the structure which are usually hidden.

The rooms covered by the recording were constructed during the various phases of extensive remodelling at Stowe during the 18th century. The State Dining Room was established in the 1740s, initially comprising a gallery but having been converted to the State Dining Room by 1817; the West Corridor was formed between 1733–1750 due to the reconfiguration of the Great Parlour; and the State Drawing Room was constructed in 1776.

The work has included preparing an archive record of the rooms prior to the start of conservation as well as the further investigation of areas during intrusive works. These largely concentrated on the ceilings, walls and floors (boards and joists beneath) but also included other features such as a fireplace. The pre-works recording included photogrammetric survey of the exquisite ceiling in the Temple Room and the floors in the Temple Room and State Dining Room.

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Newport Pagnell, Milton Keynes East SP 8904 4218
JUDY MLYNARSKA

St James Group, a member of the Berkeley Group, are developing a new neighbourhood in the rural north of Milton Keynes encompassing roughly 385ha of land currently under agriculture provisionally called 'Milton Keynes East' at Land North-East of Milton Keynes (OS NGR: SP 8904 4218). This area has been allocated for comprehensive

development in the current Milton Keynes Local Plan, Plan:MK.

The wider development area is located over multiple fields between Milton Keynes, to the west and the village of Moulsoe, to the east. The principal thoroughfares in the vicinity of the site are the A509 and the M1. The area currently comprises various arable fields, as well as some areas of grassland or former water meadow, adjacent to the River Ouzel which flows through the development area. Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) has been commissioned by RPS Consulting Ltd to undertake a program of archaeological excavation at the site in advance of development.

Between September 2021 and January 2022 PCA undertook an archaeological excavation of 4 areas located on the west side of the River Ouzel (Fig. 9). The principal result of the excavation was the identification of a Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age monument complex and Romano-British Farmstead with associated field system. The excavation also revealed features associated with temporary occupation or mobile visits in the Early Neolithic and Iron Age periods.

Late Neolithic – Bronze Age

The excavation of Area 1 identified four ditches representing the remains of two monuments, likely round barrows of Late Neolithic/Bronze Age date. The northern barrow consisted of one ring ditch while the southern barrow was formed by two continuous ditch 'circles' and an internal structure in the shape of a narrow 'c shaped' ditch with two pits at each side (Fig. 10). The form of the southern barrow appears unusual but may be the result of more than one phase of activity in the same location. Deposits identified within the ring ditches contained burnt material including animal bones as well as a scatter of cremated human remains found in the outer ditch of the southern barrow. A cremation of a later date was cut into the top, tertiary deposit of the outer ring ditch.

Although no remains of a permanent settlement associated with the barrows were found during the excavation, four treethrows containing fragments of decorated Beaker pottery were identified in Area 3. In Area 2, a well has been identified and radiocarbon dated to 1323–1208BC (68.9% probability) in the Middle Bronze Age. The feature contained some animal bone and an assemblage of waterlogged wood, including a possible log ladder segment.

The Romano-British period

A Romano-British farmstead with an associated field system was identified in areas 1–4. The farmstead was established in the Early Roman period as no evidence for preceding occupation from the Late Iron Age has been identified. The occupation spanned the entire Roman period. The farmstead was characterised by a series of rectangular enclosures, aligned roughly NNE-SSW. The focus of domestic occupation was identified in Area 4. An assemblage of Early Roman pottery discovered in a shallow enclosure ditch at the eastern side of Area 4, is indicative of the immediate proximity of a house, likely located within the rectangular enclosure in which the pottery was found. Several waterholes and one well were found in Area 4. A log ladder discovered in waterhole [1671] in Area 4 is currently awaiting radiocarbon dates (Fig. 11).

A field system associated with the farmstead stretched across Areas 1–3 and was represented by field boundaries running on the same alignment as those of the settlement. It is possible that the Bronze Age barrows may have been



Figure 9: Newport Pagnell, Milton Keynes East, Phase Plan

still visible in the landscape in the Roman period, as some of the Roman field boundaries either respected or appeared to reference the positions of the barrows. It is equally possible

that these later boundaries may have been deliberately located on the slightly elevated topography that first caught the attention of the monument builders. Parts of the Roman



Figure 10: Newport Pagnell, Milton Keynes East, drone photo of south barrow in Area 1



Figure 11: Newport Pagnell, Milton Keynes East, probable Romano-British log ladder in Area 4

Buckinghamshire

enclosure system are still referenced in today's landscape with modern hedge lines running in the same position.

Three cremations were found in what would have been arable fields in Area 2. The cremations were found in close proximity to each other raising the possibility of a family group. Cremation [1014] was radiocarbon dated to 126–248AD (95.4% probability) in the Mid Roman period.

Two inhumations were discovered in Area 4 with their skulls placed near the pelvis area, both bodies in a prone (stomach down) position. Inhumation [1876] was radiocarbon dated to 338–427AD (86.2% probability) in the Late Roman period.

Taplow, Mill Lane SU 90290 81734

ROBIN WEAVER

An archaeological evaluation on land at The Old Boathouse, Mill Road, comprising three trenches, was undertaken in March and June as a condition of planning permission for of nine residential dwellings. Multiple layers of 19th and early 20th century made ground were recorded at this riverside site overlaying the natural slope of the geological horizon towards the River Thames. The large quantity of overburden seen in each of the three evaluation trenches was intended to create a terrace and reflects the development of the riverside for 'Gentlemen's Residences', riverside paths and, of course, the Old Boathouse itself. Due to the presence of this deep overburden the impact of this and later activity was minimal, and, except for a small undated pit, the absence of archaeological features in the trenches appears to be a true reflection of the lack of activity on the site.

SOUTERRAIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Bow Brickhill, The Old Coach House, 2B Church Road

MARTIN D WILSON

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during ground reduction for a new house in the historic core of Bow Brickhill village, Milton Keynes. The site had potential for buried remains pertaining to the origin and development of the medieval village, and possibly also of the Roman period.

Pottery from the topsoil indicated that the ground may not have witnessed much disturbance over the past three centuries. A single sherd of medieval pottery (late 11th / mid-13th century) was found within the subsoil, the latter solidified and sterile. There were no significant archaeological features, no evidence to suggest the plot was formerly a medieval tenement, no traces of medieval cultivation, and no evidence of pre-medieval land-use.

Of local curiosity, however, was a cache of more than 2000 live rounds of small arms ammunition, possibly buried in a box or a sack that had long-since decomposed. The majority of the rounds were Mark II .303 round-nosed rifle bullets dated to c. 1897, manufactured for military Lee-Enfield use; a type prohibited in combat after 1899. Other rounds comprised centrefire-type .22 bullets, for use in a semi-automatic pistol. It remains a mystery how the cache came to be buried in the garden. HER Event No. EMK1480; OASIS ID: souterra1-511115

Bradwell, 28a Vicarage Road SP 83157 39583

MARTIN D WILSON

In July and August 2022 an archaeological investigation was carried out by Souterrain during groundwork for a detached dwelling in Bradwell village, in the city of Milton Keynes.

The new house plot is situated on the north side of Vicarage Road, in the historic core of the village. On the opposite side of the road (c.12.5 m) there is a Scheduled Monument – the partial remains of Bradwell Castle, a motte and bailey earthwork which is believed to have been constructed in the first half of the 12th century by a supporter of Empress Matilda.

The original extent of the castle is the subject of much speculation. The designated area envelops but a small portion of the original castle, the rest now covered by houses and gardens, a public house and car park, and the graveyard of Bradwell's early 13th century parish church dedicated to St. Lawrence. It is likely that the bailey's defensive perimeter is, to some extent, fossilised in the village road layout.

Just inside the front boundary of the new house plot, a substantial medieval ditch was identified on the line of the roadway; most probably part of the northern bailey defences (Fig. 12). A sample segment was excavated through the ditch at its widest exposed part. Due to time constraints, it was machine-cut down to the two lowermost deposits and, from then on, hand-investigated. It proved to be over 3.8 m wide and survived to a depth of c. 1.2 m (Fig. 13). The ditch was cut into glacial till. The angle of incline of its southern slope (35–40°) indicated that the top edge would be located under the pavement, about 0.8m from the plot boundary. The north slope was for the most part inclined around 35°, yet with a sharp final fall at 75° (c. 0.4 m). The base of the ditch was extremely uneven, with small pockets filled with bluish-grey silty-clay. The pockets were of uncertain origin, quite possibly stake-holes, or perhaps more mundanely, the result of animals or humans trampling the ditch bottom.

The fill sequence [contexts 1 to 5] signified three discrete phases. The use-life of the ditch and initial development of vegetation on its margins (Phase 1) was represented by a primary fill of bluish-grey, soft, silty clay [context 1], c. 0.1–0.18 m in thickness, which had been formed in waterlogged ground. Plant *taxa* within the soil sample indicated that the environs of the ditch comprised rough grassland, with a predominance of species that thrive on disturbed ground and wastes. There was, however, scant evidence of arable cultivation having been in the vicinity of the ditch during the formation of the deposit.

The secondary fill denoted neglect, and the onset of cultivation in the vicinity (Phase 2). It was composed of soft, silty gley-clay [context 2], up to 0.3 m thick, which varied in colour from grey to rusty brown. This suggested a gradual, and largely natural build-up of material. Plant *taxa* contrasted with that of the primary deposit. It reflected standing water and tall damp vegetation, while carbonised plant macrofossils revealed a predominance of free-threshing type wheat and peas/beans derived from nearby cultivated ground. Pottery suggested this occurred in the 12th / 13th century. At some time later, yet still within the same broad period, the ditch was deliberately in-filled.

The environmental analysis has significant ramifications for understanding the chronological development of Bradwell village during the medieval period, since it suggests that the castle was constructed on wastes, and that strip-cultivation

of wastes took place after the demise of the castle. In the light of the discoveries at Vicarage Road, a wider survey of the castle has been undertaken by Souterrain (forthcoming), which re-examines the findings of earlier landscape studies (most notably that of Croft and Mynard, 1993) and explores the possible extent of the Bradwell motte and bailey from a combination of topographical survey, remote sensing, and historic cartographic analysis.

The investigation at Vicarage Road has been the first opportunity to augment understanding of the castle's chronology by controlled archaeological scientific investigation. Notably, the results serve to illustrate the value of the watching brief, where a greater depth of knowledge of the historic landscape may be gleaned from a relatively small intervention. HER Event No. EMK1404; OASIS ID: souterrai-510453.

The environmental analysis was undertaken by Dr John Summers.

References

Croft R A & Mynard D C, 1993. 'Parish Essays', 'Bradwell' in The Changing Landscape of Milton Keynes, *The Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society Monograph Series No 5*.

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Astwood, former church of St Peter, Main Road

SP 9506 4737

ANDREW MUNDIN

A watching brief was maintained on the digging of test pits in April 2022 prior to conversion of the former church which is Grade II* listed. The archaeological horizon was identified within the interior under existing floor levels, within both the nave and south aisle. The chancel foundation was recorded within exterior and interior test pits. Elements of earlier structural parts of the church, likely to date from the late 12th century, were identified in trial pits in the south aisle, north side nave, and structural rubble within the tower base. No human bone was uncovered, but a possible ledger slab seems to have been buried under the east end floor of the south aisle. One piece of Medieval pottery was recovered from a trial pit against the chancel wall.

Aylesbury, Tesco Car Park, Tring Road SP 8288 1382

PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

Evaluation trenching on a 0.32ha site for a residential development in March 2022 revealed no features nor finds of archaeological interest. In particular there was no sign of the expected line of a Roman road.

Bledlow, Land at Chinnor Road SP 7784 0301

WILL ATTARD

Following an evaluation the previous year, an 800 sq m excavation in April 2022 on a site for new houses revealed three phases of medieval (12th to 15th century) enclosures and pits, along with a post-medieval pit and some undated fence lines.

Chilton, The Wheelwrights, Dorton Road SP 6869 1153

GENNI ELLIOTT

Remedial works were required to the Grade II listed building, believed to be medieval/16th century but much altered. A building recording was undertaken in November 2022. Historically the gable end has been rebuilt after the central section of the bressummer beam was replaced. The original principal posts, tie-beam, collar and principal rafters were left *in situ*, with the remainder re-built. The original gable end at first floor level contained two posts and two braces. It is possible there was a similar arrangement at ground floor level and that the stonework may be a later addition. Panels at first-floor level were infilled with wattle and daub.

Haddenham, The Anchor, 12 Church End SP 7410 0798

ANDREW MUNDIN, EMILY GIBSON and GENNI ELLIOTT

A building recording was undertaken in July 2022 in advance of, and a watching brief during, demolition of an existing extension to the building and its replacement by a new one. The limited extent of building recording examined the rear of the fireplace. This revealed the construction to be of roughly coursed limestone rubble with brick quoins at the base changing to brick header courses above. The bricks are consistent with the fireplace being a later addition, perhaps in the 18th century. No original witchert wall was exposed. Nothing of additional interest was observed in the watching brief.

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

EMILY GIBSON and ANDREW MUNDIN

Archaeological observations were made during August to September 2022 on the excavation of footings for three new houses and garages. In line with expectations based on the earlier evaluation, a large pit or quarry and a ditch, certainly or probably of Medieval date, were recorded along with a modern ditch.

Medmenham, Medmenham Abbey, Ferry Lane

SU 8076 8391

WILL ATTARD

Archaeological monitoring of trenching for the foundations of a new greenhouse in May 2022 revealed no archaeological finds or features.

Waddesdon, Baptist Chapel, Waddesdon Hill

SP 7531 1504

ANDREW MUNDIN and JOSHUA HARGREAVES

A new storm drain was installed in May 2022, with an archaeological watching brief undertaken during the excavation of the new trenches and soakaways. Two graves encountered within one of the soakaways cannot be closely dated but are likely to be 19th century. A short stretch of stone wall foundation was also located which presumably relates to a structure predating the church, but of uncertain form.

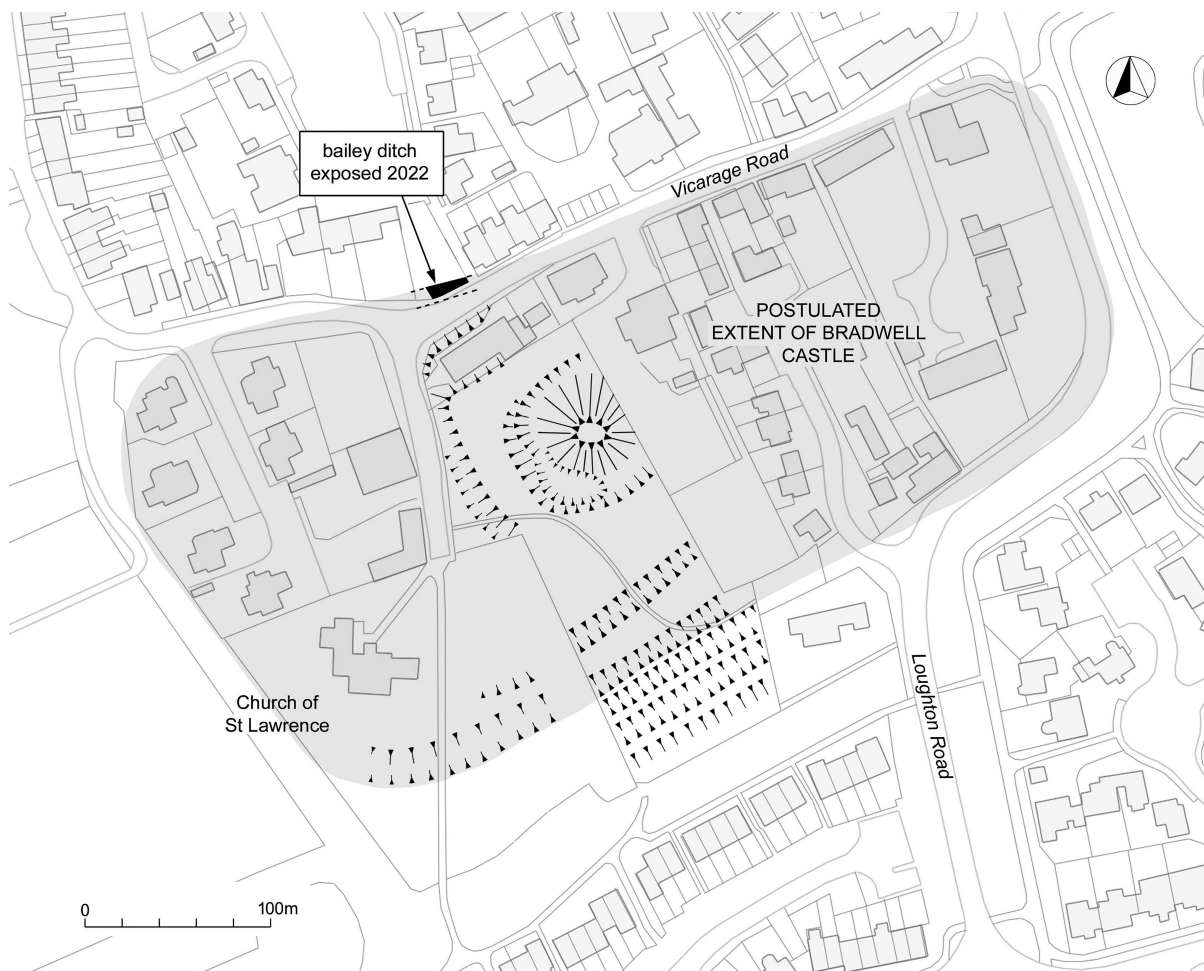


Figure 12: Bradwell, Milton Keynes, Location of medieval defensive ditch & postulated extent of the bailey

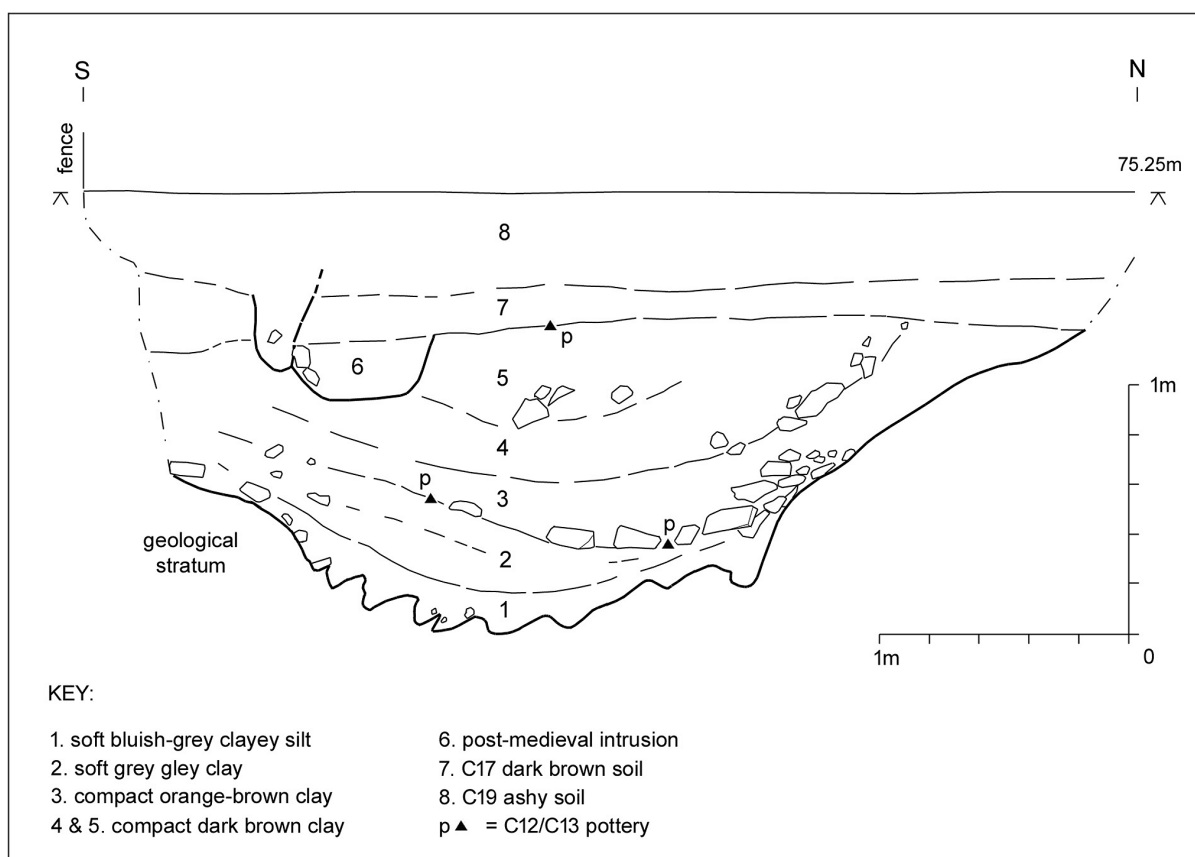


Figure 13: Bradwell, Milton Keynes, Section through probable bailey ditch

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Brackley, Land adjacent to The Butts, Turweston Road SP 5927 3800

JON DURMAN, ALLAN KING and IAIN LESLIE

A c.0.3ha open-area excavation was completed in advance of residential development. The investigations revealed early to middle Iron Age settlement, comprising a mix of small sub-circular enclosures, storage pits, a small area of quarrying and frequent postholes. The postholes were largely clustered in between the enclosures and formed at least seven individual structures, which were predominantly sub-rectangular in form, but also included two four-post structures. The settlement appears to have been abandoned by the 1st century BC. Previous excavations identified contemporary settlement c.90m to the south-west at Turweston Road and c.80m to the north-west at Northampton Road. These are part of a larger network of contemporary settlements known to exist locally, adjacent to a small tributary stream feeding the river Great Ouse. OASIS no.: albionar1-504463; HER Event no. ENN110548

Mears Ashby, Village Farm, Wilby Road SP 8407 6652

MARK PHILLIPS

Listed building consent was granted for the creation of ancillary accommodation within the two-storey wash house attached to the south side of the farmhouse at Village Farm. Historic building recording was carried out in advance of the conversion.

The building is in limestone rubble with dressed limestone flat camber arches to the openings, squared quoins in Northampton Sand Ironstone, and a slate roof. Externally it measures c.11 x 5m. The ground floor comprises a larder at the north end, a passage through the building and the actual wash house at the south. The wash house has a single-storied north half and a double-height section at the south, which is open to the roof. It contains a hearth and brick-built copper at the south end with stairs to the first floor and a small lead tank with a drain in the north half.

The first floor consists of a single room which extends above the larder, the through-passage, and the north half of the wash house. The floor in this room is made from a pinkish plaster or cement. There are a series of iron hooks set high up in the east and west walls in the sloping soffit just below the ceiling proper. The roof is fitted with a metal ventilator of the rotating Archimedean screw type.

Historical maps show that the range to the south of the farmhouse, consisting of the wash house and adjacent brick-built shelter shed, was not present in 1846 but was by 1884. The building does not have any closely dateable features, but the construction and fittings are consistent with a date in the second half of the 19th century.

The function of the larder is evident from its location in relation to the house, the provision of ventilation and the internal fittings which include stone shelves and ceiling hooks. The wash house is located close to the service wing of the farmhouse and contains a copper for heating water, a hearth, large sink, and a drain, which are all consistent with its use for laundry. The first-floor room is accessed from

the wash house and has hooks in the side walls, suitable for holding washing lines, and a large roof-top ventilator. OASIS no.: albionar1-433688; HER Event no.: ENN110445

Wellingborough, Stanton Cross Area 10, Finedon

SP 9095 6880

JON DURMAN and KATHY PILKINTON

A programme of trial trenching was carried out to conclude the archaeological evaluation of Area 10 of the Stanton Cross development. Three trenches targeted geophysical anomalies and identified a large, multi-phase, NW-SE aligned, prehistoric boundary. It initially comprised an alignment of large, sub-circular pits, which was subsequently replaced by a ditch of similar size and depth. Three smaller boundary ditches on varying alignments were identified to the south of the prehistoric boundary. Although no firm dating evidence was recovered, their spatial layout and alignment in relation to historical mapping suggests that they represent post-medieval/modern field boundaries. OASIS no.: albionar1-503589; HER Event no.: ENN 110497

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING SERVICES

Chacombe, Chinner Farm, Thorpe Road

SP 50092 43942

GERWYN RICHARDS

An archaeological standing building survey and heritage impact assessment was carried out in advance of the proposed conversion of the buildings to residential use. The buildings originated as a post enclosure outfarm, part of the Thenford Estate, cartographic sources indicate that the buildings are the remnants of a larger farmstead. The buildings are common Northamptonshire farm buildings, a fodder barn and a potentially 18th or early 19th century stable with a loft over.

Harpole, 31 High Street SP 69007 60822

GERWYN RICHARDS

An archaeological standing building survey of an outbuilding at 31 High Street was carried out in advance of the proposed conversion of the outbuilding to residential use. The building recording and documentary research did not uncover any information to suggest a construction date; 31 High Street itself may have 17th century origins and originated as pre-enclosure village farm, which suggests a possible date for the outbuilding. The house itself may, for a time have been a house of some status as several occupants were listed as private residents rather than farmers. The outbuilding has undergone several episodes of repair, rebuilding and a 19th century extension. There are reused timbers which are potentially mid-17th century in date. The building recording did not indicate the original use of the outbuilding, but in all likelihood it was a stables and wagon house with a granary over. The easternmost bay may have been added as a carriage house with a separate tack room at a time when the house was of higher status.

Northamptonshire

Thenford, Stone Green Barn, Marston Road SP 52602 41447

GERWYN RICHARDS

An archaeological standing building survey and heritage assessment was carried out in advance of the proposed conversion of the buildings to residential use. The building originated as a post enclosure field barn and shelter shed, part of the Thenford Estate, limited cartographic sources indicate that the building dates to the mid to late 19th century and are common Northamptonshire farm buildings. Building C retains its original removable boards suggesting the building has had little modern use and contains a wide variety of drawings and inscriptions dating to the early 20th century.

Weston, Lovells Farm SP 58873 46787

GERWYN RICHARDS

An archaeological standing building survey of an outbuilding at Lovells Farm was carried out in advance of the proposed change of use of the outbuilding to a farm office. The outbuilding originated as an open fronted shelter shed forming the western range of the farmyard. Cartographic sources indicate the building is a mid-19th century enlargement of an earlier building. There is no clear physical evidence of this earlier building. The roof is predominately waney timber and retains a few ambiguous assembly marks.

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGY

Harpole, The Old Rectory SP 68995 61003

STEPHEN PRIESTLEY

A programme of Archaeological Standing Building Recording to Historic England Level 2 of the Coach House adjacent to the Old Rectory, 2 School Lane was carried out in connection with proposed re-modelling of the existing ancillary domestic accommodation at first-floor level and provision of additional ancillary domestic accommodation on the ground floor.

The Coach House is a two-storey, four-bay range built of coursed, squared ironstone with a hipped slate roof, located to the immediate rear of The Old Rectory. Both buildings were erected in 1816 for Thomas Lawrence Dundas, then Rector of Harpole, by the noted Scottish architect and civil engineer William Chadwell Mylne and are designated as Grade II together with the associated courtyard wall.

The main west-facing elevation has sash windows at ground- and first-floor level and stable doors set within flat-arched openings with stone voussoirs. The eastern and southern elevations both have two sash windows inserted, although in the case of the southern elevation these may represent later additions made as part of the extensive refurbishment of the first floor in the mid-1970s.

The ground floor of the Coach House comprises stabling for the former Rector's trap, with a set of broad double doors at the northern end of the range (now converted to a laundry room), to the right of which is a hallway with staircase leading up to the first floor with a utility room to the rear. Both rooms were heavily refurbished in the late 20th century and very few features of architectural interest were noted.

The southernmost two bays at ground-floor level consist of two former stable ranges (now used for storage), the interiors of which have survived relatively intact, with

cobbled and stone flagged floors, arched recesses in the walls (for hayracks or mangers) and wooden stall partitions. Some fixtures and fittings have been removed, although the northern stable retains evidence of metal hayracks in the north wall while the southern range has an intact wooden feeding trough attached to the south wall.

The first floor of the Coach House, which appears originally to have housed service rooms, was heavily refurbished in the mid-1970s as guest accommodation. The original arrangement of the first floor into four separate compartments remains legible, although the landing has been extensively refurbished to create a kitchen and dining area while the southern end has been altered with the insertion of partition walls to create a bedroom, bathroom and airing cupboard. No fixtures or fittings relating to the original usage of the first floor, which would probably have been utilised as service rooms and possibly servants' accommodation, appear to have survived.

Helmdon, Priory Farm SP 58643 43940

STEPHEN PRIESTLEY

Archaeological Standing Building Recording to Historic England Level 2 was carried out at Priory Farm, Sulgrave Road, Helmdon, Northamptonshire, in connection with a planning application for Listed Building Consent to alter and repair the Grade II listed farmhouse. It appears likely that the present farmhouse occupies the site of an earlier dwelling relating to the manor of Netherbury, first recorded in the early 15th century.

The layout of the existing farmhouse and surviving architectural detailing suggests that it was probably built during the first half of the 17th century, almost certainly by the Emilys, a wealthy landed family who are documented as holding the manor of Netherbury in Helmdon from the late 16th century through to the end of the 18th century. The quality of the architectural detailing of the mullioned windows and fireplaces indicates that it was clearly intended to be a high-status dwelling and it may be noted that the 1662 Hearth Tax records a total of 12 hearths at the property.

The original three-unit, cross-passage plan with back-to-back fireplaces in the hall/kitchen and parlour range and a separate heated room at the west end suggests a date towards the latter end of this range, based on comparison with other large farmhouses and gentry houses in the local area, together with other features such as the ovolo mouldings of the mullioned windows at ground and upper storey level.

The two-storey gabled north service wing may have been added at a slightly later date than the main body of the farmhouse but can still probably be assigned a 17th century date based on the presence of the mullioned window in the west wall. The lean-to scullery and small stone outbuilding to the immediate northeast of the farmhouse (currently used as a garage) can be dated to the early to mid-19th century.

The subdivision of the hall/kitchen range into a kitchen and dining room with the insertion of a brick partition wall can probably be assigned to the early to mid-19th century, as can much of the alterations to the fenestration, as evidenced by the blocking of older mullioned windows and insertion of new casements. The partition wall between the bathroom and the bedroom at the east end of the house is clearly a modern insertion, probably dating to the mid-late 20th century.

Northampton, Eastcote Baptist Chapel, Gayton Road
SP 68021 53958

STEPHEN PRIESTLEY

The former chapel was subject to archaeological standing building recording to Historic England Level 2 in connection with a planning application for conversion to residential use, to include rebuilding of the porch.

Eastcote Baptist Chapel of 1838 was founded by Baptist minister Thomas Chamberlain with the support of the Reverend Thomas Marriott, pastor of Milton Malsor. It is not designated as a listed building but is recorded as being of historical and/or architectural significance on the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record by virtue of its historic fabric and its association with the history of the Nonconformist movement as practised in rural Northamptonshire.

The chapel, situated prominently within a triangular churchyard above the roadway, is a simple rectangular gabled building aligned northwest-southeast and of orange-red brick construction (laid in Flemish Bond) with a pitched Welsh Slate roof and a projecting gabled entrance porch with barge-boarded eaves. The low arched window openings in the southwest-facing elevation and the flat arched windows at the northwest end of the chapel appear to be original, although the existing glazed casements are clearly modern insertions (replacing sash windows).

Attached to the northeast end of the chapel is a single-storey rectangular gabled building of red brick and rubble masonry construction with a pitched slate roof which was originally built in 1870–1 as a Sunday School (replacing an earlier building on the site which was demolished). The construction of the new school building necessitated the blocking of a window in the northeast wall of the chapel. It appears that the schoolroom building was formerly three bays in length, the front wall being of orange-red brick construction while the northeast gable wall and the northwest gable elevation are both built of roughly coursed limestone masonry. A gabled brick extension was added to the northeast end of the schoolroom at some point during the late 19th century to accommodate a storeroom; this extension was further altered with the insertion of concrete breezeblock partitions for lavatories in the mid-late 20th century.

Internally, the chapel is of a single-cell 'preaching-box' type, characteristic of small Baptist chapels of early to mid-19th century date with restrained architectural detailing and is similar in form to the nearby former chapel at Pattishall. The chapel was subject to considerable refurbishment in the mid-to-late 20th century, with replacement of the original sash windows with casements. The apparently original roof structure comprises a central kingpost truss and two open trusses with angled struts, while the suspended wooden boarded floor appears to have been renewed in places. The existing wooden panelled pulpit and pews appear to be of 20th century date. Few fixtures or fittings of historical or architectural interest were noted within the chapel interior, the sole exception being the wall tablet commemorating Thomas Chamberlain (d.1869), the founder and first minister of the chapel, which was relocated from Pattishall Chapel following its closure in 1955. The interior of the schoolroom has a simple collar and tie-beam roof and has been similarly refurbished with the insertion of a modern kitchen unit and replacement of the original door and windows with UPVC glazing.

Wollaston, 87 High Street SP 90752 62931

Joe France

Archaeological Standing Building Recording to Historic England/RCHME Level 2 was carried out due to proposed alterations to a Grade II listed building at No. 87 High Street, Wollaston.

No. 87 High Street Wollaston is a Grade II listed single-storey gable-ended stone cottage of early 18th century date with late 20th century alterations. The exterior is roughcast and has a recently renewed thatched roof with decorative ridge and finial. The existing fenestration consists of mullioned windows with leaded casements, most of which were heavily renewed in the late 20th century; the existing entrance porch also appears to be a modern addition. The roof is surmounted by a central ridge brick chimneystack in the southern gable wall. A single-storey stone outbuilding to the rear of the building and a well of late 18th/19th century date with later 20th century alterations do not fall within the current programme of works.

The internal arrangements at ground-floor level have evidently been subject to extensive modern alteration, with the insertion of a brick partition wall to create the existing suite of rooms, as well as the raising of the ceiling, as evidenced by a series of joist slots incised on an exposed cross-axial chamfered ceiling beam. The newer square-cut ceiling joists sit on top of this beam. The existing staircase leading to the upper floor in its present form appears to be of 20th century date, although its location appears to be historic.

Most ground-floor fixtures and fittings such as internal doors, leaded casements and the existing fireplace surround with timber lintel in the south wall also appear to date to the extensive internal refurbishment of the house in the late 20th century. However, several exposed structural timbers, including the central cross-axial chamfered ceiling beam and a supporting post and cross beam, are indicative of the original layout.

Few features of note were identified in the upper (attic) floor, the internal arrangements having been presumably modified following raising of the floor level. The layout consists of a central landing with bathroom, flanked by bedrooms to the north and south, the main, southern bedroom having a fireplace in the south wall. Two partially exposed beams and rafters were noted in the landing and main bedroom.

The roof space has similarly been subject to alteration. The existing roof structure is of simple collar-and-truss construction with collared rafters and treenched purlins. Most of the principal rafters have clearly been substantially renewed or replaced altogether. Despite this, at least two pairs of substantial older trusses, possibly of modified-cruck type, were noted within the roof structure and continuing into the attic floor below.

The first pair of trusses is located directly above the access hatch to the roof space and would originally have been jointed at the ridge. The second set of trusses is located towards the northern end of the roof space and again showed evidence for having originally been jointed at the ridge. It is unclear whether these trusses represent part of the original construction of the cottage or were reused from an earlier structure.

Ashton, Land south of Roade Hill

NGR 476669 250003

ANDREW WHELAN

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recorded a probable post-medieval ditch.

Aynho, St. Michael's House NGR 451450 233100

JOAN ROIG

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

Chipping Warden, Anglian Water, Water Main

NGR 451941 247762

JOAN ROIG and DANIELE PIRISINO

Cotswold Archaeology carried out a metal detector survey, followed by archaeological observation, within the boundaries of the Registered Battlefield: Battle of Edgcote (NHLE 1413782). Recovered finds included a sherd of Roman pottery and a late medieval horseshoe. A possible undated wall and alluvial deposits were recorded.

Daventry, Daventry North-East NGR 458900 264200

JULIAN NEWMAN

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified prehistoric pit alignments and a series of Early Iron Age rectilinear enclosures with smaller circular and rectangular enclosures. These possibly continued in use into the Early Roman period. The Iron Age/ Roman settlement was potentially associated with a trackway forming a precursor to Watling Street and possibly associated with the settlement at Thrupp Lodge. A possible Roman inhumation burial was recorded adjacent to Watling Street at the east of the site. The remains of medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation were also identified.

Deanshanger, Land West of Buckingham Road

NGR 476458 239159

RALPH BROWN

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a Middle to Late Iron Age trapezoidal enclosure containing a roundhouse, and there was also a possible stock enclosure and two boundary ditches. The activity probably represents a small Iron Age farmstead with occupation continuing into the Late Iron Age/ Early Roman transitional period. Medieval/post-medieval furrows and a post-medieval ditch were also present.

Desborough, Land off Harborough Road

NGR 479538 284235

ADRIAN SCRUBY

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified the remains of medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, a boundary ditch depicted on the 1741–77 Plan of the Parish of Desborough and several post-medieval/early modern agricultural ditches.

Great Lane, Hackleton SP 81030 55213

JO BARKER

Introduction

Between March and May 2021 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological investigation on land at Great Lane, Hackleton in advance of residential development (Fig. 1). The development site is situated to the north of the Hackleton Brook, on a gradual south-facing slope (102m aOD). It marks the northern extent of the village of Hackleton and is surrounded by agricultural land to the north, east and west. The site lies on an extensive area of Blisworth Limestone Formation bedrock that has been mapped on both sides of the Hackleton Brook. This is capped by a superficial deposit of Oadby Member diamicton that occurs as silty clay with flint and chalk inclusions within the excavation area.

An archaeological trial-trench evaluation (ULAS 2014) was undertaken on the development site in 2014 and confirmed the presence of both medieval and post-medieval remains (Figs 1–3). Immediately to the south of the site a series of embanked closes with traces of possible house sites on the western sides have been recorded and interpreted as medieval tofts (HER 3457/0/18, Fig. 1). The line of the northernmost earthwork coincides with an extant east-west hollow-way situated on the southern edge of the development site (Fig. 1). Further settlement remains have also been identified on the south (HER 3457/0/5) and north sides (HER 3457/0/14) of Main Road/Horton Road (B526; Fig. 1). Land to the north and north-west of the development site lies within the former open field system of Hackleton (Partida *et al.* 2013, map 61M), as evidenced by pockets of surviving ridge and furrow and plough headlands (HER 3409/0/3 and HER 3409/0/4, Fig. 1).

Results

The excavation revealed evidence for three periods (1–3) of activity and the main phases of occupation occurred during the medieval (Period 1) and post-medieval periods (Period 2). This report presents a summary of the discoveries at Great Lane, Hackleton; a detailed excavation narrative, with specialist finds and biological evidence reports, including details of methods used during the analyses, is available online via the Cotswold Archaeology website (CA 2022) <https://reports.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk/>

Period 1: Medieval (11th to 14th century; Figs 2 and 3)

The earliest recorded archaeological features identified during the excavation (Period 1.1; Fig. 2) comprised a series of enclosures (1–6) that were established during the medieval period (Period 1.1), around the 11th century AD. The layout of the enclosures was modified at least once over the course of the 11th–14th centuries (Period 1.2), which resulted in the creation of two north-west/south-east aligned rectilinear enclosures defined by ditches 118, 248 and 279 (Fig. 3).

Evidence for at least one building (building A; Fig. 2) was identified on the east side of enclosure 1 and aligned perpendicular to its eastern boundary. Building A was defined by a rectangular arrangement of six postholes that enclosed an area approximately 14m long by 4.4m wide. Some of the postholes contained postpipes with large stones placed centrally in the base, probably acting as post-pads. No other building material – such as stone or tile – was recovered, and it is probable that building A was timber-framed. Pottery

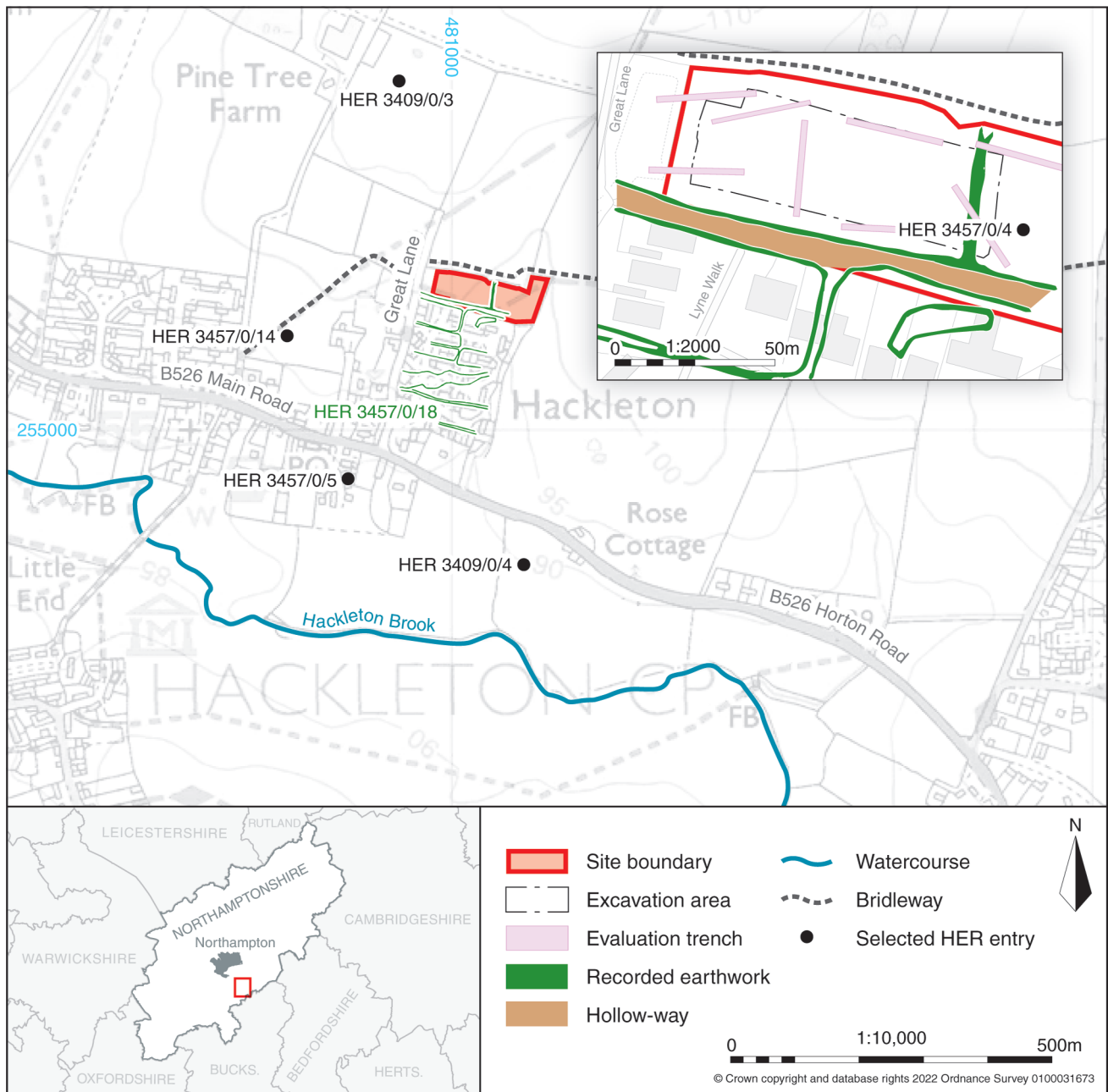


Figure 1: Great Lane, Hackleton – Site location plan

dating from the 9th to the 14th centuries was recovered from the medieval features. The early date of some of the pottery (9th-10th century) suggests that the enclosures may have a Late Saxon origin, but no features were uncovered that could be securely dated to this period.

Period 2: Post-Medieval (18th–19th century; Fig. 4)

During the later post-medieval period a building with stone foundations (B) was established in the north-west corner of the excavation area (Figs 3 and 4). This was associated with three wells (164, 216 and 289), pits, postholes and a stone-lined drainage channel (195; Fig. 4, inset). A building in a similar location as building B was depicted on Thomas Mercer's estate map of 1788 (Northamptonshire Archives, map ref. MAP500) but was noticeably absent on the 1882 First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map (NLS 2022), suggesting that the Period 2 activity pre-dates the late 19th century. The 1788 map depicts building B situated within

a rectilinear enclosure that was aligned perpendicular to a branch road or trackway situated to the south and probably corresponding to the extant hollow-way that follows the southern edge of the development site (Fig. 1). A second building was depicted on the 1788 map in the southeast corner of the site and two hollows (320/340 and 333) identified in this broad location during the excavation were probably associated with its demolition (Fig. 4).

Pottery recovered from Period 2 features predominantly comprised wares consistent with an 18th-20th century date, but more precise dating has been provided by a decorated copper alloy shoe buckle recovered from one of the Period 3 wells, which dates to 1760–1790, and fragments of 18th to early 19th-century wine bottle. The recovery of 16th–17th century pottery suggests that activity on site had continued unbroken from the medieval period, although this was probably small-scale in nature.

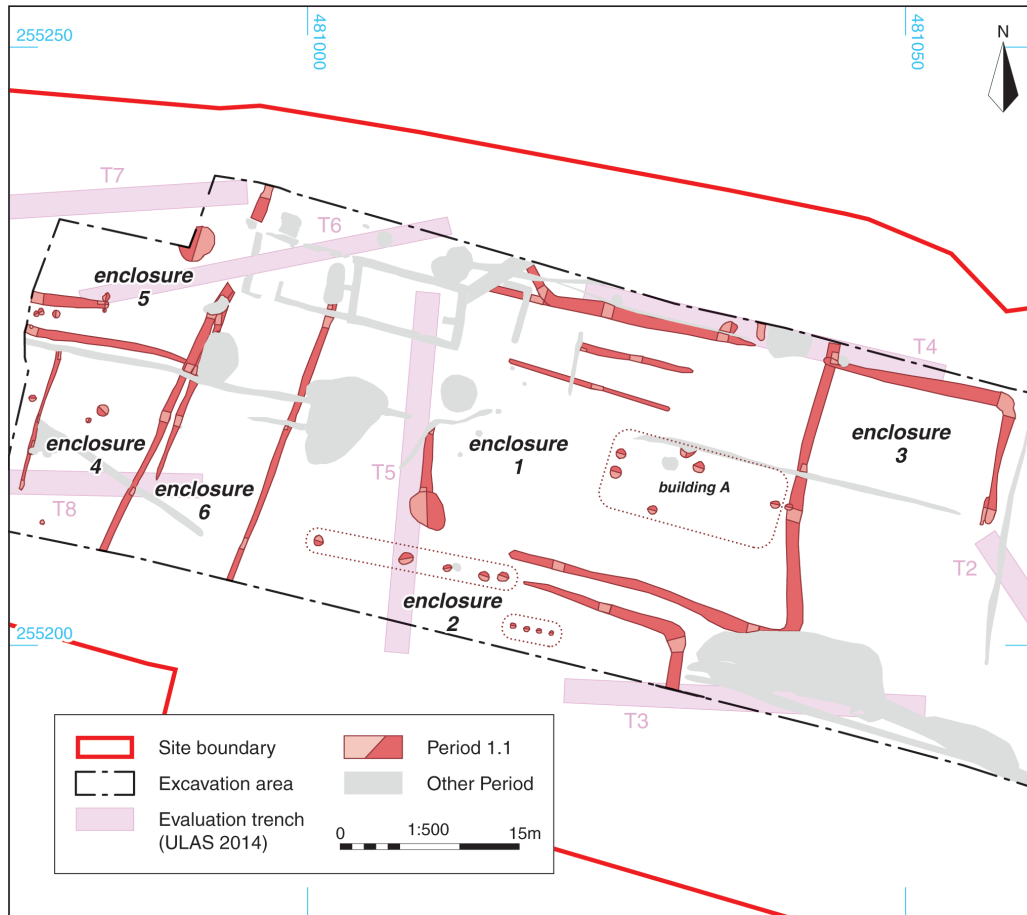


Figure 2: Great Lane, Hackleton Plan of Period 1.1 medieval enclosure system and building A

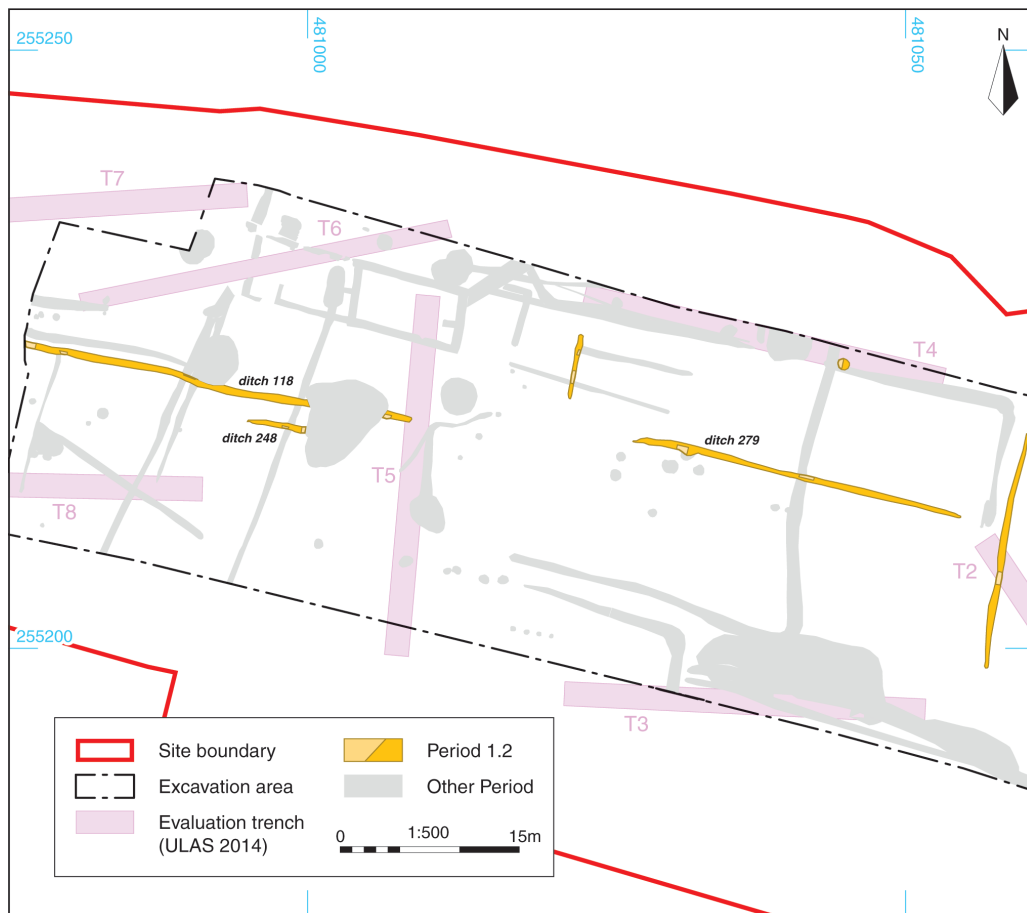


Figure 3: Great Lane, Hackleton Plan of Period 1.2 medieval enclosure system

Building B and wells 164, 216 and 289 (Fig. 4)

Building B was constructed in two phases with an initial phase (BA) to the east followed by phase BB to the west (Fig. 4, inset). Both building phases (BA and BB) comprised rectangular cells approximately 10m by 6m in size and positioned on a broadly north-west/south-east alignment. They were defined by 0.8m-wide walls (169 and 163) that had been constructed of roughly squared limestone fragments of varying sizes and bonded with limestone mortar. A possible supporting wall or remnants of an internal division (170) abutted the inside edge of the east wall of building phase BA and had been constructed using the same methods and materials as the main wall 169. The interior of building phase BB was partitioned by two short walls (163a and 178) that could define a rectangular room or structure in the south-east corner. An entrance was identified in the south-west corner of building phase BB and located adjacent to it were patches of a flat, single course (0.02m thick) of limestone fragments (181) that probably represent the remains of a floor surface. The original extent of the stone was unclear but as the south-west corner of building BB was better preserved the absence of stone flooring elsewhere was probably the result of truncation. An oval pit (174) was identified on the east side of building BB and was truncated by wall 178. The upper fill comprised light-yellow white sandy silt thought to be mortar from the construction of building BB and this suggests that it was deliberately backfilled to make way for this building phase. Further structures were evidenced by two lengths of wall (BC and BD) exposed to the east and north-east of building B (Fig. 4), which could represent the remains of outbuildings.

Three large, oval or circular wells (164, 216 and 289) were situated to the south of building B (Fig. 4). The construction cut of well 164 was 3m in diameter and contained a central stone-lined shaft formed of roughly hewn blocks of limestone. Large stones recovered from the fills of wells 216 and 289 suggests that they had also been lined but could have been robbed for use in well 164. A large and varied assemblage of artefacts was recovered from the wells, including pottery of predominantly 17th–19th century date, an 18th century shoe buckle and the highly deteriorated remains of a hobnailed shoe bottom was found in the upper fill of well 216. The shoe bottom was of adult size and the iron hobnails indicate that the shoe or boot was a practical piece of outdoor footwear that dates from the 19th century.

Artefacts and biological evidence

Pottery recovered from the excavation area amounted to 1076 sherds (15,444g) and was dominated by medieval (376 sherds, 5453g) and post-medieval (415 sherds, 7072g) pottery. A small group of Late Saxon St Neots and Northampton ware pottery (39 sherds, 358g; 9th–11th century) was also found. The later medieval pottery (386 sherds, 5532g) assemblage is dominated by shelly coarsewares of the 12th–14th centuries, but also contains Potterspury wares of the 13th–16th centuries, local Lyveden/Stanion B ware and Brill/Boarstall fabrics from Buckinghamshire. These are all types that are commonly found across Northamptonshire. Late medieval wares of the 15th and 16th centuries are represented by Cistercian and Border wares. The post-medieval pottery assemblage is dominated by iron-glazed earthenware and Midlands blackware produced between 1550–1800 but these were superseded in the 18th century by creamwares and white salt-glazed stoneware.

The assemblage of metalwork comprised 235 objects, predominantly of iron (228). The earliest datable objects in the assemblage are of medieval date: an iron rowel spur and a hasp that were recovered from post-medieval and modern features. A second possible hasp and a whittle-tang knife blade may also be of medieval date. Fifteen objects have been broadly dated to the post-medieval period and include iron shoe pattens, copper alloy buckles and tools. The remaining 220 objects, most of which are nails, are not closely datable. Other artefacts recovered from the site were predominantly post-medieval in date and included a leather shoe-bottom; window and vessel glass; brick and tile; and clay tobacco pipes.

The biological evidence includes a small assemblage of animal bones, with cattle, sheep/goat and pig remains occurring most frequently during the medieval periods and sheep/goat, followed by cattle, pigs and equids dominating the post-medieval assemblage. Tooth wear and mortality data indicates that sheep/goat, cattle and pig formed part of the meat diet of the post-medieval inhabitants, but sheep/goat and cattle were also kept for secondary products, such as breeding; sheep/goats were also kept as sources of wool and milk and cattle for use as draught animals. Domestic fowl, goose, fallow deer and hare was also represented in the post-medieval assemblage and probably represents a supplement to the main meat diet.

Material from the environmental samples indicates the cultivation of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum/compactum*) and to a lesser extent barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) during the medieval and post-medieval periods. Pea was also present in the assemblages recovered from both periods and may have been grown as a crop. The presence of cleavers could indicate the autumn sowing of crops and would suit the local soils characterised by slightly acidic loamy and clayey soils with drainage impeded by the underlying boulder clay (Soilscape 2022).

Archaeological information on the character of the medieval and post-medieval landscape was limited but appeared consistent across both periods. The presence of open country species of mollusc implies that areas of dry, calcareous grassland existed in the vicinity of the development site during both periods, the local soils being particularly suited to grassland, as well as arable use (Soilscape 2022). They also suggest the presence of arable environments, and this is consistent with the extensive area of ridge and furrow cultivation mapped for this area by Partida *et al.* (2013) and cropmark evidence recorded to the north (HER 3409/0/3; Fig. 1) of the development site and south of Main Road/Horton Road (HER 3409/0/4) by the HER.

Discussion

The main objective of the archaeological excavation was to further investigate the Late Saxon and medieval remains identified in the trial-trench evaluation (ULAS 2014; HER 3457/0/4) and to place them within the context of early medieval settlement development in Hackleton and the wider region (Knight *et al.* 2012, 94; Lewis 2006; EMHERF 2022). The excavation was successful in confirming the presence of medieval settlement remains within the development site, comprising a building and pits set within an enclosure system aligned perpendicular to Great Lane. This evidence is of particular significance as it suggests that the earthwork remains of embanked closes and possible house sites

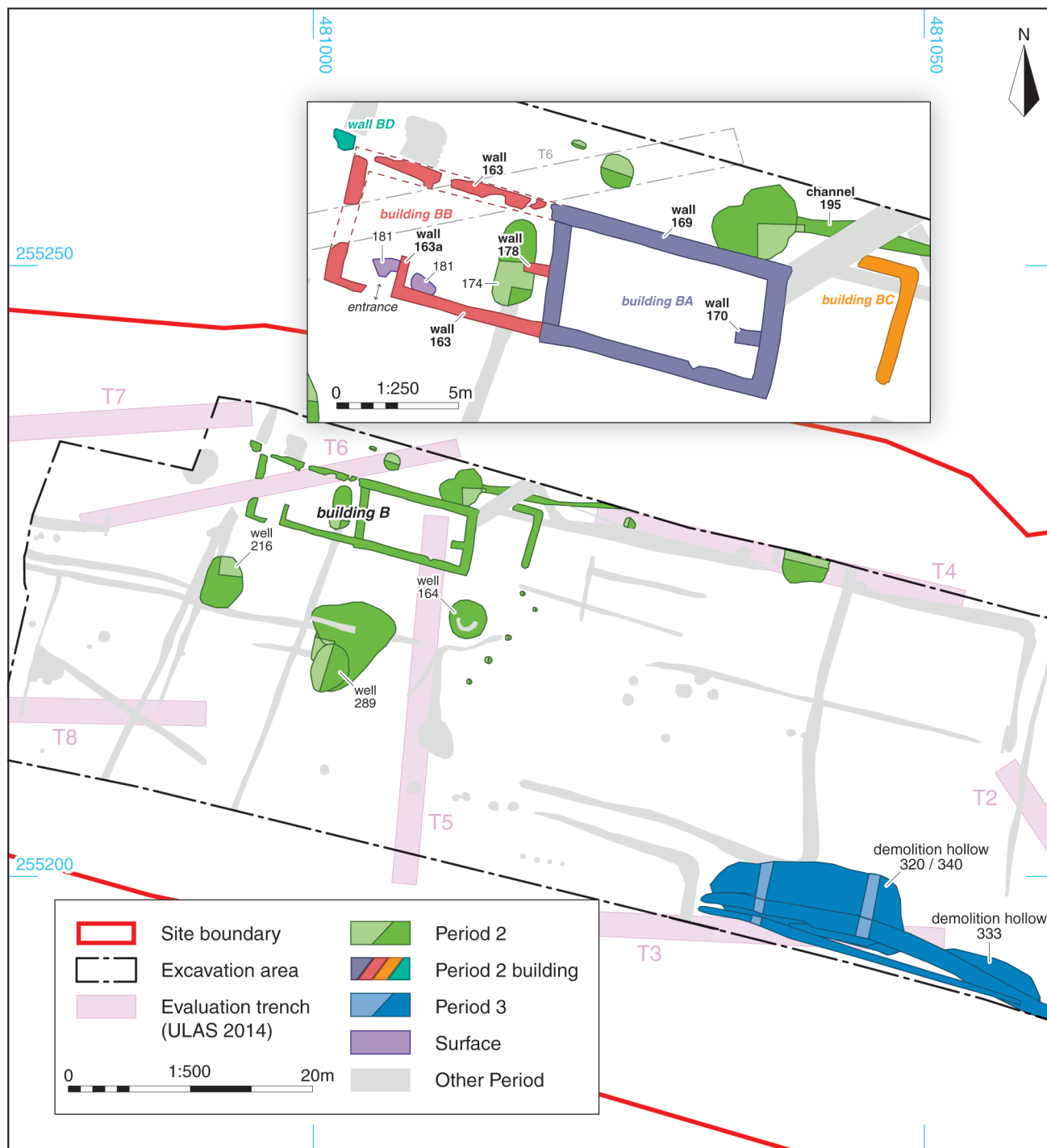


Figure 4: Great Lane, Hackleton Plan of post-medieval Period 2 and modern Period 3 activity

recorded on the east side of Great Lane (HER 3457/0/18, Fig. 1) continued northwards into the development site. It also appears to conform to the general pattern of medieval settlement in the Central Province (central and lowland England) where nucleated villages were the norm by *c.* AD 1300 (Jones *et al.* 2022, section 1.1).

The results of the excavation also suggested that the medieval settlement remains could have had Late Saxon origins, as indicated by the small assemblage of 9th–10th century pottery. The layout of the enclosures resembled the grid-planned settlement arrangements established during the period *c.* AD 650–800 in the East Midlands (Blair 2018, 148–149), as seen at Furnells, Raunds and slightly later, during the mid-10th century at West Cotton (Chapman 2010, 30–32, fig. 4.1; Audouy and Chapman 2009, 28–37,

fig. 3.1). At the time of the Domesday survey in 1086 fifteen households, as well as seven ploughlands and 10 acres of meadow were already established in Hackleton and could represent settlement established in the Late Saxon period (Powell-Smith 2022). No definitively Late Saxon features were found within the development site, however, but the evidence gathered during the excavation can make an important contribution to an understanding of the origins and development of medieval settlement in Northamptonshire and the wider region.

Further buildings were established during the post-medieval period, but these were situated within enclosures aligned perpendicular to an east-west trackway that probably corresponds to an extant hollow-way located on the southern side of the development site (Fig. 1).

CA project team

The fieldwork was undertaken at the request of RPS Group, acting on behalf of Allison Homes. Fieldwork was undertaken by Ralph Brown, assisted by CA staff. Specialist contributions to the post-excavation programme were provided by Pete Banks, Alejandra Gutierrez, Matilda Holmes, Quita Mould and Anna West. The illustrations were prepared by Ryan Wilson. The project archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Molly Agnew-Henshaw. The project was managed for CA by Richard Mortimer and the post-excavation work was managed by Jo Barker, under the guidance of Daniel Stansbie. The fieldwork was monitored on behalf of West Northamptonshire Council by Liz Mordue (Archaeological Advisor).

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Houghton Hill, Northampton Bike Park

NGR 476569 258084

JOAN ROIG

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology identified a Middle to Late Iron Age ditch and a post-medieval ditch. Two undated ditches and a gully were also present.

Rushden, Land off Prospect Avenue

NGR 495940 267524

GRACE GRIFFITH

An evaluation and excavation by Cotswold Archaeology identified Roman ditches (Fig. 5) and pits, including a rectangular enclosure with evidence for internal subdivisions. These probably represent settlement activity. The remains of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation and a medieval limestone surface were also present. Pits were also identified, as were several cremation burials. Most of the pottery dates to the 1st to 3rd centuries AD, suggesting a decline in activity from the late 3rd century onwards. The activity appears to represent a continuation of a system of roadside fields and enclosures identified during previous trial trenching immediately to the north and east (CA 2021, report MK0471_2). Post-medieval furrows and probable field boundary ditches were also recorded.



Figure 5: Rushden, Skull at base of ditch, looking south (0.5m scale)

Towcester, Alban Mann Land, Bell Plantation Garden Centre

NGR 468809 249899

ISOBELLE WARD and ADRIAN SCRUBY

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified Late Iron Age/Roman rectilinear enclosures and field systems, as well as possible trackways linking different enclosures.

Northamptonshire

Twywell, Land rear of 57 High Street

NGR 495051 278458

ANNA WOLF

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recorded a pit or possible well of Late Saxon/ early post-Conquest date; a small assemblage of 9th to 11th-century pottery was recovered from the backfill deposits.

Wellingborough, Finedon Road NGR 490975 269635

ANNA WOLF

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

HEADLAND ARCHAEOLOGY

Courteenhall, Three Oaks SP 7707 5240

Headland Archaeology were commissioned to undertake Archaeological Trial Trenching works on land on Courteenhall Estate, known as Three Oaks, Adjacent to M1 And Waltham Wood Courteenhall Road, Quinton, Northamptonshire. This work was for Shockingly Fresh Limited, the client, in advance of the Erection of Polytunnels and associated infrastructure. The fieldwork was undertaken between May and June 2022. Only one ditch and two possible ditches were found across the 47 trenches excavated. These were likely post-medieval agricultural features and were identified in the northeastern area of the site only. There was no other archaeological activity on site which corresponds to the result of the geophysical survey.

Kettering, Land at Symmetry Park SP 88079 75370

KIMBERLEY GAUNT and OWAIN SCHOLMA-MASON

Headland Archaeology conducted an open area excavation at Symmetry Park, Kettering, Northamptonshire, between September and October 2020 (initial summary in SMA51, p54). The site was centred on NGR SP 88079 75370, on land located to the east of the A509, immediately south of the A14 between Kettering and Burton Latimer, Northamptonshire. The excavation covered an area of 1.1ha. The site had previously been identified as having moderate potential for prehistoric, Roman, and medieval activity (Walker 2014) and was subject to a programme of geophysics (Walford 2015) and trial trenching (Kidd 2016) and been disturbed to the west by modern construction activity associated with the A14.

The results highlighted here are complemented by a detailed post-excavation report submitted to the Northamptonshire County Council (Scholma-Mason et al 2021) that will be available online via the Archaeology Data Service (OASIS ID: headland4-408628).

The earliest evidence from the site comprises the remains of an aurochs skull recovered from a geotechnical test pit dug by the client 0.13km to the south-east of the main excavation site. Radiocarbon dating of the remains returned a date of >50000 BP (Scholma-Mason et al 2021), showing that the remains belong to an aurochs pre-dating any human activity on the site. A single residual prehistoric flint leaf-shaped arrowhead recovered from the topsoil in the main site indicates activity in the general area during the early Neolithic period.

The excavation at the site predominantly revealed several ditches dating to the Roman period, which are thought to form part of a Romano-British field system (Fig. 6). The full extent of this system is unclear at its western extent, in part due to later disturbance associated with the construction of the A14, however a distinct southern boundary was noted which likely connected with an unphased ditch at the western side of site, as seen in the geophysics (Walford 2015). No eastern or northern boundaries to the field system were identified with the excavation area. A small north-east to south-west ditch segment located in the centre of the site may form the eastern side of a small square enclosure (c.29mx28m), with the undated western boundary and the truncated southern boundary. The function of this enclosure is unknown however this central ditch was rich in artefactual and ecofactual material, the overall condition of which suggests that deposition occurred as the result of dumping domestic waste, indicating domestic activity within the immediate vicinity. Truncation in the western portion of site has obstructed any evidence of an entrance into this enclosure. An additional undated ditch which ran parallel with the southern boundary in the east of site could also be contemporary, potentially further defining this enclosure system or a broad trackway leading in from the east. The southern boundary of the field system contained a terminus part way along its surviving length, indicating a probable entrance to the managed field system in the north. The lack of archaeological activity south of this is suggestive that it was employed as open land at the time.

Sherds of Roman pottery, broadly dated to the late 1st to 2nd century AD, were recovered from the ditches at Symmetry Park. The characteristics of this material culture is consistent with a relatively low status rural site, with the pottery largely limited to local products. The bulk of the fine wares primarily derive from production centres associated with the Lower Nene Valley, centred around Water Newton c 36km to the north-east of the site (Tyers 2009).

Activity at the site chronologically overlaps with that at several other recorded sites within the immediate vicinity of Symmetry Park. These sites fit a pattern of general expansion of rural sites and increase in agricultural cultivation during the 1st to 2nd centuries (Smith et al 2016). This expansion is partly connected to the growth of urban settlements in the late 1st to 2nd century AD and includes the emergence and expansion of roadside settlements at Kettering (Dix 1987) and the smaller settlement at Higham Road. Based on current dating it is probable that the site at Symmetry Park did not continue beyond the late 2nd century AD, although the possibility of later activity that has since been truncated or is located off-site to the west cannot be ruled out. This contrasts with the evidence at Kettering and Higham Road which appear to have been occupied into the late Roman period.

OASIS ID: headland4-408628

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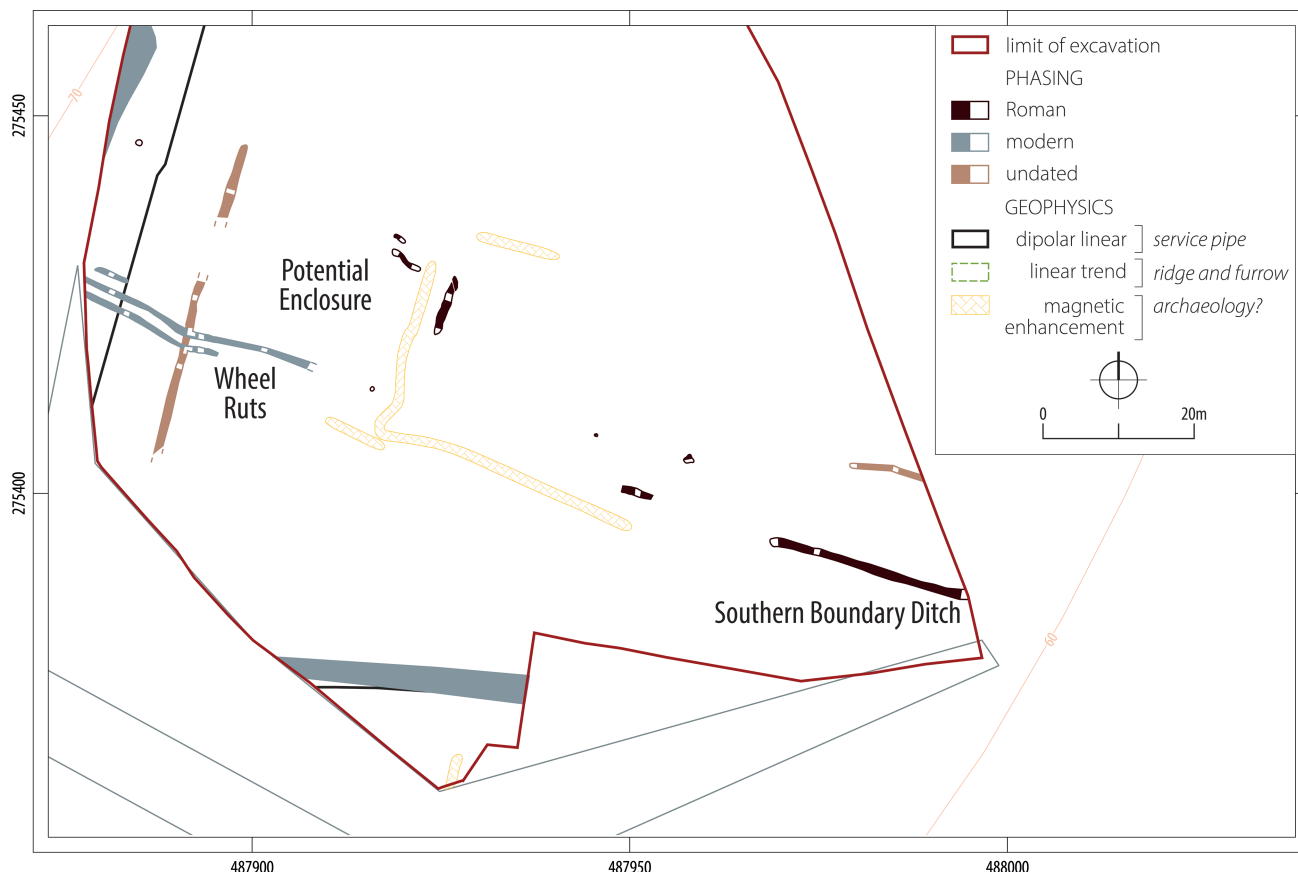


Figure 6: Site Plan of Land at Symmetry Park, Kettering

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Northampton, Land at Court Road SP 75103 60281

Headland Archaeology were commissioned to undertake a program of archaeological trial pit evaluation in advance of residential development at Land to the north of Court Road, Northampton, Northamptonshire. This was completed between October and November 2022. In total eight trial pits were excavated across the site that encountered mostly modern deposits related to the car showroom building and forecourt. One trial pit encountered the remains of a post medieval wall. Two trial pits encountered features comprising a linear beam slot and a small circular pit. Six trial pits also encountered a Pleistocene glaciolacustrine deposit or possibly a Holocene alluvium.

KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Culworth, The Hill Field, Queens Street

NGR not supplied.

CHRIS-MARTIN TAYLOR

In October 2022 three trenches were excavated at The Hill Field, Queens Street, Culworth, Northamptonshire revealing several ditches related to field drainage, all likely dating to the post-medieval period, including one containing a rudimentary stone culvert. A longer ditch running roughly parallel to Queens Street contained a sherd of post-medieval pottery as well as a small assemblage of animal bone. This feature may be an earlier village boundary, but this could not be confirmed. OASIS: kdkarcha1-509663; Accession number: ENN110881

Weedon, Former Builder's Yard, Queen Street

NGR not supplied.

FLORIAN WEBER

An Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording took place at the Former Builder's Yard, Queen Street, Weedon, Northamptonshire. Prior to the development of four dwellings and a garage, the ground had to be reduced up to 1.20m for the footings of house plots 1–3. Within this area, a large, irregular shaped stone quarry pit was uncovered which was probably Roman in origin. A separate, smaller pit was located further south-west and a third to the north. In addition to the quarry pits, two Romano-British ditches were uncovered, one near the northern boundary of the site and the other in the footing trenches of one of the houses. The

Northamptonshire

recovered pottery was dated 2nd to 3rd century, while some animal bone was identified as cattle and sheep/goat.

The principal feature recorded during this project was a portion of a Roman stone quarry pit, which extended beyond the eastern limit of excavation. As its full extent could not be determined, it is unclear whether the pit represented a small, local quarry mainly supplying stone for the immediate community, or whether it formed part of a much larger, industrial feature. The stone that formed the backfill of the pits and had also been deposited across the site to make up a significant component of the stratigraphy, suggests that the quarry extended considerably further east, and had generated a large quantity of waste material over a period of time, therefore suggesting an industrial operation may be the more likely scenario.

The dating evidence recovered was small but consistent in the period it represented, suggesting that the quarry pit was both in operation and backfilled during the late Roman period. The smaller pits nearby probably represent test sites, excavated in an attempt to find the best quality stone.

The ditches noted were probably related to water management of the surrounding field, but there is no certainty that they are in any way related to the functioning of the quarry and may have been associated with an agricultural use of the land prior to the quarry's existence.

There were no indications of settlement on the site, such as post holes, beam slots or floor surfaces, and no domestic artefacts were recovered. This would suggest that the site was on the outskirts of the main areas of occupation during the Roman period. OASIS: kdkarcha1-503774; Accession number: ENN110511

MIDLAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Collyweston, 4 Hall Yard SK 9902 4084

STEVE WILLIAMS

Introduction

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken at 4 Hall Yard, Collyweston, Northamptonshire. This was during small-scale redevelopment of the site with an addition to an existing structure, drainage works and the construction of a sunken car port.

The archaeological works were undertaken as part of the planning requirement, the site being adjacent to a scheduled monument (1003632) which represents the lost medieval Royal Palace of Collyweston, home to the mother of Henry VI, Margaret Beaufort, Countess of Richmond in the late 15th century.

Results

The southern area of the site revealed no archaeological features, although there was a redeposited natural Cornbrash (004).

The area of the sunken car port to the north of the site was within an area previously surveyed as a linear earthwork by RCHME in the 1970s. Upon reduction of this area, two limestone rubble walls (008) and (010) were recorded, these were under a layer of natural redeposited Cornbrash (006) at a depth of approximately 0.50–0.70m from the current ground surface. The walls were of a similar construction, being made from coursed limestone rubble and bonded

with a very degraded lime mortar, although (008) was of a slightly better build quality with lightly dressed stone. They lay at right angles to each other and abutted but were not bonded together and were on separate alignments, (008) being north-west to south-east, while (010) being south-west to north-east. No evidence of construction cuts was present, although it is entirely possible that these were just beyond the reach of the excavated area as it was not bottomed onto natural soil. Adjacent to the north-east of (008) was (007), an indistinguishable limestone feature only visible within the north-west facing section, this too was within a matrix of (006), (Figs. 7 & 8).

Conclusion

Unfortunately, no dating evidence was recovered from the site, and it was not possible to date the walls from either their form or architectural style, while their function is unknown.

This being said, they may represent two separate structures or indeed boundary walls forming part of the ancillary buildings of the palace complex, of which 4 Hall Yard itself is believed to have been part of. The walls laying several meters from the latter. They could of course be of a later origin and associated with the mid-17th century manor house known to have replaced the Royal Palace after it fell into disrepair in the early 17th century. Historical evidence shows that the palace was dismantled in 1640 and replaced sometime during the 17th century with a new manor house, this being dismantled in 1778. By 1780 the Earl of Exeter had purchased the site, levelling any remains and turning the land into paddocks. It is entirely possible that the deliberate backfilling of the walls encountered with redeposited natural soil was part of this event.

MOLA NORTHAMPTON

Alderton, St Margaret's Church SP 74047 46905

Paul Thompson

Archaeological investigation took place during installation of a water supply and drainage within the churchyard of St Margaret's Church, Alderton, which is a Grade II* Listed Building, dating to the 14th century. Twenty-five articulated burials orientated east-west were observed, cleaned and recorded before removal. All were within a homogenous soil deposit with no grave cuts visible. Two intact brick lined tombs were identified during the work and were not disturbed. No disarticulated remains were encountered, evidencing good record keeping or grave markers / stone memorials had been used and removed at some time in the past. All human remains were re-interred within the trench backfill in their original burial location. The burials uncovered dated from the post-medieval to the Victorian period.

Aynho, Aynhoe Park Corner SP 520 332

MAGDALENA RYBSKA

MOLA Northampton was commissioned to conduct a survey and analysis of LiDAR data for Aynhoe Park Corner in Aynho. The survey was designed to help inform the planning of the conservation and long-term management factors within Aynhoe Corner. The LiDAR data recorded features which may have related to former parkland including former park boundaries. The ground truthing LiDAR data and walkover

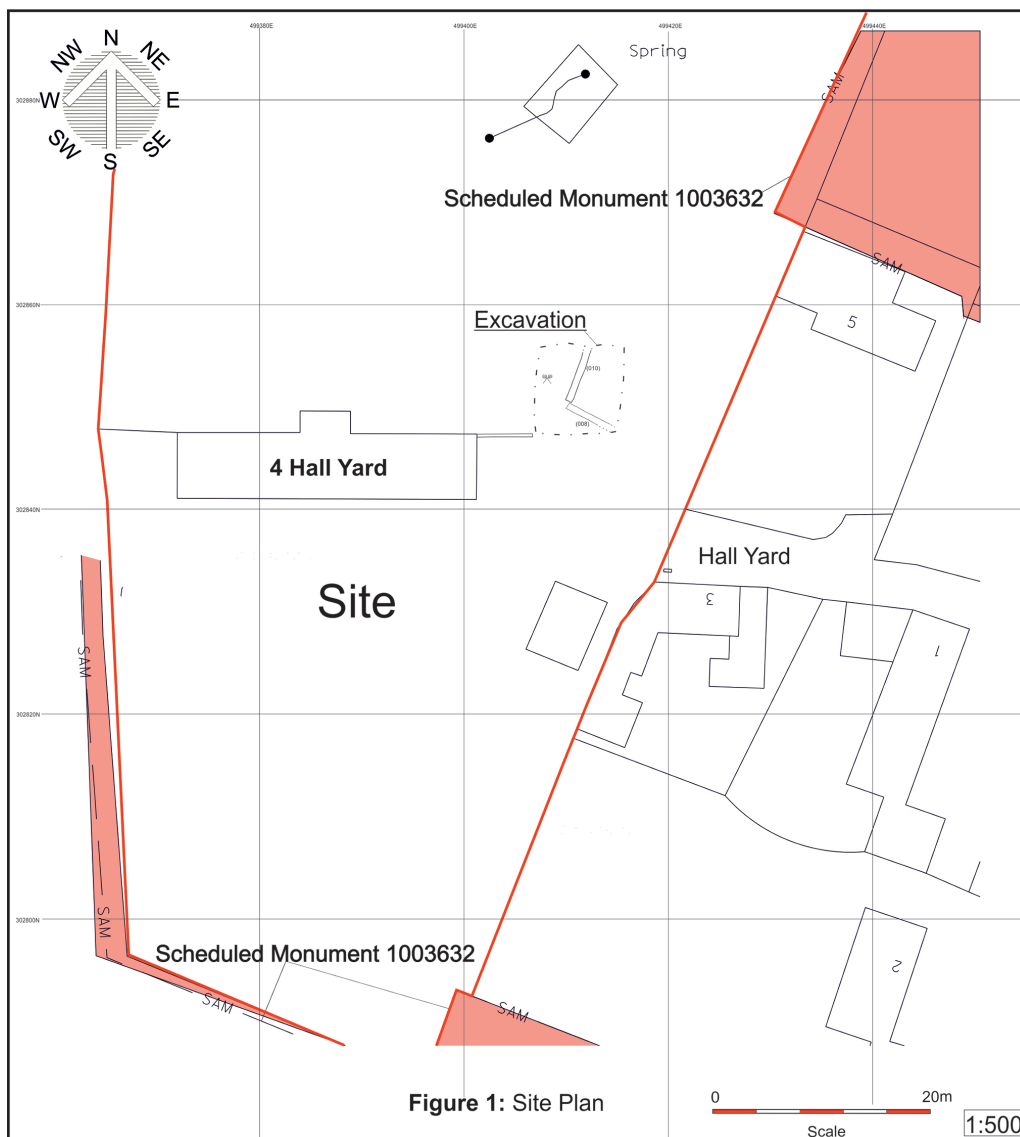


Figure 7: Site Plan 4 Hall Yard Collyweston



Northamptonshire

confirmed the presence and survival of these features, which were as well-preserved as the LiDAR suggested.

Desborough, Rothwell Road SP 81000 82700

KAMIL ORZECOWSKI

A total of 44 evaluation trenches were excavated within the proposed development area which encompasses c13.3ha on land on the southern edge of Desborough. The evaluation trenching produced limited archaeological remains. Furrows and several mainly post-medieval features comprising ditches, a possible trackway as well as an undated palaeochannel. Land drains, recent pipe trenches and large areas of modern disturbance were also identified.

Grendon, land north of Station Road SP 87437 61126

ANNA ROJEK

Archaeological mitigation works measuring 0.15ha took place at land north of Station Road, Grendon, in advance of a new battery installation. Medieval activity and occupation likely to be part of Cotton Deserted Medieval Settlement (DMS) was found. This work has meant that the former settlement was larger than previously thought, extending its boundary to the north. Remains included part of a structure with some stone foundations (Fig. 9). The excavation recorded that the abandonment took place in the 13th to 14th centuries. The finds assemblage, and in particular the pottery, comprised relatively low status, locally produced or regionally specific wares indicating that Cotton was a typical rural settlement in this region.

Long Buckby, Lodge Lane, Old Coopers

SP 63648 67820

PAUL THOMPSON

An archaeological evaluation comprising two trenches was carried out in advance of a new residential development. Four archaeological features, all ditches, were encountered. Each trench revealed the locations of three ditches possibly boundary ditches or related to agriculture and/or water management. One sherd each of late Iron Age and Roman pottery were recovered from potentially the same ditch found in both trenches.

Northampton, Overstone Leys (North)

SP 7982 6670

SIMON MARKUS

A large archaeological excavation was undertaken on land at Overstone Leys (North), Northampton between February 2019 and December 2019. The project comprised 12.97ha of excavation split into 14 areas (Fig. 10). Significant archaeological features dating from the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age to the present day were identified, with earlier elements including worked flint also recorded.

A funerary landscape was established between the 3rd and 2nd millenniums BC and lasted for around 350 years, after which activity on the site greatly reduced. There were several focal points along a flat ridge to the west of the stream.

Hengiform monument RD1 on the western side in Area 3, overlooking barrow RD4 to the north-west. RD1 had an internal diameter of 16.5m and its ditch survived up to 2.8m wide and 1.3m deep on its northern side but was only 1.2m wide and 0.3m deep to the south. Its entrance faced in the direction of the ring ditch cluster in Area 1.

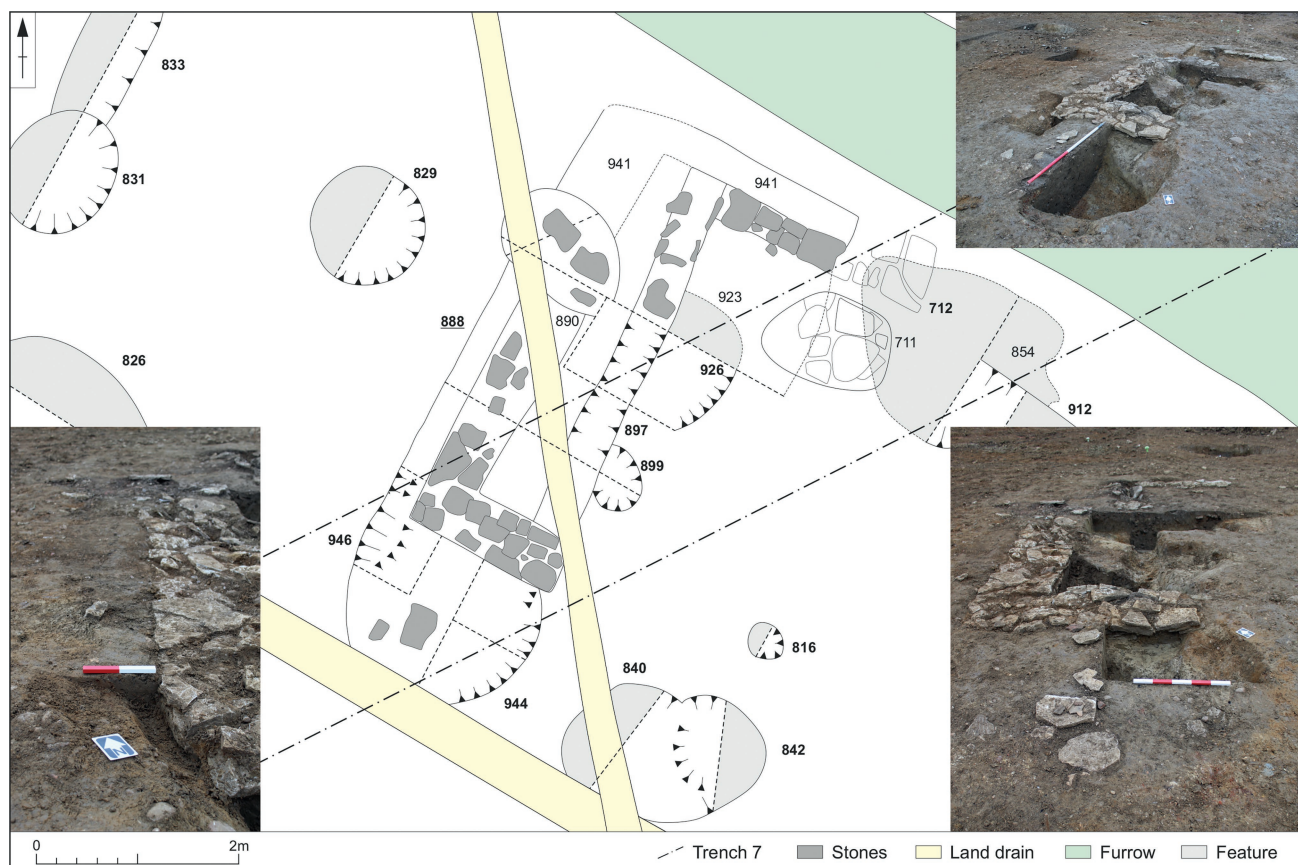


Figure 9: Grendon, structure 888



Figure 10: Northampton, Overstone Leys, All features plan

Northamptonshire

A hedge line created as a boundary between the hengiform monument and the ring ditch cluster lay at the base of hill in Area 7, surviving as a segmented shallow ditch. The segments varied in length between 2.5m and 13m, with gaps up to 6.5m wide between them. Many of the longer lengths were recut multiple times. They were aligned approximately east to west, following the contour of the base of the hill. The ditches varied greatly at 0.37–1.74m wide and 0.05–0.4m deep, with a 'U'-shaped profile and uneven base.

Five round barrows (two excavated in Area 1 with a further three outside of the investigation area). Round barrow RD2 was circular in plan with an internal diameter of c.20.5m. The ditch measured between 0.82m and 1.6m wide and 0.95m deep with a 'U'-shaped profile. Round barrow RD3 lay c13m to the south of this and was only partially within the excavation area; the remainder lay beneath the tree canopy of a modern field boundary. The ditch had an internal diameter of c.20m and was sub-circular in plan. It measured 1.1m–1.8mm wide and up to 0.42m deep with a 'U'-shaped profile.

Around 400m to the north of the ring ditch cluster, between two valleys, was a double-ditched barrow RD4 in Area 4 with central and satellite cremations, along with four post-built mortuary structures associated with over 40 cremations. A carbon date of 2028–1884 BC (95.4% probability, Beta-538154) was obtained from charcoal recovered from the base of RD4.

The earliest mortuary building was sub-square in plan, measuring 3.5m x 3m with a small porch/extension on its southern side measuring 2m x 1.6m. Of the 16 postholes associated with this structure, eleven contained cremation burials. A second mortuary structure included a single internal posthole. After it went out of use, a closing burial B4075 was placed within an inverted urn within a pit truncating backfill deposits of the structure. Faience and stone beads, fossil fragments, worked bone, and iron and copper fragments accompanied the burial within the urn. This urn is perhaps the latest from the site, dating to at least 1500 BC based on its form. In the central part of a hollow was a third structure, rectangular in plan and measured 5.3m long and 3m wide. It comprised six postholes, with an additional five postholes within the structure. Eight cremation deposits were placed in the postholes of this structure. A fourth structure seems to have reused some postholes from the earlier third building.

During the middle Bronze Age, the north-eastern monument complex was demarcated with the construction of an 'L' shaped, revetted ditch (Area 12). This large enclosure E1 was over 75m wide and 130m long, with possible revetment along the south-eastern arm of the enclosure located c.125m north of the closest Bronze Age funerary activity. The principal ditch forming enclosure E1 was 2.3–3.18m wide and up to 1.38m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. Charcoal from the base of the ditch was carbon dated to 1392–1194 BC (91% probability, Beta-585631).

Minor land use occurred in the Roman period which was confined to the higher ground at the north of the site. Roman cultivation trenches were established on the flat plateau in the north-west corner of the site (Area 14). Short linear ditches aligned north-west to south-east formed a small 'lazy bed' cultivation system which may have been experimental in nature. The area was extended to the south incorporating a maximum area of c0.37ha (assuming there was contemporaneity between the phases). Three small

sherds of pottery dating to between AD 60 and 250 were recovered from these.

A largely unenclosed early medieval settlement was established in the 5th century with sunken featured buildings (SFBs) spread over at least 500m of the western plateau. Over 40 buildings were constructed along a stream edge, along with field systems, paddocks and boundaries. Large quantities of weaving implements were recovered from the Sunken Feature Buildings (SFBs), however little other evidence of production was noted.

The settlement can be divided into three sections, separated by valleys. A concentration of paddocks and boundaries was located at the southern end of the settlement, with several SFBs and post-built structures in Areas 2/8. Water management ditches were also constructed to drain water into the dry valley to the north. To the north of the dry valleys were rectilinear enclosures, most likely demarcating fields and paddocks. There were also seven SFBs scattered across this area.

In the central part of the settlement, between the two dry valleys, was a cemetery, predominantly associated with the re-use of the surviving earthworks of Bronze Age round barrow RD4 in Area 4. Several SFBs were also constructed in this area; most were east of the cemetery but five were close to burials. Some of the SFBs were substantial in size e.g. SFB 30 (Fig. 11).

The environmental and artefactual evidence indicates that the cemetery was predominantly in use during the 6th century, with some burials possibly dating to the late 5th or early 7th centuries. The settlement surrounding this also appears to date to the same period. A significant level of wealth is represented within the grave furnishings. The discovery of a cemetery with an associated settlement is a rare occurrence in the region. The cemetery was split into two parts and comprised over 150 burials, the largest such cemetery of this period to have been excavated in Northamptonshire (Fig. 12). The northern part of the cemetery was focussed on one of the earlier Bronze Age round barrows. Many of the inhumation burials were furnished, with grave goods including brooches, beads, rings, bracelets, chatelaines, knives, spears and shield bosses (Fig. 13). The assemblage contained what is thought to be the largest number of Saxon amber beads from any single excavation in England.

By the 8th century AD, the settlement was abandoned. Two linear earthworks were constructed in the medieval period, and these become a focus for ridge and furrow cultivation. Field boundaries then changed repeatedly until the 20th century when they remained stable until the present day.

Oundle, Land off St Christopher's Drive

TL 04823 87822

CHRIS KOLONKO

Archaeological mitigation was undertaken ahead of proposed residential development. The work aimed to determine the nature and extent of the Iron Age and potential Iron Age activity identified during previous geophysical survey and subsequent trial trench evaluation of the site. The excavation revealed linear and curvilinear features comprising an Iron Age field system and farmstead, consisting of a central enclosure and ring ditches, as well as several pits and postholes. Artefactual evidence demonstrates that the Iron Age activity on the site dated from the middle-Iron Age

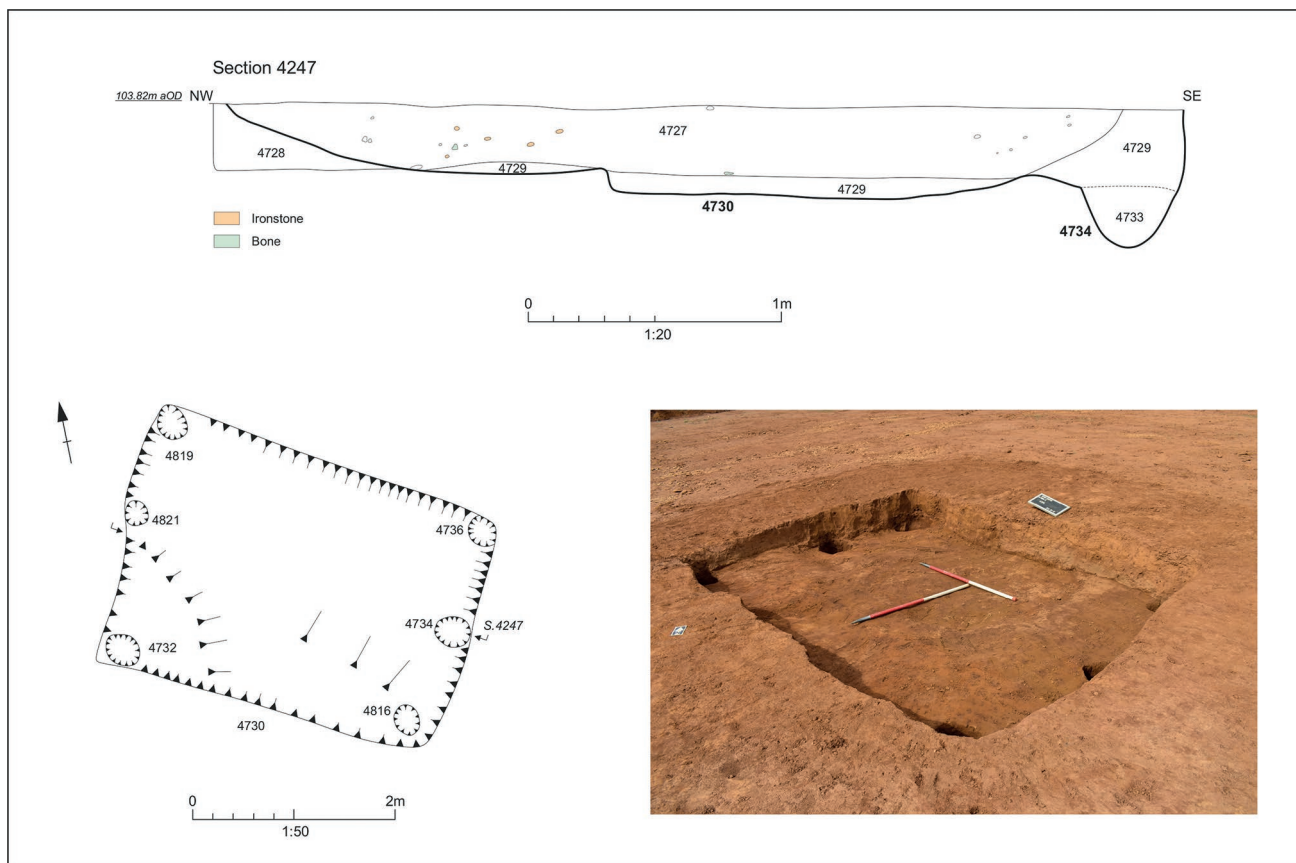


Figure 11: Northampton, Overstone Leys, SFB 30

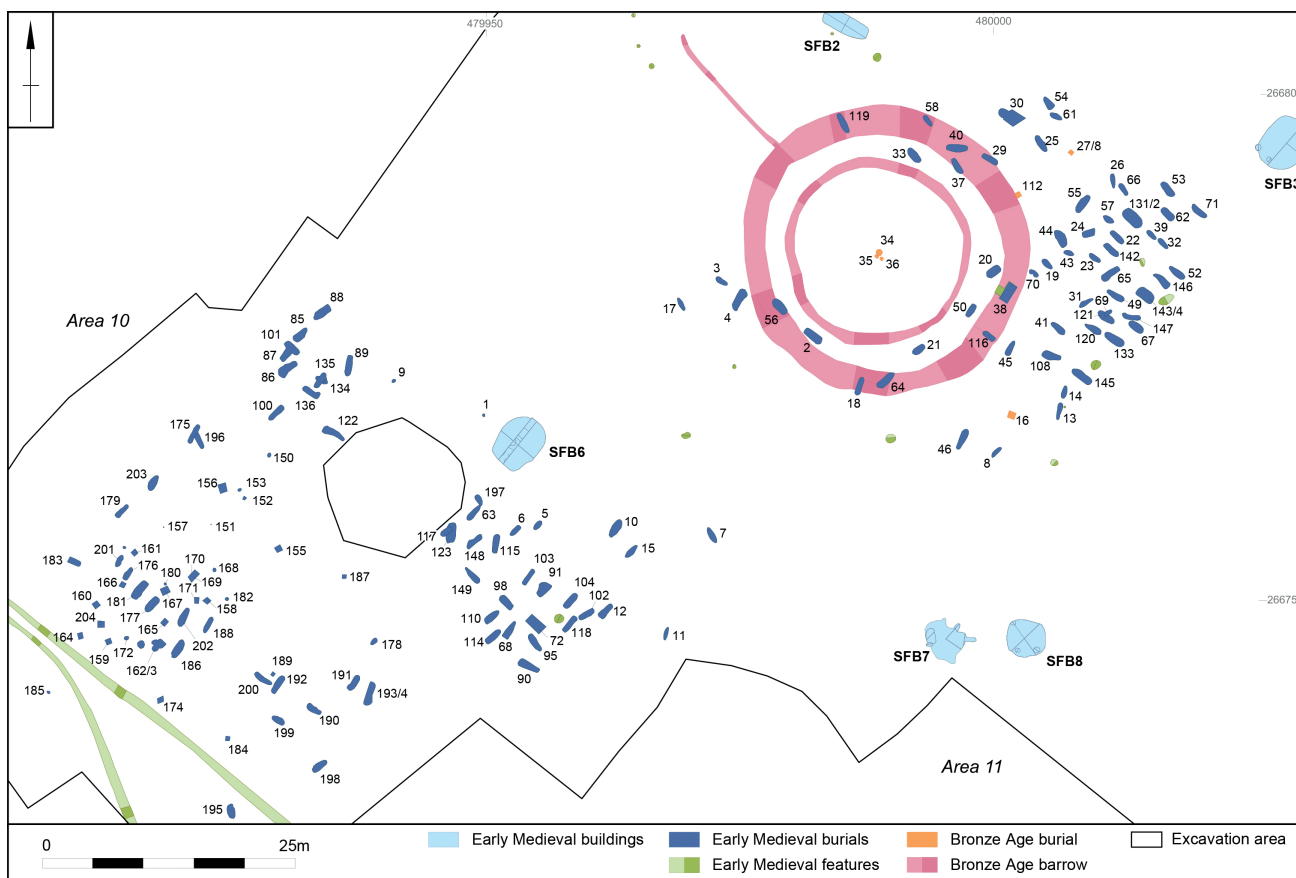


Figure 12: Northampton, Overstone Leys, plan of cemetery with burial numbers

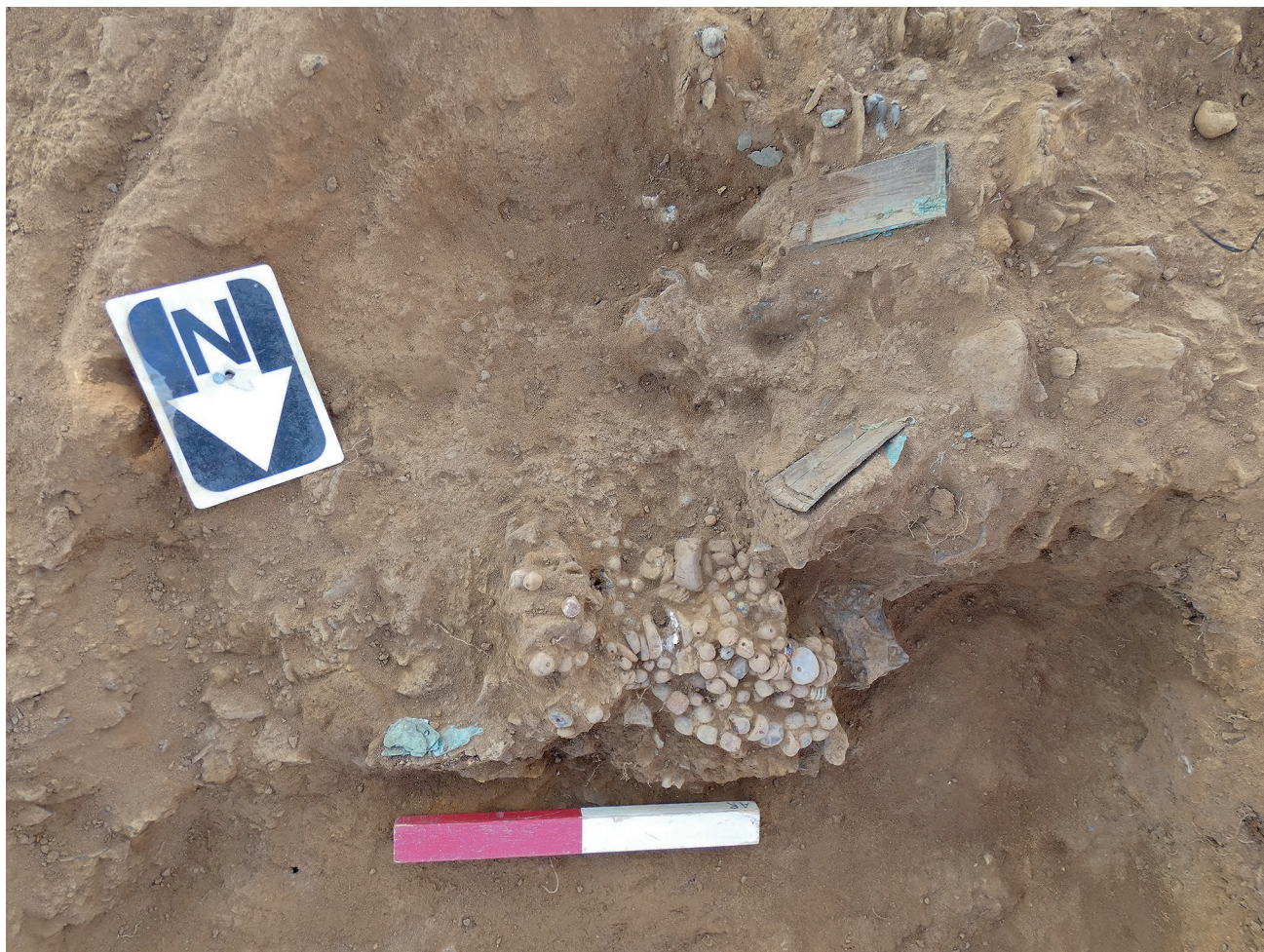


Figure 13: Northampton, Overstone Leys, burial 21 with grave goods

(MIA), with continued use into the middle-late Iron Age (M-LIA) and on into the late-Iron Age (LIA).

A single crouched inhumation burial dating from c.AD 20–70 but is likely to be of immediate post-Conquest date, was present to the south of one of the ring ditches. This burial featured important and unusual grave goods which comprised three brooches and a toiletry set consisting of two ear scoops and a pair of tweezers (Fig. 14). The grave goods were contained within an area of brown staining c0.10m to 0.20m in length and width, which suggests they were held within a cloth bag or wrap.

Modern gravel quarrying truncated much of the archaeology within the north and west extents of the area of excavation.

Potterspury, 3–7 Church End SP 76250 43383

PAUL THOMPSON

An archaeological watching brief reviled a stone lined well was encountered during the excavation of foundation trenches for the rear of the property. This was likely post-medieval in date and had been backfilled with early 20th-century domestic refuse. No other archaeological remains were encountered at the location of the new house build. No other archaeological features were uncovered.



Figure 14: Oundle, Image of small finds from burial [202]

Slipton, Samuel Pepys Public House SP 95126 79094

LAUREN WILSON

A programme of historic building recording took place at the Samuel Pepys Inn, Slipton, Northamptonshire. This was required prior to the proposed development of partial demolition and conversion of the public house to a single residential dwelling with associated garage, access, parking and landscaping.

The public house displays several clear phases of development creating an accretive building indicating both the rise and fall of the rural public house. There are clear indications of an original range of some antiquity, although its original purpose, function and layout are now difficult to ascertain. Like most public houses a scheme of internal decorating has removed much of the historic fabric and replaced it with faux elements including timber-framed studwork walls, boarded doors, and reused timbers. These timbers otherwise speak of sophistication within the carpentry tradition but have been reused within a new context that does not allow for these to be understood as first intended. Other extensions during the 18th to 20th centuries added more space for the public house, and a conservatory allowed a greater emphasis on the selling of food, rather than drink, that followed the industry in the late 20th century.

Overall, the building has been much changed and many of the original historic features removed or disguised as the function of the building changed.

Towcester, Old Tiffeld Road SP 692 497

JOHN WALFORD and KAMIL ORZECOWSKI

A geophysical survey on scrub land located at the end of Old Tiffeld Road, on the northern side of Towcester detected a weak linear anomaly alongside two discrete anomalies that may prove to have archaeological origins perhaps representing a ditch and two pits. Surviving medieval ridge and furrow cultivation was observed and detected over much of the northern portion of site, with patches of disturbed ground found along the southern half. Following on from the geophysical survey a watching brief was undertaken but was not able to determine the presence of the possible features.

Wellingborough, Stanton Cross, Parcel 43 SP 9200 6840

MO MULDOWNNEY

An excavation of a 30m by 10m was undertaken on land known as Parcel 43 of the Stanton Cross development, east of Wellingborough, in support of the application for the development of a cricket pitch. A ditch previously identified via geophysical survey was present and was dated to the Roman period.

Wilby, 132 Main Road SP 86672 65990

LAUREN WILSON

A programme of archaeological building recording to Level 1 took place at 132 Main Road, Wilby. The archaeological works are being carried out prior to the proposed alterations which include insertion of new openings, creating of a lobby, removal of an internal wall, and re-hanging of doors. The site is a Grade II Listed Building (NHLE UID: 1040681). The listing notes it is late 18th century and that it was originally a two-unit plan form.

The areas that are proposed for alterations were the targeted focus of this survey and much modern fabric was revealed. The various rear ranges have a clearly defined structural sequence which is also reflected in the survival of internal fixtures and fittings. Much alteration has already occurred and there was little historic fabric overall.

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

ANDY CHAPMAN, SECRETARY and EDITOR

Volume 41 of the county journal, Northamptonshire Archaeology, a special edition on *The Archaeology of Medieval Northampton* (as advertised in SMA 51, 2022, 67–68), was published in February 2022. A book launch at Northampton Museum and Art Gallery on Saturday, 26 February, filled the museum lecture theatre with around 90 people to hear Andy Chapman provide a talk about the archaeology of Northampton Castle, John Williams talking about the Middle Anglo-Saxon churches and halls, with a detailed look at the associated mortar mixers, and Mike Shaw talking about the evolution of the medieval street pattern.

Apart from distribution to society members and subscribing institutions, the volume has also been on sale to the public. From a print run of 400, in June 2023 we had just over 50 copies left. By the time you are reading this issue of SMA there may still be copies available at the bargain price of £10.00, plus £4.00 p & p, contact Andy Chapman on NAS196674@gmail.com to snap up one of the final copies.

Attention has long since turned to the next issue, volume 42, which will be a contrast, as it will feature Middle-Late Iron Age and Roman settlements, certainly the most common date range for sites turning up through the work of commercial archaeology.

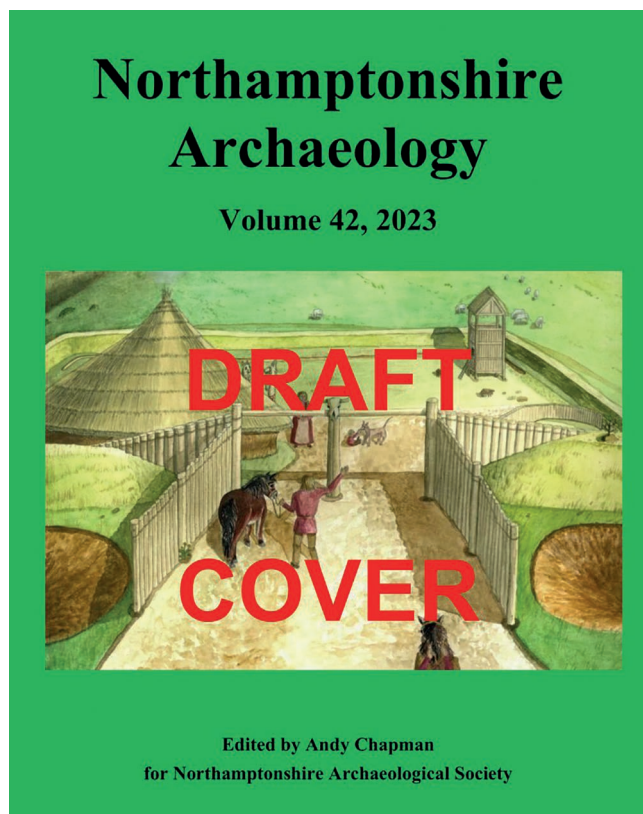
However, the opening article is a metallurgical study of the non-ferrous finds from the Hunsbury hillfort, a student dissertation revisited and updated during the Covid-19 lockdown. This article also provides an excellent review of the events that led to the quarrying of much of the interior of the hillfort in the later 19th century (from which came the finds that are the subject of the study), and the role these events played in helping the attempts, eventually successful, to establish an Ancient Monuments Act to ensure that other ancient monuments were not similarly ravaged in the future.

Andy Chapman will provide an overview of the local Iron Age pottery chronology, following on from the pottery studies of Dennis Jackson. He will argue that it is possible to distinguish earlier Middle Iron Age pottery (450/400–250/200 BC) from the later Middle Iron Age (250/200–100 BC) and Late Iron Age (100–0 BC). While too many commercially produced reports, disappointingly, end up taking the easy option by classifying too many assemblages as just broadly Middle-Late Iron Age (400–0 BC). This is true, but it is also a statement of the obvious that makes it impossible to consider questions of settlement duration and development through the Middle to Late Iron Age. He will also argue that the increasing size of storage jars from the Middle into Late Iron Age is a direct result of the introduction of the rotary quern, with its increased production capacity, in the later Middle Iron Age (no earlier than c.250–200 BC, and only appearing in quantity in the Late Iron Age, c.100 BC onward).

Northamptonshire

The bulk of the journal will comprise a series of site reports for several Middle-Late Iron Age and Roman settlements excavated around the county by various commercial contractors, in Brackley, Daventry, Kings Sutton and Cranford. There will also be the usual notes section, book reviews and county summaries.

Volume 42 will be published between autumn 2023 and spring 2024.



NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL: ARCHAEOLOGY IN NORTHANTS 2022

LIZ MORDUE, LEAD PLANNING ARCHAEOLOGIST, NORTH NORTHANTS COUNCIL

2022–3 saw several interesting and unusual discoveries across Northamptonshire.

Northampton North West Relief Road

Oxford Archaeology carried out excavations in advance of the Northampton North West Relief Road during 2022. At the southern end of the road they investigated areas of Iron Age and Roman activity, but the most surprising area was near the northern end of the scheme. In an area earmarked for drainage works and a balancing pond, evaluation had identified concentrations of flint alongside a palaeochannel, but on stripping the area of the proposed pond OA found sandy silt deposits 15–20cm thick containing evidence for Mesolithic activity in the form of flint objects, cores and debitage. Also within the deposit were the remains of hearths. The deposit was sampled in 1m x 1m boxes to focus in on areas of denser flint deposition (Fig. 15). Once it became clear how much material was present the decision was taken to reach a suitable stopping point, with one of the focal areas fully excavated and the rest of the deposit left in

situ. The balancing pond was removed from the scheme and the area was carefully backfilled to avoid any disturbance to the flint-bearing layer.

Collingtree

Ahead of residential development, MOLA excavated an area of Roman activity around a spring. Initially reminiscent of the previous year's excavations at Overstone, this proved to be quite different, with much less emphasis on the grain processing seen at Overstone, and a smaller number of features directly interacting with the watercourse. The team excavated one tank, built of stone and lined with wood (Fig. 16), whose purpose was unclear; it was partly surrounded by a length of wattle fencing. A short distance away, deposits around and overlying a metallised surface produced many metal finds, including a decorated chatelaine (Fig 17).

Northampton West

The first phase of excavations by Cotswold Archaeology at the Northampton West SUE, between Harpole and Duston, identified a group of Bronze Age cremations and a Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age pit alignment, followed by a substantial Iron Age site with large enclosures and pit groups but very little occupational debris. The large size of the features may be a response to the very sandy natural requiring frequent re-establishment of boundaries. In one corner of one enclosure a large kiln was found, stone lined and very carefully built (Fig. 18), which was initially puzzling as it was atypical for an Iron Age site but there was no indication of any later activity. Eventually it was identified as a Roman lime kiln, an unusually complete example, though still puzzling as there was no other Roman activity on the site. However, the site is a short distance from Duston Roman town and Nobottle Roman Villa, and north of Roman activity in vicinity of Harpole, so the kiln may relate to activity on one or more of those sites.

St Mary's Court

MOLA carried out excavations in advance of redevelopment at St Mary's Court, east of the site of Northampton Castle, following on from trial-pitting in 2020. The trial pitting had identified potential for medieval occupation deposits and despite considerable post-medieval cellaring and modern services, there was good survival of medieval stratigraphy. The earliest phase comprised several deep cess pits, which were followed by a phase of ironstone quarrying. Finds from the quarry backfill dated to the mid-12th century, raising the possibility that the quarrying is related to the construction of the castle.

Cut into the quarry backfills were several ovens, and numerous cess/rubbish pits, dating to the 13th and 14th centuries and suggesting a period of open ground with small scale industrial activity. It wasn't until the later 14th to 15th century that structures started to appear; a large ironstone building was constructed towards the west of the site (Fig. 19), the surviving eastern walls of which were substantial, but the western side had been robbed out. The building had an internal stone-lined cess pit, and a doorway surviving in the southern wall.

The street frontage along Marefair was developed with townhouses by the 17th century, the southernmost of which was damaged by fire. By the later 19th century several of these plots were occupied by public houses, and a large



Figure 15: Flint-bearing layer on Northampton North West Relief Road, partly excavated (Oxford Archaeology)



Figure 16: Collingtree, Stone tank with wood lining (MOLA)



Figure 17: Collingtree, Decorated chatelaine (MOLA)

water tank in the rear yard of one of these was probably part of the brewing process. Pub signs were found in a backfilled well nearby.

Harpole

Of course, I can't send in a round-up without mentioning the Harpole burial. This has been widely reported in the media and appeared on Digging for Britain. It's a very exciting find for lots of reasons, not least the implications for the early medieval period in the Northampton area. No doubt there will be more news as excavation of the block lifted sections continues, and I'll be looking forward to that.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY EAST

Cranford, Plots FOS3, COS and DC1, Hanwood Park, Kettering
SP 90185 77270
KELLY SINCLAIR

An evaluation was conducted by Oxford Archaeology East on three plots of land (FOS3, COS and DC1) within the Hanwood Park development, east of Kettering. The evaluation has confirmed the presence of Late Iron Age to Early Roman settlement remains in plot FOS3 and remains associated with the previously identified Roman brewing site at the pond in plot COS. There were no significant archaeological remains in plot DC1.

Great Harrowden, Glenvale Park SP 87466 70150

MARIA ANNA ROGERS, YERAI FRANCISCO BENET, TOBY KNIGHT, JAMES FAIRBAIRN, ROBIN WEBB, STEVE ARROW and PADDY LAMBERT

A programme of evaluation was carried out between 2021 and 2022 by Oxford Archaeology East in advance of a development proposal at Glenvale Park, Wellingborough. Middle Iron Age settlement activity in the south and west of the site comprised several rectilinear enclosures, indicating the presence of a well-established community close to the floodplain of the Harrowden Brook. In the northern part of the site, a large settlement previously identified by geophysical survey was dated to the Roman period, with a peak in activity between c. AD 150–400. Several features of Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon date were also identified. Activity dating from this period has not previously been recorded in the immediate vicinity and has the potential to shed light upon the decline of Romano-British occupation and the establishment of settlement at nearby Great Harrowden.

Hemington, Hemington Burial Ground TL 09232 84838

PADDY LAMBERT

During evaluation work undertaken by Oxford Archaeology East at the Hemington burial ground, a sequence of enclosure and boundary ditches, pits and postholes was revealed associated with Late Iron Age to Early Roman pottery. These features represent part of an enclosed farmstead, possibly linked with a more extensive set of enclosure ditches to the north-west of the site. Post-medieval furrows were also present.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH

Daventry, Malabar Farm SP 5567 6171

CHRISTOPHER BOOTH

Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological excavation on an area of proposed development to the south-west of Daventry. The fieldwork took place between April to July 2022.

Early prehistoric activity was indicated by a small, scattered assemblage of struck flints spanning the Mesolithic and Neolithic with no associated features, as well as two pits containing cremated bone, one of which produced middle to late Bronze Age pottery.

The most significant archaeological features constituted a series of middle Iron Age (300 to 100 BC) enclosures, penannular gullies and boundary ditches representing a small settlement. There was a hiatus in activity from the late Iron Age to mid Roman period. In the late Roman period a corn dryer, trackway and two larger rectangular enclosure ditches were constructed.



Figure 18: Roman lime kiln under excavation, Northampton West (L. Mordue)



Figure 19: Northampton, St Mary's Court – Medieval ironstone building (MOLA)]

Northamptonshire

Northampton, North-West Relief Road

SP 7361 6344 to SP 7324 6436

ANDREW SIMMONDS

Oxford Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological mitigation works in advance of the construction of the Northampton North-West Relief Road. The investigations comprised five excavation areas targeted on the results of previous geophysical survey and trial-trench evaluation. The fieldwork was completed between July and November 2022.

The most significant element of the project was the partial excavation in Area E of an extensive concentration of struck flint. These scatters were located on an elevated sandy spur at the edge of the floodplain, at the confluence of the Brampton branch tributary to the Nene valley, and a smaller tributary valley to the west. Detailed excavation was limited to the line of the new roadside drainage and a proposed culvert with the remainder being preserved in situ. The excavated assemblage encompassed 7000 hand-recovered flints and it is anticipated that this total will increase to around 16,000–20,000 pieces once all soil samples have been processed. Most of the material dates from the middle Mesolithic period, with a smaller Neolithic component.

A single Neolithic pottery sherd was recovered from a Roman feature in Area C, and the early Bronze Age was represented only by a single pit in the same area.

Part of a pit alignment of probable Iron Age date was uncovered in Area D, and middle Iron Age settlement was excavated in the adjacent Area C, comprising two penannular ditches and associated pits, situated in an area that was delimited to the north-west and north-east by a sequence of boundary ditches.

Early Roman activity was recorded in Area B, in the form of a sequence of at least three phases of field boundary ditches, and a denser concentration of Roman features was excavated in Area A. The latter probably started in the 2nd century but was mostly of late Roman date and comprised enclosures at the edge of a settlement that has been identified by geophysical survey evidence. The presence of crop-processing features and a waterhole suggest that activity in the excavated area was predominantly agricultural in character.

SOUTERRAIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Earls Barton, Mercer's Farm, High Street

NGR 485253, 263932

MARTIN D WILSON

In June 2022, archaeological excavations were carried out by Souterrain at two new substantial house plots in the historic centre of Earls Barton village, where nearby trial trenching in 2012 had revealed remains of Romano-British occupation, most likely a farmstead (Carlyle, 2012).

Open-area excavation at one of the house plots (Area 1; c.210 sq. m.) revealed a possible midden spread / occupation layer, beam slot, fire-pit/hearth, and drainage gullies (Fig. 20). The pottery assemblage was composed predominantly of Northamptonshire coarse-wares, with a broad date-range of mid/late 2nd century to 3rd century AD. Other artefacts comprised possible portable oven bars/firebricks (Fig. 21).



Figure 20: Romano-British farmstead site: Mercer's Farm, Earls Barton, Northamptonshire



Figure 21: Portable oven bars: Mercer's Farm, Earls Barton, Northamptonshire

A considerable depth of post-medieval overburden was envisaged at the second house plot (Area 2; c.183 sq. m), upslope from Area 1. Preliminary trial pits dug in each corner of the plot encountered an 18th / early 19th century ironstone quarry overlain by a farmland re-instatement layer. Subsequent excavation of strip foundation trenches exposed an isolated remnant (c. 12 sq. m) of a cobbled surface, dated to the mid/late 2nd century AD.

The ubiquity of carbonised cereal remains and chaff throughout all Romano-British deposits was a clear indication of intensive routine handling and processing on or near the site. Crops included hulled six-row barley, a diverse range of potential wheat products, including emmer, spelt and free-threshing type wheat, and oats. The arable weed taxa implied cultivation of both light and heavy soils.

Mercer's Farm represents the first tangible body of evidence for habitation during the 2nd / 3rd century AD to come from the centre of Earls Barton. A major determinant for settlement location was undoubtedly a major natural spring that was once extant, c. 30 – 50 m to the southwest (now beneath the garden of a late 19th century Vicarage). In recent years there has been a steadily emerging picture of the Romano-British rural landscape in the locality. The farmstead may well have been associated with an extensive landscape of farming enclosures (2nd to 4th century AD) found on the northern periphery of the village, but where evidence of habitation was limited (*see* Luke & Barker 2022).

Area A was extended eastwards beyond the proposed house footprint, to gain a better understanding of a substantial NW/

SE-aligned ditch, that was only partially investigated in 2012 due to poor ground conditions. The ditch proved to be over 3 m wide and up to 0.68 m deep, cutting through a Roman occupation layer. It was in-filled, either in the High Medieval period (c.13th / 14th century) or in the late medieval / early post-medieval period. The ditch, probably flanked by a bank and hedge, is likely to have been a major property boundary, enclosing a bundle of former open-fields cultivation strips, by then under single ownership. Significantly, it sheds light on the origin of the characteristic pattern of long narrow land boundaries at Earls Barton. HER Event No. ENN110656; OASIS ID: 510977

References

- Carlyle S 2012. *Land at 9 High Street, Earls Barton, Northamptonshire: Archaeological Evaluation*. Cotswold Archaeology, Rep 1204
- Luke M & Barker J 2022. *Iron Age and Roman Settlement and a Bronze Age ring-ditch at Main Road, Earls Barton, Northamptonshire*, Albion Archaeology Monograph No.9

Finedon, Dolben Square NGR 491596, 271941

MARTIN D WILSON

Groundwork monitoring was undertaken by Souterrain during residential re-development of a c.710 sq. m. site in the historic core of Finedon.

The archaeological potential of the site was reasonably inferred from its location at Dolben Square, a place anciently believed to the assembly point of a Saxon hundred, from

Northamptonshire

which Finedon derives its place name. Bounded by an ancient main thoroughfare to the south and a former stream course to the north, the site was once a pre-parliamentary inclosure.

From the mid-20th century, the site was occupied by a health centre. Before there were tenements and outbuildings ranged around a courtyard, the majority of which were built in the 19th century. The investigation revealed the magnitude of ground modification that took place in the 20th century; the southern half of the site razed to the solid geological stratum, while the northern half, substantially raised above the bank of the stream with 19th century rubble. There were no significant archaeological features or artefacts, and no ancient soil horizons. The steepness of the original ground-slope to the stream suggests that the early enclosure was probably grazing land. HER Event No. ENN110800; OASIS ID: souterra1- 511386

Twywell, Home Farm House, Lower Street NGR 495274, 278233

MERCEDES PLANAS and MARTIN D WILSON

A Historic Building Record was made of two outbuildings within the curtilage of Home Farm House a Grade II-listed mid-17th century building in the village of Twywell.

The outbuildings were built in two phases. The first, single-storied and single-celled, is constructed of coursed limestone rubble with pantile-roof; and appears to correspond to an outbuilding depicted on a map of 1736. Spear-headed strap hinges on the entrance door concurred with an early 18th century date. The main internal feature was a substantial fireplace, above it an oak mantel beam with run-out chamfer stops, and inside the chimney breast, a near-complete smoke jack mechanism. The primary function of the building appears to have been meat preparation; other fittings and fixtures, consisting of iron meat hooks and a shallow glazed stoneware trough sink.

The second outbuilding, part-coursed rubble limestone / part-brick, originated as a cart shed with partitioned tack room and adjoining stable, and was appended at some time prior to 1884. The report provides a descriptive and illustrative account of observations. HER Event No. ENN110642; OASIS ID: souterra1-511274

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Deanshanger, Land at Stratford Road SP 7709 3989

KYLE BEAVERSTOCK

A magnetometer survey in February 2022 on a 3.4ha site in advance of a planning application detected only linear anomalies that seem to suggest the presence of peripheral agricultural features.

Kings Sutton, Land at Blenheim Rise SP 4985 3675

KYLE BEAVERSTOCK and LUCIANO CICU

A magnetometer survey of a 2.5ha site in advance of a planning application in November 2022 revealed several anomalies of archaeological interest including a zone of probable ridge and furrow. Of most interest is a straight-sided L-shaped linear anomaly, that could be part of a ditched enclosure, and which may be of some antiquity.

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES (ULAS)

Brigstock, Fermyn Woods Hall, Causin Way SP 95816 87120

ANDREW HYAM

An archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication and historic building recording was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) in February 2022 at Fermyn Woods Hall, Causin Way, Brigstock. The Hall is Grade II* listed and has its origins in the 17th century although it has been significantly extended and remodelled throughout its history (Fig. 22)

The archaeological work took place during the creation of a new doorway between two existing first floor rooms. The demolition work cut through a plaster and lath stud wall dating to the mid-19th century with no earlier building materials being disturbed. The results of the investigation indicate that the two rooms were created within an earlier room by the insertion of the 19th century stud wall and that



Figure 22: Brigstock, Fermyn Woods Hall

one of the rooms had its floor raised in order to avoid a step into the adjacent room.

Crick, Church Street SP 58821 72544

ROGER KIPLING

An archaeological strip, map and sample excavation was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at Elms Farm, 6 Church Street, Crick in September 2022 during groundworks associated with the construction of a new detached dwelling and separate garage and following demolition of a modern barn.

The site lies within the historic settlement core and conservation area of the medieval village of Crick and contains some of the last remaining earthworks relating to the medieval village. Development has destroyed earthworks to the south and east, with documentary sources suggesting that the earthworks represent areas abandoned during the 14th century.

The northern part of the present development area was excavated by ULAS in 2020, revealing settlement activity from the 12th-13th centuries as well as an isolated Bronze Age cremation burial. These remains were interpreted as representative of activity to the rear of properties fronting on to Church Street. The strip, map and sample excavation to the immediate south of this, provided further evidence of medieval activity in the form of a possible property boundary ditch and attendant pit and post hole. ENN110640.

Desborough, Desborough Grange SP 80540 84440

TIMOTHY HIGGINS

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on land at Desborough Grange, Desborough during March to April 2021 in advance of a proposed residential development. Twenty-one evaluation trenches were excavated in the north and north-west fields within the development site. Most of the trenches were negative for archaeological features. Trenches 2, 8 and 9 located in the northern field 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 Trench 13. ENN110303.

East Haddon, Covert Farm SP 64920 68921

DONALD CLARK

An Archaeological Evaluation was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services in April 2021 on land at Covert Farm, East Haddon prior to the construction of large single dwelling and driveway. Six 30m trenches were excavated and inspected but no archaeological features or deposits were recorded. ENN110208.

Marston Trussell, Stratford Farm, Main Street SP 69145 85965

LAURENCE VARDA-EDWARDS

An archaeological strip, map and sample excavation was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at Stratford Farm, Main Street, Marston Trussell. The work was undertaken in February 2022 in advance of work to create storage areas/parking bays and was part of a larger scheme. The site lies to the west of Market Harborough, on the north side of the village of

Marston Trussell; the proposed site is directly adjacent and to the west of a Scheduled Monument that comprises part of the shrunken medieval village. Previous work in the vicinity had found evidence of Saxon and medieval activity. No archaeological features were identified, and no finds were recovered. ENN110016.

Raunds, Brook Farm Cottage, Brook Road

TL 00538 73503

IAN REEDS

An archaeological trial trenching excavation was carried out on land opposite Brook Farm Cottage, Brook Road, Raunds in January 2022 in advance of a residential development. Four, 25m trenches were excavated that covered the footprint of the proposed development. No archaeological deposits were identified. ENN110517.

Thrapston, Chancery Lane SP 9955 7878

ROGER KIPLING

An archaeological strip, map and sample excavation was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land to the rear of 15 and 15A Chancery Lane, Thrapston during February and March 2022. The fieldwork was undertaken in advance of a residential development.

A programme of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching had been undertaken on the site in 2013, which identified several ditches identified as medieval property boundaries. The follow up strip, map and sample excavation evaluation revealed activity dating to the Roman and Saxo-Norman to early medieval periods (Fig. 23). The former comprised several gullies and smaller ditches, which produced limited evidence for domestic occupation. In terms of the medieval evidence, further indications were provided of ditches likely forming the rear boundary of properties fronting Chancery Lane. In addition, the discovery of a substantial rubble-filled ditch in the northeast corner of the development area offers the suggestion of the first tangible archaeological evidence for the medieval castle which is believed to have been located adjacent to the present site. Environmental evidence from the latter suggested an open, water-filled feature, suggesting that this ditch may represent part of the castle moat. The absence of cess or food waste from this feature set out from the other ditches, providing further indications of its significance. ENN 110538.

Warkton, Pipe Lane SP 89356 79933

LEON HUNT

An archaeological watching brief was carried out in October 2022 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services at 45, Pipe Lane, Warkton in advance of the construction of a new garage and annexe at the property. The development site formerly contained a timber-built garage. The proposed development area lay within the area of the shrunken medieval village of Warkton close to medieval earthworks. The remains of a Romano-British settlement, including a possible villa site lie to the north of the PDA. A medieval building was discovered during excavations to the west along Pipe Lane. The excavation of four foundation trenches was monitored. No archaeological remains were revealed. ENN110533.

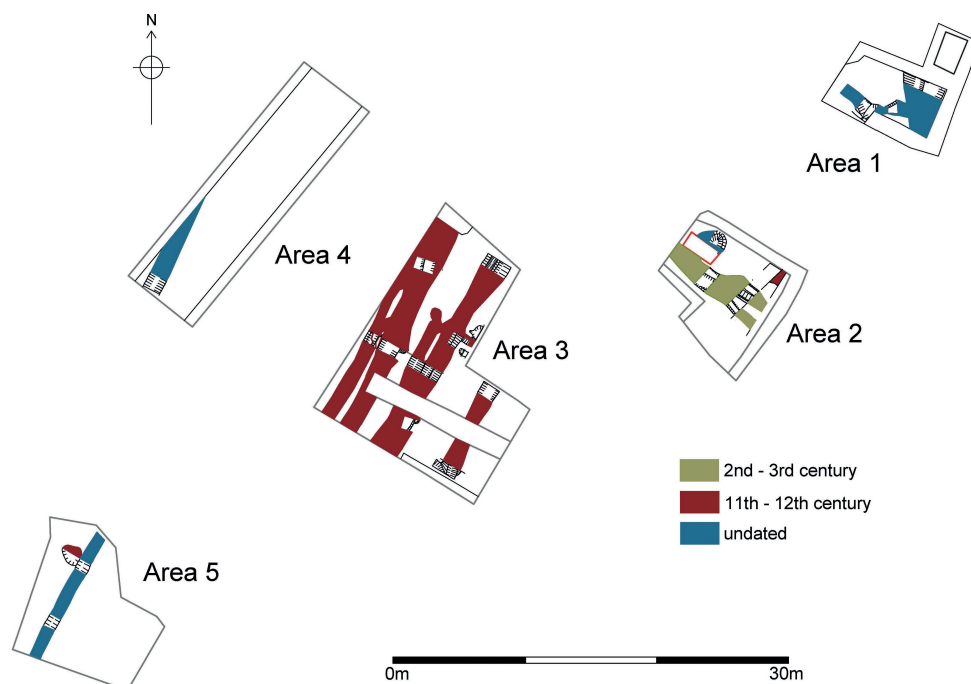


Figure 23: Thrapston, Chancery Lane – all features plan

Weston by Welland, Home Farm, The Lane

SP 77625 91565

ROGER KIPLING

A programme of archaeological observation and investigation, recording, analysis and publication was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services in December 2020 on land at Home Farm, The Lane, Weston by Welland, prior to residential development. The site proved to have been the subject of heavy disturbance including terracing associated with the construction and subsequent demolition of barns and a slurry lagoon associated with the farm. No archaeological remains were present. ENN109675.

WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY**Towcester, Bickerstaffes Road (Water Lane)**

SP 69179 48485

H. DABILL, S. PIERSON and G. NAYLOR.

In August **2021** Wessex Archaeology undertook an archaeological mitigation works on a parcel of land covering 0.27 hectares at Bickerstaffes Road (Water Lane), Towcester, Northamptonshire. Most of the archaeological remains were Romano-British in date and comprised ditches, pits, gullies, occupation deposits, a stone surface and a stone-lined well. The period was divided into three phases of activity, through pottery dating and stratigraphic relationships. The earliest phase represented initial occupation on the site and consisted of a layer, a ditch terminus and two pits. Finds recovered from these features dated them to the mid-1st–2nd century. The second phase represented the peak of activity on the site and comprised two large boundary ditches, gullies, pits, a stone surface and a well. These features and finds showed the site was part of a settlement, with potentially a stone building and backyard industrial activity dating to the 2nd century. The third and final Romano-British phase dated to the 3rd–4th centuries and saw further land division followed

by the ending of the settlement and the enclosure of the site. This is shown in the retention and subdivision of the earlier plots, with additional ditches and realignment of the northern boundary, a large reduction in the number of features, the backfilling of the well and the disuse of the stone structure at the south end of the site.

The site became part of the agricultural landscape after the Romano-British period, with remains from this phase including postholes that contained four small sherds of possible early Saxon pottery, a medieval pit, and a series of medieval/post-medieval deposits. Other, later remains included modern features and drains, and there were a few undated pits. Post-Roman finds were present, but sparse.

The finds assemblage is modest but provides good dating for most of the features. The pottery spans all four centuries of the Romano-British period, however, there is an evident bias to the mid-1st–late 2nd century AD. Analysis of the samian indicates that there was uninterrupted occupation of the site from the 1st into the 2nd century AD and that the site was associated with the military, either as part of a military site or an extra-mural settlement around military installations. The construction of the town defences in the late 2nd century, just to the north of the site, suggests it is the latter. The pottery also provides evidence of domestic activity and is like other assemblages recovered from Towcester, while the small animal bone and tiny slag assemblages provide some indications of backyard industrial activity, perhaps iron smithing, butchery and specialist processing such as curing. The animal bone assemblage has been fully recorded, and the enhanced dataset provides further details about livestock economy in the wider rural hinterland and the types of meat procured and consumed within the suburbs of Romano-British Towcester. The environmental remains are poorly preserved and limited. However, they do provide evidence of exploitation of the local woodland/scrubland through the assemblages of wood charcoal and hazelnut shells. This is potentially further supported by the presence of deer antler.

OXFORDSHIRE

ABINGDON ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOPHYSICS

Culham, Andersey Island SU 5037 9673

ROGER AND SALLY AINSLIE and CHRIS OATLEY

We have surveyed this field for our research purposes over several years. 4, 30 metre grids have been surveyed several times, mostly using magnetometry. When comparing results we have noticed an increasing amount of speckle on the survey plots. Raising the height of the magnetometer sensors above the ground appears to have little, if any, effect on reducing its appearance. Whilst major features can still be distinguished, sometimes individual pieces of iron can alter the interpretation of a survey, which this renders impossible.

This is almost certainly caused by the use of compost made from garden waste collections, which contains small amounts of ferrous material. The farmer here has stopped using it because it contained too much plastic.

This effect has been noted before (Gerrard *et al*, 2015), but here we can see the increase in speckle over 3 applications (Fig. 1).

Reference

J Gerrard, I Cauldwell and A Kennedy 2015 *Green Waste and Archaeological Geophysics*, Archaeol. Prospect. 22, 139–142

Hook Norton, St. Peters' church SP 3551 3314

ROGER and SALLY AINSLIE

in 2022 we surveyed the area to the north of the chancel of this church for Hook Norton Local History group as part of

their research. Earth resistance results were not very distinct but identified a rectangular area of higher resistance in the location of the predicted chapel.

The report is in the Archaeology Data Service grey literature library at <https://doi.org/10.5284/1101345>

Swalcliffe Upper Lea. Round Hill SP 385 394

ROGER and SALLY AINSLIE

The North Oxon Archaeology Group (NOAG, see also summary below) asked us to survey to put their work, reported in SMA 1998 and 2000, into context. They had found a scatter of Roman material, but our magnetometry results, whilst undated, have a more prehistoric feel. We located ditches forming rectangular, circular and sub-circular enclosures; probable pits; ridge and furrow and other field systems. The worrying thing is that, if the remains are not Roman then, there being no other evidence of prehistoric remains in this vicinity, we could have possibly got similar results almost anywhere in the area.

The report is in the Archaeology Data Service grey literature library at <https://doi.org/10.5284/1101346>

Publication

The book *Archaeology- In the Service of Property Development?* is updated every year. It gives examples of geophysical surveys, mainly in Oxfordshire, and tries to keep abreast of the evolving nature of the archaeology industry.

It is free and is at <https://archgeophys.weebly.com/>

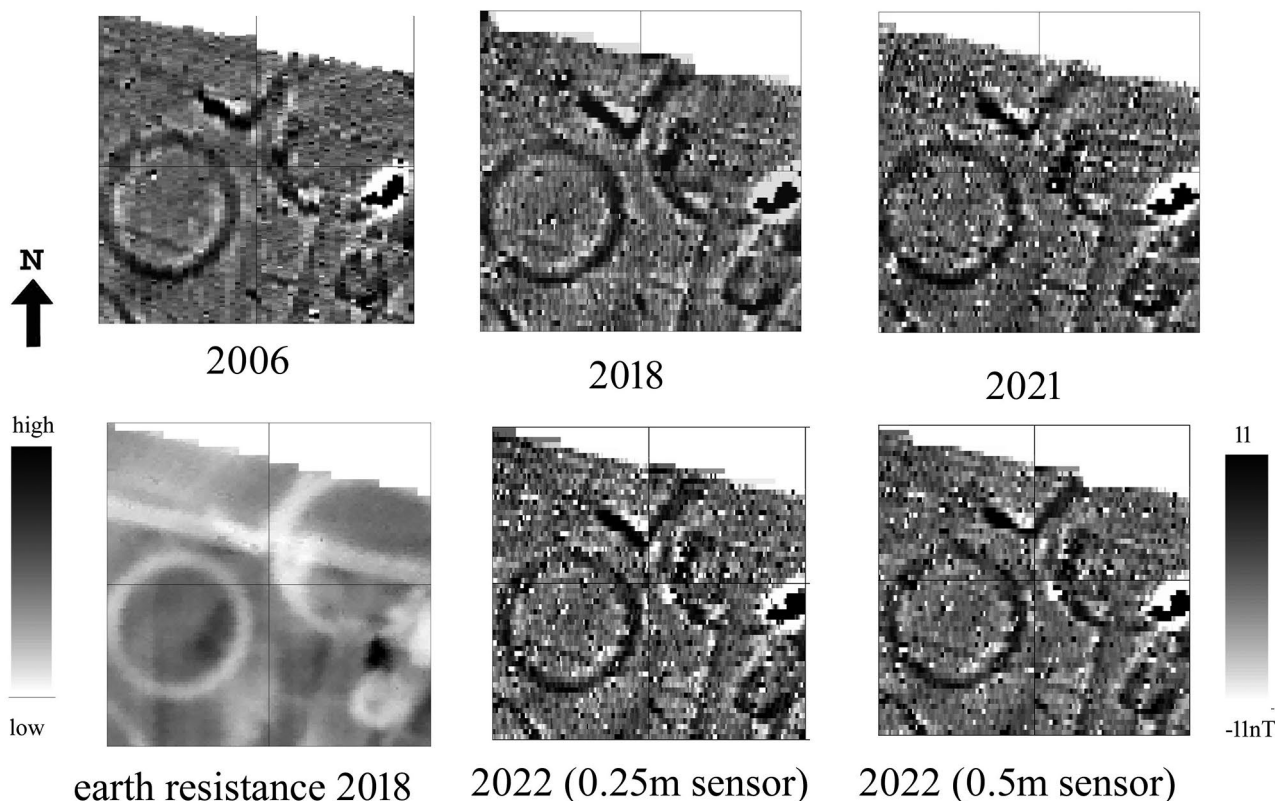


Figure 1: Culham, Andersey Island surveys

APPLETON AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH PROJECT (AAARP)

Besselsleigh Manor Excavations BL21 and BL22 (2021 and 2022) SP 4558 0104

JANE HARRISON, LYNN AMADIO, LEIGH MELLOR, SARAH MILES and WILLIAM WINTLE

Introduction

The Appleton Area Archaeological Research Project (AAARP) is researching Appleton and the surrounding area including the settlements of Eaton and Besselsleigh, the deserted medieval village of Tubney and the deserted manor of Besselsleigh adjacent to the surviving church of St Lawrence. Research themes include the development and growth of medieval settlements, the moated manor sites at Appleton, Tyntens and Tubney Manor Farm, and settlement abandonment at Tubney Manor Farm and Besselsleigh.

The first AAARP fieldwork was undertaken at Appleton Manor, a moated site with a surviving twelfth century hall-house (Bond et al. 2017) and included the excavation of four test pits close to the manor house. This was followed by an extensive test pit campaign in Appleton, Eaton and Tubney Manor Farm to investigate the development of Appleton village (Harrison and Rowley 2019; Harrison et al. 2020). Fieldwork at the deserted medieval settlement at Tubney Manor Farm included test pits and geophysical survey (Harrison et al. 2021b).

In 2018 the AAARP began its archaeological research at Besselsleigh Manor with a series of topographic and geophysical surveys in conjunction with the OUDCE MSc ALA 2018 and 2020 field survey weeks. Additionally, a series of test pits and two small 1m by 3m trenches, trenches 1 and 2, were excavated by AAARP in association with OUDCE Undergraduate Certificate fieldwork (Harrison et al. 2021a). These surveys and exploratory excavations were shaped by the following project research questions: was there pre-medieval settlement on the site; what was the layout and character of the medieval manor house; was there a village associated with the medieval manor house; if so, what was its extent and when was it founded and abandoned; and what are the relationships between the manor house site and the modern village of Besselsleigh?

Following this initial work at Besselsleigh, two larger trenches, trenches 3 and 4, were excavated at Besselsleigh Manor in June 2021 and April 2022. The two 2021 8m x 12m trenches were placed within the original Besselsleigh manorial complex to the north and west of Besselsleigh church. Trench 3 was positioned over the earlier manor house which was demolished in 1784. Trench 4 was placed over the farm buildings and later manor house, which were demolished in 1871. Figure 2 illustrates the 2021 excavations (BL21) and figure 3 the extended 2022 excavations (BL22).

The History of the Site

Domesday Book records Besselsleigh as a small estate of one hide held by William from Abingdon Abbey. In 1086 the population consisted of twelve bordars and had arable land for five ploughs of which two were on the demesne. Although the nature and location of the eleventh-century settlement is not known, it may have been in the west of Besselsleigh near the now isolated church.

During the twelfth century the holders of Besselsleigh manor acquired the surname Leigh. The last of the Leighs, Katherine, married Thomas Bessels in the early fourteenth century and the manor passed into the Bessels family. In the early sixteenth century the manor was inherited by the Fettiplace family. In the early 1540s the antiquarian John Leland visited Besselsleigh and wrote (Toulmin Smith, 1910, 72):

“Bleselles Legh a litle village is a 3. mile from Hinkesey fery in the highe way from Oxford to Ferendune, alias Farington. At this Legh be very fayre pastures and woods. The Blesells hathe bene lords of it syns the tyme of Edwarde the First or afore, and there they dyd enhabite. The place is all of stone, and stondithe at the west end of the paroch church.”

From this it seems possible the medieval village was located near the manor house and church. There were fourteen taxpayers in Besselsleigh 1524 and twelve in 1525 but a later sixteenth-century decline in the parish population might be suggested by the amalgamation of Besselsleigh with Appleton between 1568 and 1635.

In 1634 the manor and estate of Besselsleigh was purchased by William Lenthall, who was Speaker during the Long Parliament of the 1640s. The manor house was damaged both by Royalists and Parliamentarians during the Civil War. It seems to have been at least partly repaired after the war as it was used for a school during the 1690s. A 1724 estate map shows an enclosed field system and a large manor house to the west of the church with farm buildings nearby. There is no associated village and instead a collection of houses are shown further north on the site of the current village.

The manor house was apparently badly damaged by fire in the 1770s and most of what remained was demolished in 1784. A number of drawings were made of the manor house in the period after the fire and before its demolition. About forty years later Kyffin William John Lenthall provided the following description in a letter dated 1st December 1829 (Lenthall 1829).

“The old manor house was pulled down about fifty years ago, excepting a small part of the offices which are now used as a farm house. There are a pair of handsome old entrance pillars still standing, said to be Inigo Jones. The old mansion was a very ancient, and very extensive building, having a Chapel on one side and the Church on the other. In this house was preserved for many years the picture of Thos. More and family by Hans Holbein, which was afterwards removed with many other old paintings to the seat Burford Priory. The church is small and has nothing remarkable in it.”

“In speaking of the old mansion I omitted to mention that [it] had three principal fronts, with a quadrangular court in the centre. The [house] was covered with Ivy, famed for the luxuriance of its growth, and ornamented on all sides by magnificent avenues of Elm and Lime trees. The old Hall and Kitchen are said to have equalled in size those belonging to a College rather than a private mansion. Cromwell, with many other distinguished characters of that day, are said to have been frequent guests here, and there still remains a tradition in the neighbourhood that he was once concealed at this house. This is probably a mere story, but it is a curious fact that on pulling down the old place a large room, or rather cell, was discovered that had evidently been used as a place of concealment, which descended from the top to the bottom



Figure 2: Besselsleigh, BL21 Trenches 3 and 4 (photo Aerial-Cam Ltd.)



Figure 3: Besselsleigh, BL22 Trenches 3 and 4 (photo Aerial-Cam Ltd.)

of the building. Both gold and silver coins were formerly often found about the place.”

The reference to Inigo Jones is now largely discounted. Nevertheless, the survival of the pillars or gateposts until the early twentieth century, indeed one still survives, suggests they were felt to be of some significance. A long avenue of trees running south-east from the manor house is shown on the 1724 estate map and also on Rocque’s 1761 map of Berkshire (Margary 1973). The Lenthall family continued to

own the manor and estate at Besselsleigh until the middle of the twentieth century.

Trench 3

The 2021, 2022 and 2023 excavations will be reported on in detail in the next SMA journal. What follows is an interim summary of the 2021 and 2022 seasons. Trench 3 was positioned to lie over the central and eastern parts of the manor house as shown on the 1724 estate map. The



Figure 4: Besselsleigh, Trench 3 after excavation in 2021 (photo Aerial-Cam Ltd.)



Figure 5: Besselsleigh, Trench 3 after excavation in 2022 (photo Aerial-Cam Ltd.)

trench has large trees on its southern, western and eastern sides which severely constrain the location and size of the trench. Its size in 2021 was 8m by 12m and most of this area was excavated in 2021. It was clear from the 2021 trench, illustrated in figure 4, that demolition, building stone removal and landscaping had stripped out many of the latest walls of the manor house complex. These could be traced in robber trenches and lines of wall core, rubble and plaster. These remains were linked to a wealth of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century domestic finds including ceramics, some of them fine wares for dining, glass bottles and dress items. It was probably the ladies of the late-seventeenth century school who left silver thimbles and many dress pins, some of which latter seemed to have fallen between floorboards.

Earlier stone walls on slightly different alignments survived better. One of these can be seen in the top-centre of figure 4. Medieval pottery was associated with these foundations. In the south of the trench, another medieval wall fragment was found, but in that area the pre-seventeenth century phases had clearly been largely lost. This was because in this location the front of the later manor had been dug down into the ground, with a possible low semi-cellar below. It is likely this was the frontage around the main entrance that faced the pillars mentioned above. As well as three phases of walling, a fine cobbled surface (north-west corner of figure 4), flagging from an earlier phase (centre-east) and other surfaces were discovered. The sequences of walls and surfaces suggested that a stone-built structure had been on this location from at least the twelfth century, and that while subsequent building work had made alterations and constructed new walls and rooms, it had also incorporated substantial aspects of previous configurations of the manor.

In 2022 only the northern area was re-opened, and this was extended to the north, west and east as illustrated in figures 3 and 5. The 2022 excavations produced very interesting results. Clear phases of walls on slightly different alignments can be seen in figure 5, with survival being much better than in the 2021 trench. Some medieval walls were dismantled to their foundations to be built over in later works, while others have been re-used and re-configured alongside new walls. The earliest archaeology was found in the small extension and the south-east corner of the main 2022 extension. The

remains of a wall in the small extension produced an Anglo-Saxon hooked tag, and earlier medieval pottery was found in what appeared to be a cellared area just to the north in the larger extension. Many stretches of fine stone walling were investigated. Layers of burnt material in the east were linked with scorching on the walls and seventeenth-century pottery. Could this be linked to the Civil War attacks? At least three phases of walling from the medieval period onwards were discovered in the centre of the trench; elements of the earlier phases were sealed beneath cobbling founded on oyster shells. Medieval cobbling was uncovered in the north-east of the trench, and later cobbling uncovered in what had originally been an internal area. Much less later material culture was recovered in 2022 and more medieval pottery.

An unexpected find in the 2022 excavations was a length of lead water pipe, as illustrated in figure 6. This was in the north-western corner of the trench and the pipe appeared to run west from the trench to a nearby well. It continued eastwards into the manor house through substantial wall foundations. A short branch ran southwards where it has been cut. The dating of the water system needs to be explored further but the indications are that this piping – now lifted for investigation – may be earlier than the eighteenth century.

Trench 4

Trench 4 lies to the north-west of trench 3 and was positioned to lie over the farm buildings shown on the 1724 estate map and over the replacement manor house. Trench 4 was 8m by 12m but not all of this was excavated. In the north, where a stone-lined drain was located, the area excavated was 3m x 8m. Just to the south a small slot 1.3m by 0.65m was opened. Further south, a narrow slot extending the full width of the trench, 1m by 8m, was excavated. The total area excavated in 2021 represented only 34% of the full trench. The trench was re-opened in 2022 and a larger area was excavated, as illustrated in figure 7.

Trench 4 was positioned to investigate part of a long linear feature revealed by the ground penetrating radar (GPR) and earth resistance surveys. This linear feature turned out to be a substantial stone-lined drain, shown in the northern part of figure 7. The surveys indicate the drain extends about ten to fifteen metres east and west of the trench. It is hoped that at least one end of this drain will be investigated during the 2023 excavation. The line of the drain within the excavation trench is illustrated in figure 8.

This stone-built and covered drain seems likely to have been constructed in the seventeenth century. To the south-east of the drain several phases of cobbling were uncovered along with settings for a door. The drain would either have run through a byre or across a courtyard. Elsewhere in the trench were phases of walling, including the ephemeral remains of later, and in this case up to 19th-century walls.

In 2022, excavation focused on the south-west corner where the remains of a kitchen or cook house were revealed with an oven base and the remains of a chimney. The excavated archaeology in trench 4 was predominantly later medieval and seventeenth to nineteenth century. The finds were more utilitarian but included jettons, whetstones and metal artefacts. These findings are consistent with this area being within the farmyard and its buildings behind the domestic manor buildings.



Figure 6: Besselsleigh, Lead water pipe in Trench 3
(photo Aerial-Cam Ltd.)



Figure 7: Besselsleigh, Trench 4 after excavation in 2022 (photo Aerial-Cam Ltd.)

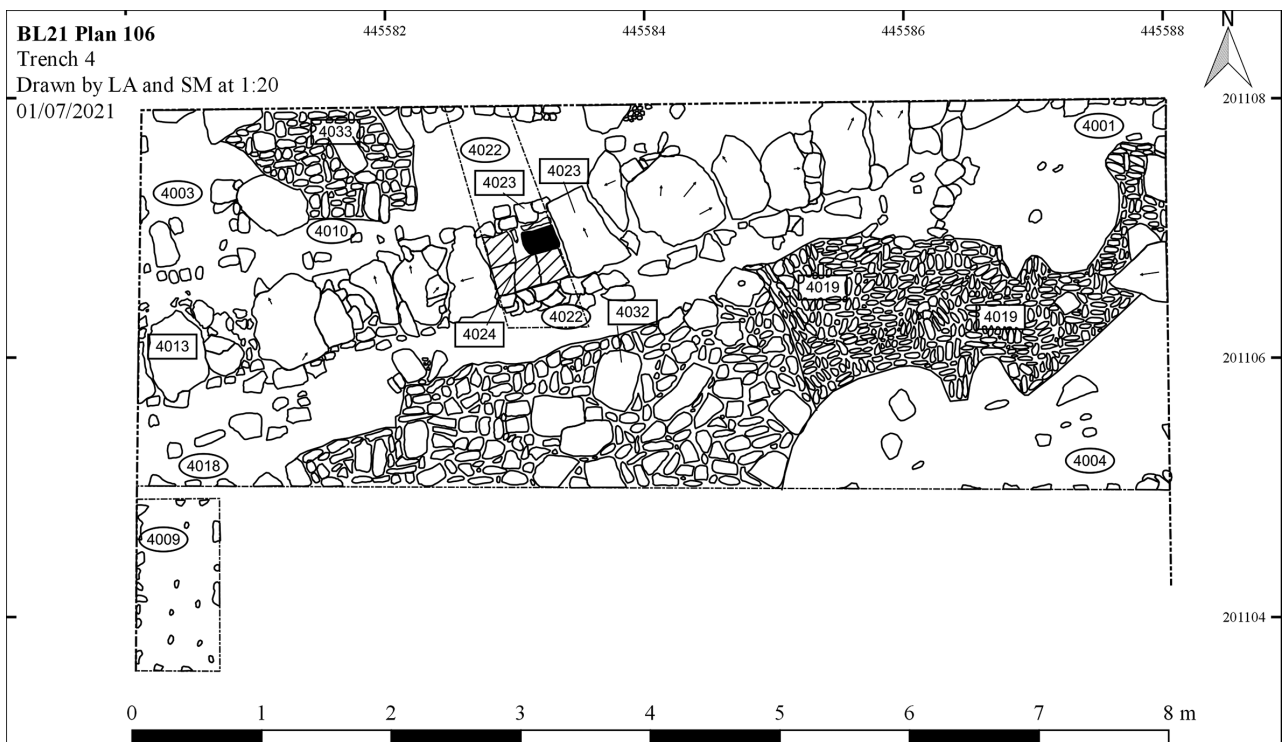


Figure 8: Besselsleigh, Plan 106 from 2021

Discussion

Trench 3 was located over the earlier manor house which was demolished in about 1784 following a fire and some years of dereliction. Trench 4 was positioned over the farm buildings of manor farm. Part of these buildings were enhanced after 1784 to form a new manor house but this was demolished in 1871. There should therefore be a slight chronological difference between the two trenches, with more nineteenth-century material expected in trench 4. This may be observable in the 2021 pottery as illustrated in figure 9. In trench 3 the amount of 'Modern Victorian' pottery is less than 'Post Medieval 2' but in trench 4, the amount of 'Modern Victorian' pottery is greater than 'Post Medieval 2'.

Whereas in 2021 almost all of trench 3 was excavated, only about one-third of trench 4 was excavated. This explains why there is significantly less material recovered from trench 4 than trench 3. The difference in material recovered may make comparisons between the two trenches more difficult.

The work done so far on the Besselsleigh manor site suggests that there were pre-Conquest structures in the excavation area before stone manor buildings were constructed. The phases of walling and surfaces indicate some changes were probably made to buildings during the medieval period, but major renovations and alterations were undertaken in the seventeenth century. More work needs to be done but these may represent works ordered by Speaker Lenthall as much as any major repairs after the Civil War. As more evidence accumulates from the BL22 and BL23 seasons it may become possible to draw firmer conclusions.

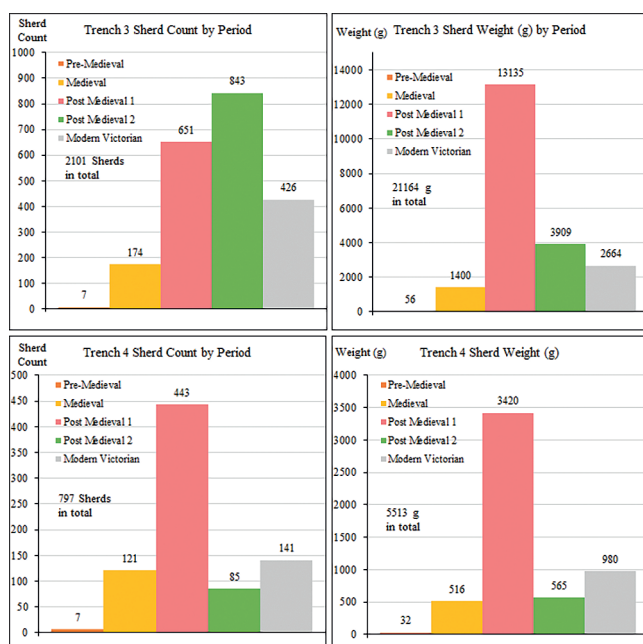


Figure 9: Besselsleigh, BL21 Trench 3 and Trench 4 pottery by period

Acknowledgments

We are extremely grateful to John May for permission to work on his land and for providing access and training opportunities to OUDCE undergraduate and postgraduate

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BLEWBURY LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Blewbury Sunken Featured Building Dating Report

SU 531 859 (village centre)

DAVE CARLESS

In SMA 46 (2016, p46) we reported our excavations (made as part of the Blewbury Big Dig project in partnership with South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group) of a Saxon Sunken Featured Building (SFB). There were many interesting finds including a substantial early to mid-Saxon pottery assemblage but there was nothing from which we could determine a clear date. The earliest the pottery could be 5th century AD and SFBs were typically only in use up to the 7th century.

There was however a large quantity of animal bone, and we have recently had one piece radiocarbon dated. This bone was recovered from a secure context at the bottom of the excavation and so represents the early backfill of the building when it went out of use. The result is shown in the attached graph. As the calibration curve is flattish in this

period, it gives a broad calibrated date range of 424calAD to 539calAD (95.4%) (Fig. 10).

In the mid-20th century, the Saxon cemetery at Blewburton Hill (on the Blewbury boundary about 1 mile to the east

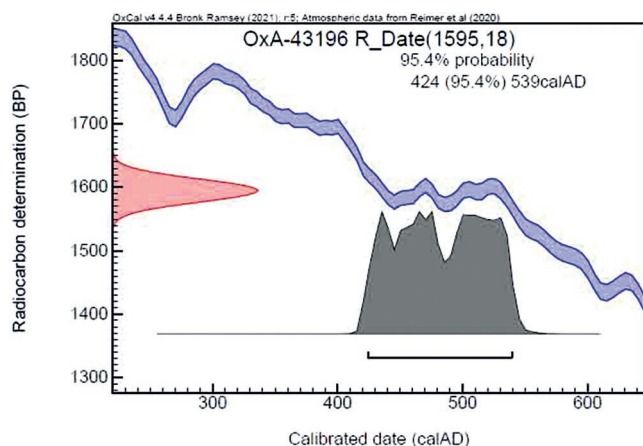


Figure 10: Blewbury, SFB radiocarbon date 424calAD to 539calAD 95.4% (ORAU)

of the SFB site) was excavated by Collins and others and produced a wealth of grave goods. These were later dated by Dickenson to the range “later 5th century to earlier 6th century” which is consistent with our settlement date range of early 5th to mid-6th century.

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BORDER ARCHAEOLOGY

Banbury, Land off Broughton Road, Bretch Hill SP 43745 39867

MARK SARGENT

Archaeological field evaluation was carried out in connection with proposed residential development.

The site occupied four pastoral fields on the southwest outskirts of Banbury which covered an area of c.31100sq.m. This area was delineated by trees and hedgerows to the west and north, by Broughton Road to the south and by housing and areas of agreed development at its eastern extent.

Nine trenches were set out to target anomalies identified by geophysical survey, seven of which were sited on a plateau to the north where the geophysical survey identified three circular features representing possible roundhouses and remains of other possible structures and features. The remaining trenches were opened to the south, along the proposed drainage route toward Broughton Road and the location of a proposed drainage basin.

Six of the trenches on the plateau contained archaeological features of interest, comprising several ditches, pits and a possible trackway or surface. Dating was based on the recovered pottery assemblage, which was largely of Iron Age date. Several post-medieval features conforming to the ridge and furrow cultivation patterns identified on the geophysical survey were also present within Trenches 3, 4, 5 and 7, while a possible quarry pit of post-medieval or modern date was identified in Trench 2.

CHARNEY BASSETT ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH PROJECT

DR DAVID ASHBY

Introduction

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

Prior fieldwork undertaken during the 2017 to 2019 project sessions was reported in an article in Volume 51 of the South Midlands Archaeology Journal. Due to the COVID

19 pandemic no fieldwork was undertaken in the majority of 2020 to 2021. During the project from 2022, several archaeological investigations, including geophysical survey, test pitting and a 3D laser scan survey was undertaken, carried out within the village and its surrounding fields, which will be discussed in this article. This article will also discuss the work that is proposed to be carried out during the 2023 project season.

Field to the East of Longworth Road (Resistivity Survey) SU 381 948

A resistivity survey was undertaken within the field to the east of Longworth Road, and to the North of Manor Farm. Several high and low resistance anomalies were identified, however test pits excavated over a number of these features (discussed below), indicate that all features shown are of a geological nature. Therefore no features of an archaeological nature were found.

Test Pitting (test pits 10 to 13)

During the 2022 project seasons, 4 test pits were dug: one (TP11) in the rear garden of Mount Pleasant house, Longworth Road, and the other three (TP10, 12 & 13) in the field to the east of Longworth Road. These test pits were located, based on permission, available access and space for the test pit and spoil heap. Each test pit was 1 m square and was dug in 0.10 m spits to the depth of either the natural geology or 1 m dependent on which was reached first.

The pottery remains from the test pits enabled an amount of information to be gained about the changing nature of the settlement over time, as seen in Table 1. As indicated by this table, only post medieval, and later modern pottery was recovered from all four of these test pits. Furthermore, of the other finds material recovered from all four of these test pits, the majority dated to the 18th – 19th C. or later. This included one small find, a copper ally button dating to the early 20th C with a naval insignia, recovered from TP13. The only finds material recovered from all four test pits recovered from all four test pits which predated the post medieval periods was a quantity of Bronze Age, Mesolithic and Neolithic flint material, including debitage, burnt flint and worked flint. This includes, one Neolithic scraper and one Mesolithic blade recovered from TP11, and

ID	TP Number	Iron Age Pot Quantity	Roman Pot Quantity	Saxon Pot Quantity	Medieval Pot Quantity	Post Medieval Pot Quantity
10	10	0	0	0	0	18
11	11	0	0	0	0	6
12	12	0	0	0	0	1
13	13	0	0	0	0	2

Table 1. Table shows the quantities of pottery by period recovered from each test pit excavated in 2022 from Charney Bassett.

three microliths and two scrapers of Mesolithic date, three Neolithic scrapers and one Bronze Age scraper recovered in total from TP10, 12 and 13

One linear feature was found at the base of TP 11; however, this has been interpreted as a modern service trench. The soil deposit in TP 11 was found to be shallow in depth, most likely due to topsoil removal do to levelling of the modern garden. The stratigraphy of TP 10, 12 and 13 were all formed of plough soil overlying the solid Stanford formation geology, with no other features found. Therefore, it is thought that prehistoric activities (indicated by the flint discussed above) took place in the vicinity of these test pits, however postdating this period, this area of the village was used as farmland, with the post medieval and modern finds materials relating to manuring on this land.

Charney Manor & St Peter's Church (3D Laser Scan Survey)

SU 380 944

A detailed 3D laser scan (accurate to 3mm) was undertaken within the interior and exterior of St Peters Church and the medieval rooms of Charney Manor, to create an accurate record of the structure as well as to better understand its layout, form, phasing and construction. The data was collected using a Leica BLK360 Laser Scanner instrument. Due to the volume of data collected, its interpretation is currently ongoing. Once concluded its interpretation will include the production of drawings and phasing of the Charney Manor and St Peters Church, with additional data considered (for example the geophysical survey discussed in Vol 51 of the SMA Journal). This interpretive work will be undertaken over the coming year.

Summary of Project to Date

Through the work undertaken on the project since 2017, the archaeological remains unearthed demonstrate the development of Charney Bassett from the Mesolithic period to the modern day. This includes Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age flint from around the village, recovered from test pitting; with a Neolithic feature and large quantities of worked flint identified in the vicinity of Wick Cottage, close to the River Ock. This may indicate the origins of Charney, first developing in this area, and thereafter expanding overtime. A small quantity of Iron age pottery was also found on The Green, however, most of the Iron Age activity associated with Charney Bassett instead is seen in the fortified enclosure to the north, Cherbery Camp.

The Roman settlement at Charney Bassett is indicated by a small volume of Roman pottery recovered from test pitting, mostly found in the southern area of the modern village close to the River Ock and the Church. This may indicate the location of a Roman farmstead, however more evidence

is required to better understand the Roman archaeology of the village. Archaeological evidence indicates the settlement grew in the area of Charney Wick during the Saxon period, likely forming into a small village. During the medieval period, archaeological evidence indicates that the village grow, shifting north to surround the Village Green, as demonstrated by the presence of medieval burgess plots fronting both current, as well as extant, roadways in the location of the modern village. The Village Green likely formed a marketplace at this time. However, pottery evidence demonstrates some domestic habitation continued in the area of Charney Wick, close to the River Ock and to the west of the Denchworth Road. The shift of the village further to the north is likely due to the construction of Charney Grange by Abingdon Abbey. The Grange was a large and impressive stone structure, likely two storeys. Auxiliary buildings to the Grange were also constructed at this time, including a water mill, with an associated leat system and the small stone parish church of St Peter's.

Evidence has been identified for the post medieval and modern Charney Bassett, with it continuing to grow during these periods. However, some areas of the settlement also shrank, with the area of the medieval burgess plots close to the centre of the current village being abandoned and thereafter reverting to pasture and outer fields concurrently continuing as agricultural land.

Although a great deal of information has been identified using the techniques utilised during the 2017 to 2022 project seasons, further work is needed to better understand the way in which Charney Bassett has changed through time, including the location of the Roman and Saxon settlements, and to better understand the changing nature and expansion of the settlement during the medieval period.

Aims of 2023 Fieldwork

During the 2023 project season, two main types of archaeological work are hoped to be undertaken.

Firstly, geophysical surveys will continue in open areas of land within the village and its surrounding fields, with the aim of producing a comprehensive map of the buried archaeology of the settlement. This will mainly be carried out using resistivity survey; however, GPR will also be further utilised where suitable sites are identified and magnetometry will be used within large fields on the edge of the current settlement.

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

Oxfordshire

settlement and landscape has changed in these areas through time.

Acknowledgments

I would like to acknowledge the following people and organisations who have helped me during the 2022 project seasons. Special thanks go to all the landowners in the village who have let archaeological fieldwork be undertaken on their land. Thanks, should also be given to the members and committee of the Charney Bassett Local History Society, and the Parish Council who have helped to get the local community involved in the project and to disseminate information about the project to the local villagers. A special thanks must go to Ian Graham, Chair of the village's History Society and who instigated this Archaeological research project in Charney Bassett.

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COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Ambrosden, Land south of Blackthorn Road

NGR 461319 219657

CLIFF BATEMAN

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recorded two distinct phases of medieval and/or post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. A small number of undated

ditches/gullies were possibly indicative of drainage works undertaken immediately in advance of the creation of this open field system.

Benson, Land North of Watlington Road

NGR 461895, 192349

ADAM HOWARD

An excavation by Cotswold Archaeology identified prehistoric remains (Fig. 11). The earliest was an isolated Neolithic pit from which the remains of three Early Neolithic pottery vessels and 35 pieces of worked flint were recovered. Middle Bronze Age features included a shallow pit, two ditches and a layer filling a natural hollow that was truncated by an L-shaped palisaded enclosure ditch. Features within the enclosure comprised a pit, a posthole, a cattle burial and a tree-throw hole. Two bucket urns were recovered from the latter. To the east were two parallel ditches containing Middle and Late Bronze Age pottery. The remains of a possible Middle/Late Bronze Age rectangular palisaded enclosure were also identified, and this included a possible gated entrance. An inhumation burial containing two non-adults and a fragment of adult femur was truncated by the palisade ditch. Dispersed Middle to Late Bronze Age features were also recorded. Late Bronze Age activity comprised a group of 22 pits and postholes. An isolated sub-rectangular pit contained a considerable amount of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery and a grinding stone. Undated features were dispersed across the site; these included a four-post structure of probable late prehistoric date.

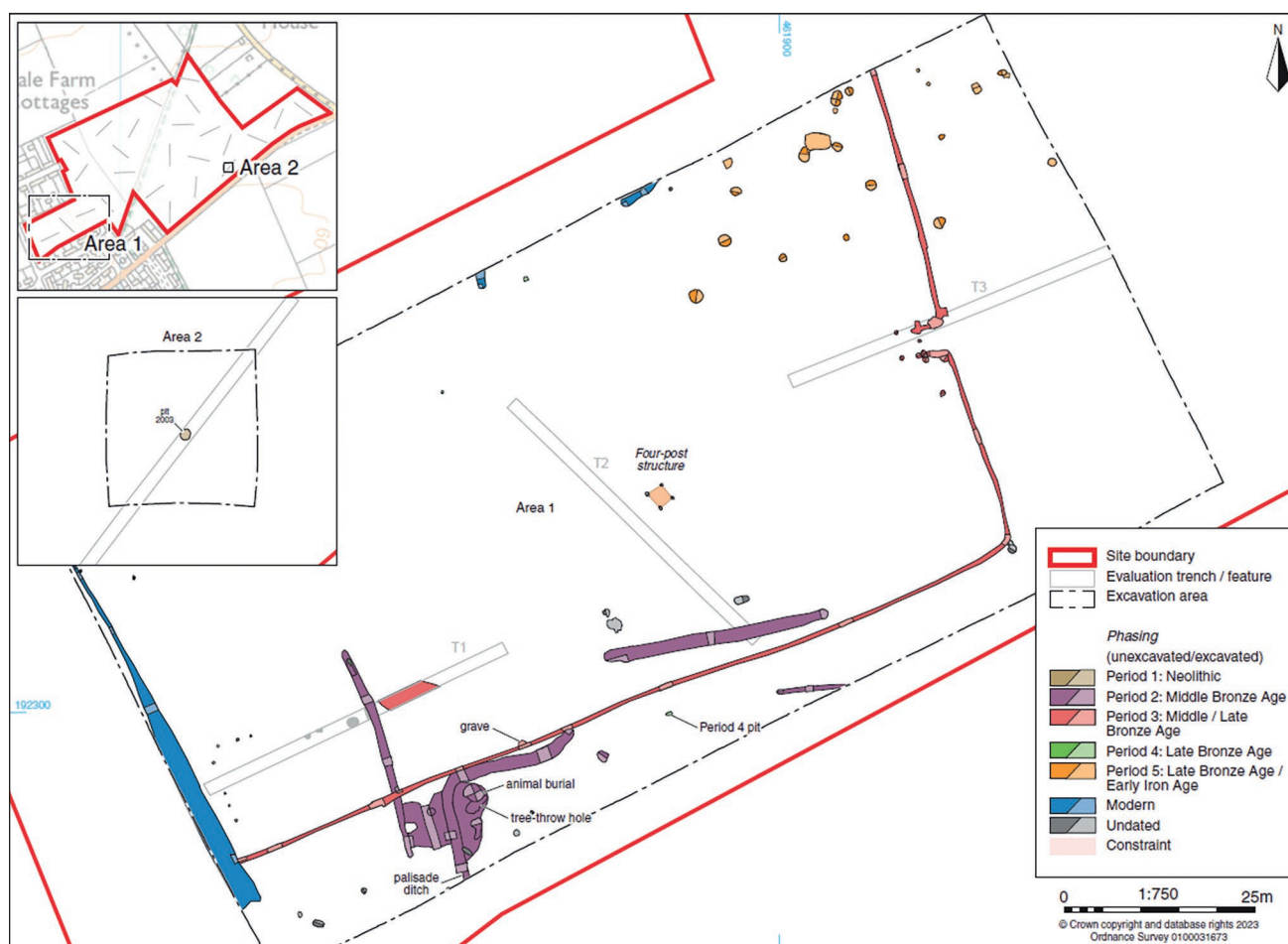


Figure 11: Benson, land North of Watlington Road Site plan

Bicester, Symmetry Park, North Oxford

NGR 455522 219883

ISOBELLE WARD

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a Mid to Late Iron Age system of agricultural and/ or settlement enclosures and associated trackways and field boundaries. Two un-urned cremation burials were undated. Undated ditches and postholes as well as medieval/post-medieval furrows and a post-medieval boundary ditch were also present.

Broughton, Broughton Roman Villa NGR 40299 38800

MARK BRETT and CHRIS LEONARD

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology at the site of the known Broughton Roman Villa identified walls, features and deposits indicating the villa was in use from the earlier part of the 2nd century AD and was abandoned by the middle of the 4th century. The villa was probably more modest than was initially indicated by earlier surveys and comprised two main ranges. The artefactual evidence indicates the presence of a bathhouse with a tessellated floor, heated by a hypocaust, and a tower with painted plaster walls, possibly built to take advantage of the views down the valley below. Other features included an undated ditched enclosure pre-dating the villa, and a series of terraced ponds, suggesting that the economy of the estate was at least partially concerned with fish farming or some other activity involving water and ponds. A previously investigated inhumation burial in a stone sarcophagus was re-examined by Time Team following the evaluation. Detailed recording was undertaken, and a discrete assemblage of human remains removed for further analysis.

Burford, Stonelands Solar Park NGR 426734 210340

MARK BRETT

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recorded quarry pits that were largely undated, with the only recovered artefactual material represented by a residual flint flake, a sherd of late 13th to 16th century pottery and a post-medieval button. Other features include a ditch which contained fragments of post-medieval/modern bottle glass, evidence of medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation and undated ditches, pits and a posthole.

Cherwell, Land North of Merton Road, Ambrosden

NGR 459775 219381

DEREK EVANS

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a prehistoric ditch and a small quantity of residual prehistoric worked flints. Limestone walls and substantial ditches corresponding to a square enclosure recorded by a previous geophysical survey may represent ornamental garden/park features associated with an 18th century landscaped park known to have existed in this area. The remains of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation were also present.

Cherwell, Land West of Chinalls Close, Finmere

NGR 463417 232867

JAMES COYNE and DANIELE PIRISINO

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a ditch containing possible Late Iron Age pottery and several

undated ditches and a pit. The remnants of post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation were also present.

Eynsham, A40 Science Transit Phase 2 – Park & Ride

NGR 442300 210085

ANNA WOLF

An evaluation and excavation by Cotswold Archaeology confirmed the results of a preceding geophysical survey and evaluation and recorded a small farmstead of Iron Age date focused around at least one probable roundhouse with internal pits and potholes (Fig. 12). Several poorly preserved curvilinear features may represent further structures. Other features included enclosure ditches, shallow pits and an undated but probably contemporary cremation burial. Sterile elongated pits or short ditch segments of unclear function were identified across the site, and medieval or post-medieval furrows were also present.

Eynsham, A40 Smart Corridor between NGR: 438555

210050 and NGR: 448999 210675

ANNA WOLF

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a probable Roman kiln/corn dryer which was left *in situ* (Fig. 13). A number of associated small pits and postholes, of 2nd–4th-century date, suggest that other structures may have been present in the immediate vicinity, which was potentially demarcated by a series of small ditches possibly defining a working area. Contemporary activity was identified to the east, comprising ditches and large pits. Medieval/post-medieval furrows and possible drainage ditches were also present.

Littlemore, Northfield Hostel NGR 454468 203094

EILIDH BARR

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified Roman ditches and discrete features on the periphery of a Roman pottery production site noted during construction of the Oxford Eastern Bypass.

Noke, Land at Manor Farm NGR 454402, 213994

ISOBELLE WARD and ANNA WOLF

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified Roman enclosures, trackways and field systems, along with probable extraction pits. The pottery assemblage indicates activity may have begun in the Late Iron Age, with the bulk of the assemblage broadly spanning the 2nd – 4th centuries and suggesting a relatively low-status settlement. A Roman road was postulated to run through the site, but this most likely took the form of a Romanised track bounded by ditches as only a single area of localised metalised surfacing was identified (Fig. 14). This was probably deposited to consolidate a wet or low-lying area as evidenced by alluvial deposits underlying and overlying the track. The remains of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation and several small post-medieval quarry pits were also present.

Nuneham Courtenay, Nineveh Farm

NGR 455119 200740

ANDREW WHELAN and ADRIAN SCRUBY

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology confirmed the results of a preceding geophysical survey and identified an



Figure 12: Eynsham, Partial enclosure and internal features under excavation looking north-west



Figure 13: Eynsham, Kiln/Corn dryer and associated deposits, looking north (0.5m scale)

extensive and complex series of enclosures with internal features and associated trackways of likely late prehistoric and/ or Roman date, located to the east of a Scheduled Roman pottery production site (HER no. 1428). A large pottery assemblage was recovered, but no kiln furniture or pottery wasters were present, suggesting that the site may represent a domestic settlement, with the kiln site to the west perhaps representing the industrial focus for the community working the kilns, who were then living at what might be considered a safe distance from the heat/fire-risk and fumes. Medieval/post-medieval furrows were also present.

Thame, Land North of the A40 NGR 466814 203530
KINGA WERNER

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified ring ditches and an enclosure ditch of later Iron Age date, with neonatal human remains recovered from the base of one of the ring ditches. An enclosed Early Roman settlement comprised ditches, pits, and postholes, alongside a substantial artefactual assemblage. Undated discrete features and the remains of medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation were also present.

Yarnton, Land East of A44 NGR 448272 212626
ANNA WOLF

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recorded a small cluster of pits and small ditches. A single fragment of Early/

Middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from one of the ditches.

HEADLAND ARCHAEOLOGY

Cropredy, Red Lion Street
From SP4675646533 to SP4686646762

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook an intermittent archaeological watching brief during the replacing and extending of Thames Water utility Pipe from The Plantation to Red Lion Street, Cropredy, Oxfordshire. Works took place between April and July 2022. The majority of the pipe trench was excavated beneath existing tarmac roads through the village. All areas of monitoring showed evidence of previous disturbance, in the form of postmedieval and modern brick, gravel and refuse, as well as other modern services and drainage. Some disarticulated, fragmented animal bone was recovered adjacent to St Mary the Virgin Church, as was a small fragment of disarticulated human tibial shaft, located within a previously excavated modern utility trench. This tibial shaft fragment is likely related to the adjacent church, though the unstratified incomplete nature of the remains and the narrowness of the monitoring area rule out any definitive evidence of origin. Some unstratified iron work was also recorded, along with some medieval pottery in an otherwise sterile deposit. No other archaeological finds or features were recorded during the works.



Figure 14: Noke, Trackway/surface and adjacent ditch looking south-east (1m scale)

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES**Abingdon, 25–27 Stert Street SU 4980 9717**

CHRISTOPHER WHITEHEAD

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at 25–27 Stert Street, Abingdon. The watching brief was undertaken during test pit excavations, general ground reduction of the area and the excavation of foundation trenches for the new building extension. During the course of the watching brief excavations, a series of modern construction layers and made-ground levelling layers were uncovered. Additionally, a substantial undated buried soil deposit was also uncovered. No significant archaeological features were observed. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-504317

Adderbury, Land to the rear of St Mary's House SP 4644 3517

SCOTT GORDON and GRACE GRIFFITH

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at land to rear of St Marys House, Adderbury, Banbury. The evaluation comprised eight trenches measuring approximately 1.85m wide, and between 10m and 30m long. Trenches 4, 5, and 8 did not uncover any archaeological horizons or features. In the five trenches which did contain potentially archaeological features, three undated possible postholes; one undated possible pit; and four ditches were observed. The two shallow ditches were undated but may have served drainage functions; a wide ditch was undated but may represent a large ring ditch if it is the same feature as one uncovered in an evaluation immediately to the south; and the final ditch was dated to the Roman period by a single pottery sherd and may represent a boundary ditch. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-509751

Ambrosden, Home Farm Close SP 6009 1921

ALESSANDRO GUAGENTI

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation on land to the rear of Home Farm Close, Ambrosden ahead of the construction of five dwellings. The archaeological evaluation consisted of two trenches located across the footprints of proposed buildings. Within the southern limit of the westernmost trench was the northern edge of the lake of Ambrosden Park which formerly occupied this area. This was partially excavated to 1.2m depth, with the only visible deposit consisting of mixed rubble backfill deposited in the later 20th century, during which time the construction of houses to the south of the site took place. Slightly north of the edge of the former lake was discovered a shallow round feature, most likely a tree or shrub throw situated on the northern bank of the lake, from which modern material was recovered. Trench two was the easternmost of the two trenches, within which was identified a single ditch. Unfortunately no dating material was recovered during excavation of this ditch, therefore no reliable dating could be ascertained. However, form, orientation and the associated fill suggests that this is modern drainage ditch. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-511527

Begbroke, LVS School SP 4687 1400

CHRISTOPHER WHITEHEAD

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at LVS School, St Philip's Priory, Spring Road, Begbroke, Oxfordshire. The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains in the area of a proposed multi use games area. During the course of the evaluation trench excavations, a series of modern refuse pits, ditches, a drainage channel and soakaway was uncovered. No further archaeological features or deposits were identified. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-504930

Bicester, Graven Hill SP 5888 2126

GRACE GRIFFITH

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological excavation at Graven Hill, Bicester, Oxfordshire during the construction of a Health Hub site. The majority of the features uncovered during the investigations date to the late post-medieval to modern period. Modern deposits and structures such as car parks, pavements, and floorings truncated large parts of the site, especially in the eastern portion of the excavation area. The northeastern corner of the site comprised disturbed natural and demolition rubble, where the previous Rodney House stood. Due to these factors, there is a high likelihood of the site undergoing multiple phases of truncation in order to level the area prior to these structures. There is added truncation by numerous services running across the site.

The features that were present within the Health Hub site likely correspond to the aforementioned post-medieval and modern structures on the site, or form rubbish dumps. Late post-medieval to modern material was recovered from the majority of the features; one small pit yielded no finds, and therefore remains undated. There was no evidence for the continuation of the features present in the previous excavation to the south of the site. As the features from this excavation were often shallow in nature, it is likely that the post-medieval and modern levelling of the site has removed any evidence of these features. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-507634

Bicester, Graven Hill SP 5936 2007

POVILAS ČEPAUSKAS and ALESSANDRO GUAGENTI

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief and excavation at the southern extent of Graven Hill, Bicester. The archaeological investigation comprised a watching brief during groundworks for an employment access road, and also an excavation within a smaller area of the road's footprint. Sparse archaeological evidence was witnessed across the entirety of the Site. There was little surviving archaeology along the areas which comprised the archaeological watching brief. The only visible features in this area were related to the modern buildings which had recently been demolished, alongside their associated services. Towards the eastern side of the employment access road, the excavation area discovered a series of three ditches and postholes which broadly dated to the post-medieval period. They are likely to relate to the former field boundaries evident on 19th century OS maps. Nevertheless these ditches and postholes comprised the earliest identifiable archaeological features, although two fragments of medieval pottery was recovered from naturally

accumulated deposits across the site. In two areas of the site within the western portion of the access road, lower natural deposits were identified which suggest a former wetland environment in this area. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-510460

Bicester, Graven Hill SP 5850 2007

ALESSANDRO GUAGGENTI

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief and excavation near the northern extent of Graven Hill, Bicester. The archaeological investigation was undertaken during groundworks for the new Western Spine Road. The site covered approximately 1km in length, approximately following sections of the disused Bicester Military Railway and parts of Anniversary Avenue. John Moore Heritage services were not notified of the commencement of work undertaken along most of the line of the main road and were informed that no ground reduction had taken place in this area, rather the ground had been built up. Two areas towards the western extent of the Western Spine Road were monitored by an archaeologist. The first was a shorter section of road which ran from the south side of the main road and measured 244m in length and ranged in width from 5 to 15m. Alongside this, the excavation of a pond located at the west of the site and measuring 89m in length by 47m in width was monitored. No archaeology was identified during this phase of works on the site. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-510825

Bicester, Priory Close SP 5853 2221

GAVIN DAVIS

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of foundations for a single storey garden building, during ground reductions and during the excavation of a related service trench. No archaeological features or finds were found during the work. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-505329

Burford, Church Green SP 2535 1233

SIMONA DENIS

John Moore Heritage Services carried out a watching brief at Warwick Hall, Burford, during ground reduction connected to the installation of air source heat pumps within a timber enclosure. The ground reduction was very limited in extent and depth and failed to reveal any archaeological deposits or feature. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-509589

Chipping Norton, High Street SP 3144 2724

DR. BRANDON BRAUN

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at 29–30 High Street, Chipping Norton. The excavation of service trenches in the areas of the new build cottages and the car park was observed, as was ground reduction in the area of the new build cottages. The natural geology was encountered in the area of the cottages, but not in the service trenches through the car park. No archaeological features were discovered. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-512004

Dorchester, St Martins Lane SU 5794 9457

STEPHANIE N. DUENSING

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at 31 Martins Lane, Dorchester-On-Thames

during construction of a new detached dwelling. One wall was partially removed, and three modern (20th century) features associated with the residential occupation of the site were noted. No archaeologically significant finds were observed. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-422011

Eaton Hastings, Ferry Cottage SU 2621 9857

GAVIN DAVIS

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief during the excavations and ground reductions following the demolition of a modern side extension and during the groundworks for a new extension at Ferry Cottage, Eaton Hastings. The ground reductions revealed the remains of a stone wall orientated SSE to NNW, and to the NNW of this wall, the fragmentary remains of a possible return wall orientated WSW to ENE. Although the walls had not survived in connection with each other together they may have originally formed the foundation walls to a former building. It is not certain if these walls were related to the separate building identified on a mid-19th century map. The more substantial wall foundation to the south was constructed with a well cemented mortar which may suggest a later construction than the building indicated on the mid-19th century map. In the area that was possibly interior to the wall foundations a rubbish pit was identified, which contained 20th century rubbish, pottery and glass as well as paint tins. Further ground reductions and the excavation of foundation trenches revealed a buried soil horizon that was overlain with various deposits of made ground and evidence for landscaping. No artefacts were recovered from any of the deposits. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-512651

Eynsham, Abbey Farm SP 4319 0918

CHRISTOPHER WHITEHEAD

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief during the construction of an extension to Abbey Farm, Abbey Street, Eynsham. During the course of the watching brief excavations two modern refuse pits were uncovered alongside a modern brick-built soakaway and a brick-built surface for a pre-existing outhouse structure. No other archaeological features or artefacts were observed. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-504613

Eynsham, Chilbridge Road SP 4229 0944

SCOTT GORDON

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation on land off Chilbridge Road within the West Eynsham Strategic Development Area. The evaluation comprised 21 trenches, measuring approximately 1.80m wide by 30m long. A small number of shallow undated and post-medieval ditches and furrows were encountered which probably served agricultural purposes, along with two possible undated pits. Trenches 3, 5, 7, 8, 12, 13, and 15–21 did not uncover any features of archaeological interest, although several land drains and modern services were uncovered, relating to the site's recent agricultural and domestic use. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-508729

Oxfordshire

Frilford, Millets Farm Centre SU 4334 9683

DR BRANDON BRAUN

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at Millets Farm Centre, Oxfordshire ahead of the extension of a solar farm. Seven evaluation trenches were excavated across the proposed site. Four ditches and three further features that were either pits or ditch termini were observed in four trenches, but there were no archaeological features in the other three trenches. Trench 4, located on the eastern side of the site, contained two prehistoric ditches that yielded potentially later Neolithic pottery sherds. In Trench 6, an undated pit or ditch terminus was recorded, and in Trench 7 there was an undated ditch. Trench 8 contained a prehistoric pit or ditch terminus, an undated ditch and an undated pit or ditch terminus. The datable features are likely contemporary, based on similarities of the pottery. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-511781

Garford, Manor Farm SU 4354 9489

ALESSANDRO GUAGGENTI

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at Manor Farm Wetland Habitat, Garford, Oxfordshire ahead of the creation of two areas of wetland habitat. The excavation of test pits in a poplar plantation (Area C) failed to identify any archaeology in the north of the site. In the south-west of the site, nine evaluation trenches targeted the areas of two proposed ponds in order to characterise the archaeological potential of the site. A total of eight ditches were identified alongside a single posthole, although no archaeological material was found during the excavation of these features. Nevertheless, it is likely that these represent drainage ditches which are broadly contemporary and possibly of relatively recent date based on their orientation and spatial organisation in relation to this wet low-lying area and the surrounding field system. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-504685

Great Haseley, Latchford Lane SP 6568 0147

ALESSANDRO GUAGGENTI and SCOTT GORDON

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at Latchford House, Latchford Lane, Great Haseley. The work involved the excavation of three 10m x 1.8m trenches, each of which uncovered archaeological features. Trench 1 revealed an undated ditch, cut by a modern pit burial; the skeleton was left in-situ. Trench 2 also contained an undated ditch. Trench 3 uncovered two medieval ditches; a ditch which was post-medieval or earlier; one post-medieval ditch; and a modern service trench. The medieval ditches probably predate the construction of Latchford House and are most likely to be contemporaneous with the earlier occupation of the medieval settlement of Latchford. The later features are more likely to be contemporaneous with Latchford House as the manor house and garden developed through the late medieval, post-medieval, and modern periods. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-507992

Great Haseley, Latchford Lane SP 6568 0147

DR BRANDON BRAUN

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at Latchford House, Latchford Lane, Great Haseley; the watching brief was preceded by an archaeological evaluation. A planning application had been

approved to demolish the garage and a portion of the manor house, to extend the manor house to the north, and to erect a new garage. An archaeologist watched the digging of footing trenches and reduction of ground level to the north of the manor house and the garden wall, and the digging of footing trenches for a new garage. No archaeological features were observed near the manor house. Three medieval to post-medieval ditches were encountered in the footing trenches for the garage. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-511424

Kidlington, Langford Lane SP 6434 2754

CHRISTOPHER WHITEHEAD

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at London Oxford Airport Tech Park, Langford Lane, Kidlington. The purpose of the watching brief was for the monitoring of the excavation of 15 geotechnical trial pits as a consideration of a proposal for the construction of new accommodation. During the course of the trial pit excavations, only a series of modern made-ground layers, services and a foundation cut were uncovered. No archaeological remains from any earlier period were uncovered. OASIS ID: johnmoor1_508438

Long Wittenham, St Marys Church SU 5485 9404

SCOTT GORDON

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at St Mary's Church, Long Wittenham during the removal of two pews in order to improve access. The watching brief investigated two areas beneath the pew platforms at the east end of the nave, and uncovered pew foundation walls of possible medieval date; a post-medieval brick barrel vault; and layers relating to the post-medieval period. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-504809

Old Marston, Alan Court SP 5262 0890

CHRISTOPHER WHITEHEAD

John Moore Heritage Services carried out a building survey on Alan Court, 13 Mill Lane, Old Marston. This was followed by an observation of the building after opening up, and also a watching brief during excavations for an area of ground reduction, service trenches and manhole drains.

The building is located on the corner between Mill Lane and Ponds Lane and is historically the location of the Home Farm that was attached to the Manor House, which was located on the north side of Ponds Lane. The manor was a sub-manor of Headington and the church a chapel of Headington Church.

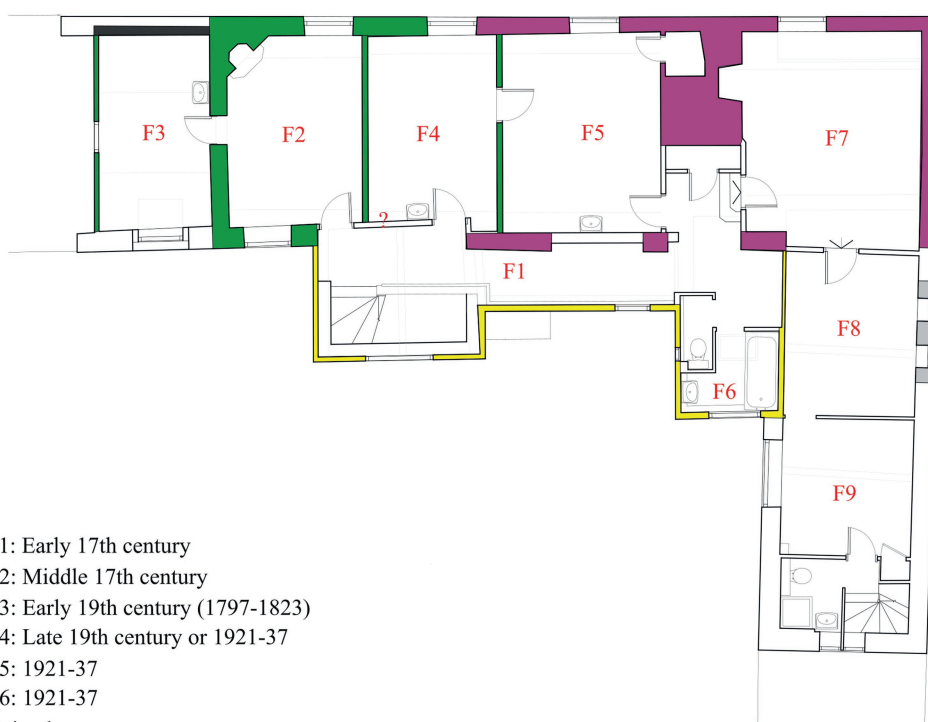
The Home Farm, now Alan Court, survives as a roughly L-shape building externally appearing to be made of stone, but with internal parts of brick and even some timber frame walling. In the curtilage is the remains of a barn.

Historically it is possible to suggest that the west range of the building was probably constructed as part of two early 17th phases. This saw the construction of a two-unit structure with a subsequent extension. In the early 19th century a north and east range were added. The fourth phase saw the moving and rearrangement of certain walls internally either in the late 19th or early 20th century. Phases 5 and 6 could be part of the same phase but are distinguished by their bricks. These phases occurred in the time 1921–37.

Ground floor



First floor



Key

- Phase 1: Early 17th century
- Phase 2: Middle 17th century
- Phase 3: Early 19th century (1797-1823)
- Phase 4: Late 19th century or 1921-37
- Phase 5: 1921-37
- Phase 6: 1921-37
- Uncertain phase

Alan Court; Phase Plan

0 2.5 5 7.5 10m

Figure 15: Old Marston, Alan Court Phase Plan [full facing page]

The barn was constructed in its current form 1845–76. The brick structure was constructed to the west in the same time period, and a later structure on the east side.

The watching brief did not identify any significant archaeological features or deposits, only modern services and a concrete slab. OASIS ID: johnmoor1_507023

Oxfordshire

Oxford, Court Place Gardens SP 5270 0335

GRACE GRIFFITH AND SCOTT GORDON

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at Land at Court Place Gardens ahead of the erection of 71 dwellings. The evaluation comprised 13 trenches measuring approximately 1.75m wide, and between 11m and 21m long. A pit and possible ditch were uncovered in Trench 7, but both features remain undated. No other features of archaeological significance were revealed, though a large quantity of 1970s house foundations and modern services were observed, which truncated much of the site. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-509099

Oxford, Littlemore Park SP 5370 0230

SCOTT GORDON

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at Littlemore Park, Littlemore, Oxford. While archaeological trenching has been carried out on this site previously, further evaluation trenching was requested by the Oxford City Council's Archaeologist. This stage of evaluation work comprised four trenches measuring approximately 2m wide and 20m long. Trenches 2 and 4 did not uncover any archaeological horizons or features, although modern services and foundations were uncovered in all the trenches, relating to the site's varied recent use. Trench 1 contained an undated posthole which may have been machine-dug. Trench 3 contained the only dateable pre-modern feature encountered, which was a shallow ditch probably dating to the medieval period; its function is unclear. No features or artefacts relating to the prehistoric or Roman periods were identified, and no evidence for the previously-identified palaeochannel/silted hollow was seen. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-510735

Oxford, Oxford Science Park SP 5441 0232

CHRISTOPHER WHITEHEAD AND ALESSANDRO GUAGGENTI

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at Plot 27, Oxford Science Park, Littlemore. The purpose of the archaeological watching brief was to further establish the character and extent of archaeological remains across this site and help model any sensitivities regarding waterlogged remains, through the excavation of 25 test pits. These works relate to the pre application for a new science/office building and car park as well as a proposed new Thames Water Sewage Pumping Station. Masonry was identified in two of the hand dug test pits in the centre of the site. Furthermore, the potential continuation of a 15th century wall foundation was found as well as a surface associated with an external area located between buildings associated with the priory and a large ditch. In the north of the site a peat sequence was identified in BH.101. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-510414

Oxford, Oxford Science Park SP 5441 0232

CHRISTOPHER WHITEHEAD AND ALESSANDRO GUAGGENTI

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at Plot 27, Oxford Science Park, Littlemore, Oxfordshire. The purpose of the evaluation was to further establish the character and extent of remains associated with the 12th – 16th century Littlemore Priory, the prehistoric peat deposits and the confluence of Littlemore Brook, activity associated

with earlier Roman and post-medieval periods and the remains (if any) of significant waterlogged material. These evaluation works relate to the pre-application proposal for new office/laboratory building, car park and landscaping. A total of 18 evaluation trenches were excavated, the 18th trench a contingency, following the extensive remains uncovered throughout the initial 17 trenches.

A single Roman ditch was uncovered, as well as a large quantity of residual Roman pottery. A series of medieval buildings were uncovered, some of which were previously unknown. A total of four medieval buildings were further established. Additional characterisation of a previously recorded 'moat'-ditch, as well as the extent of the priory precinct wall and the possible foundations of a Dovecote structure were established.

Post-medieval remains included a series of robber-trenches targeting the stone of the pre-existing structures, as well as a series of ditches, pits and postholes associated with continued use of the site area. Later modern pits show the proposed site area had recent history of use as a refuse dump. Evidence of the prehistoric peats could not be established, despite deep sondage excavations into the natural geology within trenches in the south-western part of the site area, to establish the depths of the clay horizons. OASIS ID: johnmoor1_510125

Oxford, St. Andrews Lane, Headington SP 5450 0769

GAVIN DAVIS

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief and historic building recording during renovations at St. Andrews Lane. The archaeological watching brief recorded a series of deposits and structures, comprising walls and foundations, which related to the continued development of the house and garden. The earliest archaeological deposits were interpreted as garden soils, relating to the use of the garden prior to the construction of the garage; these deposits were truncated by walls dating to the late medieval period or later. Overlying these was a series of modern deposits and structures, relating to the most recent use of the garage.

The removal of the staircase revealed no historical horizons, and did not impact upon, or reveal, any historic building fabrics. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-503417

Oxford, Warren Crescent SP 5480 0590

GRACE GRIFFITH

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at land east of Warren Crescent, Oxford. The watching brief comprised the archaeological monitoring of excavations in the area of the swale, as well as the excavation of the footings for Plots 1–6 (the northern three houses). Deeply stratified made ground and occupation layers were encountered above the natural geology, likely all dating to the post-medieval to modern periods. No finds, features, or deposits relating to the Roman period were uncovered, despite the proximity of a previously identified Roman kiln. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-379441

Preston Crowmarsh, Crowmarsh Battle Farm

SU 6168 9066

ALESSANDRO GUAGGENTI

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological evaluation at Land north of No.84, Crowmarsh Battle Farm. A single trench measuring 20m in length by 1.65m in width was located across the area of the proposed development. Two parallel ditches were identified in the south-western side of the trench. The smaller, most southerly failed to produce finds which allowed for conclusive dating, although a single sherd of modern glass was identified in the upper fill but is likely intrusive. The larger ditch contained more significant amounts of archaeological material, all from the lower fill, and including pottery which dated the ditch to the 13th century. No archaeology was seen in the centre of the trench, although evidence of rooting could be seen to have disturbed the natural. To the north-eastern side of the trench, the south-east corner of a heavily degraded chalk wall was identified, running east west and returning northwards. A fragment of modern grey glazed brick found within fill in the construction cut, and on comparison with historic maps, it seems that this may relate to a small structure which occupied the site in the late 19th to early 20th century. No associated external or internal deposits were identified with this structure. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-511041

Stanford in the Vale, Cottage Road SU 3349 9378

SCOTT GORDON

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation on a former agricultural field, located on the northwest periphery of Stanford in the Vale. Preliminary excavation of 8 trenches was undertaken to assess the potential archaeological features identified by the geophysical survey of the area; a further 21 trenches will be excavated in due course. Many of the anomalies identified by the geophysical survey did not present themselves as below-ground features during this stage of the evaluation. However, the excavations of Trenches 4 and 7 uncovered three ditches which dated to the prehistoric period. Two of these ditches contained pottery which was more precisely dated to the Iron Age and middle Iron Age. The pottery was similar to that which has been recovered from nearby prehistoric settlements, such as those found at Hatford Quarry. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-509923

Upton, Stream Road SU 5132 8680

ALESSANDRO GUAGGENTI

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at Thistledome, Upton, Didcot. The purpose of this work was to monitor for any archaeological remains which had the potential to be disturbed during the course of groundworks being undertaken at the site. During the course of this work it was evident that the site had been heavily truncated at the time of the construction of the current house. No archaeological features or material were encountered during these groundworks. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-510979

Wallingford, Brewhouse Yard SU 6053 8941

CHRISTOPHER WHITEHEAD

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at the Wallingford Portcullis Social Club (now called Brewhouse Yard), 28 & 29 Goldsmiths Lane, Wallingford. The purpose of the evaluation was for the demolition, part demolition,

redevelopment and change of use of the Portcullis Club building & No 29 to provide 14 residential units. During the course of the evaluation trench excavations, a series of modern drains and soakaways were uncovered, as well as an undated posthole, undated pit and modern refuse pit. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-504201

Wallingford, Castle Street SU 6072 8964

CHRISTOPHER WHITEHEAD

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at The Elms, 16 Castle Street, Wallingford. The purpose of the watching brief was for the monitoring of foundation trench excavations for a new single storey extension. During the course of the watching brief excavations a post-medieval stone and brick-built well was uncovered as well as an undated buried soil deposit. No other significant archaeological features or deposits were observed. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-505076

Weston-on-the-Green, Kemsley Farm SP 5272 2048

SCOTT GORDON

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at Kemsley Farm, Weston-on-the-Green, Oxfordshire, ahead of the proposed development of an equestrian centre. Of the 19 trenches excavated, 10 did not uncover any archaeological horizons or features, and a further three only uncovered features which were deemed or suspected to be of natural origin. A number of pitched stone land drains were uncovered across the development area, which may date to the post-medieval period. Several other undated ditches and pits were observed in the southern half of the site, some of which corresponded to the locations of anomalies detected in the geophysical survey. No horizons, features, or finds relating to the prehistoric or Roman periods were discovered. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-504742

Yarnton, Church Lane SP 4769 1197

ALESSANDRO GUAGGENTI

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at 6 Church Lane, Yarnton during excavation of footing trenches for a single storey extension to the rear of the property. During the watching brief for this development a single undated stone wall was identified running perpendicular to the house and parallel to the boundary wall of the property. OASIS ID: johnmoor1-509863

**NORTH OXON ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP
2022****Swalcliffe Upper Lea, Round Hill** SP 385 394

EDWARD SHAWYER

In 1997 we discovered a Roman pottery scatter extending over a fair part of two fields, the northern one belonging to Upper Lea farm and the southern one to Lower Lea farm (Breaklands). We surveyed the site and later in 2004 carried out a small excavation in the southern field. (see SMA no 35, 2005, pp.60–62). Later on, in 2018 we dug a few small trenches in the northern one. The excavations revealed a stone cobbled yard, part of a wall and floor surfaces in the lower lea site, while a burnt clay floor covered by 6cms of charcoal and burning was found in the 2018 Upper lea dig.

Oxfordshire

The finds in the charcoal layer were all roman and nothing later.

There were a number of worked flints and Iron Age pottery in the northern half of the Upper Lea field, which along with a patch of darker soil hinted at Prehistoric occupation. So in 2021–2022 we contracted Abingdon Archaeological Geophysics (AAG) to survey the Upper Lea field for us (see also AAG summary above).

Roger Ainslie tried Resistivity, but it didn't work well in the local conditions, so he tried Magnetometry, which worked very well. The northern half of the field revealed rectangular enclosures bounded by double, parallel ditches within which were sub-circular enclosures around 28m in diameter, which in turn probably contain round houses.

The lower, central part of the field where the roman pottery scatter was however, had a great confusion of ditches which hints at it being a multi-phase site. Within this area there are indications of daub and some small structures. Our previous trenches or test-pits in the vicinity didn't expose any walls, so it is likely that there were only wooden buildings in this part of the site.

Lastly, a large circular enclosure was detected in the South-West corner of the field, which might be a round barrow. To date no structure older than the Iron age has been found at Swalcliffe Lea, although Tim Allen believes that Madmarston hillfort, which is adjacent to the Roundhill site, had Bronze age origins.

The report is in the Archaeology Data Service grey literature library at <https://doi.org/10.5284/1101346>

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH

Abingdon, Abingdon School, Austin House
SU 49444 97443

CHARLOTTE HOWSAM

Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological excavation in February 2022 at the site of a proposed new extension to Austin House, Abingdon School. Earlier investigations by Leicester University for Abingdon School had found Roman and medieval remains (Evans and Excell 1997; 1999), and trial-trench evaluation of the site in 2019 had established the presence of medieval and post-medieval remains, comprising ditches and pits. The excavated area, totalling c 0.07ha, was subsequently targeted upon these remains in the centre of the development site (Fig. 16).

The majority of features encountered on site dated to the medieval and post-medieval periods, with only small quantities of residual Roman and late Saxon pottery suggestive of occupation in the wider landscape during these periods. Evidence of medieval activity comprised a group of ditches, suggesting a rectilinear arrangement of enclosures, and a small number of pits alongside. Domestic pottery dating from AD 1050–1250, comprising 99 sherds of almost entirely unglazed coarsewares in a restricted range of relatively local fabrics, came from both pits and ditches. The absence of glazed wares may indicate a date before the end of this range or may reflect the low status of the site. A similar-sized assemblage of well-preserved animal bones (92), some with evidence of butchery and many with signs of gnawing, came mainly from the pits, reinforcing the picture of domestic occupation on or adjacent to the site. The animal bones were of the main domesticates: cattle, sheep, goat and pig, and of dog. Charred plant remains were

heavily mineralised, but included bread wheat and barley, typical of the period. The only other medieval find was a redeposited single fragment of glazed roof tile.

A group of five postholes alongside one of the E-W medieval ditches probably formed a rectangular structure (Fig. 17, Building 1112). A combination of soil patches in the natural and uneven truncation may explain why a sixth posthole was not identified. There was no pottery from the postholes, but charred wheat grains from the fill of posthole 1039 were radiocarbon dated to cal AD 1035–1210 at 95% confidence (Beta-644068; 920 ± 30 BP). While it is possible that these were redeposited from the adjacent medieval ditch, it is believed that they provide a genuine date for the structure, as the structure is aligned with the ditch. The building measures only 3m by 2m, so would be very small for a dwelling, and may alternatively have been used as an outhouse or to shelter animals.

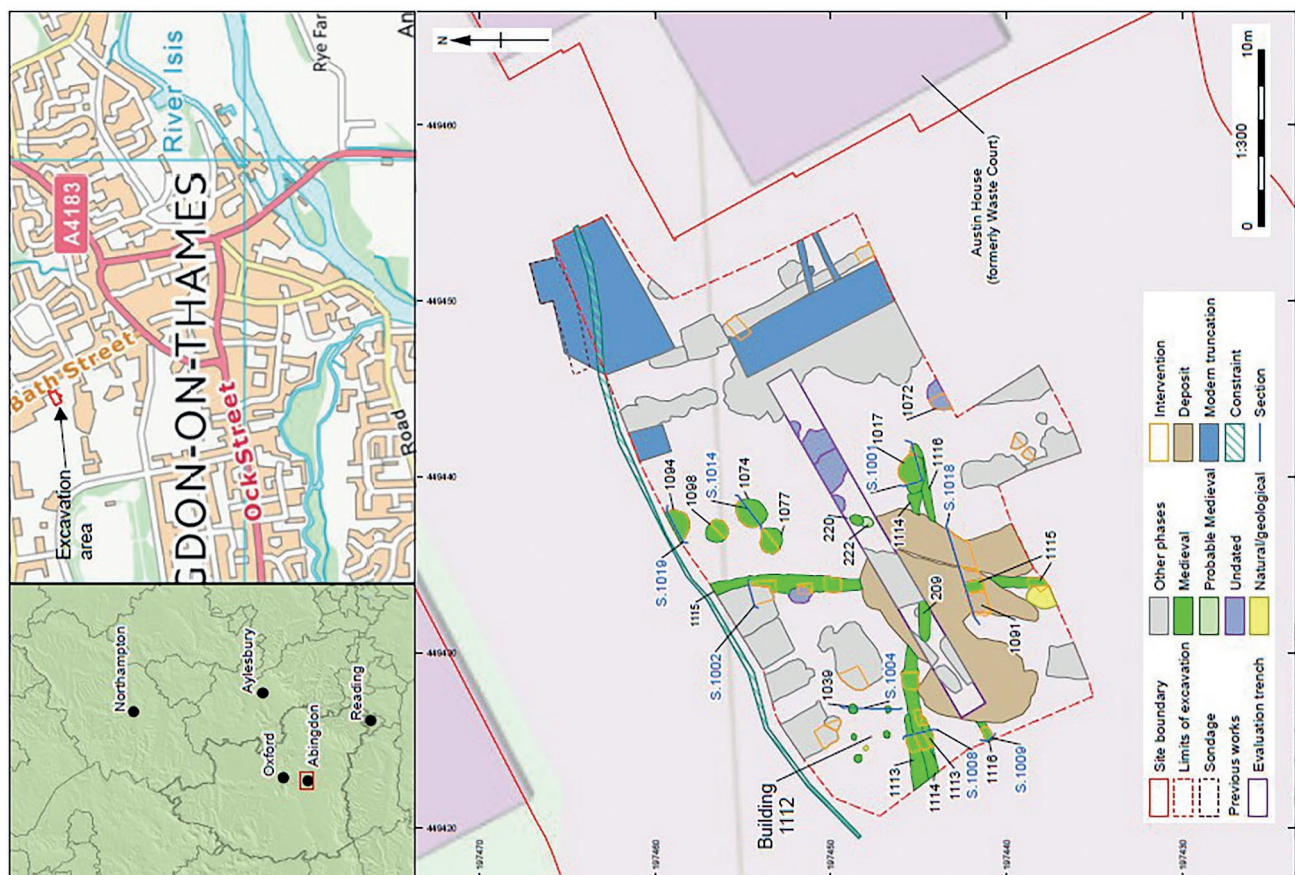
The ditches were not very wide or deep barriers but may have been supplemented by banks or hedges alongside. The inter-cutting nature of the medieval ditches indicates that activity within this period was not limited to a single phase. There was probably originally a gap in the south-east corner of the north-western enclosure, as earlier ditch 1113 ended 7m short of ditch 1115. This was later closed by the digging of ditch 1114. The adjacent ends of ditches 1114 and 1116 show a definite gap or entrance east of this, though later disturbance prevented determining whether the ditch system continued further eastwards. Together with the finds and environmental remains, it is probable that the medieval features represent small-scale occupation and agriculture on the west side of Bath Street, at the edge of the medieval town of Abingdon. The N-S by E-W alignment of the enclosures does not however match the modern alignment of Bath Street to the east, and it is possible that the road, which only has unequivocal evidence of medieval tenement occupation alongside it further south at Nos. 62, 64 and 66–8 (Ainslie 1995; WA 1992), has shifted alignment over time.

The pottery and clay tobacco pipe assemblages suggest there was a hiatus in activity on site between the later 13th century and the mid- to late 17th century. The post-medieval features recorded during the excavation appear to have been 18th to 19th century in date and predominately related to quarrying and subsequent waste disposal. These quarries may have been related to the construction of Waste Court (now Austin House) itself, as they mostly predated the construction of Abingdon School in the later 19th century. A possible garden feature and levelling deposit were also identified.

A complete report including the specialist contributions can be found on the online OA Library at <https://library.oxfordarchaeology.com/6565/>

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Oxfordshire

Abingdon, Abingdon School, Beech Court Pavilion
SU 49443 97349
STEVE TEAGUE

In February 2022, Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation at Abingdon School in advance of a proposed new building. Four trenches revealed several ditches, one possibly of Roman date, the others undated, and several pits of post-medieval date including two probable quarry pits. Medieval pottery was also recovered, indicating domestic activity in the vicinity. A brick-built structure and a horse burial, both likely to have been associated with the late 19th century school, were also revealed.

Adderbury, Berry Hill Road SP 4692 3487
TAMSIN JONES

In early June 2022, Oxford Archaeology undertook a trial-trench evaluation on the site of a proposed housing development at Berry Hill Road, Adderbury. The works comprised the excavation of 26 trenches, some targeting features recorded during the geophysical survey.

Eleven of the twenty-six trenches contained archaeological remains, with a well-defined concentration of archaeological remains in the south-western area of the site. This dense area of archaeological activity included a D-shaped enclosure and three rectilinear enclosures, several ditches, and pits indicating a mixed agricultural and domestic settlement. Although a small, residual assemblage of Neolithic and early Bronze Age flint was present, the features predominantly dated to the Iron Age.

Other geophysical anomalies to the north were found to correspond with natural and geological variations. No significant archaeological remains were identified in the north of the site. A circular cropmark feature was also investigated in a contingency trench but was found to correspond with a change in the natural geology.

Ambrosden, Ploughley Road SP 60383 19978
DAN POND and GERRY THACKER

In September 2022, Oxford Archaeology carried out a trial-trench evaluation to the north of Ploughley Road, to the north of Ambrosden. The evaluation comprised 28 trenches. The site sits on an area of higher limestone bedrock in the west, dropping down onto mudstone geology in the east. The majority of features were located on the limestone ridge and represent a range of archaeological periods. A small number of residual flint tools of early Neolithic date suggest ephemeral activity perhaps related to hide processing, wood working and plant processing. A single ditch contained pottery of early Bronze Age date. Further ditches and a number of small pits contained Iron Age or Roman material. Larger, more amorphous, flat-based pits of Iron Age and Roman date are interpreted as limestone quarries. It is probable that the Iron Age and Roman activity is peripheral to any settlement of these dates. Another flat-bottomed pit contained early Anglo-Saxon pottery and Roman reduced wares that may have been curated. This pit may be a sunken-featured building, and a similar feature in the same trench that was not investigated may represent a second example.

Benson, Hale Road SU 61673 92274
ROSIE FLETCHER and ALEX DAVIES

Oxford Archaeology carried out an excavation of an area c.2.2ha at Hale Road which uncovered Neolithic and Bronze Age features, and part of a probable Roman road. Post-excavation is ongoing, although preliminary results demonstrate around eight late Neolithic pits with associated flintwork, Grooved Ware pottery, worked bone objects and an animal bone assemblage that is dominated by pig. A series of pits containing abundant burnt flint include one with an associated radiocarbon date probably belonging to the first half of the 16th century cal BC (early/middle Bronze Age), and these appear to belong to burnt mound-type activity.

The edge of a multi-phased middle Bronze Age field system was also uncovered, comprising ditches and a waterhole (Fig. 18), complimenting the more extensive middle Bronze Age evidence at the Littleworth Road site immediately to the west, excavated by TVAS. A late Bronze Age settlement was also found, comprising a post-built roundhouse and subsidiary features. Iron Age features were lacking, although a substantial ditch with an adjacent gravel surface was excavated at the edge of the site, running adjacent and parallel to Hale Road. These features could be dated to the Roman period and appear to belong to a Roman road aligned NW-SE linking the Roman road running through Benson with that going north from Dorchester.

Bicester, Old Place Yard, former Bicester Library
SP 5837 2221
PAUL MURRAY

Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation a watching brief during the excavation of four test pits within a former library. The evaluation was conducted over the course of two days on the 18th and 19th of May 2021.

A stone surface was recorded overlying the soil surface, possibly representing a road or courtyard. Ceramic tile recovered from the surface dates to the 15th–16th centuries, and this may have been an access track to Bicester Priory. Horseshoe drains dated to the 19th century were also recorded in both trenches.

It was not possible to conduct a watching brief during the excavation of the test pits as asbestos insulation material was discovered during the breaking out of the concrete surface at two test pit locations, following which all work was stopped.

Chesterton, Burnehyll Community Woodland
SP 562 219
LEE SPARKS

In August 2020, Oxford Archaeology carried out a 15-trench archaeological evaluation to the south-west of Bicester at the site of a proposed change of use from agricultural land to community woodland. The evaluation confirmed the presence of archaeological remains in the area identified on the preceding geophysical survey. A trench in the southern corner of site contained a prehistoric ditch and a second, undated ditch. Other features identified in the geophysical survey were found to be natural features.

Drayton, Drayton Lodge Farm SP 4313 4257

JO MCKENZIE and ALEX DAVIES

Oxford Archaeology carried out excavations in **2021** at the site of Drayton Lodge Farm, to the north-west of Banbury.

Evidence for early prehistoric activity was relatively limited, comprising a single Neolithic pit, and a small suite of nearby Bronze Age to early Iron Age pits and postholes forming a boundary fence, an associated roundhouse, and a small number of adjacent features. A possible oven of the same period was also found.

Activity intensified in the early to middle Iron Age. A cluster of c 80 pits was found in the southern part of the site (Area 4), adjacent to an enclosure. Two inhumation burials were discovered in the pits, alongside some large pottery groups. The focus of the settlement shifted to the north-west in the middle Iron Age (Area 2 and 3), where large areas of pitting and enclosure were discovered representing a significant settlement. This included a linear pit group, replaced by a ditch, and roundhouses represented by penannular and circular enclosure ditches. Further burials were discovered, including a grave with two individuals. Two large stone-lined pits were discovered, one containing a large pottery deposit and charred plant remains. This settlement developed through the late Iron Age with further enclosures.

There was limited evidence of early Roman activity, although a field system was constructed across most of the excavation area in the middle to late Roman period. Next to the field system, a focus of additional activity was found in the area of Iron Age activity comprising larger enclosure ditches, surrounding a series of occupation horizons featuring a possible threshing floor and adjacent corn dryer. Millstones also attest to the intensification of cereal production at the site during this period, probably related to two nearby villas.

The most significant evidence dates to the Anglo-Saxon period. The field system in the eastern part of the site (Area 1) continues the alignment of the Roman system, although dating evidence is overwhelmingly early-middle Anglo-Saxon, suggesting a continued use of the field system, perhaps even its expansion, through the 5th century. A group of sunken-featured buildings was found to the south of the field system, which appears to be of early Anglo-Saxon date and possibly associated with use of the field system (Fig. 19). There was then an abrupt change in the pattern of occupation with the field system apparently abandoned, replaced by a significant group of sunken features buildings. Two or three of these buildings appear to have burnt down, perhaps leaving an in situ finds assemblages, including a group of loomweights and rich environmental evidence indicating partly processed cereals. Metalwork and worked bone objects show evidence of weaving and other domestic activities, as well as evidence for metalworking. The site was then abandoned in the middle Anglo-Saxon period.

Gosford, East of Kidlington SP 50233 12632

MARK DODD

Oxford Archaeology carried out a trial trench evaluation on the site of a proposed residential development to the east of Kidlington. The work comprised the excavation of 106 trenches that were located to test the results of a geophysical survey. The fieldwork was carried out between November and December **2021**.

A total of 42 trenches contained archaeological features. The earliest finds discovered during the evaluation consisted of a small assemblage of worked flint dating to the late Mesolithic/early Neolithic period. Although these were recovered as residual finds from later features, the condition and distribution of the flints indicates they probably derived from a single episode of activity. Later prehistoric evidence was entirely absent from the site.

The earliest datable features were attributed to the 1st century AD. The central field contained a complex of ditched enclosures which were primarily in use during the early to middle Roman period, although activity appears to have continued to some degree in the later Roman period.

Trackways led out from the enclosure complex to the northeast and southwest and some peripheral zones of contemporary activity were also revealed. These were primarily focused to the southeast and the southern tip of the site. Overall, the Roman evidence on the site is consistent with the presence of a rural farmstead. Medieval evidence was limited to a pit in the northern part of the site which dated to the 13th to 16th centuries. There was also widespread evidence for ridge and furrow earthworks across the site which are likely to be medieval or later in date. Three undated pits containing the remains of un-urned cremations were also recorded along the southeastern edge of the site. Although these are likely to have been contemporary with the Roman activity on site, a late prehistoric date is also possible, despite an absence of any evidence on the site for activity during this period.

North Aston, North Aston Hall SP 48047 28941

JOHN BOOTHROYD

In late August 2022, Oxford Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation at North Aston Hall. The evaluation comprised the excavation of a single 30m long trench within the footprint of a proposed basement extension. The evaluation revealed a number of pits, a ditch and two walls. Dating evidence was limited from most features, but 13th century pottery was recovered from one of the pits. The features are probably associated with the medieval origins of North Aston, including the 14th century church located immediately adjacent to the site.

Oxford, Broad Street, former Boswells Department

Store SP 51296 06419

DEIRDRE FORDE

Oxford Archaeology undertook a programme of historic building recording in **2021** prior to and during the conversion of Boswells Department Store to a hotel. The former Boswells Store is located at 1–5 Broad Street and links through to 31 Cornmarket Street. The main building, Boswells House, was constructed in 1929 for H Boswell & Co Ltd with offices and a restaurant upstairs above the main department store.

Oxford, Clarendon Centre SP 5123 0624

KIRSTY SMITH

Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief in January **2023** on a borehole excavation at 3 Clarendon Centre, Queen Street, Oxford. The results indicate that a series of post-medieval and modern made ground deposits



Figure 18: Middle Bronze Age waterhole, looking north-west



Figure 19: The northern-eastern part of the site (Area 1) looking south with Roman field systems and Anglo-Saxon sunken-featured buildings

overly the natural gravels in this part of the site. Natural gravel was encountered at 58.4m AOD.

Oxford, Folly Bridge, Arch 4, Phase 2 SP 51446 05513

PAUL MURRAY

Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief in April 2022 during repairs to Arch 4 of the Grade II listed Folly Bridge, Abingdon Road, Oxford. The watching brief recorded a probable curb and the upper structure of the bridge's arch, apparently constructed when the bridge was widened.

Both structures probably related to a horse-tram system built in the 19th century. The extension to the line that crossed Folly Bridge was opened in 1887. Most of the lines were single-tracked, although the Ordnance Survey map of 1900 shows a double-track loop on Folly Bridge. The tracks are shown to encompass the entire width of the bridge except pavements on either side, with the tracks passing close to the curbs. It is probable that the bridge was widened at this time to accommodate the double-track loop, with the probable curb constructed to define the footpath.

Oxford, Jesus College, Northgate House SP 5132 0630

ANDREW SIMMONDS and ADAM FELLINGHAM

Oxford Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological investigation from January to September 2020 prior to the redevelopment of Northgate House at 13–20 Cornmarket Street, Oxford. Most of the site had been basemented when a Marks & Spencer store was built during the early 1960s, and the potential for archaeological remains was limited to the peripheral areas, and in particular the Fellows' Garden, a narrow strip of undeveloped land along the eastern edge of the development area. In addition to the main trench in the Fellows' Garden, watching briefs were maintained during ground reduction for a new electricity substation and during excavation of an associated service conduit in the south-eastern corner of the site and of a number of service trenches, including trenches in Market Street and Cornmarket Street.

The watching briefs recorded three shallow pits in the electricity substation trench that may be late Saxon in date, and a larger number of more substantial pits that dated from c 1075–1250. Charred plant remains from the latter may derive from accidental burning of grain stores. Of similar date was the pottery from a sequence of gravel surfaces uncovered in Market Street, which may be some of the earliest phases of this throughfare.

The excavation in the Fellows' Garden extended only to the formation depth of the development and did not reach the bottom of the archaeological sequence. The earliest deposits exposed here date from the late 16th century, and the sequence was sealed by the construction of the garden in 1683. The main feature of the excavation was the eastern end of a rectangular building, within which were three ovens that had been backfilled with metalworking slag, perhaps providing evidence for their function. The building and its associated stone yard with integral well form a coherent group with an apparent artisanal use, possibly including but not limited to metalworking, and have potential to contribute to the understanding of the use and layout of rear plots in this more commercial part of the town during the early post-medieval period.

Oxford, Littlegate Street, Oxford Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre SP 51207 05841

ADAM FELLINGHAM

Oxford Archaeology carried two phases of evaluation trenching at the site of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre, Oxford, in November 2020 and March to April 2022. The site is located at the northern end of the medieval Blackfriars Priory (c 1246–1538), which was partially excavated in the 1960s–80s, and synthesis of these investigations produced an indicative plan of the precinct and the buildings (Lambrick and Wood 1976; Lambrick 1985).

Trench 1 was the most northerly trench, and it was located adjacent to the cemetery boundary wall of the Blackfriars. Within this area of site medieval archaeology was encountered at 56.10m OD. This consisted of two phase of construction deposits and surfaces associated with a possible mason's yard. This was overlain by a possible late medieval wall.

Trenches 2 and 3 were located 10m south and 15m south-west of Trench 1 respectively. Both trenches were targeted over the projected medieval walls which formed part of a possible porch to the priory as mapped by Lambrick (1985). Within these trenches surviving medieval remains relating to the priory were encountered at 56.10m OD. These include walls, gravel and limestone surfaces, graves containing in-situ human remains, as well as post-dissolution garden soils. These have survived in a well-preserved state despite post-medieval and modern disturbances. Post-medieval tanning pits were also recorded.

During Phase 2, three additional trenches (4–6) were excavated adjacent to Trenches 2 and 3 to further identify the exact positions of human skeletal remains and graves. This work was undertaken to inform a foundation and drainage design that would avoid impacting any such remains.

Trench 6 contained substantial limestone foundation walls (heavily robbed in places) forming part of the possible porch at the western end of the north aisle. Gravel surfaces (probably external) survived in patches to the west and north of these structures. A significant number of intercutting, east-west orientated graves containing in situ skeletal remains were recorded within this trench. Some of these graves truncated the stone foundations of the possible porch, indicating a change in use of the area probably associated with the rebuilding of the west end of the church.

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Oxford, Life and Mind Building (Tinbergen Building) SP 5185 0687

ADAM FELLINGHAM

Oxford Archaeology undertook a series of investigations in 2020 and 2021 prior to the development of the Life and Mind Building (formerly the Tinbergen Building), Oxford. This followed on from an investigation in 2016 which recorded part of the city's Civil War defences on this site (Simmonds et al. 2020).

The first stage of this was a watching brief in January and February 2020 within the demolition works compound.

Oxfordshire

No archaeological deposits were observed in this area, probably due to truncation by the Tinbergen Building. A trial-trench evaluation of 13 trenches was undertaken in April 2021 encompassing the northern end of the site, and an extension of the works compound. The trenches in the works compound confirmed the alignment of the Civil War ditch and an additional trench was excavated within the original compound in October. A strip, map and sample excavation was subsequently undertaken within the northern area in September and October 2021.

The evaluation trenches recorded a pit containing a flint of probable late Neolithic date, a possible Roman ditch, Civil War defensive features and post-medieval and 19th century deposits. The Civil War defensive ditch was revealed within four trenches providing confirmation of the layout and position of the levelled earthworks shown on the maps of De Gomme (1644) and Loggan (1675). The only features recorded in the SMS area were two post-medieval ditches.

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Oxford, New College, Gradel Quad, Mansfield Road, Gas Main and Meter Enclosure

SP 5172 0672

ROBIN BASHFORD

Oxford Archaeology carried out a watching brief in April to June 2022 during groundworks to install a new gas main adjacent to Savile House, Mansfield Road. This was part of the Gradel Quadrangle Project for New College. The watching brief revealed part of the geological sequence on the periphery of the second gravel terrace, and a probable buried soil which overlay it. The remainder of the deposits encountered were either associated with the construction of Mansfield Road from the late 19th century onwards or modern buildings.

Oxford, New Road, Castle Hill House SP 51060 06210

JOHN CARNE

Oxford Archaeology monitored geotechnical works, consisting of five test pits and three boreholes, on the site of Castle Hill House in October **2018**. The building was formerly the Central Oxford Conservative Club and is proposed for new student accommodation. The test pits were designed to investigate the current buildings' foundations and revealed only recent and late post-medieval and modern deposits. The boreholes were all located over the north-eastern corner of the former bailey ditch of Oxford Castle and recorded up to 8m of infilling. The upper fills of the ditch contained occasional finds of post-medieval date.

Oxford, Norham Gardens SP 51510 07516

MARK DODD

Oxford Archaeology carried out a trial trench evaluation at the site of a proposed development for St Edmund Hall at

17–19 Norham Gardens. The work comprised the excavation of five trenches and was undertaken in May 2022.

The earliest activity on the site was represented by three pieces of struck flint recorded in one trench. Although these were found as residual artefacts, they have been broadly identified as Neolithic to Bronze Age in date.

Several ditches forming part of a rectilinear enclosure system were revealed in two trenches and a small quantity of early to mid-Roman pottery was recovered from one of these ditches. The NE-SW and NW-SE alignments of these ditches match the alignment of cropmark features recorded in University Parks to the south, which suggests they may be contemporaneous. Two larger features of uncertain extent were also revealed in the north-east of the site, but no dating evidence was recovered.

Oxford, Oxford Castle Mound SP 50970620

ADAM FELLINGHAM

Oxford Archaeology undertook a watching brief on repairs to the footpath, landings and steps at the Oxford Castle Mound from July to September **2021**. The watching brief demonstrated that the upper deposits of the mound are probably post-medieval in date, and the works did not intrude into the original 11th-century fabric of the mound.

Oxford, Walton Street, St Paul's House

SP 50677 07120

TAMSIN JONES

Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation at the intersection between Walton Street and Cranham Street in Jericho in early November **2021**. The works comprised monitoring of the removal of concrete foundations and excavation of two trenches. A single pit was uncovered towards the south-western part of the site, and this contained finds dating to the 17th–18th century.

Radley, Twelve Acre Drive SU 5090 9935

DAN POND and MARK DODD

Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation at the site of a proposed development to the north-east of Abingdon. The work comprised the excavation of 84 trenches and was carried out between September and October 2022.

A small assemblage of residual worked flint provided evidence for a very limited presence during the early prehistoric period. Otherwise, the main focus of activity was a well-defined area of middle to late Iron Age features recorded towards the south-west edge of the site. This comprised a series of rectilinear ditches accompanied by a small number of pits containing burnt material. To the south-east of this focus, several parallel ditches were tentatively dated to the Roman period. No further activity was recorded in association with these ditches, and they have been interpreted as either part of trackway or a broader field system. No significant activity was recorded from the post-Roman period, and it is probable that the site was only used for agricultural purposes during this time.

Upper Heyford, Heyford Park, Camp Road

SP 52149 25882

GEORGE GURNEY

Oxford Archaeology carried out a trial-trench evaluation on the site of a proposed residential development on an area east of Upper Heyford in May 2022. This site was located close to a three-mile-long Iron Age boundary earthwork known as Aves Ditch. A geophysical survey was carried out in 2021 which identified a series of potential linear and curvilinear features, mostly to the north of the site.

Thirty-two trenches were positioned to test the features recorded by the geophysical survey. Eleven of these trenches recorded archaeological activity and there was a limited correlation with the geophysical survey results. The majority of the archaeological activity was confined to the north-western corner of the site where several ditches were recorded, and one of these was dated as mid- to late Roman. These ditches probably represent a small enclosure or field system. A single grave on an east-west alignment and containing mid- to late Roman pottery was also identified in the same area.

Woodcote, Church Farm SU 6471 8212

MARIUSZ GORNIK

Oxford Archaeology carried out a five-trench evaluation of the site of a proposed residential development on land at Church Farm in July 2022. Two trenches were positioned to test geophysical survey anomalies including a WNW-ESE aligned linear in one trench and a curvilinear and discrete feature in another trench. No evidence for the latter two anomalies was found, and the only archaeological features recorded in any of the five trenches were the WNW-ESE aligned ditch and an adjacent pit. This ditch was 3.75m wide and 2.1m deep and contained 11th to 12th century pottery sherds throughout. The same trench also contained a pit which produced medieval pottery of the same type. The ditch may have marked the northern edge of the medieval village and the western boundary of Woodcote Common. It could have been equivalent to a forest 'pale', which were usually substantial boundaries designed both to keep trespassers out and to control grazing livestock.

Most of the trenches contained evidence for bioturbation and root disturbance, including possible large tree-throw holes, suggesting that the site was once wooded. As no artefacts were recovered from these natural features, the date at which the woodland was cleared is unknown.

OXFORDSHIRE BUILDINGS RECORD

DAVID CLARK

For most of 2022 the pandemic inhibited group recording work, though a total of 20 buildings were recorded. Our projects in the north of the county continued apace, with the recording of five buildings in Hook Norton. This will feed into the forthcoming Victoria Country History volume for the area. See below for details.

Four houses were recorded in Abingdon, one with likely medieval origins in the town centre, two adjacent properties in Ock Street, and the enigmatic Northcourt Farmhouse, straddling the boundary between St Helen's and St Nicolas' parishes. Three houses were studied in South Stoke, in South Oxfordshire, as part of the research on the vernacular

buildings for the forthcoming Buildings of England volume on the area.

Unusually, we were also invited to record two non-Oxfordshire buildings, one in Beedon (**Berks**) and the other in Weston Turville (**Bucks**), the latter a medieval building with part of its roof reconstructed in the eighteenth century entirely in Baltic softwood, with a remarkable collection of timber-marks. 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 Hall Farmhouse (Begbroke), Manor House (Enstone) and Bainton Manor (Stoke Lyne). Reports on all these buildings will be available in due course at the Oxfordshire History Centre.

Our research project to record Inscribed Dates on buildings has continued to add to our collection, and as of December 2022 there were almost 1350 dates on the database. This is available for viewing on the OBR website: <https://obr.org.uk/date-stones/>

Chipping Norton and Hook Norton

PAUL CLARK

2022 saw the culmination of OBR research projects in Chipping Norton and Hook Norton, the combination of which are now providing new evidence for the contrasting nature of Oxfordshire's historic urban and rural built environments. The first, in Chipping Norton under Historic England's Early Fabric in Historic Towns project, saw a programme of 75 historic building surveys completed, successfully supported by 12 dendrochronological and radio carbon wiggle-match analyses. The second project in Hook Norton, in support of VCH Oxfordshire's new Volume XXIII, resulted in a programme of 37 historic houses surveys.

The two settlements, one a medium size market town, the other a rural village, are only five miles apart and significantly, both are stone-built settlements within the upland limestone belt of north Oxfordshire.

Each of the 102 surveys focused on interpreting the historic development of the building using architectural and, where possible, documentary evidence. Apart from rejecting obviously modern buildings, sample selection was random, governed mostly by residents' willingness to participate. The large sample has highlighted contrasts in the architectural characteristics of the region when compared with the rest of Oxfordshire but has also shown how urban and rural economics have affected local historic building structures, notably in their roof designs.

Cruck vs Framed trusses

In the rural settlement almost 50% of houses surveyed have raised-cruck derived roof forms, where the feet of truss principal rafters extend below the collar to be imbedded within stone walls (Fig. 20). As with full-cruck trusses, these trusses invariably support back purlins. Examples suggest that except for the poorest of structures, this form of truss was being replaced by butt-purlin fully-framed tie-beam trusses (Fig. 21) towards the latter part of the seventeenth century.

In town however, despite surveying twice the number of buildings, only a single example of the raised-cruck form has come to light, amongst the otherwise ubiquitous fully-framed butt-purlin tie-beam truss, examples of which

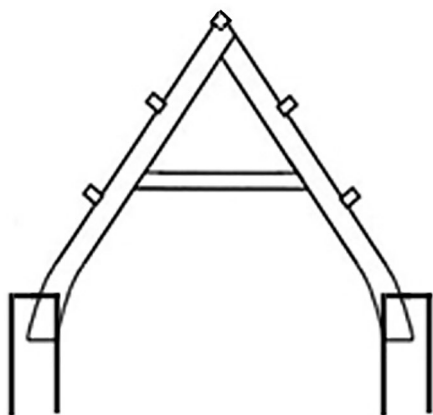


Figure 20: Raised-cruck derived form of roof truss common in Hook Norton

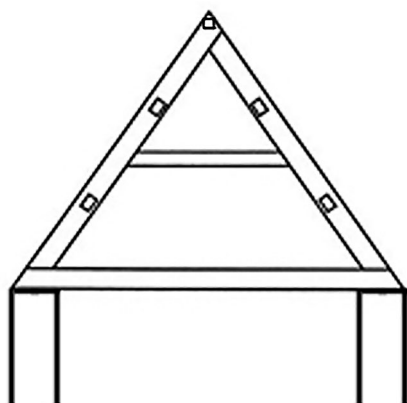


Figure 21: Butt-purlin framed roof truss common in Chipping Norton

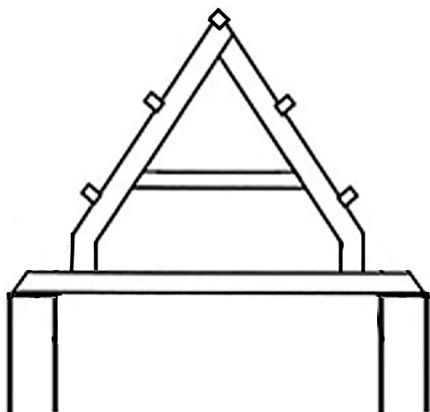


Figure 22: Tie-beam truss with knee principal rafters

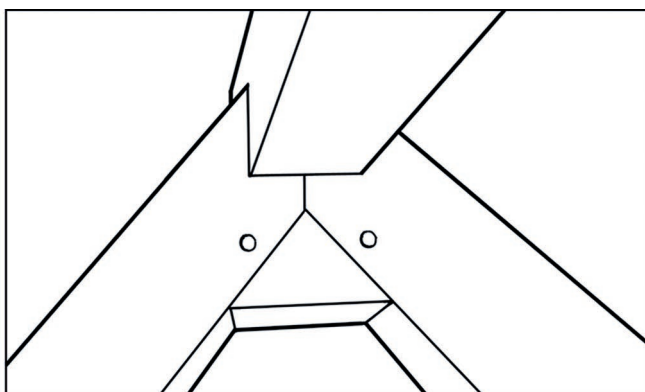


Figure 23: A fifteenth-century framed roof truss butt-apex joint with slip-tenon triangular block

are found from the fifteenth century until the nineteenth century. Even the one example of a raised-cruck truss is found within a butt-purlin framed-truss roof, there used to create space in the middle of a two-bay first-floor hall of AD 1444–77. The building, at 1–5 Spring Street, is thought to have been constructed as a church house. Two fifteenth-century examples of framed tie-beam trusses may have their antecedents in the raised-cruck form as they employ both knee principals and back purlins (Fig. 22). But these are considered the only other possible reference in town to the strong cruck-form tradition just five miles away. The two knee-principal examples are within The Chequers, Goddard's Lane, AD 1444–76 and The Fox Hotel, Market Place, stylistically dated to the same period.

The presence of fully-framed trusses in town compared with the raised-cruck form in the rural settlement is likely to have been influenced by the greater use of stone slate roof covering in town compared with thatch in the village, but it has also been attributed to the differing economic circumstances of the two settlements, where the additional wealth of the town accommodated the greater carpentry skills necessary in the framing process, generally using mortice joints in place of the simpler lap-joints and trenched back-purlins of the raised-cruck form. Also, the relative isolation of the rural settlement probably delayed its adoption of new roof forms until well into the seventeenth century.

Special features of the region's roof trusses

The results of both surveys strongly suggest there were no medieval timber-framed progenitors to the region's stone buildings, which would result in less demand for carpenters than in Oxfordshire's predominantly timber-built areas. This paucity of carpentry skills is likely to be behind the contrasting character of Chipping Norton's early framed trusses. Five fifteenth-century roof structures were surveyed, two with knee principals mentioned above, and three which employ butt apex joints with slip-tenon triangular blocks (Fig. 23).

Two of these trusses have been dendro dated to 1444–77 (1–5 Spring Street,) and 1424–54 (8 Market Street). The third, in Middle Row, is stylistically so similar to the other two that it has been judged also to be fifteenth century. The block feature, which has so far been considered exclusive to cruck trusses, could suggest a reference to that form in its origin. It is, of course, feasible that the feature was the work of one carpenter which could explain its idiosyncrasy, but that does not explain a further notable character of the region's roof trusses which is the complete absence of the clasped-purlin truss, a style which is omnipresent elsewhere

in Oxfordshire. No explanation has yet been found for this regional anomaly apart from maybe these early examples demonstrate the antecedents of region's roof structures bear more allegiance to the cruck tradition than to the timber-framing tradition.

The availability of carpenters, consequent to local economics, may have influenced the local rural/urban divergence but it is more likely it is the difference in wall structures which has influenced the early contrasting style of roof structures between the region and the rest of Oxfordshire.

The incidence of features discussed for each settlement is subject to the limitations of each survey which did not examine all historic buildings, so other examples of features are likely to exist which may affect the conclusions reached.

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL: ARCHAEOLOGY IN OXFORD CITY 2022

DAVID RADFORD, OXFORD CITY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGIST

This year saw two compact but significant excavations within the historic core at Frewin Hall (Brasenose College) and Castle Hill House (St Peter's College) both the result of infilling development within physically constrained college sites and both producing exciting new archaeological discoveries. Elsewhere the current local development trends relating to the provision of hotel capacity, the provision of life science laboratory space and the demand for housing led to significant new information being produced by evaluation trenching. The year saw further evaluation work on the site of the Oxford Blackfriars, which has seen many investigations over the years, this time focusing on the priory church and its cemetery. At the southern edge of the local authority area an evaluation at Littlemore Priory revealed new information about the priory precinct and its buildings. The evaluation exercise at the large Oxpens development site, located just to the east of the site of Osney Abbey, was of a different character, involving borehole work and stepped trenches within the Thames floodplain. Summaries of these and a selection of other sites are provided below.

A selective summary of 2022 fieldwork projects

Between January and March an excavation was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology in the garden of Frewin Hall, New Inn Hall Street, for Brasenose College in advance of the construction a partially sunken student accommodation building. The excavation identified a large well-built wall foundation, likely the remains of the south range of the quadrangle of the fifteenth-sixteenth century St Mary's College, founded for Augustinian canons. To the south several medieval stone buildings and associated features were identified including two kitchen areas, stone lined waste pits, boundary walls and a large stone-built cellared building. A remarkable discovery at the northern end of the site was the remains of an upstanding Bronze Age barrow mound and associated ditch. This had been cut into by pits and subsumed by later soil accumulation. Into the barrow was cut a late Saxon semi-cellared building (Fig. 24) with probable evidence of destruction from fire and another pit containing, likely redeposited human bone that has produced an intriguing eighth-ninth century AD radiocarbon date.

A smaller but significant excavation was also undertaken in central Oxford on the site of the former Castle Hill House

and Conservative Club on New Road within the former Castle Bailey. The substantive excavation work was completed between January and March by Oxford Archaeology and revealed a deep feature underlying the Norman Castle Bailey ditch, which given its orientation and character is a strong candidate for the primary Late-Saxon burh western defensive ditch (Fig. 25). The provisional spot dates from the pottery suggest that the ditch was at least partially infilled during the mid-11th century. The ditch was not bottomed and further work on borehole samples is planned. A further notable observation was that the redeposited Oxford clay lining of the Castle bailey ditch in this location was found to seal a sherd of post-medieval pottery suggesting a Civil War era re-lining of the ditch. In the final stages of the work a bricked-up tunnel that was recorded in documentary sources as running under Bulwarks Lane was revealed. The tunnel formerly linked two properties owned by Daniel Harris, the first Oxford Prison Governor, in the late 18th century. The tunnel entrance is to be preserved behind the new college building.

Between March and April Oxford Archaeology undertook a second phase of evaluation at the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre on Littlegate Street. The evaluation involved the identification of grave cuts associated with the cemetery of the medieval Blackfriars Church so that the foundations of a proposed hotel development could be designed to minimize any impact on these remains. The evaluation revealed the western wall or foundation of a small internal space interpreted as the porch of the friary church.

In May an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology at St Edmund Hall's 17 Norham Gardens site which identified several ditches that likely formed part of a Roman rectilinear enclosure associated with the parch mark complex of features previously recorded in the University Parks to the south.

Between August and September a targeted archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology on the extensive Oxpens Masterplan site located between Oxpens Meadow and Osney Lane. Following electro-magnetic survey work trenching and borehole results were combined to produce a geoarchaeological model of the area. Trenching in the north-western part of the site the trenching revealed two medieval pits, a medieval trackway and a ditch that may be associated with the nearby Osney Abbey.

Trenching in the middle of the site revealed an east-west ditch with an area of raised ground to the north, perhaps the latest phase of part of a network of drainage channels and potentially a causeway route shown on maps from the seventeenth century. A thirteenth-fourteenth century radio-carbon date was produced by the bank like material associated with the possible causeway route but no evidence of metal was recovered. The trenching also demonstrated that the central part of the site was capped by a brickearth-type subsoil which may represent the remains of an intact land surface of probable prehistoric date. Five undiagnostic prehistoric flint tools were recovered from a feature interpreted as a tree-throw hole; the objects appear to have been intentionally placed in the feature.

At the southern end of the site a trench investigated the site of the Civil War defensive outwork known as 'Harts Sconce' identifying several layers containing 17th century finds along with two steep-sided pits, a stakehole and a shallow pit or ditch. Other recorded features included Victorian and later bottle dumps and the structural remains of the twentieth century St Ebbe's Bathing Place.



Figure 24: Oxford, 9th–10th century AD cellared structure cut into the Bronze Age barrow mound at Frewin Hall New Inn Hall Street, looking south (Oxford Archaeology)



Figure 25: Oxford, late Saxon ditch at Castle Hill House, New Road looking north-east (D. Radford)

Away from the centre of town a significant evaluation was undertaken between August and September by John Moore Heritage Services on Land adjacent to Littlemore Priory at the Oxford Science Park. The trenching identified the previously unrecorded precinct wall of the Littlemore Priory, along with several structures and walls. One structure was potentially a dovecot known from historic illustrations of the site. The likely twelfth century barn, fourteenth century 'high status' building (perhaps a boarding house or Prioresses lodgings) and water channel previously identified by excavations undertaken by the East Oxford Community Archaeology Project (Archeox) were also subject to further investigations. In September-October a tier one water environment assessment and borehole survey of the Minchery Farm Peat Fen was undertaken at the site by Quest (University of Reading). The survey identified peat deposits of Neolithic to Bronze Age date.

Other news

Other discoveries over the year include the identification of the likely position of a Parliamentary redoubt shown on Bernard De Gomme's 1644 map of the Civil War siege and defensive works at Oxford by Sam Wilson through the examination of Lidar data.

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Burcot, Burcot Farm SU 55621 96528

JONATHAN WARD and JONATHAN WEBSTER

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological evaluation and post-excavation analysis on this 55-hectare site in 2021 and 2022 in support of planning application for a proposed solar farm. The results confirmed the presence of intermittent multi-phased activity of Prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval and later date.

The Prehistoric activity was characterised by an intermittent northwest – southeast by northeast – southwest aligned ditches, alongside sporadically spaced, nucleated pitting activity believed to have been for mineral extraction, followed by waste deposition. Several pits were demonstrated to be Mesolithic to Neolithic in date and particularly notable was an example in the southeast corner of the site from which all elements of the flint working process, from core all the way through waste fragments to finished items, were recovered together with pottery dating from the late Neolithic to early Bronze Age. A worked flint blade dating to the Mesolithic was found at the base of an isolated posthole.

Though the earlier prehistoric ditches were not in proximity to those of the later prehistoric period, the Iron Age landscape appeared to become one of dispersed 'aggregated' semi-enclosed systems, with one of two geological gravel 'islands' on the site being used in localised pitting activity alongside a possible curvilinear ring ditch. The Iron Age linear features appear to have remained in active use with their maintenance into the Romano-British period being identified, when they were extended and expanded down the hillside, and it is during this phase that a possible link with the postulated cropmark 'settlement' to the east of the site is conceivable.

The Romano-British period also witnessed the establishment of the known rectangular stock enclosure in the southeast corner of the site, which was dated to the inception

phase of the period, and further pitting on the second gravel island. Subsequently the area was left unexploited with the earlier linear features becoming naturally infilled. The later medieval to modern periods was characterised by general agricultural land management with the area being separated into multiple fields that were then infilled with ridge and furrow farming practices.

Chalgrove, Marley Lane SU 62466 97489

SCOTT VANCE and JON WARD

The investigations were required to investigate and record the known archaeological remains ahead of the new development comprising the construction of up to 200 residential dwellings. The fieldwork comprised the excavation of three areas (Area 1–3) where features of archaeological interest were identified during an earlier phase of trial trenching (PCA 2017). Evaluation had identified a Late Bronze Age field system and several Late Iron Age/Early Roman features located across the site with medieval dated features being seen near the village.

Extensive medieval activity was noted across Area 1 that comprised several boundary ditches, intercutting enclosures, and several pits and a single pit within Area 3. Carbonised cereal grains/seeds and charcoal fragments were recovered from the fill of L-shaped enclosure ditch and elongated pit, returning ASM dates of cal. AD 1035–1178 and cal. AD 1118–1217, respectively. The two main types of pottery recovered from the fieldwork, dated to c. 1150–1350 (East Wiltshire ware OXAQ) and c. 1175–1625 (Brill/Boarstall, Buckingham industry). Building materials of 13th to 14th century date derived from the backfill of pits and ditches, and whether medieval domestic structures were situated within the proposed development area or just outside at village of Chalgrove is unknown, as the housing platforms may have been truncated away by agricultural regimes of the 20th century.

Cogges, East Witney SP 36900 09395

THEO FAUTLEY and JONATHAN WEBSTER

Pre-Construct Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation on land to the southeast of Cogges Hill as part of the East Witney Strategic Development Area, as part of a pre-determination planning application for a new residential led development. An isolated Prehistoric feature and a very small number of Romano-British dated field boundaries suggested a landscape at the very fringes of activity until the 9th century AD. Field systems associated with the known settlement along the crest of Cogges Hill showed at least two, possibly three, distinct phases of medieval organisation whilst a concentration of materials spread along a small plateau in the centre of the site suggested a possible midden or landscaping activities thought to have been centrally organised probably relating to activity at the nearby Cogges manor. Despite this, no evidence for settlement was found within the site.

Oxford, New Inn Hall Street SP 51199 06190

SEAN RICE

Pre-Construct Archaeology was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological mitigation during excavations in the basement of North Bailey House, which is within Oxford's Archaeological Priority

Oxfordshire

Zone. A test pit and auger core, excavated by PCA in 2021 to a maximum depth of 2.05m had identified an undated archaeological deposit, despite significant truncation by the basement.

The present works, for a new 2.50m deep sump, revealed four features: three rubbish pits and a possible east-west ditch or further pit. Two of the pits were postulated to have been quarry pits, later used for domestic waste, which truncated the possible ditch. The features all presented large amounts of domestic rubbish, with 12th and 13th century pot sherds, animal and fish bones, and metal slag being recovered from dark grey silts. Historic mapping of this part of the city shows that at this time the site was within an area of medieval tenements belonging to All Souls College and Osney Abbey, fronting New Inn Hall Street.

Oxford, Thornhill Park SP 56319 07272

GARETH MORGAN

The investigations were required to investigate the potential for archaeological remains ahead of a residential development for which a planning application has been submitted to Oxford City Council. On this occasion evaluation showed that the site contained no evidence for potentially significant archaeological deposits or features and that it has always been on the peripheries of activity in the landscape. Moreover, the west and north of the site showed evidence of having been significantly altered and reworked in the mid-20th century with the natural topography removed through a process of infilling, undoubtedly during the major redevelopment and expansion of London Road (A40) and Thornhill Court.

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

Thrupp, nr Faringdon, Smokedown Farm

SU 30322 98851

BILL ANNAN

SOAG continued its investigation of this Late Iron Age/Romano-British site in the Upper Thames Valley during September 2022. The magnetometry survey carried out in 2021 had revealed an enclosure formed by inner and outer perimeter ditches with trackway between and with likely ring gullies within (suggesting possible roundhouses and ancillary buildings). Pottery from the lowest fill of the northern perimeter ditch indicates a Late Iron Age date for the enclosure.

The objective of the 2022 fieldwork was to locate buildings and other features associated with Romano-British occupation. More than thirty volunteer members of SOAG carried out a four-week programme of resistivity and further excavation. We again enjoyed tremendous support from the landowning family, and the programme was carried out in accordance with a project plan approved by Oxfordshire Archaeological Service and with the consent of the Rural Payments Agency pursuant to Environmental Stewardship arrangements to which the land is subject.

The ground conditions proved to be favourable for resistivity and the resulting image (Fig. 26) reveals the outline of a substantial villa, with a central core comprising double corridors/verandas with several rooms off, together with a northern wing formed by a large, apparently aisled, building. It is apparent from the resistivity image that there is more than one phase of building, the most obvious example of which is the likely extension of the northern part of the central core of the villa into the aisled building by the infilling of the latter's southern aisle. The image also shows

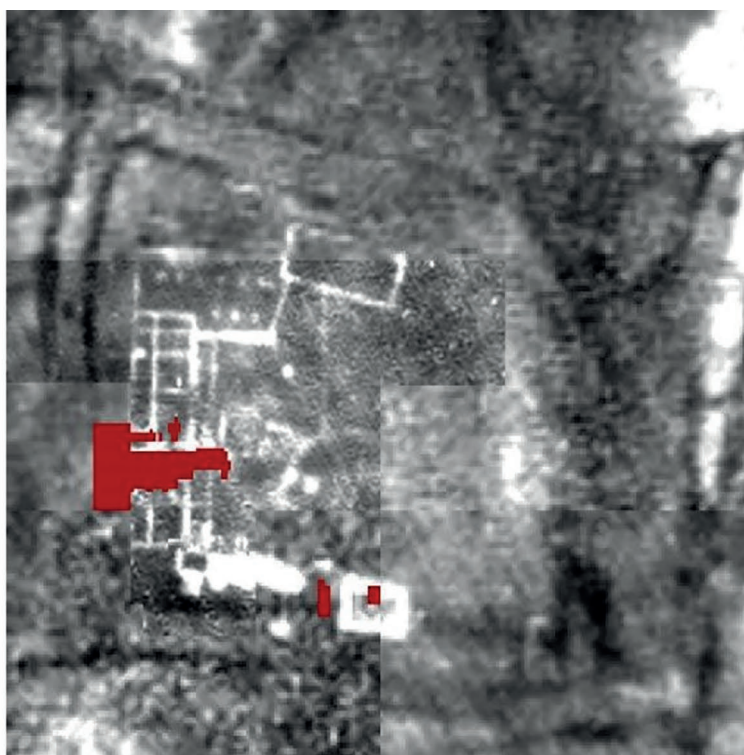
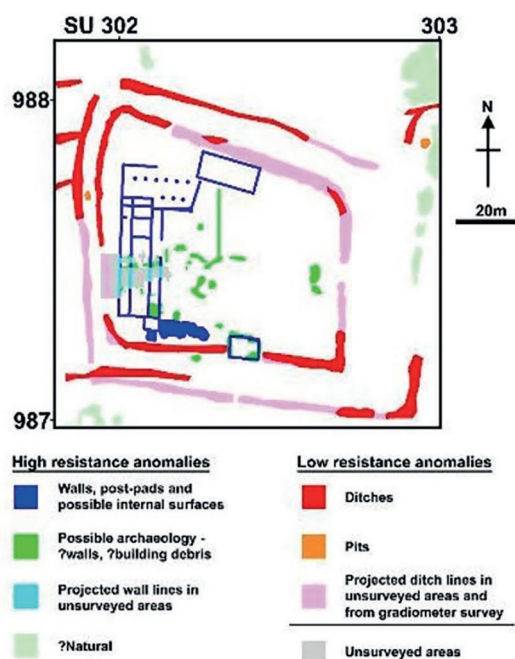


Figure 26: Thrupp, 2022 resistivity survey and interpretation

a further, single span, building lying to the north-east of the villa and respecting the line of the northern inner perimeter ditch.

It is intended to carry out a further season of excavation in 2023 with the principal objective of investigating the relationship of the aisled building with the remainder of the villa and with the single span building, and their sequence and phasing. It also seems likely that there was a southern wing to the villa, possibly the location of a bathhouse, but this remains to be confirmed by future excavation. Other points to note from the resistivity image are the building lying across the southern inner perimeter ditch, and a possible separate building lying to the east of the central core of the villa and appearing to share an orientation with the single span building referred to above.

Six trenches were excavated during the 2022 programme in tandem with the resistivity survey. Key points are:

- Trench 3 (Fig. 27) revealed the lowest courses of the westernmost walls of the central part of the villa. The inner wall was constructed over two earlier pits. In the western part of the trench there was a spread of limestone roof tile and other debris, suggestive of roof fall – beneath which was a limestone/mortar surface over a drainage gully.

- Trench 4 (Fig. 28) revealed the eastern external wall of the villa, against which there was a spread of highly magnetic baked clay, limestone and charcoal, possibly lining of an oven. To the east there was a second wall with a heavily mortared floor surface inside it – seemingly part of the separate building to the east of the central core of the villa referred to above.
- A trial trench to examine a magnetometry anomaly in the south-west corner of the enclosure suggests a clamp kiln or dismantled kiln, possibly used to make the flue-tiles commonly found amongst the surface scatter and trench finds. As the feature is approximately 10m in diameter, fuller investigation was left for the future.
- We excavated the western end of the building shown by the resistivity image to have been constructed astride the southern inner perimeter ditch. The ditch (about 3.5m wide consistently with the section of the northern inner perimeter ditch excavated in 2021) was filled with redeposited clay and other material.

We are also conducting a magnetometry survey of the wider field and this is revealing that the settlement was surrounded by a large and complex system of associated enclosures, fields and trackways. The size of the settlement (together with the presence of flue-tile, painted plaster and tesserae)



Figure 27: Thrupp, Trench 3



Figure 28: Thrupp, Trench 4

Oxfordshire

suggests that it was a centre of local significance, probably principally associated with livestock husbandry. Finds indicate a date spread from the Late Iron Age to the late 4th century AD.

STANFORD IN THE VALE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH PROJECT

DR DAVID ASHBY

Introduction

The Stanford in the Vale Archaeological Research Project (Grid reference: SU 342 935) is an on-going project which commenced in 2008. The project currently has three main aims: 1. To gain a further and greater understanding of the archaeology of Stanford in the Vale; 2. To either prove or disprove the hypothesis: Stanford in the Vale was a medieval urban centre which had failed by the end of the medieval period. At this point Stanford in the Vale formed into a village; 3. To get the community involved in their local heritage and archaeology. Prior fieldwork undertaken as part of the project during the 2008 to 2020 project sessions has been reported in South Midlands Archaeology Journal articles, Volumes 39 to 51.

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic no fieldwork was undertaken in the majority of 2020 to the summer of 2022. However, the project was able to recommence in the Summer of 2022, with several archaeological test pitting excavated as part of the CBA Festival of Archaeology, this article will discuss the results from this fieldwork, as well as the work that is proposed to be carried out during the 2023 project season.

Test Pitting (test pits 61 to 63)

During 2022 3 test pits were dug within the Millennium Green field, at the junction of Hundersfield and the High Street. These test pits were located, based on permission, available access and space for the test pit and spoil heap. Each test pit was 1 m square and was dug in 0.10 m spits to the depth of either the natural geology or 1 m, dependent on which was reached first.

Test Pit 61 was excavated at the northern end of the field, close to the Manor House, test pit 62 was excavated in the centre of the field and test pit 63 was excavated in the southern end of the field, close to the road.

The pottery remains from the test pits enabled a large amount of information to be gained about the changing nature of the settlement over time, as seen in Table 1. The table indicates that all the test pits contained post medieval and modern pottery. The pottery evidence also suggests the location of medieval activity within the settlement, the majority of which was recovered from TP63, closest to the road and therefore settlement (likely house) activity of this period. Saxon pottery was also found in this test pit. TP 61 contained little medieval pottery however, where this was recovered, it related to several phases of Manor House platform construction. The stone foundations of a possible medieval Manor House building, formed of roughly packed limestone and non-local stone (likely Hamstone) with a lime mortar bond was also found in TP 61. Roman pottery was recovered from all three test pits, however in TP 61 the majority was found in a soil layer underlying the Manor House platform deposits and overlying the Limestone

Geology. Therefore, as no later pottery was found in this soil deposit, it is thought to form a buried soil dating to the Roman period.

TP Number	Roman	Saxon	Medieval	Post Medieval
61	3	0	4	2
62	6	0	4	5
63	9	4	16	1

Table 1: Quantities of pottery by period recovered from each test pit excavated in 2022

A large quantity of flint material, worked, debitage and burnt, was recovered from all three test pits. This material dates from the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age periods, and included a total of 47 scrapers, blades and microliths. This indicates activities of these periods occurring on the current site of Millennium Green. Other finds material recovered included historical domestic waste, for example animal bone was recovered from all test pits. Other materials including a fragment of clay pipe stem stamped with the makers mark 'HOS BARN' and further non-local stone (likely granite) were both found in TP61. Also burnt daub, slag material and a horn core were recovered from TP 62 and 63, likely relating to medieval or earlier industrial activities occurring in the vicinity of the site. One small find was also recovered from TP61, a rubbing stone, likely medieval in date and relating to leather working in the vicinity of the Manor House complex.

Lastly, an overall interpretation can be made from the evidence excavated from all three test pits, indicating the past activities of the present Millennium Green. As seen by TP 61, the northern part of the Green is dominated by the multiple phases of Manor House activities, including the 'growth' of the associated platform (still seen as an earthwork today). TP 62 and 63, in contrast, indicate agricultural activities on these lower lying areas from the post medieval to prehistoric periods. However, this may indicate activities being undertaken to the rear of housing plots fronting the adjacent High Street, for example industrial or agricultural processes. At the base of these two test pits, the alluvial geology was found, indicating a likely paleochannel in this area of Stanford towards the end of the last Ice Age, as seen in other test pits and trenches dug in this area of the current village.

Summary of the Project to Date

Through the work undertaken on the project since 2008, large quantities of archaeological remains, dating from the Mesolithic period to the modern day, have been unearthed. These include Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age flint from around the village, recovered from both test pitting and trenching works; with two Neolithic features identified, one close to Upper Green in the north of the Stanford, and the other close to the River Ock in the south. This indicates a split settlement during this period; however, also indicates the earliest settlement activity underlying the village. The presence of Bronze Age pottery at the southern area of the village, as well as beaker period flint material, likely indicates the settlement expanded from the southern Neolithic settlement, spreading north, forming a single settlement seen today. Evidence has also been indicated for

a significantly sized Iron Age enclosure with a deep ditch located on Upper Green.

The Roman settlement is demonstrated by a fortified ditch enclosure with the High Street running through its centre, extending as far west as the A417, with a *vicus* located on its outskirts extending up Chapel Road. Evidence also suggests an early Roman settlement to the west of the A417, prior to it becoming marshland later in the period. Archaeological evidence indicates Stanford grew further during both the Saxon and medieval periods, with large medieval stone buildings excavated within the grounds of Prior's Farm (Ashby, 2011), Ashdown House, Cox's Hall and Horsecroft field, and identified in areas where geophysical work has been undertaken. This includes multi-phase Manor House activity dating from the Saxon period to the modern day, a large medieval stone hall within the grounds of Cox's Hall and facing Faringdon Road, and multiple phasing of Church construction. This includes two phases of Saxon church and thereafter four phases of medieval construction, commencing in the 12th C, which comprise a large proportion of the church seen today. Furthermore, shops and industrial buildings fronted the High Street and adjacent roads, and in some cases were terraced into the underlying geology. A two-phase stone medieval mill has also been found in the field adjacent to Horsecroft Lane, as well as a series of large timber framed (post hole built) structures in the central area of the settlement, likely Saxon in date.

The project has also demonstrated that Stanford in the Vale has shifted over time. The Roman settlement located mainly around the present High Street, but also running towards Upper Green in the north and the A417, and Spencers Close, in the west. The Saxon settlement located more towards the centre and north of the current village, stretching up to Upper Green, and down to the area of Cox's Hall, and surrounding both the Church and Manor House at its centre, and the medieval settlement spreading more than 600 metres further south than at present. Due to the medieval settlement being nearly twice the size of the modern village of Stanford in the Vale, and due to the quantity of craft and industrial activities undertaken within the settlement during this period; evidence indicates that the Stanford was likely a small town or urban centre during the medieval period. Also, evidence has been identified for the post medieval settlement, including structures within the Brickworks on Bow Road and Civil War activities, as well as evidence for structures associated with Shellingford Airfield during WW2.

The combination of the results of the fieldwork undertaken at Stanford in the Vale until 2020, are discussed in the D. Ashby PhD Thesis '*Stanford in the Vale in Context: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach to rural Settlement Development in Oxfordshire*' (September 2022). This Thesis not only discusses the results from Stanford in the Vale archaeological works, but also the wide context and characterisation of other villages in Oxfordshire which were granted medieval Market Charters. A copy of the Thesis can be gained on request, from the author.

Aims of 2023 Fieldwork

During the 2023 project season, three main types of archaeological work are hoped to be undertaken.

Firstly, geophysical surveys will continue in open areas of land within the village and its surrounding fields, with the aim of producing a comprehensive map of the buried archaeology of the settlement. This will mainly be carried out using resistivity survey; however, GPR will also be further utilised where suitable sites are identified and magnetometry will be used within large fields on the edge of the current settlement. This work will also include an extensive GPR survey of the Millennium Green and a magnetometer survey of Stanford Wick, a known DMV on the outskirts of the current village.

Secondly, further full excavations will be undertaken in areas of archaeological interest identified through the geophysical survey results.

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

Acknowledgments

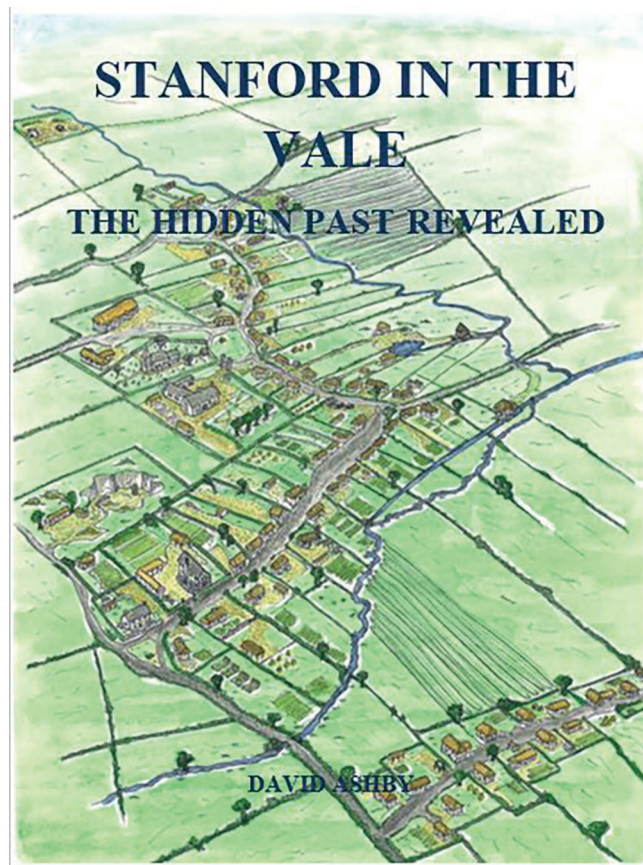
I would like to acknowledge the following people and organisations who have helped me during the 2022 project season. Special thanks go to all the landowners in the village who have let me undertake archaeological fieldwork on their land. Thanks, should also be given to the members and committee of the Stanford in the Vale Local History Society, who have helped to get the local community involved in the project and to disseminate information about the project to the local villagers, and to Alan Bond for his donation to the project. I would also like to thank the main archaeologists who have helped me carry out the fieldwork and post excavation on the project, including Dave Grant, Dr Katie Tucker, Briony Lalor, Nathalie Barrett, Giles Carey, Nick Watson, Dominic McAtominey, Eden Richards, Mike Brace, Chloe Hill, Oliver Bell and Oliver Mattingley. Lastly, thanks should also be given to my colleagues, the students and staff of the Department of Archaeology at the University of Winchester, as without their help it would not be possible to undertake the project.

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New Publication – Stanford in the Vale: A Hidden Past Revealed

In 2023 a book on the archaeology of Stanford in the Vale is planned to be published by Stanford in the Vale History Society, written by Dr David Ashby. The book details the current archaeological data from Stanford in the Vale and the interpretation of the changing nature and development of Stanford from the Mesolithic to the present day.



THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Abingdon, Cattlemarket Car Park SU 4995 9720

ANDREW MUNDIN and WILL ATTARD

Works for the infrastructure to serve new electric vehicle charging points were monitored in a watching brief in January and February 2022. No archaeological deposits were encountered, neither were finds nor structural deposits.

Abingdon, 52 Gainsborough Green SU 4894 9620

ANDREW MUNDIN

Excavations for a new footing were observed as part of works to extend to the east side of the property in January and February 2022. No archaeological deposits or finds were encountered.

Abingdon, West St Helen's Street Car Park

SU 4969 9689

ANDREW MUNDIN and WILL ATTARD

Works for the infrastructure to serve new electric vehicle charging points were monitored in a watching brief in January 2022. No archaeological finds or deposits were encountered.

Ambrosden, Merton Road SP 5997 1925

ANDY TAYLOR

An excavation ran from January to March 2022 on the site of a housing development and revealed the remains of a levelled

round barrow surviving as two concentric ring ditches of Early Bronze Age date (Fig. 29). The chronology of the site was established by three radiocarbon determinations alongside a modest assemblage of Early Bronze Age pottery. No mound nor primary burial was recorded but a cremation burial was later inserted into one of the infilled ditches. A large area surrounding the monument was stripped but no contemporary occupation was recorded. An inhumation burial, also inserted into a backfilled ring ditch, was thought likely to be of post-Roman date, but attempted radiocarbon dating was unsuccessful. A publication report is in preparation.

Banbury, land at Hanwell Fields SP 4469 4253

DAVID SANCHEZ, WILL ATTARD

A first phase of evaluation trenching in January 2022 following a geophysical survey in 2021 revealed only post-medieval ridge and furrow, or other agricultural features perpendicular to the same, with no other finds or features of archaeological interest. A second phase of work (November-December) on this 8ha site of a proposed residential development again revealed post-medieval ridge and furrow, and a single undated gully. Further trenching was expected but has been delayed by a variety of ecological constraints.

Caulcott, Daisy Head Farm, 32 South Street

SP 5087 2416

ANDREW MUNDIN

A watching brief was maintained from May to December 2022, during various works to extend the farmhouse, create garages and a pool and pool house. The only cut features revealed were modern, although among the modern and post-medieval finds was a single pottery sherd that might be late medieval.

Chalgrove, Hampden House Monument Business Park, Warpsgrove Lane SU 6499 9742

KYLE BEAVERSTOCK and PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

Magnetometer survey of the 0.64ha site in March 2022 revealed a number of positive linear anomalies which most likely represent ridge and furrow. Subsequent trenching in May confirmed that furrows were the only features present.

Chesterton, Bignell Park Barns SP 5515 2235

ANDY TAYLOR

Evaluation trenches on a site for new offices revealed nothing of archaeological interest in April 2022.

Dorchester-on-Thames, 26 Martin's Lane SU 5791 9451

ANDREW MUNDIN

A watching brief was maintained in October 2022 on excavations of footings for new extensions to the east and south of the existing house. A single pit contained two sherds of pottery, one Roman and one medieval. No archaeological remains were observed over the rest of the site.

Faringdon, Chinham Farm Extension, Bowling Green Farm Quarry SU 3166 9476

JON TIERNEY, ANNE-MICHELLE HUVIG AND PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

A long-running recording action on the quarry site continued over another 1.96ha area in April and May 2022. A single undated pit and a post-medieval or modern ditch following a modern fence line were the only features observed in this phase.

Faringdon, Heald House, Buckland Road, Buckland Marsh SU 3354 9942

NICHOLAS DAWSON

A watching brief in August 2022 on works to extend a garage block identified no finds or features of archaeological interest as the works did not penetrate below modern levelling deposits.

Goring, land east of Wallingford Road SU 6031 8184

KYLE BEAVERSTOCK

Magnetometer survey in October 2022 in anticipation of a planning application identified no anomalies of archaeological origin.

Harwell, Diamond Light Source extension buildings, Harwell Campus SU 4800 8630

ANDY TAYLOR

Evaluation trenches were opened in November 2022 in advance of a planning application. No deposits nor finds of any archaeological interest were observed and in particular, no evidence was revealed of Iron Age deposits as previously recorded nearby.

Henley-on-Thames, Greys Road car park SU 7603 8255

PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

Works for the infrastructure to serve new electric vehicle charging points were monitored in a watching brief in March 2022. Nothing of archaeological interest was encountered.

Henley-on-Thames, King's Road car park SU 7598 8286

ANDREW MUNDIN and PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

Works for the infrastructure to serve new electric vehicle charging points were monitored in a watching brief in January 2022. No archaeological finds or deposits were encountered.

Kidlington, land at Stratfield Farm SP 4950 1240

STEVE FORD

In advance of a planning application for residential development, 55 trenches were opened in February and March 2022. Despite residual traces of ridge and furrow recorded by a prior geophysical survey, few furrows were observed. No other features of possible archaeological interest were identified, and all of the geophysical anomalies investigated were shown to be of late-post medieval (furrows) or natural origin (rootholes).

Marcham, land at Greystones, 8 The Gap SU 4555 9683

STEVE FORD and ANDY TAYLOR

A gully and two postholes of early and later Iron Age date were recorded in one of three evaluation trenches opened in June 2022 on the site of a new house. Follow-up excavation of a 220 sq. m area in September revealed a ditch and two more postholes from the early Iron Age; and a ditch, gully and half a dozen postholes of the later Iron Age. Radiocarbon dating is awaited.

Milcombe, Land west of Heath Close SP 4069 3458

LUCIANO CICU

A magnetometer survey in November 2022 to support an application for residential development recorded several magnetic anomalies across the site but few, if any, are considered to be of archaeological origin.

Milton, Poplars, School Lane SU 4899 9232

TOM STEWART

Evaluation trenching in February 2022 on a site proposed for new housing revealed one post hole that may be medieval, and a scatter of undated features of uncertain significance.

Nuneham Courtenay, Notcutts Garden Centre, Golden Balls SU 5583 9777

MAISIE FOSTER

Evaluation in February 2022 for the first phase of garden centre re-development revealed a single large feature, perhaps a quarry, with two small sherds of probably Medieval (or later) pottery.

Oxford, 52 High Street SP 5191 0624

JAMIE WILLIAMS

Evaluation trenches opened in advance of conversion of buildings in December 2022 revealed only two sterile layers of clay below modern made ground, probably themselves part of the same modern levelling.

Oxford, 2 St Peter's Road, Wolvercote SP 4967 0978

AIDAN COLYER, JON TIERNEY and ANDREW MUNDIN

Evaluation trenching in advance of development in January 2022 revealed two ditches, a gully and a posthole of Early-Middle Iron Age date representing part of an occupation site. A follow-up watching brief ran until April and revealed a continuation of one ditch, and one additional ditch or perhaps a foundation trench, but added no new dating evidence.

Shillingford, Rush Court Gardens, Shillingford Road SU 6058 9162

MAISIE FOSTER

Two evaluation trenches excavated in September 2022 on a new house site observed no finds or features of archaeological interest but deep made ground suggesting the site had been truncated.

Oxfordshire

Sonning Common, Maiden Erlegh, Chiltern Edge School SU 70269 79817

LUCIANO CICU and ANDY TAYLOR

Magnetometer survey in May 2022 was followed by evaluation trenching in September on a 1.8ha site intended for a housing development. The geophysics revealed a small number of positive linear anomalies which may be associated with land division and a number of positive discrete anomalies which may indicate the presence of buried pit-type features. The trenching revealed few features of note, but a possible kiln of 13th–15th century date was identified.

Standlake, 77 Abingdon Road SP 3890 0328

BETH TUCKER, ANDY TAYLOR

A watching brief during ground reduction and foundation trench digging for new houses in May 2022 revealed a large early Iron Age pit (or cluster of pits), a gully possibly dating to the Late Iron Age or early Roman period, and one of medieval date, besides other undated features.

Standlake, 27 Aston Road, Brighthampton SP 3840 0352

AIDAN COLYER

Three evaluation trenches were dug in July 2022 on the site for a new house, but no deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were uncovered.

Upper Heyford, Ardley Reservoir Pumping Station SP 5348 2567

WILL ATTARD

A small area occupied by water pipes was opened in May 2022 to facilitate repairs and was archaeologically monitored. No archaeological deposits or finds were observed during the course of the watching brief.

Wallingford, Goldsmiths Lane SU 6060 8925

ANDREW MUNDIN

Works for the infrastructure to serve new electric vehicle charging points were monitored in a watching brief in January 2022. No archaeological finds or deposits were encountered.

Wallingford, Cattlemarket car park, New Road SU 6080 8920

ANDREW MUNDIN and MAISIE FOSTER

Works for the infrastructure to serve new electric vehicle charging points were monitored in a watching brief in January and February 2022. No archaeological finds or deposits were encountered.

Wallingford, land at 18 Winterbrook SU 6046 8831

PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

Four trenches were opened on a new housing development site in September 2022. Despite the area's high archaeological potential, no archaeological deposits nor finds of interest were located.

Warborough, Little Orchard, Green Lane SU 5962 9345

ANDY TAYLOR

Evaluation trenching in November 2022 revealed no finds or features of archaeological interest but evidence of much truncation and disturbance.

Woodstock, Blenheim Palace Pleasure Garden SP 4488 1555

DAVID SANCHEZ

Evaluation trenching in January 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.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, DEPT. FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

Hampton Gay, Geophysical Survey at Barn Ground 2022 SP 48 16

DAVID GRIFFITHS, KRIS LOCKYEAR, 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 Historic England Monument Number 336633 which records the cropmarks of a group of eight circles seen south-east of Hampton Gay church in 1942. The site is also recorded as Oxfordshire HER 13502.

A summary of the known historic and archaeological features at Hampton Gay 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. Since 2021 various archaeological features have been surveyed by Oxford University Department for Continuing Education (OUDCE) students as part of their field work on the Undergraduate Certificate in Archaeology and the MSc in Applied Landscape Archaeology. This included a magnetometer survey over the ring ditches in 2021 and early 2022 (Griffiths et al. 2022). During the summer of 2022 the magnetometer survey was extended and the long barrow, located in 2021, was investigated by a ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey and an earth resistance survey.

The Magnetometer (Gradiometer) Survey

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 were illustrated in Griffiths et al. 2022. This magnetometer survey was extended to the west by students on the Undergraduate Certificate in Archaeology course on the 7th and 8th May 2022. The survey grids were 30m squares and were 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.

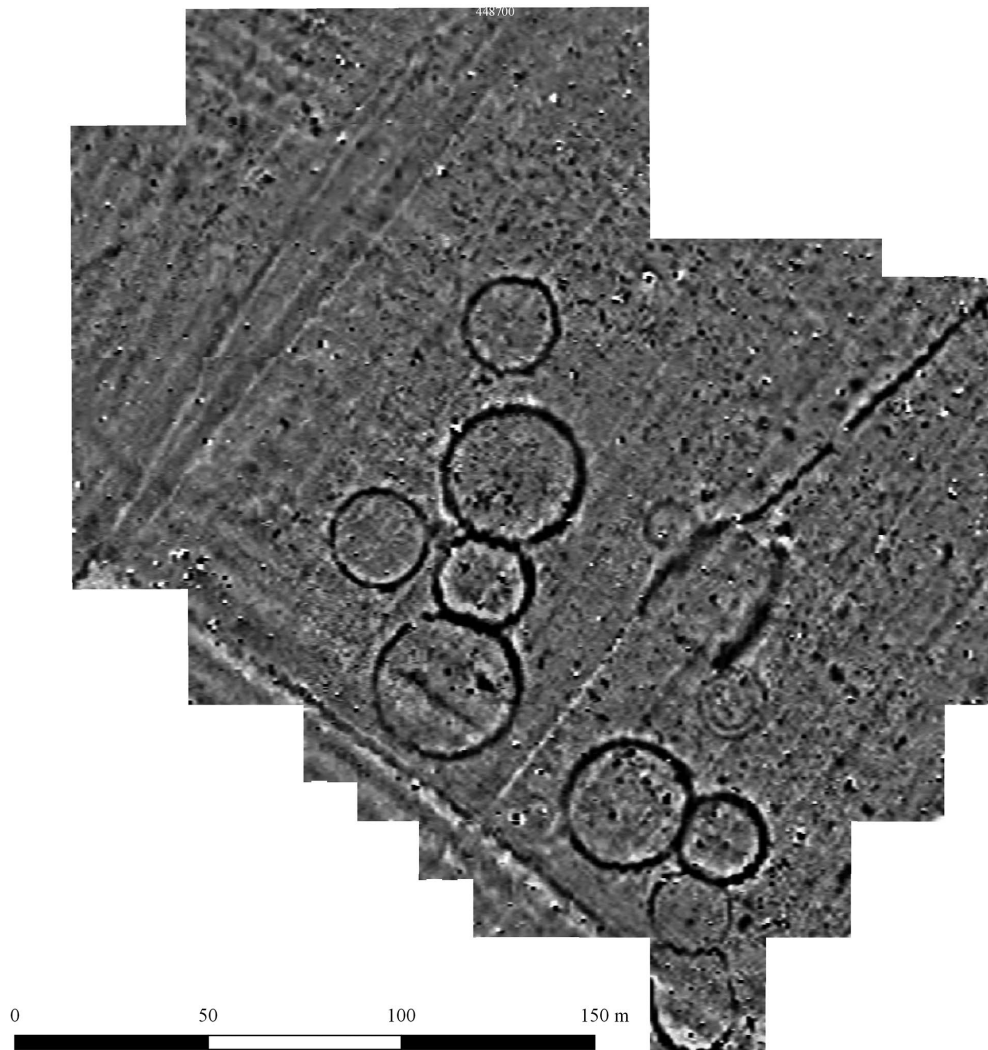


Figure 30: Magnetometer Survey of Ring Ditches at Hampton Gay

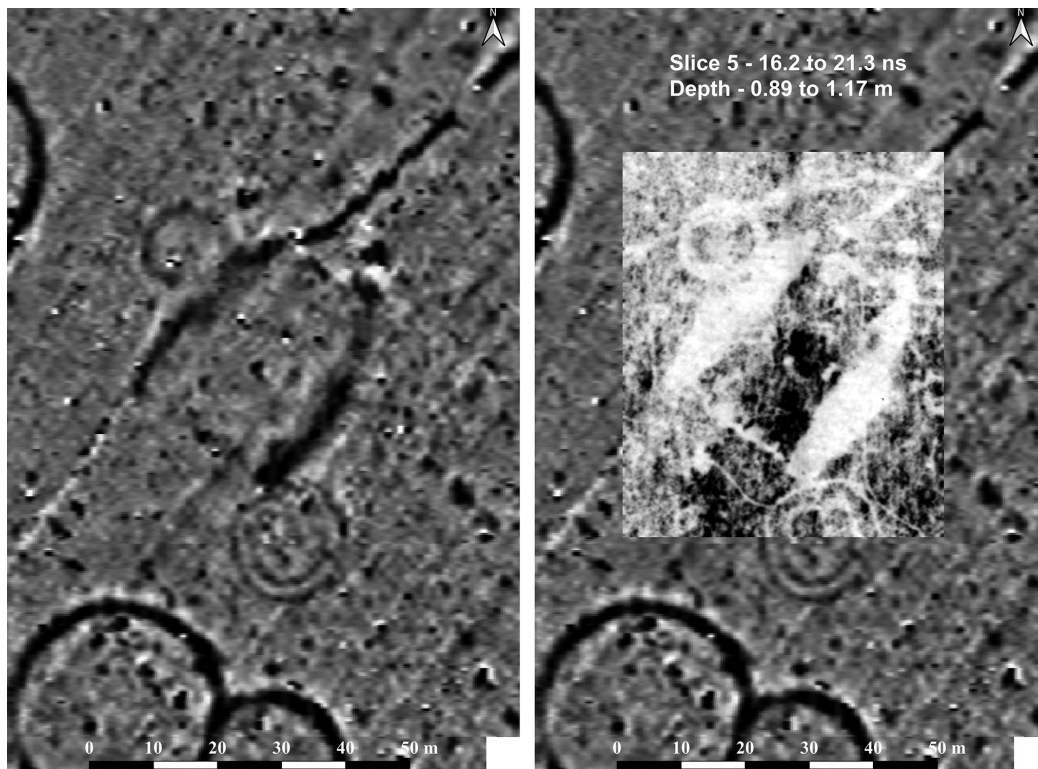


Figure 31: Magnetometer and Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) Surveys of the Long Barrow

Oxfordshire

No further ring ditches or other archaeological features were detected, and the updated survey results are illustrated in figure 30.

The Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) Survey

The Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey was performed on the 7th and 8th May 2022 by Kris Lockyear of University College London, and Ruth Halliwell from the Welwyn Archaeological Society, with the assistance of two Undergraduate Certificate students. The area surveyed was 50m by 60m over the long barrow. The traverses were 50m long and the traverse separation was 25cm. The equipment used was a Malå GX with a 450MHz antenna.

In a GPR survey the physical quantity measured is the reflection time – the time it takes for a signal to reach an archaeological or geological feature or boundary and be reflected back. This is often called the two-way travel time (TWTT). To convert the two-way travel time to a depth the velocity of the radar signal through the soil is required. The depth is then given by: $\text{depth} = \text{velocity} \times (0.5 \times \text{two-way travel time})$. Velocities are usually in the range from 0.06 or 0.07 metres per nanosecond (m/ns) in wet ground up to 0.13 to 0.14 m/ns in dry soils. An estimate of depth could therefore vary by a factor of two. The velocity in the soil at Hampton Gay has been estimated to be 0.11 m/ns. The GPR signal data has been processed as eleven overlapping time-slices and the times and estimated depths are listed below in table 1.

Time slice 5 of the GPR survey, and a comparison with the magnetometer survey, is illustrated in figure 31. The GPR survey suggests there may be below-ground features within the long barrow. The long barrow side ditches are visible in slices 3 to 11 which suggests a depth of about two metres. The south-eastern ditch may be deeper than the north-western ditch. The two small ring ditches just to the north and south of the long barrow appear in slices 4 to 7 and are most visible in slices 5 and 6. Their ditches may therefore be about one metre deep. These two ring ditches are numbered 9 and 10 respectively in table 1 of Griffiths et al. 2022.

The Earth Resistance (Resistivity) Survey

The earth resistance survey was performed in late May and early June 2022 by OUDCE students studying for the MSc in Applied Landscape Archaeology degree. The survey was set out over the area of the long barrow, and which had previously been surveyed with a magnetometer in 2021 and 2022, and by GPR in early May 2022.

The earth resistance survey covered a slightly larger area, 60m by 80m, than the earlier GPR survey. This initial area was then slightly extended in the north-east and south-west. The grid size was 20m by 20m. Measurements were taken every 50cm on each traverse and the traverse separation was 1m. A mobile probe separation of 1m was used to enhance the detection of deeper features.

The earth resistance survey, and a comparison with the magnetometer survey, is illustrated in figure 32. The earth resistance survey also suggests there may be surviving below-ground features within the long barrow.

Conclusions

The initial magnetometer survey accurately located and added further detail to an early Bronze Age round barrow cemetery previously recorded by aerial photography. It also revealed traces of a previously unknown early Neolithic long barrow.

The three types of geophysical survey can usefully be compared to one another and are illustrated in figure 33. The magnetometer survey identified very clearly the ditches of both the long barrow and the nearby round barrows. The GPR survey has also identified the long barrow ditches and has indicated some additional features may survive within the long barrow. Importantly, the GPR survey with its eleven time slices, has provided information on the depths of the features. The earth resistance survey has also detected possible features within the long barrow. These features may suggest some surviving internal structural subdivision of the long barrow.

The two small ring ditches which appear to be associated with the long barrow, and which are clearly shown by the magnetometer and GPR surveys, are only faintly visible in the earth resistance survey. The southern area of the earth

Time Slice	Min TWTT (ns)	Max TWTT (ns)	Min Depth (m)	Max Depth (m)
1	0.00	5.10	0.00	0.28
2	4.10	9.20	0.23	0.51
3	8.00	13.10	0.44	0.72
4	12.10	17.20	0.67	0.95
5	16.20	21.30	0.89	1.17
6	20.30	25.40	1.12	1.40
7	24.20	29.30	1.33	1.61
8	28.30	33.40	1.56	1.84
9	32.40	37.50	1.78	2.06
10	36.50	41.60	2.01	2.29
11	40.40	44.30	2.22	2.44

Table 1: GPR Survey Time Slices and Estimated Depths

resistance survey has detected parts of two round barrow ditches to the south and a section of the ditch which runs north-east from the long barrow.

Both the GPR and earth resistance surveys have detected a ditch which runs north-east to south-west to the north of the long barrow. The GPR survey suggests this ditch may cut the small northern ring ditch. This ditch is not apparent on the magnetic survey, and this may suggest it was backfilled relatively soon after being dug.

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Griffiths, D., Bayer, O. and Wintle, W., 2022. *Geophysical Survey at Hampton Gay 2021 and 2022*. SMA 52.

Acknowledgements

We are very grateful to Mr Tim Thompson of Manor Farm and his staff for their assistance and interest in the survey work.

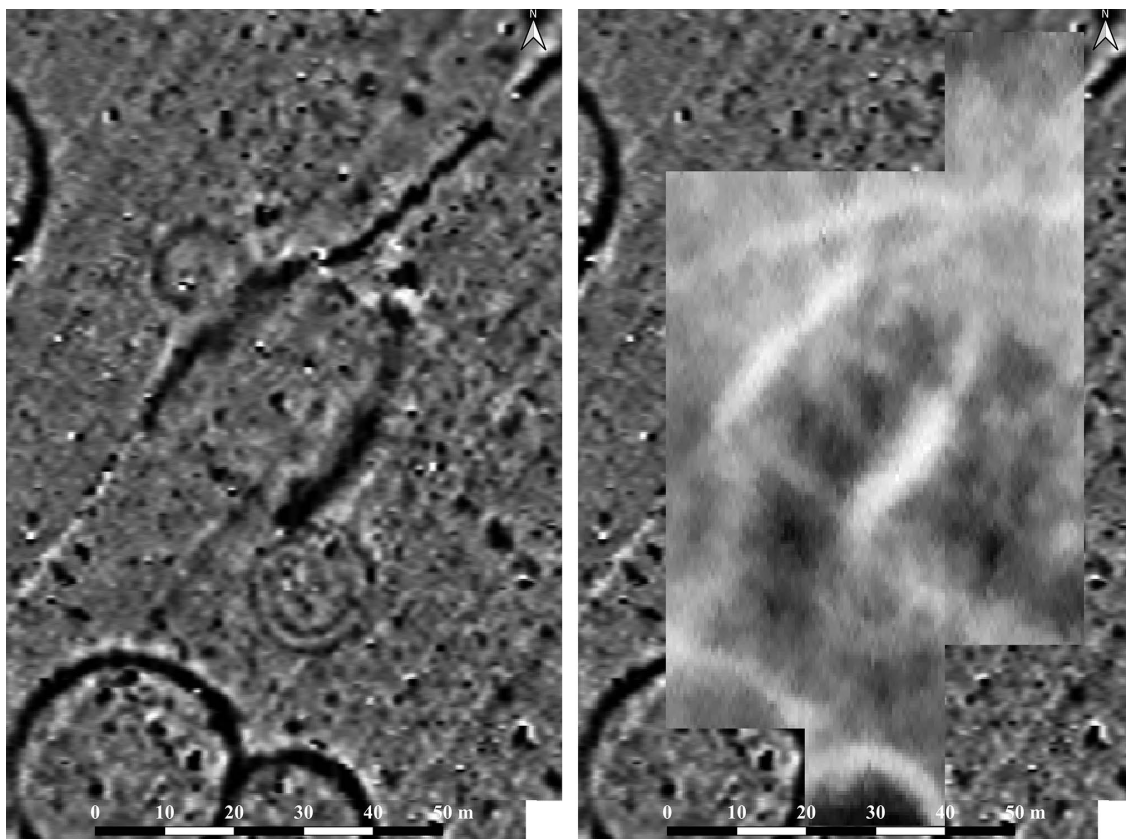


Figure 32: Magnetometer and Earth Resistance Surveys of the Long Barrow

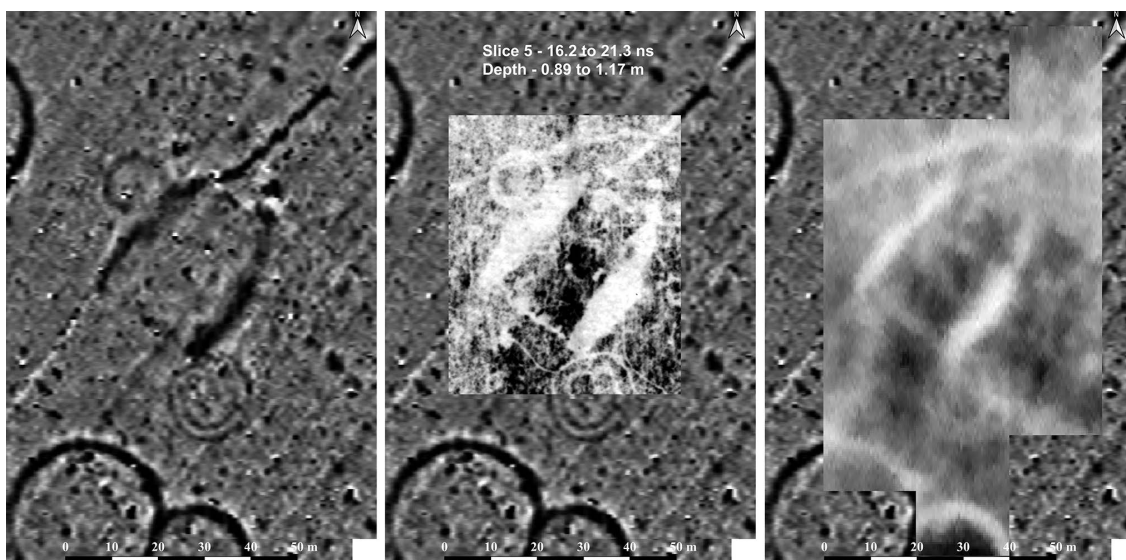


Figure 33: Magnetometer, GPR and Earth Resistance Surveys of the Long Barrow at Hampton Gay

Oxfordshire

Hampton Gay, Earthwork and Magnetometer Survey at Manor Farm SP 48 16

DAVID GRIFFITHS, OLAF BAYER, MARK BOWDEN and
WILLIAM WINTLE

Introduction

Oxford University Department for Continuing Education (OUDCE) has initiated a research and teaching project in landscape archaeology at Hampton Gay, Oxfordshire. The fieldwork teaching is for students from the Undergraduate Certificate in Archaeology and the MSc in Applied Landscape Archaeology and consists of geophysical survey, earthwork survey and building recording. In 2022, as part of the MSc ALA field survey week, the class undertook an earthwork and geophysical survey in areas near the church and which lie within a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The research aim of the surveys was to determine the extent and survival of medieval settlement features north, south and south-east of the church.

The site at Manor Farm contains both listed buildings and a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The Scheduled Ancient Monument has NHLE number 1006334 and contains two separate elements: the ruined manor house and a deserted medieval settlement. The relevant Historic England monument numbers are listed below.

NHLE Number: 1006334 (Scheduled Ancient Monument OX120)

Monument Number 336616 – (Scheduled Ancient Monument OX120b)

Hampton Gay Manor (Ruins of an Elizabethan Manor House)

Monument Number 336631 – (Scheduled Ancient Monument OX120a)

Deserted Medieval Settlement

This report is a summary of a more extensive report (Wintle 2022) submitted to Historic England as a requirement of the section 42 licence to undertake a geophysical survey on a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Hampton Gay Manor Farm

Hampton Gay Manor Farm and its associated buildings lie to the south and east of the River Cherwell, which flows west and then south towards the river Thames. The history of the parish is discussed in the Oxfordshire Victoria County History (VCH 1959, 152–159) and an archaeological desk-based assessment has been carried out by the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU 1999).

Figure 34 illustrates the local topography using lidar. The land rises from west to east and north to south, with increasing distance from the Cherwell floodplain. Near the River Cherwell the elevation is about 66m OD and in the area of the deserted medieval village is about 68 to 69m OD. Further east the land rises to about 70m OD.

Extensive areas of ridge-and-furrow are visible to the south of the scheduled zone. Although undated, these features may date from the late medieval period when previously arable land was sometimes converted to sheep pasture, often associated with depopulation. North of the ridge-and-furrow is the presumed deserted medieval village. Although the topography is quite different from the ridge-and-furrow, there are no clear indications of tofts and crofts

or building platforms. A ditch may separate the settlement from the ridge-and-furrow.

The village earthworks were first recorded in 1972 by Mick Aston in an unpublished survey. He identified divisions within the village and mapped the main topographical features such as holloways, ridge-and-furrow and the area of a possible house platform. A more detailed survey was undertaken by the Oxford Archaeological Unit in 1999 and their report contains an archaeological gazetteer and a drawn earthwork survey (OAU 1999).

The Plane Table Topographic Survey

The plane table survey was directed by Mark Bowden and examined the area to the south and south-east of the churchyard. The most visible topographic features were chosen for training purposes and are illustrated in figure 35, with the lidar digital elevation model as background. It should be noted that the survey was not undertaken at the optimum time of year and long grass, particularly to the east of the church, obscured the ground surface.

Running south from the churchyard is a major ditch and this has been surveyed for some distance to the south and then east to where it is interrupted by a circular depression and a slightly raised farm track. This large ditch may be an enclosure ditch around settlement or a manorial centre. Directly south of the churchyard five irregular mounds probably result from clearing out the churchyard's surrounding ditch. East of the church, within the fenced enclosure containing the ruined manor house, is a shallow linear depression aligned east-west, probably a hollow way or track connecting manor house and church. It was described by the OAU (1999) as running through a garden or court.

The Magnetometer (Gradiometer) Survey

The magnetometer survey was directed by Professor David Griffiths over areas to the north, south and south-east of the churchyard. Two east-west baselines were set out using a Leica survey-grade GPS to position survey canes at thirty-metre intervals at pre-determined locations. The base line north of the church was 60 metres and the line south of the church was 390 metres. The survey grids were thirty-metre squares and were set out from the baseline using tapes. Survey canes were inserted at the corners of each grid.

The survey was undertaken using a dual-sensor Bartington Instrument's GRAD601-2 gradiometer. The thirty-metre grids were walked in a clockwise, north-south, "zig-zag" pattern with traverses one metre apart and readings taken four times a metre along each traverse. The magnetometer was set to a scale of 100nT with a sensitivity of 0.1 nT. It was reset to zero periodically using the same zero location. The results have been processed by TerraSurveyor V3 and are presented as block-shaded images using a greyscale where positive magnetic anomalies (normally ditches and pits) are shown in black and negative magnetic anomalies (normally stone or masonry foundations) are shown in white. Figure 36 illustrates the two magnetometer surveys with a Google Earth background.

Discussion

Figure 37 illustrates the magnetometer survey north of the churchyard which contained three 30m by 30m grids. To the left is the magnetometer survey and to the right is the

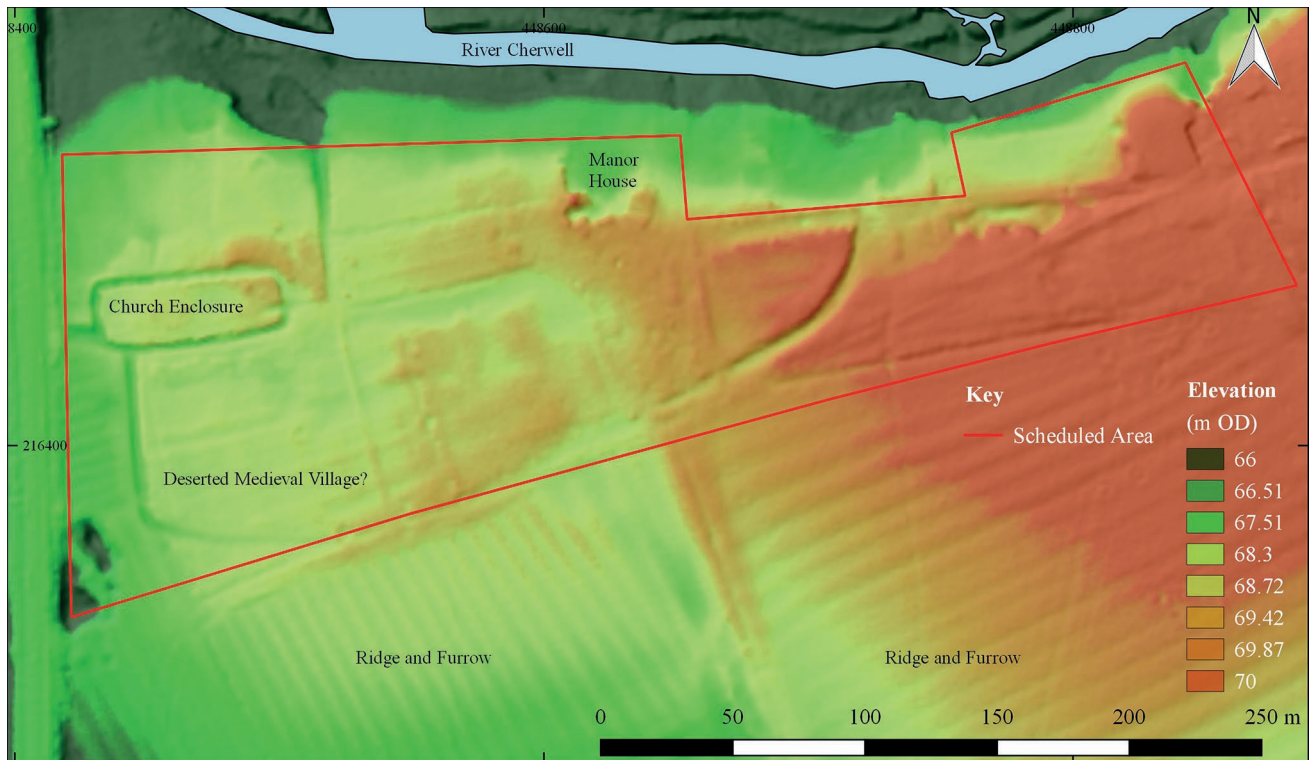


Figure 34: The Topography of Manor Farm, Hampton Gay

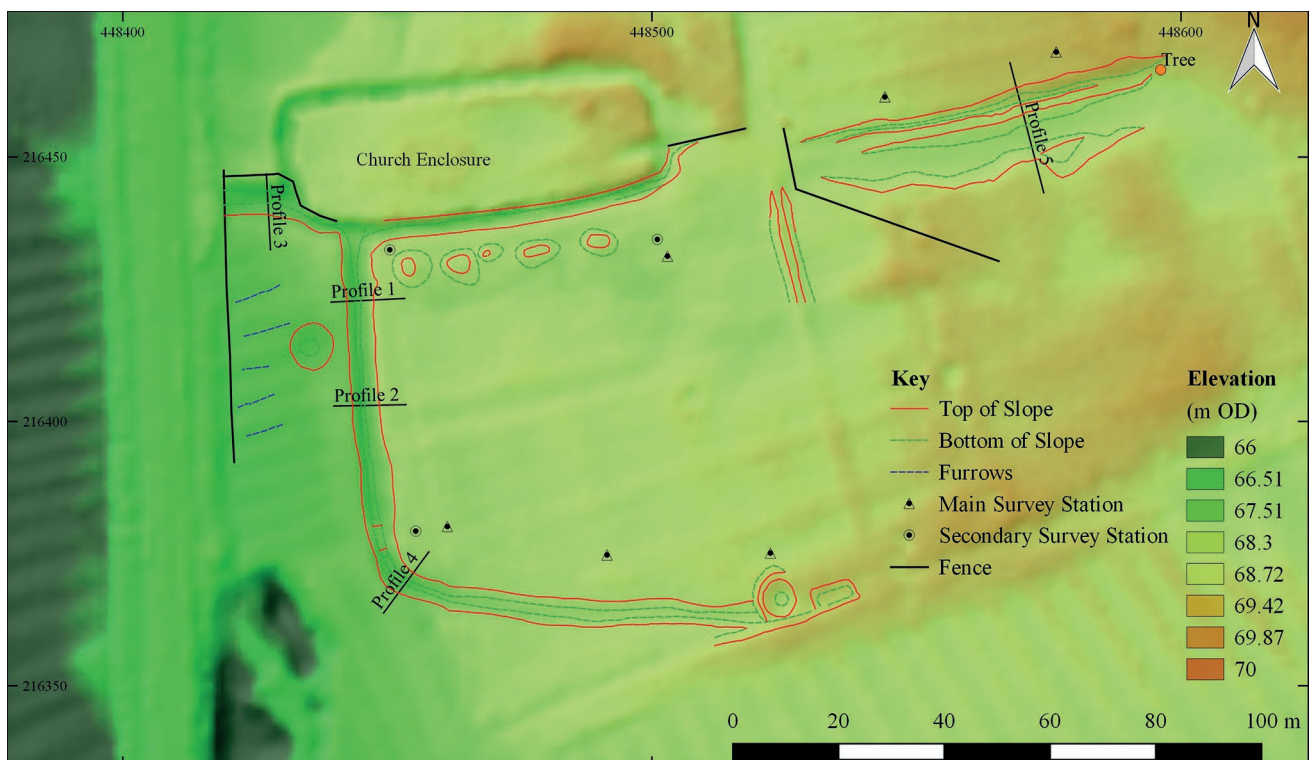


Figure 35: Digitised Plane Table Topographic Survey, Manor Farm, Hampton Gay

archaeological interpretation indicating possible ditches, pits or furrows from ridge-and-furrow.

The area north of the church remains enigmatic. In the south-west of the survey are three approximately linear ditches or furrows which may represent ploughed out ridge-and-furrow. However, the extent is fairly small and there is no visible indication of ridge-and-furrow on the ground. The lidar data does not reveal any corresponding ridge-and-furrow to the west of the railway. The distance

between the possible furrows is about 5m to 6m which is narrower than the ridge-and-furrow further south where the furrow separation is about 8m. There are also some much fainter patterns in the data which have a slightly curvilinear form and might hint at something of possible archaeological interest. This northern area lies close to the railway and the nearby paper mill. The nineteenth-century construction of the railway and enhancements to the paper mill including a gasometer and steam engine may have disturbed this area.



Figure 36: Magnetometer Survey with Google Earth Background, Manor Farm, Hampton Gay

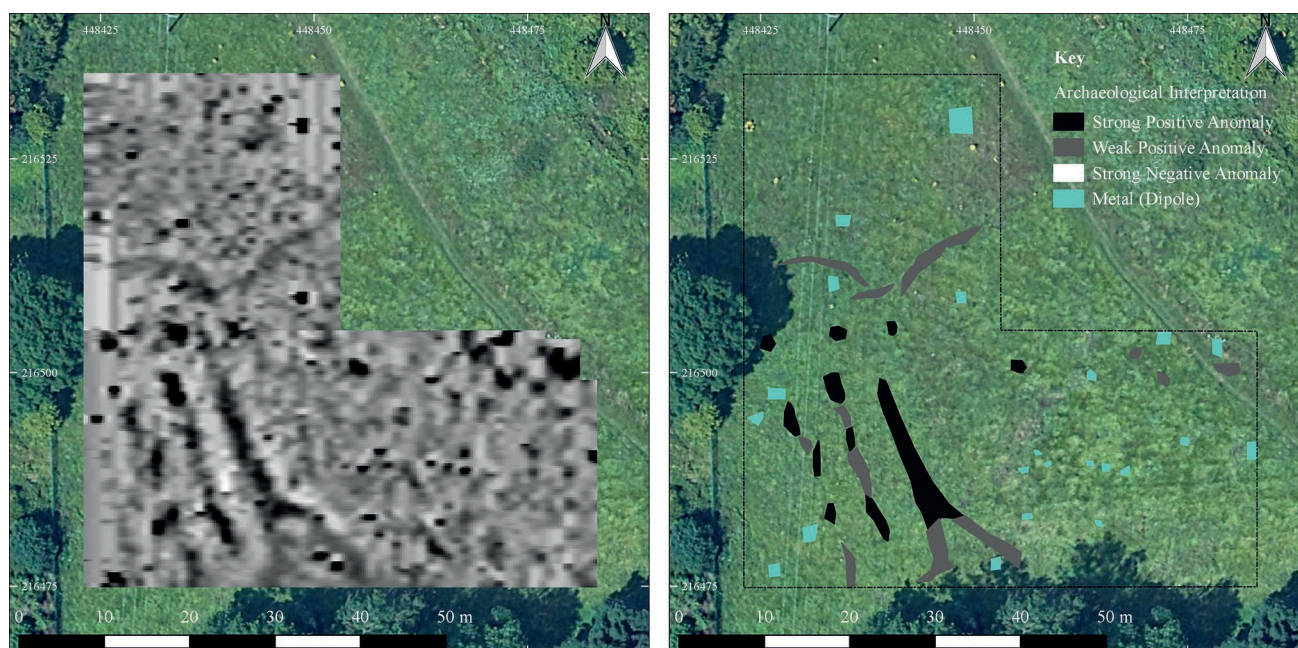


Figure 37: Archaeological Interpretation of the Magnetometer Survey north of the Church, Manor Farm, Hampton Gay

The small northern survey has not provided any evidence for medieval settlement, but this lack of evidence does not exclude settlement in this area.

The southern survey was much more extensive and figures 38 and 39 illustrate the archaeological interpretation for the south and south-east of the churchyard respectively. The area directly south of the church is the most likely to provide evidence for medieval settlement and is discussed first. In the OAU (1999) gazetteer, entry 27 is described as a possible house platform and entry 28 as a possible rectangular-shaped house platform and enclosure ditch.

As illustrated in figure 34, the topography within the main enclosing ditch includes a series of linear, low depressions

and ridges running from the south-west to the north-east. One of these, near the centre, is more visible than the others. These ridges do not appear to be ridge-and-furrow as they are much wider than the ridge-and-furrow further south. These topographic features are present in the geophysical survey and its interpretation in figure 38 is as a series of positive and negative anomalies. The strongest magnetic signal is from the deeper central depression. The location of gazetteer entry 28 lies to the north of the central depression and may be associated with a pit-like magnetic anomaly. Gazetteer entry 27 lies just to the north of the main depression on a small, level platform and may also be associated with a magnetic anomaly.

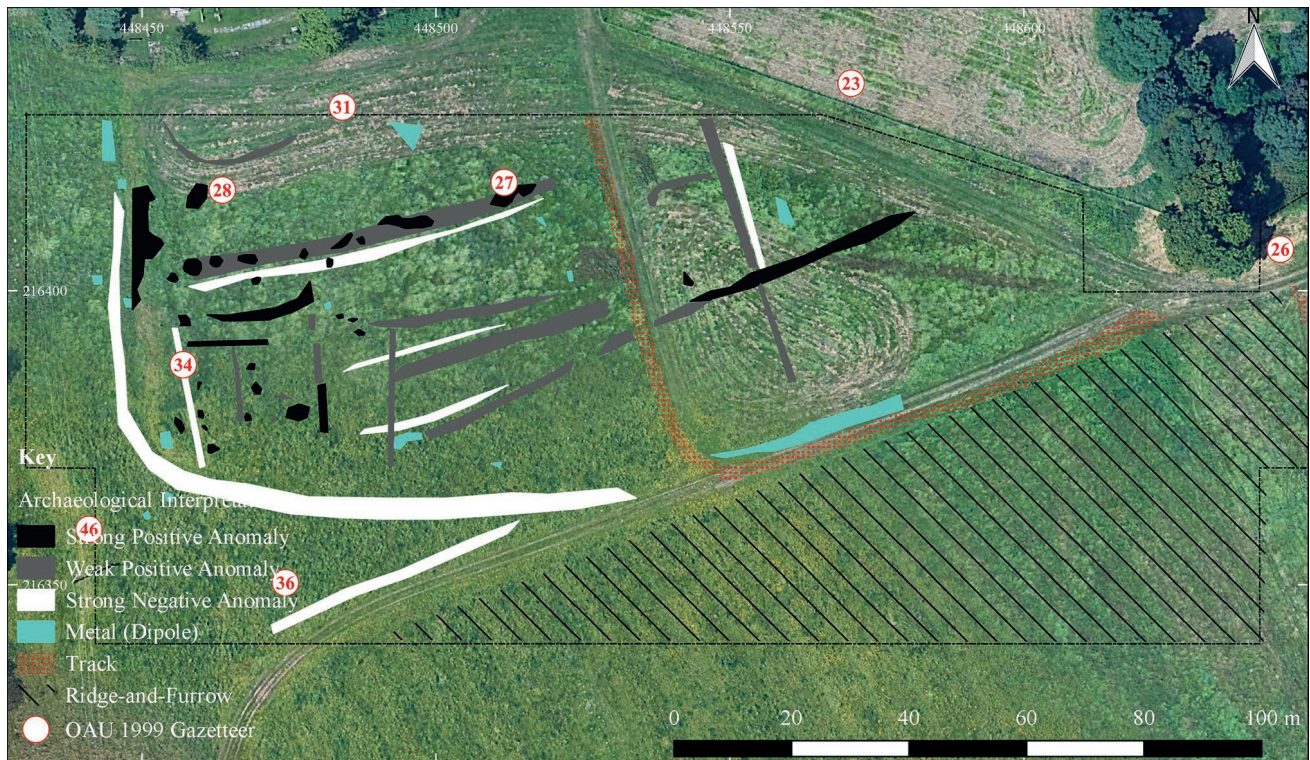


Figure 38: Archaeological Interpretation of the Magnetometer Survey south of the Church, Manor Farm, Hampton Gay

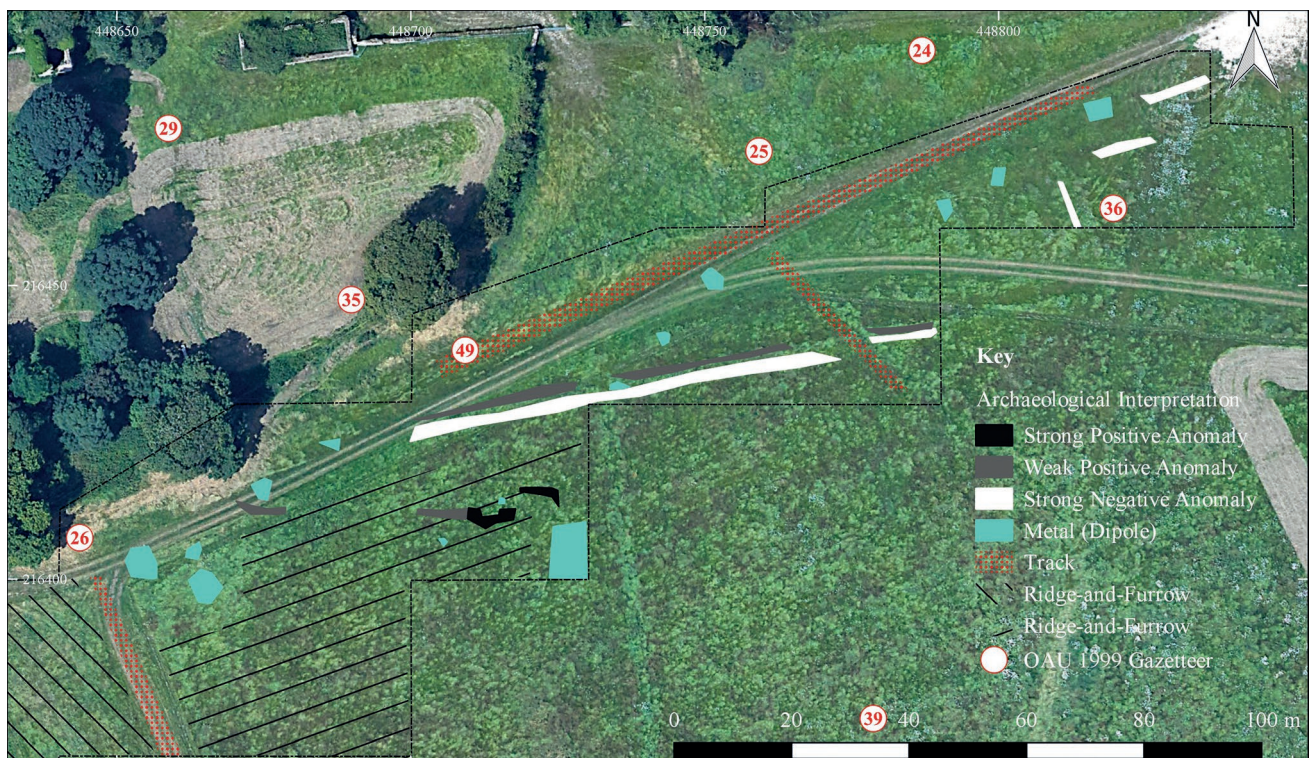


Figure 39: Archaeological Interpretation of the Magnetometer Survey south-east of the Church, Manor Farm, Hampton Gay

In the south-west of the main enclosure area the magnetometer survey has detected various features which do not correspond to topographical features visible on the lidar. A few linear features form an approximately rectangular shape while smaller, roughly circular shapes may represent pits of various sizes. These features are undated and may not relate to medieval settlement. Nevertheless, this area may reward further detailed examination, both through

topographic (plane table) survey and an earth resistance survey.

Lastly, the discussion turns to the area to the south-east of the church as illustrated in figure 39. The magnetometer survey covered a narrow strip between the southern boundary of the scheduled area to the south, and a track and fence line to the north. Beyond the fence line in the west is the ruined manor house with its garden area to the south. North of the

Oxfordshire

fence further east is more open ground. To the south of the area surveyed are the slight undulations of earlier ridge-and-furrow running south-west to north-east. The geophysical survey only captured this ridge-and-furrow in the south-west.

Apart from the ridge-and-furrow the main features detected by the magnetometer survey are three linear features representing tracks. In the west, one runs south-east and a second runs north-east adjacent to the northern fence line. In the east, a third track runs south-east. This track does not correspond to any contemporary track, but this alignment does appear on the 1876 first edition Ordnance Survey map. Later map editions do not show this track. The other main magnetic feature corresponds to a slight linear depression which runs just north of east to the north of the ridge-and-furrow. Its magnetic response is similar to the linear depressions found to the south of the church. Like these depressions, it is undated. It can be seen the depression is not on the same alignment as the ridge-and-furrow further south. On the southern edge of the survey is a strong dipole signal only part of which lies within the survey area.

Conclusions

A research aim of the MSc field survey week was to determine both the extent and survival of medieval settlement features north, south and south-east of the church, particularly those which lie within the Scheduled Ancient Monument OX120. Both a plane table topographic survey and a magnetic gradiometer survey were used to investigate this settlement.

The area north of the church remains enigmatic. Only a relatively small area was surveyed, and it may be possible to extend this survey in the future. The site lies close to the railway and a former paper mill, and it is possible that considerable post-medieval disturbance has occurred.

A much more extensive survey was undertaken south and south-east of the church. The most promising area is directly south of the church and lies within a large, well-

defined boundary ditch. An important topographic aspect of this enclosed area is a series of linear, low depressions and ridges running from west-south-west to east-north-east. These features do not appear to be ridge-and-furrow as they are much wider than the ridge-and-furrow further south. It is possible they represent post-medieval activity.

The OAU survey (OAU 1999) suggested two house platforms may lie within the northern part of this area. The magnetic survey has produced very limited evidence to support this in the form of two magnetic anomalies. The magnetic survey has also located magnetic anomalies in the south-west of the enclosure which could represent buildings. However, these features are undated and may not relate to medieval settlement. Post-medieval activity is possible across the whole area.

Planned future work includes further measured survey, an earth resistance survey and a possible ground penetrating radar survey.

Acknowledgements

We are very grateful to Mr Tim Thompson of Manor Farm and his staff for their assistance and interest in the survey work. We are also grateful to Mr David Wilkinson of Historic England for permission to conduct the geophysical survey over the Scheduled Ancient Monument.

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7. Pictures and diagrams should be of the highest possible quality; the printed version can be no better than that submitted. The journal is now **full colour** so submissions with **eye-catching colour photos and/or illustrations** are welcomed and encouraged.
8. Proofs will not be sent to contributors.
9. Contributors are responsible for the accuracy of their data.
10. Please note that charges are as follows: Professional/commercial – 1 free page, remainder charged at £20/page; Amateur group – 2 free pages, remainder charged at £20/page. *The submission of an article will be taken as an agreement to pay the charge.* Invoices will be sent out during the summer and payment is expected prior to publication in the autumn.

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