

SOUTH
MIDLANDS
ARCHAEOLOGY

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CBA SOUTH MIDLANDS GROUP
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SOUTH MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY

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

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It should be noted that the reports in this volume refer, in the main, to work carried out in 2015.

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to volume 46.

After goodness knows how many years as Editor, I think I started in the 1980s, I have decided to retire. When I started it really was cut and paste. I have enjoyed the job and the friendships I have made. I would like to thank Joan Schneider for her hard work proof-reading the contributions and Barbara Hird for producing the index. Barbara has decided this is her last index.

Archaeology in the area continues to change with organisations coming and going and others joining others and changing their name. For some years Northants Archaeology provided our cover picture. Let us hope that continues now they are MOLA Northampton.

In conclusion I would like to thank all those who sent in reports and ask that they, and anyone else, support my successor and send in articles for *SMA* 47. Copy date is 31st March 2017; please refer to Notes for Contributors.

Thank you to everyone who sent in contributions which made the job so interesting.

Barry Horne ACIfA
Editor

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

On this site are:

Scanned copies of *SMA* 1-45

The cumulative index to *SMA* volumes 1-37

The index to the CBA Industrial Bulletin Nos 1-16 (1967-71)

SMA - Notes for Contributors

Front cover -

General view of the DIRFT settlements, looking west, showing the individual settlement clusters, each lying adjacent to a common boundary ditch encompassing the rim of a shallow valley. It is suggested that this central area comprised pasture, with the arable set around the margins, outside the boundary ditch. (artist: Mark Gridley).

Notes for Contributors

1. The submitted article should follow the format of *South Midlands Archaeology*. That is:

name of the County followed by

name of the organisation (if applicable) followed by

name of the writer or compiler followed by

body of the article with suitable headings and sub-headings.

2. If the article consists of many separate site reports, each site should be reported as follows:

name of the site (place-names in alphabetic order) followed by

grid reference (eg SP 1234 5678 [alphabetic prefix must be included]) followed by

name of the person who wrote the site report followed by

individual site report with suitable headings and sub-headings.

3. One purpose of *SMA* is to act as a record of the work carried out in the area; this does not mean that it need be dull. Contributors are asked to be as interesting as possible for the many members of CBA South Midlands who are not archaeologists but who have a lively interest in the past.

4. If, during an investigation, nothing was found, don't be afraid to say so in simple terms. **Always include the reason for the investigation.**

5. When the article is submitted please ensure that all text (including captions) and pictures, as separate files, are included and clearly identified.

6. The preferred method for receiving text is as a Rich Text File (rtf extension) sent by email to bhorne@globalnet.co.uk with a subject of "SMA contribution". Please do not send documents with embedded pictures. Each illustration must be a separate file in bmp, jpeg or tiff format. CDs with the contribution can be mailed to Beaumont, Church End, Edlesborough, Dunstable, Beds. LU6 2EP. If you are unable to comply with the above please contact the Editor. (Barry Horne - 01525 221219 or at the above email address)

7. Pictures and diagrams should be of the highest possible quality; the printed version can be no better than that submitted.

8. Proofs will not be sent to contributors.

9. Contributors are responsible for the accuracy of their data.

10. Please note that charges are as follows: Professional/commercial - 1 free page, remainder charged at £18/page; Amateur group - 2 free pages, remainder charged at £18/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.

BJH ACIfA

21st December 2015

Castles of the South Midlands: Recent Research

Saturday 25th April 2015 at The Town Hall, 86 Watling Street, Towcester, Northamptonshire, NN12 6BS

Tickets: £16 for members of CBA South Midlands and its affiliated organisations; £20 for non-members. A buffet lunch was included.

10:00am Tea, coffee and biscuits

10:30am Welcome

10:35am Steve Capel-Davies: Chairman, The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society - Wallingford Castle: A Power in the Land

11:35am Dr Steve Ashby and Dr Aleks McClain: University of York - Helpston before Clare: the Torpel Manor Archaeological Research Project

12:20pm Lunch – a cold buffet was provided (vegetarian and gluten-free options available) Brian Giggins of the Towcester and District Local History Society led short walking tours of Bury Mount and medieval Towcester during the lunch interval. There were poster displays and a CBA book stall.

1:50pm Joe Abrams: Regional Manager, Headland Archaeology South & East - Devils and Wicked Men – how Luton came to have two castles

2:35pm Andrew Norton: Regional Manager, Wessex Archaeology North - Oxford's West Gate - from burh to castle to prison

3:35pm Tea and coffee

4:00pm Andy Chapman: Senior Project Manager, MOLA Northampton - In search of Northampton Castle

5:00pm Close



Brian Giggins with a tour party.

The Later Prehistory of the South Midlands

Saturday 17th October 2015 at Council Chamber, Town Hall, St Mary's Way, Chesham, Buckinghamshire HP5 1DS

Tickets: £16 for members of CBA South Midlands and its affiliated organisations; £20 for non-members. A buffet lunch was included.

10:00am Tea, coffee and biscuits

10:30am Welcome

10:35am Mike Farley: former Buckinghamshire County Archaeologist - Aylesbury: town within a hillfort

11:20am Andy Chapman: MOLA Northampton - some recent prehistoric sites and finds,

11:50am Mike Luke: Project Manager, Albion Archaeology - Brackley, Northants: preliminary results from the excavation of two large Iron Age settlements

12:20pm Lunch – a cold buffet was provided (vegetarian and gluten-free options available)

1:30pm Gary Lock: Emeritus Professor of Archaeology, Oxford University Institute of Archaeology - Mapping hillforts: problems and progress

2:15pm Dr Ian Brown: Oxford University Institute of Archaeology - Ravensburgh Castle hillfort: new surveys, new interpretations

3:00pm Tea, coffee and biscuits

3:30pm CBA South Midlands AGM

3:45pm Tim Allen: Senior Project Manager, Oxford Archaeology - Later prehistory at Castle Hill, Little Wittenham, Oxfordshire: hilltop enclosure, midden, hillfort and settlement

4:30pm Close



Mike Farley speaking about Aylesbury - a town within a hillfort.

The Portable Antiquities Scheme in the South Midlands, 2015.

By Anni Byard, with contributions from Julie Cassidy, Teresa Gilmore, Ros Tyrrell and Julian Watters

Once again 2015 was a busy year for the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS), with 82,671 individual artefacts recorded in 63,404 records across England and Wales. The number of Treasure cases continues to increase year-on-year, with 1040 cases reported (1001 from England, 37 from Wales and 2 from Northern Ireland). Oxfordshire saw nearly a 40% increase in Treasure cases on 2014, with the 9th century Watlington Hoard of Viking silver and Anglo-Saxon coins being the one of the most high profile and important archaeological discoveries of the year (more details below). Across the four South Midlands counties 4689 individual objects were reported including 109 cases of potential treasure. By period these finds break down as the following: The Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) for Northamptonshire was unfortunately off-sick for much of the year which is reflected in the lower than usual figures for the county. The PAS selectively records post- AD 1700 objects of those that are unusual or tell a local story or that fall within the remit of the Treasure Act (pre-AD 1715). More information on the Treasure Act is available on the PAS webpage (). Below are some of the 2015 highlights from each county, however many more can be found on the PAS website. These are all available to view by using the advanced search facility on the PAS database (). Within the database you can search by area (county, parish), artefact type (brooch, pilgrim badge), period (Mesolithic, medieval) and other facets or by entering the specific find identification number (ie BH-AFB002).

Bedfordshire

Total objects = 491; Treasure cases: = 8

Roman knife blades are commonly found on excavations (Mould 2011:168) but dating an iron blade from within the ploughzone can be problematic. Most domestic knives would have been inserted into an organic handle which will only survive in specific conditions; however one group of knife handles that do survive well and are sometimes found by metal detector users are those with copper alloy handles. This example of a folding knife handle from Stagsden (BH-E3CB0D) is likely to have been from an implement used for personal grooming and takes the form of an



Figure 1 Roman folding knife handle.

openwork, three-dimensional representation of a hound chasing a hare (Fig 1). The design gives the impression of rapid forward motion, created by the elongated appearance of the bodies and the low angle of the backward-pointing ears. Both animals are heavily stylised with slender bodies and facial features hinted at by the use of shallow grooves; the nose of the hound rests on the rump of the hare. The bar beneath their feet is decorated with diagonal lines probably intended to represent the grassy ground upon which they run. The iron knife blade, although now mostly missing, was secured to the handle by an iron hinge pivot which enable the knife to be folded safely in to the handle when not in use. 'Hare and hound' folding knives are well represented on the PAS database, with approximately 70 complete or fragmentary examples recorded to date. Other examples are published from Roman Richborough (Bushe Fox 1949: pl. XXXVI no. 118) and Thetford (Gregory, 1992: p. 131, fig. 117, no. 19).

This late Saxon copper alloy openwork mount from Houghton Regis was probably attached to harness or a box or casket (Fig 2). It's decorated in the Urnes style, the latest style of Viking art which dates from around the mid-11th to early 12th century (Webster 2012:215). The mount displays a sinuous and interlaced beast with the projecting head terminating in a loop; the four perforated lugs (one broken) around the edges may be fixing holes. A number of similar mounts are recorded on the PAS database including several from Norfolk, including one from Brampton (Norfolk Historic Environment Record number 24451), Mautby (NMS-088222/Norfolk HER 37426), and Stratton Strawless (NMS-E92C94/Norfolk HER 41364). PAS reference: NMS-B93047.

	Bedfordshire	Buckinghamshire	Northamptonshire	Oxfordshire	Total
Palaeolithic	0	1	0	0	1
Mesolithic	0	0	0	149	149
Neolithic	0	0	5	13	18
Bronze Age	0	8	5	126	139
Iron Age	18	42	23	56	139
Roman	305	661	284	815	2065
Early-medieval	14	40	20	79	153
Medieval	106	309	143	404	962
Post-medieval	45	302	127	528	1002
Modern	1	3	1	5	10
Unknown	2	29	9	19	59
Total	491	1387	617	2194	4689



Figure 2. Late Saxon mount.

An elaborate medieval vessel spout from Battlesden takes the form of a three-dimensional bird with tubular body (Fig 3). The spout of a ewer, the bird is simply but well depicted with V-shaped grooves indicating the feathers and a



Figure 3. Zoomorphic ewer spout.

V-shaped groove on either side of the head creating the impression of an open beak holding the pouring tube. The legs of the bird are incomplete, interestingly however, one of the lower legs, with a three-toed claw, was found slotted into the base of the broken spout, thus resembling a foreshortened tail. The upper end of each wing is slightly raised and has a flattened inner surface. The purpose of this feature was to allow the spout to fit the curved side of the ewer's neck. Possible traces of a white metal solder in this area add weight to the theory. The tripod ewer was an innovation of the 14th century, and many of the examples known have zoomorphic spouts. Ewers developed throughout the 15th century, their forms becoming more and more elaborate (Lewis 1987: 2). A simple swan neck form of spout adorns a tripod ewer in the collections of the British Museum (*ibid.* 3, fig. 3a), and a more complex lion design can be seen on a late 15th century example from Penrhos, Gwent (*ibid.* 5, fig. 8b). The developed form of this bird-shaped example suggests a probable 15th century date. PAS reference BH-AFB002.

Buckinghamshire

Total objects = 1387; Treasure cases: = 36

A fragment of a copper alloy Roman figurine found at Haddenham is likely to be part of a 'horse and rider' figurine. The piece comprises the head and upper part of the neck of a

horse, being well moulded, and albeit of somewhat stylised appearance, its features are portrayed by means of cast, incised and punched elements. The eyes are oval with annulet pupils and more annulets around the head and muzzle creates the impression of bridle straps. Two horizontal grooves form the open mouth of the animal, and the ridge that divides them is almost certainly designed to represent the bridle bit. The pointed-oval ears angle sharply upwards from the back of the head, flanking a higher central spiral which represents a decorative arrangement of the mane. The rest of the mane is depicted by means of a series of angled, parallel grooves. The dark orange-brown, shiny surface is probably indicative of deposition within a wet environment. Three examples of such figurines were found at Brigstock, Northamptonshire, including one from the excavation of a shrine (Greenfield 1963:243 Fig. 4.1). The Brigstock examples are discussed by Taylor (1963), who illustrates further British parallels from Bourne and Willingham Fen (Lincs), Westwood Bridge (near Peterborough) and Canterbury, and suggests they may be connected with the cult of Mars or a local warrior-god. A similar interpretation has been offered for the possibly related series of enamelled 'horse and rider' plate brooches of the 3rd to early 5th centuries, which Catherine Johns suggests may represent a Romano-Celtic rider god, derived from an amalgamation of a native deity and aspects of the Roman god Mars (1996: 174) Fig 4.



Figure 4. Horse and rider figurine fragment.

An unusual survivor is this damaged but complete copper alloy stirrup of 14th century date from Quainton (Fig 5). Broadly trapezoidal in plan, a cover-plate with raised medial ridge is located at the top of the stirrup. The slot between the front and back of the plate would have been where the stirrup strap was inserted and secured. The trefoil cut-outs on the front of the plate are probably wholly decorative, like the saltires located beneath the trefoils. The stirrup arms are decorated with a moulded rope work or cabled effect. The oval foot-rest is formed of a plate set at right angles to each arm and beneath the front edge is a long perpendicular decorative lip comprising a central triangular protrusion, which is flanked by smaller decorative ridges to each side. The medial ridge on the cover-plate is characteristic of some medieval stirrup cover-plates (cf. Read 1988:90-91, no. 547) while the trifoliate openwork can be seen on other stirrup fragments recorded by the PAS (for example LEIC-892CC1



Figure 5. Medieval stirrup.

and the more complete LVPL-316327). The foot-rest is similar to one from London (Clark 2004:73-74, no. 84) which is also dated to the 14th century. PAS reference BUC-1A3216.

This near complete 17th century salt-glazed stoneware Bellarmine jug (also known as a Bartmaan or Beardman jug) was found during agricultural works near Milton Keynes (PAS reference BH-FACEFF, Fig 6). These stoneware jugs, imported from Germany and the Low Countries, acquired their nickname from the likeness of the facemask to Cardinal Bellarmine (1542-1621), who was a bitter opponent of the formation of the Protestant Church. It is commonly said that Protestants would smash these jugs as a way of insulting the Cardinal, and sherds of these vessels are much more commonly found than complete examples. This example also displays the arms of Amsterdam however a vessel with similar arms and face mask, made at Frechen (southwest of Cologne, Germany) is illustrated by Hurst *et al.* (1986: 220). The arced grooves on the base of this vessel are also diagnostic of Frechen stoneware (*ibid.* 214).



Figure 6. Bellarmine jug.

Northamptonshire

Total objects = 617;
Treasure cases = 21

One of my favourite finds from 2015, this lovely near-complete medieval two-tone lead glazed floor tile was found during the laying of a new drive in Warkworth parish near Banbury (Fig 7). Decorated glazed floor tiles were commonplace in cathedrals, churches, and other religious houses during the medieval period. They were occasionally laid in private chapels (Stopford 2005:83) but their appearance is almost exclusively ecclesiastical (Graves 2002:9). During the dissolution of the monasteries many tiled floors were ripped up, with the tiles often

discarded or reused elsewhere.

Of 14th century date, the tile depicts a male figure, hunched over and advancing right. The figure wears a long pointed hood or cowl and may be a fool or jester. In the right hand the figure holds a staff that may be topped with a bird (possibly a raven) or animal or possibly the figure's other hand. The figure's face is opposite the creature giving the impression



Figure 7. Medieval floor tile.

the figure is interacting with it. This design on this tile is unusual; animals of naturalist or heraldic form are much more common than anthropomorphic depictions on medieval floor tiles but floor tiles featuring stories or fables appear from the 13th century (Stopford 2005:60) while acrobats and musicians appear from the 14th century (*ibid.*). This tile is likely to come from the North Midlands tradition (Maureen Mellor pers. comm.). No keying holes are identifiable on the reverse because of the presence of lime plaster. An exact parallel is illustrated in Cooper (1968:12) however it is noted as coming from a private collection and no provenance is given. Many thanks to Julie Edwards, Senior Archaeologists of Chester Archaeology (Chester West and Chester Council) for locating this parallel, and to Ian Soden and Maureen Mellor for their help with identifying this object. Research is ongoing. PAS reference BERK-8B90E8.

This medieval copper-alloy mount with heraldic decoration from Lowick (Fig 8) forms part of a growing dataset of armorial roundels, objects mounted within a frame and used to adorn straps. Now missing its outer frame, the roundel is a flat disc bearing the arms of Edward III (AD 1327-1377) and his wife, Philippa of Hainault. The blazon is now missing its coloured enamel but is 'quarterly 1st and 4th Gules three lions passant guardant [Or] 2nd and 3rd [Or] four lions rampant [in a quadrangle] the 1st and 4th Sable the 2nd and 3rd [Gules]'. A circular mount with the same fixing method, which bore the arms of the Bishopric of Ely, was found in Norfolk and is illustrated and described by Ashley (2002:45 Fig. 20 no. 196). The presence of the royal arms on this piece is likely to be a public display of allegiance to the throne rather than an indication of ownership on the part of the



Figure 8. Medieval armorial roundel.

crown. Roundels adorned either strap fittings over armour or martingales; the effigy of the Black Prince (d. 1376) in Canterbury Cathedral shows similar armorial roundels adorning the sword belt (Egan & Pritchard 1991:183-4). A number of armorial mounts of this quality are known and this example fits exactly into the range of diameters seen on other armorial roundels of this date; Egan and Pritchard record three armorial mounts from the Thames Foreshore, all 60mm diameter and bearing unknown arms (*ibid.* Figure 116). Other armorial mounts include one from Rievaulx Abbey in North Yorkshire, bearing the arms of Abbot John III who held office in AD 1449 (Dunning 1965:53-5), and a large martingale mount bearing the arms of Owen Glyndwr from Harlech Castle, Gwynedd, dated to c. AD 1404-08 (Peers 1936). A very elaborate example from Hampshire is recorded on the PAS database (BERK-F58E08). PAS reference BH-7A9E2F.

A complete enamelled gold finger ring, of post-medieval dating was found at Preston Capes and is currently going through the treasure process (case number 2015 T197). The finger ring was originally circular in shape, however due to soil pressure, it is now more of a flattened oval shape. The exterior of the ring is decorated with a six petalled flower with a curved feather to either side, repeated four times around the hoop. Traces of enamel are present within the recesses of the decoration; white in the feathers, and blue in the flowers. The interior surface of the ring bears an engraved inscription, in capital letters, reading: * NO FRIND TO FAITH. Small six pointed stars are used as stops between the words. No maker's marks are present. The style of the

decoration is similar to that used in the Cheapside Hoard, which is of 17th Century date. Poem, or 'posy' rings, are relatively common finds. Most are simple with plain gold bands but this one stands out because of the intricate decoration of the hoop. Posy rings bear an array of inscriptions pertaining to love, marriage or friendship. PAS reference WMID-2DB714.

Oxfordshire

Total objects = 2194. Treasure cases = 44

This complete ground or polished stone axe head of Neolithic date, c. 4000-2500 BC was found in Witney during excavations for a garden pond (Fig 9). Made from an igneous greenstone, the axe is in very good condition; the cutting edge is still relatively sharp and shows only minor use-wear to the naked eye. One side of the cutting edge is more polished than the opposing side, having a much smoother feel. Grinding occurs after 4000 BC, so this axe is likely to date between 4000-2500 BC. Axes were ground using large stones used for the purpose. Grinding or polishing axes produced less facets than knapping or chipping the stone, meaning that there would be less chance of breakage during use. However, a ground axe would also have been aesthetically pleasing and these objects almost certainly played a prestigious, symbolic or ritual role in many Neolithic societies. It is uncertain where this example originated from, but there are sources known from Ireland, North Wales and possibly more likely in this case, from Great Langdale in the Lake District. The finder of this axe suggested that it may have been brought in with soil when the houses were being constructed in the 1970s, however Langdale axes appear all over the country and are therefore not unlikely to turn up in Oxfordshire. PAS reference BERK-8CD431.

A Late Iron Age to Roman period copper-alloy 'fob' or 'dangler' with triskele motif from Bampton is a typical design on what is still a poorly understood artefact type (Fig 10). The head of the fob takes the form of a moulded triskele motif, the underside displaying three equal spirals, each with a concave strand and sub-circular terminal. A circular-cross-sectioned shaft with apex loop extends from the back of the motif. Similar fobs are illustrated by Spratling (1974: Vol. II, Fig. 92, nos. 215 and 216, from Abergavenny and All Cannings Cross/Stanton St. Bernard respectively), who describes them as 'loop-shanked pendants' and notes that their function is unclear (*ibid.* 125-126) however Jope (2000:285) suggests that they may have been hung from items of equipment, personal apparel or harness decoration. Jope (*ibid.*) records seventeen known examples of danglers and related 'hangers' from Britain, while Macgregor (1976:37) records nine known examples of triskele-decorated fobs from the British Isles. MacGregor also discusses the contextual evidence of the nine examples known at the time, postulating a wide date range which probably spans the late Iron



Figure 9. Neolithic polished axe.



Figure 10. Late Iron Age fob dangles.

Age to early Roman period (*ibid.* 37-38). This is the fifth triskele fob dangle recorded from Oxfordshire recorded on the PAS database, a number equalled only by those from the East Riding of Yorkshire and from Shropshire. PAS reference BH-33103E.

2015 saw a number of important finds from Oxfordshire recorded with the PAS, however there is one star find that featured at the launch of the Treasure Annual Report at the British Museum in December 2015. Discovered only a few weeks before the launch, the Watlington Hoard is a nationally important collection of Viking silver and Anglo-Saxon coins (Fig 11). 'The hoard comprises around 200 Anglo-Saxon silver coins, three complete silver Viking arm-rings, 15 silver ingots and three deliberately cut jewellery fragments (hack-silver) including one gold piece, an extremely rare find. The mixture of coins, intact jewellery and bullion is a typical feature of Viking hoards. Most of the objects cannot be closely dated but the coinage offers a far greater degree of precision, the majority dating to Ceolwulf II's reign (874-878/9) consisting mostly of Wessex issues of Alfred the Great (871-899) and Mercian issues of Ceolwulf. It is these coins that form the centrepiece of the hoard's importance. The Watlington hoard was buried during a



Figure 11. The Watlington Hoard.

Portable Antiquities Scheme

tumultuous period in the 870s, when the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of England faced annihilation by the Vikings as Northumbria and East Anglia fell under Viking rule. In 878 Alfred had defeated the Vikings at Edington (Wiltshire), and soon after a border between Wessex and the Viking-ruled Danelaw was later agreed, including a section along the River Thames in Oxfordshire' (extract taken from 'The Watlington Hoard', Ashmolean Museum, forthcoming. Thanks to John Naylor (Ashmolean) and Gareth Williams (British Museum) for discussions and information on the content of the hoard and access to the draft text). The Watlington Hoard has recently been declared Treasure by the Oxfordshire Coroner and attention now turns to valuation. Obviously this is still very early days regarding the research and interpretation of the hoard and the context of its burial, but a popular book is being produced by the Ashmolean Museum which introduces the historical context of the hoard and its content. The Ashmolean Museum (Oxford) hope to acquire the hoard with research and outreach support from Oxfordshire County Council's Museum Service. It is hoped that much of the hoard will go on display at The Oxfordshire Museum (Woodstock) in time for the Service's 50th birthday in October 2016. The image shows just a selection of the coins. PAS reference SUR-4A4231.

The finds highlighted above are but a very few of those recorded in the four counties in 2015. For many, many more finds and for information on the PAS visit the website .

FLOs **Ros Tyrrell** (Bucks), **Julian Watters** (Beds & Herts) and **Julie Cassidy** are leaving the Scheme after contributing 30 years and recording c 40,000 finds between them. My colleagues I thank them for all of their hard work and for their dedication to not only the Scheme but to their finders and local groups. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours. At the time of going to press their successors were yet to be appointed however contact details for the new incumbents will be available at www.finds.org.uk/contacts in due course.

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Bedfordshire

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BEDFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGY IN BEDFORD BOROUGH 2015-16

Fieldwork Projects

There have been a number of development-related fieldwork projects undertaken in the Bedford Borough Council area in 2015-16.

One of the largest investigations in 2014-15 has focussed on the route of the Bedford Northern Bypass and housing to the north of Bromham Rd between Biddenham and Bromham. The bypass will link the A428 Bromham Rd (at its junction with Gold Land/Deep Spinney) with the A6 Clapham Road, surrounded by c 49ha of housing to the north and south.

Archaeological remains were recovered dating from the prehistoric to the post-medieval, with specific foci in the Neolithic/early Bronze Age, Romano-British and post-medieval periods. In the western half of the proposed housing site, a small number of Neolithic-early Bronze Age

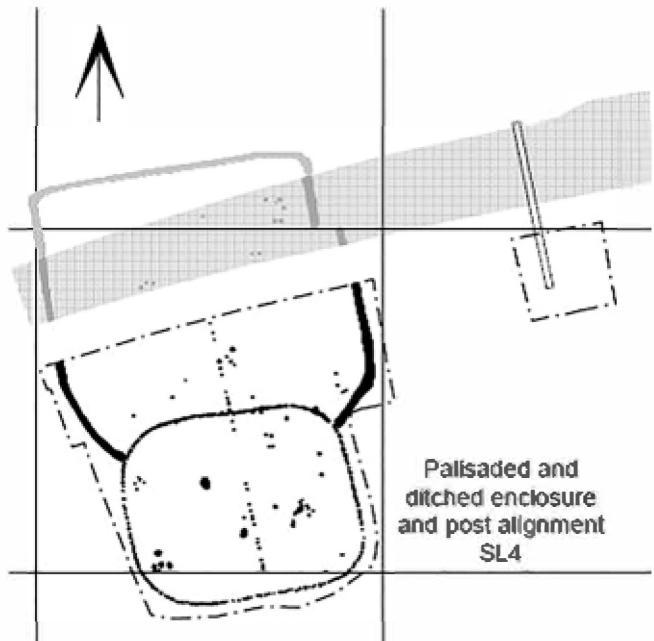


Figure 1. Excavation plan of the Bronze Age/early Iron Age palisaded enclosure at Land North of Bromham Rd, Bedford. ©Albion Archaeology

pits were indicative of settlement, alongside a ring-ditch (most likely ploughed-out burial mound).

Both the bypass route and housing site contained the unusual remains of a ditched and palisaded enclosure dated to the middle Bronze Age/early Iron Age. Inside were the remains of clustered pits and postholes, including two probable four-post structures. No contemporary and comparable palisaded enclosures are known in Bedfordshire, so an exciting find. Elsewhere dispersed early-middle Iron Age settlement and a Roman-period farmstead were encountered. The latter included a number of ditched rectangular enclosures with associated trackway.

The site of a post-medieval windmill, suggested by the place-name evidence of 'Windmill Hill' on the 1794 pre-enclosure map, was also excavated. It cut earlier Roman features. No evidence for the mill building itself was present, so it is thought that it was either set within the mound (which



Figure 2. The middle Bronze Age/early Iron Age palisaded enclosure at Land North of Bromham Rd, Bedford, photo taken facing northwest. Individual postholes visible. ©Albion Archaeology



Figure 3. The post-medieval windmill site on 'Windmill Hill', cutting the earlier Roman archaeology. ©Albion Archaeology

was subsequently levelled) or mounted clear of the ground on a brick or stone wall, typical of 17th-18th century post mills.

Fieldwork has also been continuing at the quarry site near the Blackcat Roundabout. Further stretches of a large interrupted ditch have been revealed and investigated by Archaeological Research Services. Preliminary results indicate a possible early Saxon date for the feature which would be unusual. In addition to this a small Romano-British cemetery has recently been uncovered at the site. Fieldwork at the site will continue for the foreseeable future.

Historic Environment Record (HER)

In February 2016, work began on the National Mapping Programme Survey of Bedford Borough, 'The Bedford Borough NMP Project' for short. The project will cover 675 square kilometres (89% of borough) and will last approximately 24 months. It is being undertaken by aerial archaeology specialists, Skylarkaeology, in conjunction with Bedford Borough Council and plans to map all archaeological cropmarks, soilmarks and earthworks from historic and current aerial photography. The Environment Agency's lidar data will also be used to identify otherwise hard to detect archaeological features. This data has been created through measuring the height differences in ground surface by firing a pulsed laser beam from a plane which measures between 20,000 to 100,000 points per second and building a high resolution model of the ground and features upon it.

Prior to the project, only limited plotting of archaeological cropmarks in the borough had been undertaken and so the project has the potential to considerably enhance the archaeological evidence base within the Bedford Borough Historic Environment Record, helping to better inform future conservation and management strategies, and to lessen the risk of losing nationally significant landscapes and heritage assets. The archaeological assets of the borough remain at threat from housing development, sand and gravel extraction along the River Ouse, other land use changes, and agricultural ploughing. The first phase of the project will prioritise the areas where development pressure is greatest and where other threat factors are high, principally in the southern half of the borough. This initial work has already identified some new sites.



Figure 4. Cropmark and earthwork mapping in progress around the east of Bedford and Cardington. ©Skylarkaeology

In the example below, the red depicts large banks representing boundaries or plough headlands associated with the old medieval field system. Other smaller banks around Cardington are the myriad Second World War earth-covered air raid shelters (many Stantons but not all) that are associated with RAF Cardington camp. The Cardington sheds, one from the First World War are shown in purple, along with Second World War RAF buildings that are not recorded on any available OS maps. The cropmarks (in green) range from the Bronze Age through to the Romano-British period.

Recent evidence from aerial reconnaissance suggests a significant but hitherto mostly unrecorded archaeological resource situated on the borough's claylands. Historic England's ongoing Reconnaissance Record project has recently assessed archaeological oblique photos taken in 2010 and 2011, identifying hundreds of new clayland sites, many of which are contiguous cropmark features extending over hundreds of metres and, in some cases, over kilometres. Many are thought to be Iron Age or Romano-British in origin but are yet to be fully assessed. This assessment will form part of the borough NMP project.

Community Archaeology

The Sharnbrook Community Archaeology Group has been undertaking seasonal investigations at Castle Close over a number of recent years. Last year work focussed on an area to the east of the scheduled monument where excavation has identified the remains of a small sub-circular structure of unknown function which appears to be contemporary with the moated site. The group are proceeding with post-excavation analysis on the results of the fieldwork. (Fig 5).



Figure 5. Sub-circular structure contemporary with the medieval moat ©Sharnbrook Local History Group

Monument Management

The Historic Environment Team has been working with Historic England, Natural England, and the Friends of Mowsbury and Putnoe Woods local community group to discuss a programme of Historical and Archaeological Feature Protection (HAP) at Mowsbury Hillfort funded by Natural England via the Higher Level Stewardship agreement for the site. The intention is to build on the encouraging work undertaken by the Friends' Group who have bought the site into positive and active management. Proposed works include a variety of archaeological surveys in order to establish the archaeological preservation and potential of the site, the establishment of a management plan based at least partially on the results of the surveys, and improved heritage interpretation at the site.

Local Plan

Work has been continuing on ensuring that the drafting of the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 pays due regard to the historic environment, including new historic environment policies and commenting on the historic environment impacts of sites put forward as part of the 'Call for Sites' submissions. The Bedford Borough Historic Environment Team aims to ensure the setting out of a positive and clear strategy for the continued enjoyment and enhancement of Bedford Borough's historic environment.

EAA Publications

A number of new East Anglian Archaeology publications on sites excavated in the borough are now available. These include a monograph on the excavations on Land to the West of Bedford, *'Close to the Loop: 6000 years of landscape and settlement evolution by the Biddenham Loop west of Bedford'* (Luke, 2016) and on the excavations at the site of an elaborate Roman farmstead at Newnham, Bedfordshire, destroyed by gravel quarrying in the 1950s: *'Newnham: a Roman bath house and estate centre east of Bedford'* (Ingham, Oetgen and Slowikowski, forthcoming).

Vanessa Clarke, and Geoff Saunders,
Bedford Borough Council

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Aspley Guise, Larkwood Ltd, Bedford Road
(SP 9432035890)

Kathy Pilkinton

Trial trenching in December 2015 revealed undated and post-medieval/modern postholes and rubbish pits that predated recently demolished buildings. The features are most likely backyard remains associated with former buildings and the present-day properties on the street frontage. OASIS ID albionar1-222872 Accession Number BEDFM 2015.68

Battlesden, The Garden House (SP 95872908)

Jeremy Oetgen

Archaeological observation and investigation took place on 15th July 2015. A single, potentially medieval, ditch was found on an approximate east-west alignment. The only dating evidence recovered from it was a small fragment of medieval pottery. Trenches at the south-west side of the building revealed the foundations of the building that had been demolished prior to development. The possible medieval ditch is most likely to have been a field boundary or possibly a ditch flanking a road or track, approximately on the line of the existing driveway. Along with the undated ditch recorded in 2014 during works to the Garden House itself, this ditch is the only archaeological evidence so far recorded that relates to the landscape predating the establishment of the 19th century Garden House and its walled garden. OASIS ID albionar1-176723, albionar1-217047 Accession Number LUTNM: 2015/2

Biggleswade, Stratton Business Park Phases 5 and 6
(TL 21204340)

Iain Leslie

Trial trenching in May and June 2015 revealed evidence for several areas of archaeological potential. These included a Bronze Age ring-ditch, three settlement areas dated between the early Iron Age and Roman periods, and associated peripheral activity. Low-level medieval remains and several modern features were recorded adjacent to Dunton Lane. OASIS ID albionar1-204492 Accession Number BEDFM 2015.13

Bletsoe, Waiting for the Sun, Rushden Road
(TL 0203/5827)

Ian Turner

Archaeological monitoring of foundation trenches for a stable block was undertaken on 17th November 2015 but revealed no archaeological remains. The foundation trenches were relatively shallow at c 0.45m below ground level. OASIS ID albionar1-227449 Accession Number BEDFM 2015.76

Shefford, 4 Elm Close, Campton (TL 1284238029)

Ben Barker

Trial trenching revealed no significant archaeological features, although a residual Mesolithic to early Neolithic flint core fragment was recovered from the subsoil. OASIS ID albionar1-214236 Accession Number BEDFM 2015.50

Cople, Land West of Cople (TL 10114867)

Kathy Pilkinton and Jeremy Oetgen

Trial trenching identified a few archaeological features but there was a distinct lack of artefacts from the excavated deposits, suggesting that the features were not related to settlement. The majority of the features probably functioned as drains and/or field boundaries. The evaluation also identified heritage assets of greater significance: a probably prehistoric pit alignment, visible as cropmarks running approximately north-south along the east side of the floodplain of the Cople Brook. Archaeological and topographical features relating to post-medieval management of the land as a water meadow were also found. OASIS ID albionar1-192114 Accession Number BEDFM 2014.61

Dunstable, Icknield Lower School (TL 01592165)

Ben Barker

Trial trenching identified a modern service run, two possible tree-planting pits and an undated ditch. Although three small sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the pits, they are likely to be residual. OASIS ID albionar1-227421 Accession Number LTNMG 1165

Dunstable, Plot 8 Walnut Grove (TL 02472134)

Mark Philips

Three northwest-southeast aligned ditches and a pit were found, cut into chalk bedrock beneath 0.3m of garden soil. A large V-shaped ditch is a continuation of one seen during earlier work on an adjacent site to the north where it contained a small amount of Roman and early medieval pottery. The V-shaped ditch was partially truncated by a 2.5m wide, flat-based ditch. The deliberate in-filling of this ditch contained domestic and industrial debris dating from the early medieval period. This included lava quern/millstone, ferrous slag, a medieval rotary key and a quantity of clunch rubble which included fragments of squared and dressed building stone. One pit contained a few sherds of early medieval pottery, fragments of lava quern/millstone and a Roman coin. The results indicate activity in this area during the early medieval period and include possible construction debris from a stone building. OASIS ID albionar1-208209

Dunstable, Priory Middle School, Britain Street

(TL 02272171)

Ben Barker

Groundworks requiring archaeological observation were completed in July 2015. The base of the reduced dig was entirely within made-ground across the entire footprint of the new building. No archaeological features or deposits pre-dating the present school were revealed. OASIS ID albionar1-211466 Accession Number LUTNM: 2015/339

Eaton Bray, 2 Totternhoe Road (SP 96962095)

Ian Turner

Trial trenching revealed a sequence of activity from the medieval to the post-medieval period. Medieval remains comprised six ditches and an erosional hollow. The moderate amounts of pottery recovered from the features and their close grouping are sufficient to indicate that the ditches are enclosure boundaries. They are likely to be associated with

domestic settlement activity, possibly within the backyard of a dwelling fronting onto Totternhoe Road. A late medieval / early post-medieval quarry pit extended beyond the southern end of the trench. A series of post-medieval ditches truncated the medieval features. Two stone-filled post-pads indicate the presence of a structure; it could be relatively modern in date, given that the features survive immediately below the topsoil. OASIS ID albionar1-198169 Accession Number LUTNM 2015/106

Eversholt, Wakes End Farm, Wakes End

(SP 99343462)

Richard Gregson, Jackie Wells and Gary Edmondson

Archaeological works undertaken in early February 2015 within an area extending some 60m by 30m revealed evidence of post-medieval land divisions to the south of the farm, as well as traces of an earlier land division and associated activity, dating to the early Iron Age. The remains indicate a focus of early Iron Age activity in the vicinity, including evidence for iron-working. The post-medieval ditches defined a series of enclosures, similar to those shown on historical maps, though extending further to the south, away from the farm. Finds recovered from these features include pottery associated with the settlement, including a fragment of a large pancheon or bowl, designed to allow the cream to settle from milk. Other finds include undecorated yellow gault clay floor tiles which may have been associated with the former manor house situated on the moat to the east of the existing farm. OASIS ID albionar1-190692 Accession Number LUTNM 2015/107

Felmersham, Church of St Mary (SP 99145784)

Mark Philips

An area in the western end of the nave was examined following the removal of the pew base. This revealed a shallow void beneath. The upper deposits consisted of accumulated dust and limestone debris. Some larger, irregular fragments had been placed in a north-south alignment to support the pew base above. The layer appears to represent building debris, probably formed during the mid-19th century restoration of the church.

OASIS ID albionar1-201089

Great Denham, Biddenham Loop (TL 206448634)

Mike Luke, Ben Barker and Benjamin Carroll

In late 2015 Albion Archaeology carried out a 0.6ha open-area excavation in advance of residential development. The site was located roughly central within the land parcel known locally, and within the archaeological literature, as the Biddenham Loop where significant archaeological evidence exists for 6000 years of landscape and settlement evolution. The new investigation identified a range of archaeological features (Fig 6) that corroborate the conclusions and interpretations presented within the recent publication (Luke 2016).

Neolithic/early Bronze Age

The 29 small pits within the excavation area can be added to the hundreds already investigated within the Biddenham Loop (Luke 2016, 85-56). As is the case elsewhere, these pits occur in isolation, in pairs and in clusters. While it is generally accepted that the clusters represent areas of

Bedfordshire

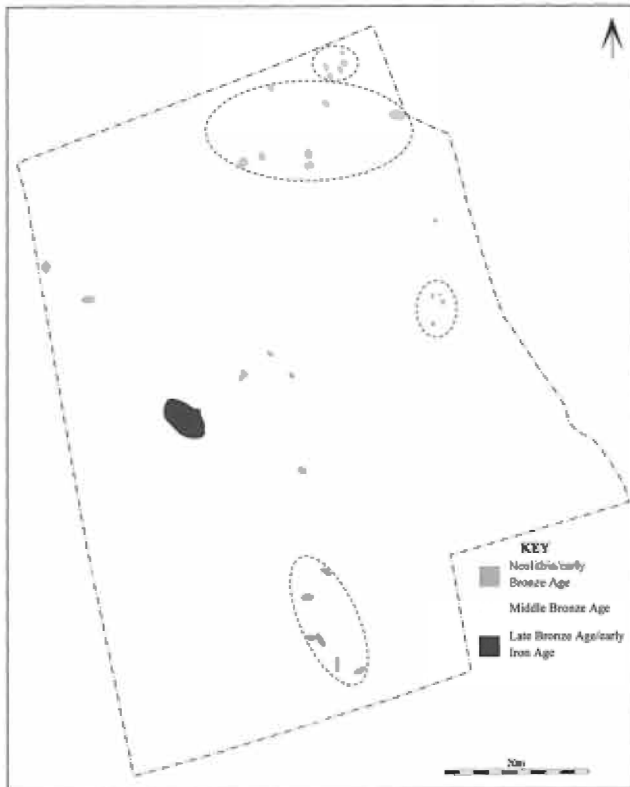


Figure 6. Great Denham, Biddenham Loop - phased all features plan with pit clusters highlighted.

settlement, what is less clear is whether they are associated with permanent settlements or sites that were repeatedly occupied for relatively short periods of time. The absence of finds and ecofacts means that the evidence from the latest excavation area is insufficient to contribute to this debate.

Middle Bronze Age

The three northwest-southeast ditches identified within the excavation area are continuations of ones found in the adjacent investigations. They are the northernmost ditches of field system SL13 which has been dated to this period by pottery and radiocarbon determinations (Luke 2016, 124). The fields were unlikely to have been laid out in a single episode and were subject to modification. This is reflected within the excavation area by the way in which the two northern ditches, although parallel, appear not to be contemporary and the contrast in dimensions between the southern and northern ditches. In addition, evidence from the adjacent investigations suggests that some of the fields remained in use into the Roman period (Luke 2016, 125). While middle-late Bronze Age field systems are increasingly being identified in southern England those within the Biddenham Loop are among only a small number known in Bedfordshire.

Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age

The assignment of a large pit to this period is uncertain but is based on the presence of a probable pottery sherd and flint of possible late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date. Furthermore, although the pit is dug into one of the middle Bronze Age ditches, it is on the same alignment. Its irregular shape and date are comparable to other large pits found within the previous investigations (Luke 2016, 78–9); these features may have functioned as intermittent quarries. Perhaps “good”, accessible gravel was visible in the side of the ditch

and was, therefore, quarried. OASIS ref: albionar1-55288; Accession no: BEDFM: 2009.51

References

Luke M, 2016; Close to the Loop: landscape and settlement evolution beside the Biddenham Loop, west of Bedford, *EAA* 156.

Harrold, The Limes, Church Walk (SP 95235672)

Anna Rebisz-Niziolek

Groundworks carried out under archaeological supervision in July 2015 did not extend to the depth of the undisturbed geology. However, they did reveal various make-up layers, some waterlogged deposits and a possible robbed-out wall. The subsoil produced sherds of residual Roman, late Saxon and medieval pottery, including significant amounts of locally made wares. A small quantity of Roman and medieval roof tile, post-medieval glass, animal bone, and ferrous slag was also recovered. The relatively large assemblage of late Saxon and medieval pottery suggests that the site may contain significant archaeological remains that are now preserved *in-situ* beneath the development. OASIS ID albionar1-198944 Accession Number BEDFM 2015.01

Harrold, 62A High Street (SP 95205681)

Ben Barker

Monitoring of foundation trenches in August 2015 revealed two archaeological features that pre-dated the existing late 18th century building on site - a substantial, undated, east-west aligned ditch and a large pit that produced two sherds of early medieval pottery. The ditch may be the remains of an extensive early medieval boundary that is likely to extend beyond the limits of the development area. The pit may be associated with localised limestone quarrying. OASISID albionar1-206239 Accession Number BEDFM 2015.35

Kensworth, The Pack Horse, Watling Street

(TL 04951798)

Kathy Pilkinton

Trial trenching in March 2015 revealed a large backfilled pit that appeared to occupy a natural low point in the landscape, adjacent to the road. It was filled with a series of dark grey silt and chalk deposits that contained artefacts dating to the 18th and 19th centuries. OASIS ID albionar1-202620 Accession Number LUTNM 2015/109

Langford, Land off Flexmore Way (TL 18814033)

Kathy Pilkinton, Jackie Wells and Gary Edmondson

Trial trenching revealed evidence for early-middle Iron Age, post-medieval and modern land divisions. Small quantities of pottery and animal bone were recovered from the southern part of the site, possibly indicating a focus of activity. These remains may represent the continuation of an extensive early Iron Age enclosure system identified on the opposite side of Station Road. No trace of any activity associated with the medieval hamlet of Flexmore End was identified. OASIS ID albionar1-210680 Accession Number BEDFM 2015.40

Leighton Buzzard, Leighton Middle School Tennis/Netball Courts (SP 91792479)

Richard Gregson

Trial trenching took place in October 2015. A contrasting series of deposits was revealed in the two trenches. Trench 1, on lower ground, contained a series of alluvial deposits and a possible palaeochannel, indicating a fluvial or flood plain environment. Trench 2 contained a buried subsoil layer overlain by two thick make-up layers. The lower make-up layer contained material that may have been related to the demolition of the Prebendal House in the early part of the 19th century. OASIS ID albionar1-225078 Accession Number LUTNM: 2015/343

Leighton Buzzard, The Roebuck PH, Hockliffe Street (SP 92242508)

David Ingham

Despite the development area's location within Leighton Buzzard's medieval core, no archaeological deposits were found that predated the 18th century. OASIS ID albionar1-201569 Accession Number LUTNM 2015/338

Luton, Land off Turnpike Drive (TL 08472633)

Iain Leslie

Trial trenching to the south of Dray's Ditches failed to uncover any archaeological remains. OASIS ID albionar1-204488, albionar1-234196 Accession Number LUTNM 2015/110

Maulden, The George Inn, 6 George Street

(TL 05673794)

Ian Turner and Rob Wardill

Archaeological investigation confirmed that remains from the late medieval period onwards survive north of the historic inn. The earliest feature was a late medieval/early post-medieval ditch that had previously been investigated during trial trenching. The ditch is interpreted as a boundary ditch shown on the 1797 Enclosure map. A stone wall remnant was associated with the linear range of post-medieval outbuildings depicted on the 1797 and 1883 maps at this location. The other features investigated contained modern artefacts. A large quarry pit was present and a group of features likely to be associated with the use of the outbuildings into the modern period: buried former yard surfaces, a post hole and a small pit. OASIS ID albionar1-191550 Accession Number BEDFM 2014.60

Northill, 17 Thorncote Green, Hatch

(TL 1522347581)

Ian Turner and Ben Barker

The groundworks consisted of the mechanical excavation of foundation trenches, up to 1.3m deep, for a new building. No archaeological features or finds were identified during monitoring of the foundation trenches or from scanning of the spoil heaps. OASIS ID albionar1-179346 Accession Number BEDFM 2014.40

Roxton, Land adjacent to 51 High Street

(TL 15285432)

Mark Philips

Monitoring of groundworks revealed ditches and pits that contained medieval pottery (12th-13th centuries) and animal bone. Two north-south aligned ditches formed a boundary parallel to the present High Street, probably defining a house plot or croft. Pottery dating from the high medieval (1250-1400) and late medieval (1400-1500) periods indicates continuing activity, although it was residual within later features and topsoil.

OASIS ID albionar1-201460 Accession Number BEDFM 2015.04

Sandy, Land at Bridge Farm, Bedford Road

(TL 16054875)

Christiane Meckseper

Archaeological works in October 2015 consisted of the monitoring of the excavation of part of a new fishing lake. No archaeological features or artefacts were revealed. OASIS ID albionar1-214724 Accession Number BEDFM 2015.51

Sandy, 52 London Road (TL 16554943)

Benjamin Carroll and Mark Philips

Trial trenching in November 2015 revealed a cluster of small and medium-sized pits, a posthole and a shallow gully. All but one of the features can be dated to the modern period and are likely to be associated with temporary structures and/or cultivation activities. The only possible evidence of earlier activity on the site was an undated pit. A large dump of modern tile was also located beneath the subsoil. OASIS ID albionar1-222238 Accession Number BEDFM 2015.66

Shefford, Land off Campton Road (TL 1356938787)

Mike Luke, Ben Barker and Benjamin Carroll

In late 2015 and early 2016 Albion Archaeology carried out a 1ha open-area archaeological excavation in advance of residential development. The site was close to a known late Iron Age/Roman settlement that had previously been investigated on a mainly piecemeal and small-scale basis. It is believed to comprise a series of rectangular ditched enclosures, at least one of which contained several buildings, including an aisled building with heated rooms. Antiquarian investigations undertaken in the early 19th century during quarrying located a cemetery, now presumed to be associated with the settlement. Although its precise location is uncertain, it might have been in the vicinity of the development area (Luke *et al* 2010, 270 and Fig. 2).

The investigations revealed limited evidence for late Iron Age/Romano-British activity (Fig 7), including a water-pit and boundary ditches. No burials survived within the excavation area. If any had once been present, they would probably have been destroyed by post-medieval quarrying, found in the northern part of the site. The boundary ditches had been redug on a number of occasions and were perpendicular to ditches found within earlier investigations to the east. They presumably defined a field contemporary with the settlement.

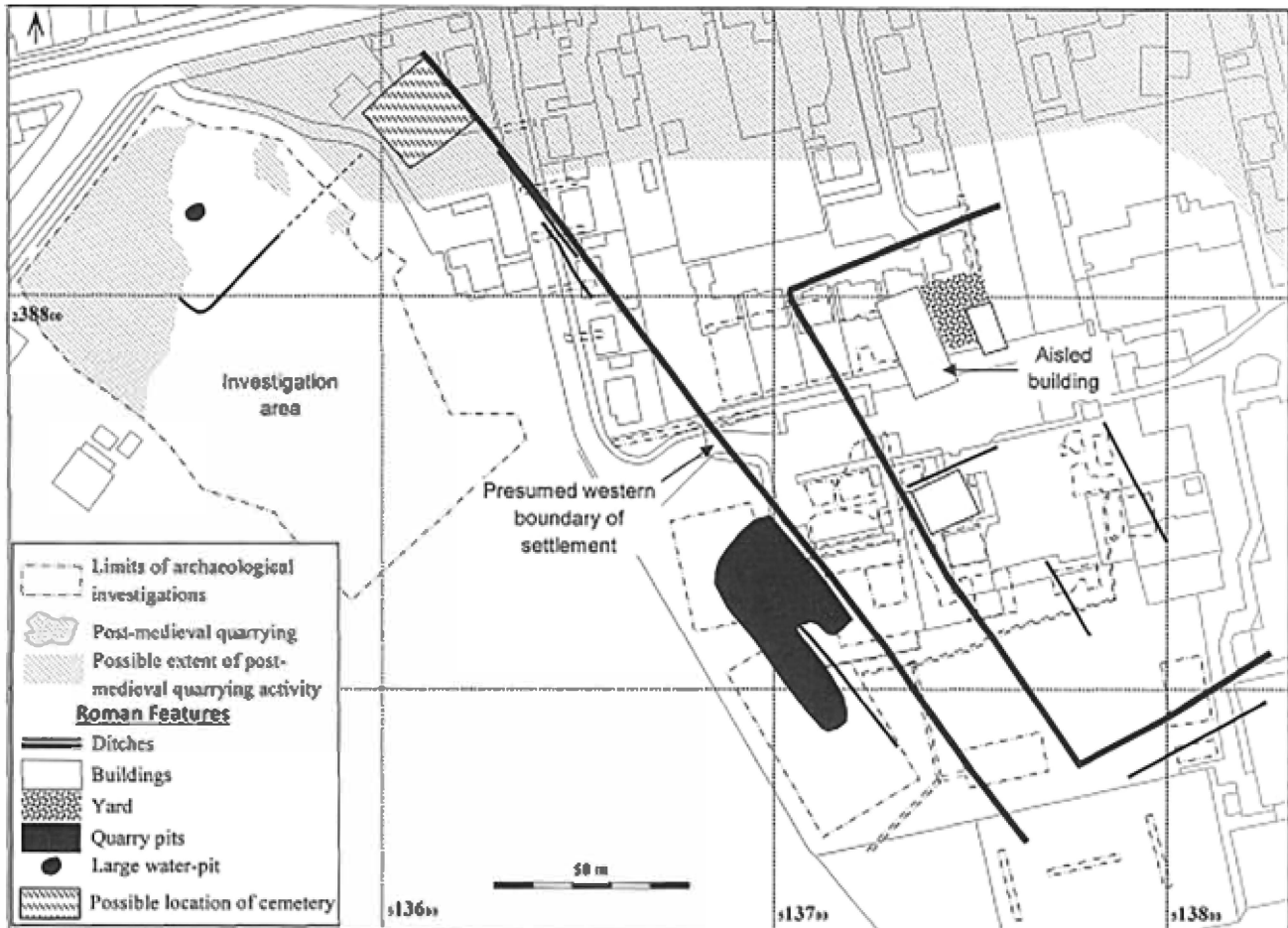


Figure 7. Shefford, Land off Campton Road – simplified plan showing the basic layout of the Roman settlement, based on all archaeological investigations in the vicinity (after Luke *et al.* 2010, fig. 18)

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Central Bedfordshire Council. Licence No. 100048028 (2011)

Water-pits, quarry pits and burials are typical features found on the periphery of Romano-British settlements. The results of the investigations, therefore, support the suggestion that the main western boundary of the settlement was defined by a series of ditches located just outside the development area to the east within previous investigations (Luke *et al.*, 2010, 325 and fig. 18). Given the small number of features, a relatively large assemblage of late Iron Age/Romano-British artefacts, mainly pottery, was recovered. Most of it derived from the water-pit that was presumably used for rubbish disposal once it had gone out of use. A small assemblage of abraded early Iron Age pottery was also recovered, hinting at an earlier settlement in the vicinity.

As anticipated, large areas of post-medieval quarrying were found adjacent to Campton Road. This corresponds with the contemporary quarries found in evaluation trenches to the east adjacent to Ampthill Road (Luke *et al.* 2010, fig. 2). In addition, boundary ditches parallel with Campton Road clearly cut the backfilled quarries. OASIS ID: albnor1-230684; Accession no: BEDFM: 2014.04.

References

Luke M, Preece T and Wells J 2010; 'A Romano British aisled building and associated settlement south of Ampthill Road, Shefford' *Bedfordshire Archaeology* 26, 269–346.

Shefford, Robert Bloomfield Academy (TL 13906387)

Ian Turner and Ben Barker

Groundworks for the construction of a new school building and removal of a soakaway did not reveal any archaeological features. No pre-modern artefacts were recovered from the spoil. The results of the work suggest that the site was located beyond the limits of the known Roman-British settlement, located *c.* 110m to the north-west. OASIS ID albnor1-206238 Accession Number BEDFM 2015.34

Silsoe, West End Road (TL 07703544)

Richard Gregson

Archaeological observation and investigation in October 2015 revealed three modern pits, two of which were probably for refuse and the other a brick-filled, possible soakaway. The features might relate to a building shown on an early 18th century estate map. OASIS ID albnor1-218220 Accession Number LUTNM:2015/341

Stondon, Mount Pleasant Golf Course, Lower Stondon (TL 16053526)

Kathy Pilkinton

Trial trenching in November 2015 focused on potential archaeological anomalies identified by geophysical survey and generally confirmed the results of the latter. The main focus of archaeological interest was an early-middle Iron Age, sub-circular enclosure with a potential entrance to the

south-west. A smaller ditch to the south-west of the enclosure produced no dating evidence. An isolated water-pit to the south-east of the enclosure produced a small amount of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery. Although this may hint at earlier activity, it is likely to be broadly contemporary with the other occupational evidence on site. The trial trenching also identified features associated with medieval and post-medieval cultivation. OASIS ID albnar1-222622 Accession Number LUTNM: 2015/344

Stotfold, St Mary's Lower School, Rook Tree Lane
(TL 22063691)

Ian Turner

Archaeological excavation revealed a late Saxon pit and three probable medieval ditches. The profile of the pit is suggestive of a small water-pit or well. It produced moderate amounts of late Saxon pottery and was probably located close to domestic settlement. None of the ditches produced any artefacts but they are tentatively dated by association with probable 12th century ditches found in 2010 during an earlier investigation within the school site. The ditches may represent field system boundary ditches. OASIS ID albnar1-197967 Accession Number BEDFM 2014.85

Tempsford, Mill Lane Cottage (TL 16105310)

Ian Turner

Archaeological monitoring in July 2015 revealed modern levelling layers above undisturbed river terrace deposits. No archaeological features or artefacts were identified. OASIS ID albnar1-213297 Accession Number BEDFM 2015.47

Westoning, Westoning Recreation Centre (TL 03503260)

Ian Turner

Groundworks observed on 15th July 2015 were too shallow to reveal archaeological remains. OASIS ID albnar1-159492 Accession Number LUTNM:2013/18

Willington, Willington Lower School (TL 11165008)

Ian Turner and Rob Wardill

Archaeological monitoring revealed a medium-sized ditch on an east-northeast-west-southwest alignment. It contained no artefacts and is of unknown date. However, its location and alignment, at odds with the orientation of the road and other modern boundaries, indicates that it predates the school. The absence of artefacts suggests that it was a field boundary or drainage feature. OASIS ID albnar1-228875 Accession Number BEDFM 2015.81

Woburn, Woburn Coffee House, 21 Market Place (SP 94863312)

Benjamin Carroll and Christiane Meckseper

Archaeological monitoring of the groundworks for a new orangery revealed large amounts of demolition debris as well as three pits and two walls, all above a buried cultivation soil. The features are probably associated with 19th and early 20th century extension, remodelling and use of the back of the medieval house on the site. Recovered artefacts included post-medieval pottery, brick and tile, and clay tobacco pipe. The presence of an earlier layer of subsoil, directly above geological strata, suggests that the ground surface was not significantly reduced before the 19th century building and

demolition activity, potentially preserving earlier archaeological features underneath it. The subsoil contained no dating evidence. OASIS ID albnar1-202522 Accession Number LUTMM 2015/108

BARRY HORNE AND ASSOCIATES

Eaton Bray, Doolittle Lane (SP 686195)

This site was discovered by field walking and is No 15842 on the HER. Scatters of late Iron Age and Roman pottery, and a subsequent watching brief in 1997, confirmed the presence of a settlement. Abingdon Archaeological Geophysics was employed to carry out a geophysical survey of part of the site in 2015.

The survey found a small enclosure with a single ditch running from it and a pair of possible trackway ditches. These may be Romano-British. Further work will be carried out as circumstances permit.

References

Ainslie R, 2015; Doolittle Lane, Eaton Bray. Short Report form No 2015-12

BEDFORD ROMAN DIG

Bedford, Land off Manton Lane (TL 04145099)

Mike Luke, Steven Cocking and Elizabeth Sayer

A third season of small-scale community archaeological investigation, assisted by Albion Archaeology and Bedford Borough Council, was undertaken in 2015 in an area of known Roman settlement. The site was first identified in 2011 when Roman finds and remains were disturbed during the digging of an un-monitored pipe trench. Subsequent investigation by Albion Archaeology was, due to time and budgetary constraints, focussed on excavating two test-pits over a masonry wall found adjacent to Manton Lane (Albion 2011; Oetgen and Newbould 2013). During the summers of 2013, 2014 and 2015 a total of fifteen test-pits/trenches, ranging in size from 1m x 1m to 5m x 3.5m, were dug under the direction of a professional archaeologist.

The majority of the evidence was from test-pits closest to Manton Lane (Fig 8). This, and the discovery of similar remains within Edith Cavell Lower School to the south, indicates that the settlement straddles Manton Lane. Only one small ditch was found within a test-pit to the north, suggesting that the northern edge of this part of the Roman settlement corresponds with a terrace dug into the hillslope to level the land.

The walls of two buildings with stone foundations were identified within the pipe trench and two test-pits. The wall foundations of Building 1 comprised c 0.4m x 0.3m limestone fragments within a c 0.8m-wide foundation trench traced for 12m. To the north a single course of limestone was observed (Photo 1). To the south, within the pipe trench, the foundations consisted of two pitched courses and a third uppermost, narrower pitched course inset by 0.1m on the east side; all three courses were in herringbone style. The deeper foundations to the south are probably explained by the construction of the wall over an earlier feature, possibly a large ditch. The nature of the deposits on either side of the wall suggests that the interior was to the west. Here finer

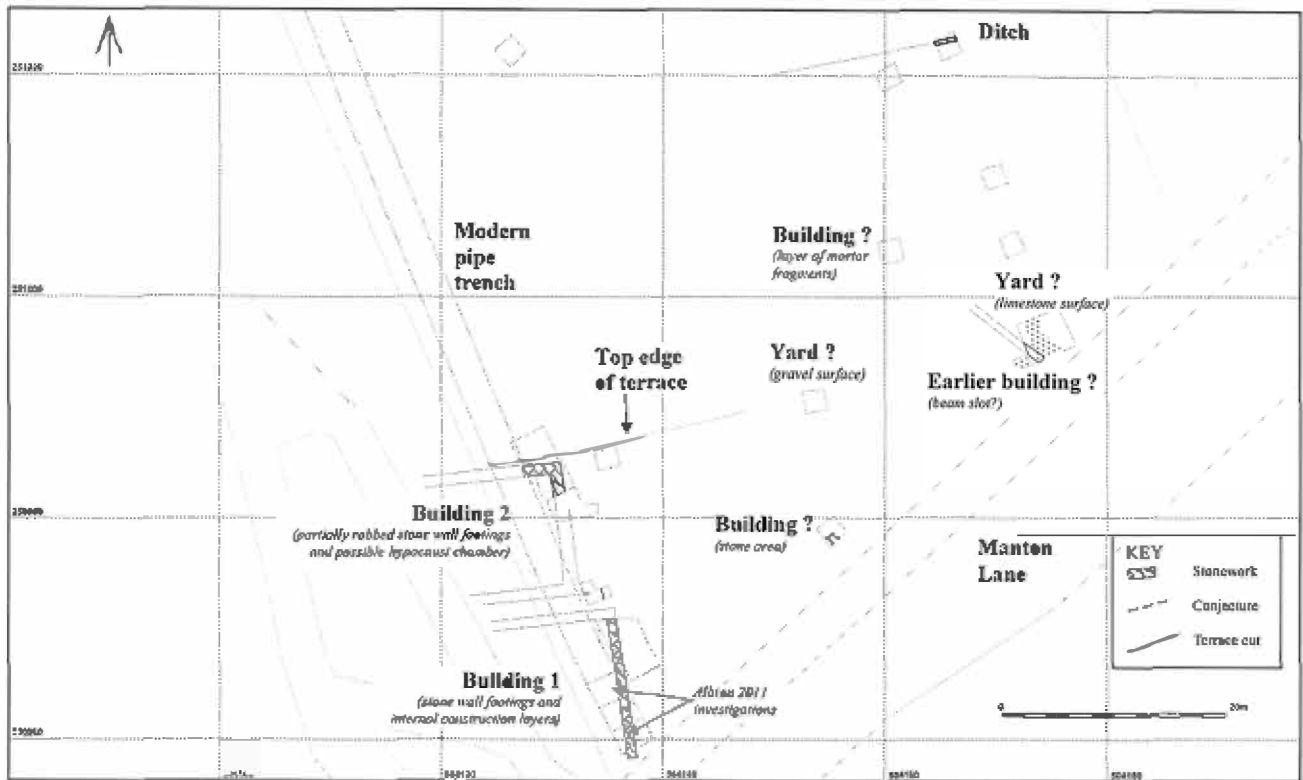
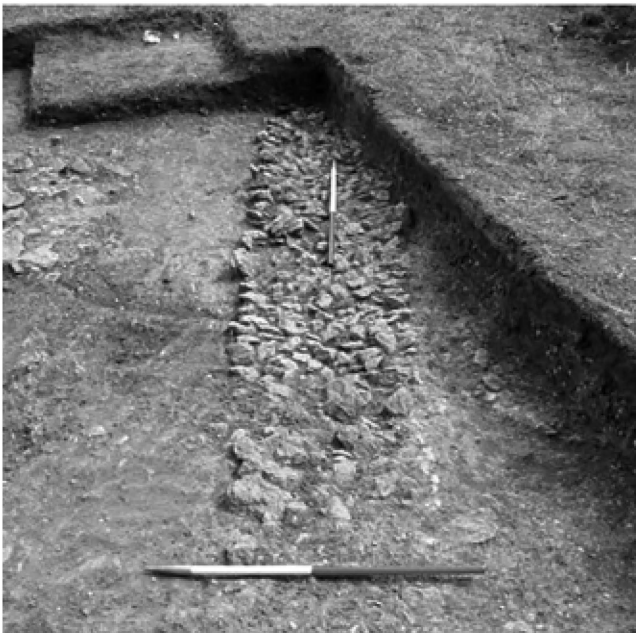


Figure 8. Test-pit locations and Roman building remains



Photograph 1. The stone footing of the wall of Building 1.

'construction' debris was found but no actual floor surface. The deposits to the east were much coarser and included stones and tiles which presumably derived from the building. The north-east corner of Building 2 was identified as a mix of *in-situ* stones and building debris. These were not excavated but the c 1m-wide wall foundations comprised at least one course of pitched limestone. Although only visible for a short length, the northern wall appeared to have been constructed just south of the terrace. The alignment of the eastern wall did not correspond with that of Building 1 hence their interpretation as separate buildings. It is possible that they actually represent rooms within one larger building but this

could not be determined due to the limited extent of the investigations.

Within Building 2 the top of the underlying geology was c 0.5m deeper than outside the building. The side of the cut was vertical and, although difficult to determine due to the narrowness of the area and water ingress, the base of the cut appeared to be level. It is possible that the cut represents the chamber of a hypocaust, although it was not possible to determine whether any *in-situ* *pilae* were present. However, a number of square bricks were observed during the un-supervised insertion of a modern pipe to the west. The deposits within the possible hypocaust chamber contained large quantities of mortar, plaster and stucco work (see below) but a surprisingly small quantity of brick and tile.

Evidence for another three possible buildings was found in the test-pits to the east in the form of large stones, extensive mortar fragments and a beam slot. Gravel and stone surfaces were found in two test-pits, in one case above the fill of a probable beam slot indicative of an earlier building. The layers may be external surfaces but it is not impossible that they are floors within buildings.

Geophysical surveys undertaken by both professional and community organisations have failed to produce results that tie in with the excavated evidence.

Some of the finds assemblage from the test-pits has been catalogued to professional standards but none has been studied in detail. The following is, therefore, a provisional summary. Pre-Roman finds comprise worked flint flakes and a small quantity of pottery of predominantly late Iron Age date. Roman pottery is represented by locally manufactured coarse wares in sand- and shell-tempered fabrics, broadly datable to the 2nd century onwards. Second century continental fine wares are central Gaulish samian and fine black-slipped ware. Later Roman regional imports are 3rd to 4th century colour-coated wares from the Nene Valley and Oxfordshire. Building material comprises ceramic roof tile

(*tegulae* and *imbrices*) and combed flue tile, possible *tesserae*, mortar fragments, limestone roof/floor tiles, wall plaster and window glass. Other objects datable to the Roman period include ten coins, a copper alloy earring and brooch, vessel glass and a lead vessel patch/repair. Animal bone fragments and oyster shell were also recovered.

Stucco from Roman Britain is rare and its discovery at Manton Lane is, therefore, significant. Perhaps the most famous site where it is present is Fishbourne Roman Palace (Cunliffe 1971, 142), although the nearest site is Gorhambury villa near St. Albans (Neal *et al* 1990, 172). Stucco is particularly suitable for decorating the internal surfaces of vaults. The recovered pieces from Manton Lane have been identified as free-style low relief; they juxtapose white plaster relief on a multi-coloured background, making them an even rarer find (Prof. R Ling pers. comm.). One note of caution: stucco work's rarity may, in part, be due to its delicate nature which militates against its survival in the archaeological record.

Notwithstanding the evidence for substantial walls, roofs and internal embellishment at Manton Lane, it is worth noting that only a small number of *tesserae* and fragments of *opus signinum* have been found to date. It is never easy to determine the precise 'status' of Roman settlements on the basis of limited investigation. However, it is clear that two of the buildings at Manton Lane are 'in a different league' to the numerous farmsteads excavated in the Bedford area, e.g. Biddenham Loop (Luke 2008, 56; Luke 2016, 241–64), Marsh Leys (Luke and Preece 2011, 166–6) and Norse Road (Edgeworth 2001), although buildings with stone foundations have been found within the nearby roadside settlement at Kempston Church End (Dawson 2004, 38–66; Luke 2016, 208–41).

In the past, the mere presence of masonry walls and hypocausts has been taken to indicate the presence of a villa, ie a complex of highly 'Romanised' buildings where the owners of large and wealthy agricultural estates lived. The best known example in Bedfordshire is at Totternhoe (Matthews *et al* 1992) c 40km away. However, it is now recognised that this is too simplistic an interpretation and that not all settlements with masonry walls and hypocausts necessarily have to be villas. For example, the bathhouse at Newnham (Ingham *et al* forthcoming) and the aisled building at Shefford (Luke *et al* 2010) may be associated with estate centres rather than villas. In fact, at the time of her study of the Middle and Upper Ouse valleys Meade concluded that 'there were no proven villas' in the Bedford area (Meade 2010, 47), which is in marked contrast to the number of villas found in both the Milton Keynes area and the Nene Valley. Irrespective of whether the Manton Lane settlement is a villa or not, it does contain buildings with significant architectural embellishment and is located in a dominant position within the landscape.

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The test-pitting was co-ordinated by Steven Cockings with archaeological direction by Mike Luke and administrative support by Elizabeth Slayer. Members of several Bedfordshire archaeological groups provided the core of the fieldwork team. The authors would like to acknowledge the practical and technical support provided for free by Albion Archaeology, with staff helping out in their own time. However, it was very much a community project undertaken in the main by residents of the Bedford area who are too many to list here, but whose work, interest and support is warmly acknowledged.

Without the agreement of Ranc Care Homes (the landowner of the part of the settlement reported on here) it would not have been possible to undertake any of the archaeological fieldwork. The financial support and encouragement of Bedford Borough Councillors Colleen Atkins and Louise King are also gratefully acknowledged along with practical support facilitated by Dave Hodgson (Mayor of Bedford Borough).

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Bedford, 536 Goldington Road (TL 0817 5083)

Ralph Brown

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology revealed a small ditch which contained early to mid 1st century AD pottery. This ditch was probably associated with an Iron Age/Roman settlement, previously investigated 50m south of the current site. An undated posthole was also found.

Marston Moretaine, Land at Moreteyne Farm

(SP 9900 4158)

Stuart Joyce

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recorded remains which formed the northern periphery of a previously identified Middle to Late Iron Age and Roman settlement. Within the current site, the remains consisted of ditches, pits and a posthole located on high ground. Medieval plough

Bedfordshire

furrows, the remains of the open field system that once surrounded Marston Moretaine, were encountered across the site; variations in their alignments indicate that the site covers parts of two or more former open fields.

Langford, Langford Solar Park (TL 1984 3943)

Caoimhin O Coileain

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology revealed no archaeological remains.

HERITAGE NETWORK

Stotfold Land to the rear of 34 Baldock Road

(TL 22330 36425)

Daniel Phillips

In order to investigate the archaeological potential of a proposed new development the Heritage Network was commissioned by the owner to undertake a programme of targeted trial trenching.

Two trial trenches were excavated across the footprint of the proposed new dwelling and access. Both trenches were located in the rear garden of 34 Baldock Road. They revealed a layer of topsoil, overlying subsoil, and then the undisturbed natural substrate. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered.

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

Compiled by Kimberley Dowding

Chalgrave, Chalgrave Manor Farm (TL 0200 2680)

Mark Woodley

An archaeological evaluation was conducted prior to the establishment of a solar panel farm consisting of a total of 41 trenches. The features revealed consisted of Late Iron Age to Roman linear features and pits, concentrated within the northwest and southeast corners.

Great Billington, Braemore, Leighton Road

(SP 94061 22775)

Gavin Davis

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the groundworks for a two storey garage. Topsoil had previously been removed and driveway gravels had been laid across the area. The excavations revealed a layer of disturbed subsoil, above a layer of clay subsoil, which was deposited above natural clay. No archaeological features were identified in any of the foundation trenches.

KDK ACHAEOLOGY LTD

Broom, 10 High Road (TL 17501 24187)

Caroline Barclay Jones

In June 2015 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken at land at, and adjacent to, 10 High Road, Broom. The work was undertaken in advance of the planned construction of two detached dwellings with double integral garages, and the creation of a new vehicular access. The site is located within

a landscape which has evidence of occupation from later prehistoric times onwards, as evidenced by extensive cropmarks in the adjacent field, as well as being within the postulated environs of the medieval settlement of Broom. As a result it was considered that there was potential for later prehistoric remains within the development area, and possibly Saxon, medieval and post-medieval deposits.

Two trenches were excavated in the footprints of the proposed buildings, but no archaeological finds or features were discovered. BEDFM 2015.33; OASIS 206269

Dunstable, 71-77 High Street North (TL 0162 2210)

Jessica Bertrand

This two-trench evaluation was carried out in June 2015 in a former car park to the southwest of 1 Regent St, Dunstable. The evaluation exposed two linear gullies, and red brick foundations. Despite the site's proximity to the Roman and medieval core of Dunstable, only post-medieval archaeology was identified within the trenches, most likely in connection with the buildings and gardens depicted on the 1880 Ordnance Survey map. LTNMG1138; OASIS 205429

Langford, 62 High Street (TL 1840 4050)

Calli Rouse

In January 2015 historic building recording was undertaken on an early 20th century onion-drying shed at 62 High Street, Langford, which was followed by a watching brief.

The onion-drying shed is a type of building that was common in parts of Bedfordshire during the market gardening boom in the 18th and 19th centuries. They were often open at ground floor level to provide additional ventilation, and to allow for other uses, with the onion-drying taking place at first floor level. In this example it would appear that only the southern part of this building was used for this purpose, which may be due to the fact that the shed was constructed in the early part of the 20th century, when onion production in Bedfordshire was going into decline.

Overall, the onion-drying shed retains much, if not all, of its original character and historic fabric. There have been minimal modern alterations to the interior, and the building is in a good state of general repair. It represents a fine example of a building type that is particular to the Bedfordshire area.

No archaeologically significant finds or features were observed during the watching brief. The site probably originally sloped down towards the river at its western end, but was built up with modern materials to create a level platform, and the ground below and adjacent to the footprint of the former onion-drying shed had been disturbed during its construction. BEDFM 2014.62; OASIS 194243

Lower Caldecote, Street Record, Grange Lane

(TL 17826 46682)

David Kaye

In September 2015 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken of land north of The Grange, Lower Caldecote, prior to the construction of eight link-detached dwellings. Five trenches were excavated within the development area, which is currently wasteland, but no archaeological cut features or deposits were noted within any of the trenches. BEDFM 2015.56; OASIS 219035

Luton, Former Stopsley Day Centre, Stopsley

(TL 1026 2365)

Calli Rouse

During January and February 2015, a Heritage Asset Impact Assessment of the former Stopsley Day Centre, Hitchin Road, Stopsley, Luton, was undertaken in order to inform development proposals to build a new care and respite centre on the site.

Until the mid-20th century the development site was located on the periphery of the village of Stopsley, which was later subsumed by the nearby town of Luton. Evidence for human activity within the Stopsley area ranges in date from the prehistoric through to the modern periods, although there is no direct evidence that the development site was utilised prior to the mid-20th century. As a result, there is considered to be moderate potential for the survival of below-ground heritage assets that pre-date the modern period within the site boundaries.

There is the potential for a negative impact on surviving below-ground heritage assets during the groundworks of the proposed buildings. However, this can be mitigated by a programme of archaeological works to ensure the proper investigation and recording of any such remains.

Marston Moretaine, Hedgefield, Wood End

(SP 9794 4150)

Calli Rouse

During early 2015, a heritage asset impact assessment was undertaken of Hedgefield, Wood End, Marston Moretaine, in order to inform development proposals for the site. These comprise the construction of an L-shaped agricultural barn and access in the south eastern corner of the application area.

Documentary and cartographic evidence suggests that Wood End has its origins in the medieval period, and the study of aerial photographs of the application site have identified earthworks that indicate the potential survival of below ground heritage assets. Cartographic evidence shows that the site has been an open field since at least the latter part of the 19th century, and the presence of earthwork remains across the site indicates the potential for the survival of below ground heritage assets across the site. The north western end of the site is thought to have been situated within the medieval core of Wood End, and earthworks in this part of the site may relate to settlement here, and may be of moderate significance. The opposite end of the site contains the remains of ridge and furrow earthworks, suggesting that this part of the site was part of the hamlet's agricultural hinterland. Any surviving below ground heritage assets here are likely to be of low significance.

The current proposed development is located within an area of both low significance and potential in terms of surviving below ground heritage assets. Therefore it is considered that the proposed development will not have a negative impact on the site or its environs.

Maulden, Edgehill, Church Road (TL 05499 38499)

Jessica Bertrand

In April 2015, a two-trench evaluation was undertaken at Edgehill, Church Road, Maulden, in advance of the erection of two houses on the land to the west of the existing property. Despite its proximity to medieval buildings such as St Mary's Church and the Maulden Grange, the evaluation did

not show any archaeological activity. Whilst this may suggest that there is a low potential for surviving medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains in the development area, the development may still impact on below ground heritage assets of a medieval or post-medieval date that were missed within the scope of the evaluation. BEDFM 2015.11; OASIS 203706

Renhold, 7 Woodfield Lane (TL 510213 252379)

Carina Summerfield-Hill

In January 2015 a three-trench evaluation was undertaken at 7 Woodfield Lane, Renhold, in advance of the demolition of existing structures and the construction of two detached dwellings. The evaluation uncovered a number of features; pits, a ditch and a gully that contained evidence of 11th-12th century pottery and animal bone. A rat's nest was also excavated, the date of which was undetermined. BEDFM2014.84; OASIS 197281

Renhold, 7 Woodfield Lane (TL 510213 252379)

Jessica Bertrand

In Spring 2015 a watching brief was undertaken at Plot 1, 7 Woodfield Lane, Renhold, as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site.

The watching brief followed on from an evaluation, which had revealed an 11th - 12th century gully and the 12th century pit. Another pit was revealed during the watching brief, as was a further pit or ditch. Neither feature produced any datable material but it is possible that they were contemporary with the features found in the evaluation.

The combined investigations have shown that Workhouse End, one of several ends making up the village, was settled in the late Saxon/early Norman period and produced similar pottery and charred grain assemblages to other local sites, such as Tempsford and Yeldon. BEDFM2014.84; OASIS 197281 (1)

Riseley, 10 Rotten Row (TL 03586 62767)

Jessica Bertrand

In September 2015 a watching brief was undertaken at 10 Rotten Row, Riseley, as a condition of the Planning Consent for the development of the site. An area totalling 31m² was monitored, with the ground being reduced by 0.4m, fully exposing the natural geology. No archaeological cut features, deposits or artefacts were discovered during this project, which may have been due to the high level of disturbance in the area close to the extant building. BEDFM 2015.46; OASIS 213864

Salford, Land adjacent to 17 Wavendon Road

(SP 93576 39162)

Carina Summerfield-Hill

In May 2015 a two-trench evaluation followed by a watching brief was carried out at land adjacent to 17 Wavendon Road, Salford, as a condition of planning permission during the construction of a single, two-storey detached dwelling with an associated double garage. The project revealed evidence for possible prehistoric, late Saxon and early medieval activity. The oldest features on the site consisted of two adjacent linear gullies, one of which contained burnt daub. This is likely to have been structural and of possible prehistoric date.

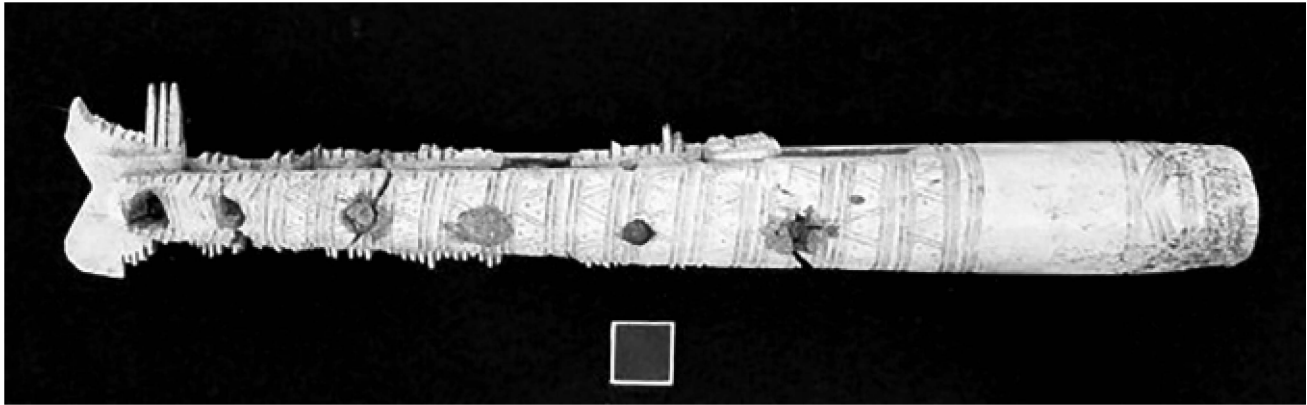


Figure 9. Anglo-Saxon decorated bone comb from the A5-M1 link road (scale 10mm).

The two gullies were cut by a large late Saxon/medieval ditch, which may have been associated with St Mary the Virgin Church or Salford manor, both of which are in close proximity to the site. A sherd of St. Neots Ware (10-12th century), and a sherd of Shelly Ware (12-13th century) were recovered from the ditch, as were some charred plant remains, which represent a scatter of food preparation waste. LTNMG 1137; OASIS 204808

Wyboston, 41 Rookery Road (TL 516012 257859)

Laura Dodd

In July 2015 a strip, map and sample excavation/archaeological watching brief was undertaken prior to the construction of a manège and stable block at 41 Rookery Road, Wyboston, as a planning condition for the development of the site. No features or finds of archaeological significance were revealed as only minimal ground reduction was required and consequently excavations did not reach a depth to which any surviving archaeology could be observed. The subsoil yielded material that was modern in date relating to previous land use. BEDFM 2015.12; OASIS 204564

MOLA NORTHAMPTON

Summaries for 2015

Compiled by Pat Chapman and Andy Chapman

A5-M1 Link, Chalton and Houghton Regis (SP 9959 2435 to TL 0383 2587)

Jim Brown, Chris Chinnock, Jason Clarke, Paul Clements, Olly Dindol, Jonathan Elston, James Fairclough, Ian Fisher, Gemma Hewitt, Christopher Jones, Simon Markus, Adam Meadows and Adam Reid

Sixteen main areas were excavated along the route of the A5-M1 Link Road, following evaluation (*SMA* 25 (2015), 15). Mitigation techniques included general and targeted archaeological watching briefs, detailed open area excavation, topographic surveys and historic building recording,

Worked flint was recovered to the east of Grove Farm. Pit groups near M1 Junction 11a and Thorn Farm produced flint-tempered pottery, likely to be of Bronze Age date.

A middle Iron Age pit alignment on the south side of Thorn Road, and a further pit alignment were investigated at Grove

Farm. Both sites were associated with later boundary ditches on similar alignments.

East of A5 Watling Street was an extensive enclosed Iron Age farmstead with roundhouses and post-built structures, abandoned before Roman cultural material entered common circulation. The farmstead was surrounded by a network of contemporary ditches that formed field systems, within which concentrated pit clusters contained mixed pottery, animal bone and other organic refuse. Settlement became more dispersed moving eastward up the valley from A5 Watling Street, with occasional pit groups, ditches or isolated roundhouses.

A late Iron Age to early Roman settlement was located on a hilltop at M1 Junction 11a, which comprised a series of interconnecting enclosures with trackways between them. The central focus of this settlement is thought to have been lost to the M1 motorway development. A small cremation cemetery was found by detailed excavation at Luton Road, Chalton.

Anglo-Saxon artefacts including pottery and a decorated bone comb (Fig 9) were recovered at Luton Road, Chalton. The finds are thought to have been part of dispersed settlement preceding the nucleated village. Funerary evidence to the east of this, at Long Meadow Farm, comprised an inhumation cemetery with Anglo-Saxon grave goods, pyre debris and un-urned cremation burials.

Late Saxon and Saxo-Norman settlement at Thorn Farm, to the north of Thorn Spring medieval moated manor, included a timber-framed building and plots that were abandoned in the 12th century. At Luton Road, Chalton there was an isolated building of 12th-14th century date. To the rear of the building lay a series of small plots within which were pits that had been filled with midden waste. The site is thought to have been part of a medieval village end, together with the adjoining property at Hillcrest. LTNMG 1093

Bedford, Cambridge Road, A421 and A603 (TL 0790 4830)

Ben Kidd

Trial trenching on land between the A421 and A603 recorded two truncated ditches, a shallow ditch and an undated pit. BEDFM.2015.37



Figure 10. Iron Age rotary quern from Potton Road, Biggleswade.

Biddenham, 42 Main Road, Lavender Lodge

(TL 0211 5006)

Adam Reid

Trial trench evaluation on land to the rear of Lavender Lodge recorded two gullies, probably the lines of former field boundaries, as well as a small undated pit. A few sherds of middle to late Iron Age pottery were found in one gully, suggesting it may date from this period. BEDFM2015:43

Biggleswade, Potton Road (TL 1990 4590)

James Fairclough

To the north of Potton Road, open area excavation of a late Iron Age and early Roman farmstead followed geophysical survey carried out in 2013 (*SMA* 44 (2014) 11) and trial trenching. The main enclosure at the centre of the site, which dates to the late Iron Age, was 60m wide and contained a group of three ring ditches and two partial ring ditches of former roundhouses. Two other smaller square enclosures showing much greater reuse and modification, with recutting and blocked entrances, were in use into the Roman period. Clusters of pits were present throughout the area, with the larger pits probably used for grain storage. One of the smaller pits contained a placed complete upper stone from a beehive rotary quern in Millstone Grit, accompanied by a large block of stone and part of a large pottery storage jar (Fig 10). A group of three graves, including one inhumation with hobnail boots, lay outside the Roman enclosures. A single Anglo-Saxon inhumation had a spearhead next to the head and a small knife blade by the left forearm. BEDFM:2012.29

Biggleswade, Potton Road (TL 196 457)

Adam Meadows

Magnetometer survey on land north-west of Potton Road identified a number of fragmentary linear anomalies which may represent parts of Iron Age or Roman ditched enclosures, probably associated with features from previous evaluation and excavation in and around the site (*SMA* 45 (2015), 15; *SMA* 41 (2011), 11-14).

Cranfield, Mill Road (SP 958 429)

Adam Meadows and Ben Kidd

Magnetometer survey at Mill Road detected an unusual circular anomaly interpreted as either an irregular ring ditch or the site of a windmill mound. Extensive medieval ridge and furrow cultivation and two old field boundaries were

also detected and confirmed by the evaluation. A scythe blade, nails, and pottery dating to the 16th century came from one of the boundary ditches.

The possible mill mound or enclosure feature was identified by the evaluation in the form of two ditches, containing pottery dating to the late 17th century, nails and clay tobacco-pipe stems. The interpretation of the circular anomaly as a former mill mound is consistent with the results. However, no sign of any structure or the mound itself was present, indicating that it had been severely truncated by ploughing. BEDFM 2014.89

Great Barford, Bedford Road (TL 127 521)

Adam Meadows

Magnetometer survey of land at Bedford Road detected remnant furrows of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. BEDFM:2015.58

Kempston, Bell Farm (TL 0195 4620)

Paul Clements

Furrows of medieval to post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, modern remnant deposits of groundworks associated with the construction of the A428, and an undated pit were recorded during evaluation at Bell Farm. Three sherds of pottery dated to AD1100-1400 were recovered from a hollow. BEDFM:2015.44

Leighton Buzzard, Leighton Middle School

(SP 918 248)

Olly Dindol and Adam Meadows

Magnetometer and earth resistance surveys were carried out prior to the construction of new tennis courts. The survey area lay adjacent to All Saints' Church and comprised a part of the former grounds of the prebendal manor house. The results were archaeologically uninformative, being dominated by anomalies relating to made ground, buried services and modern structures. Two weak parallel linear trends of uncertain origin were also apparent in the earth resistance data.

Luton, Luton Road (TL 0420 2570)

James Fairclough

Trial trench evaluation carried out across arable land to the north-west of Luton targeted some of the anomalies identified by geophysical survey and tested 'blank' areas. A posthole and gully were discovered, neither containing finds. The targeted anomalies were seen to have been caused by variations in the natural deposits. LTNMG1135

Salford, Whitsundoles Farm (SP 9223 4006)

Sam Egan and Carol Simmonds

The first stage of the watching brief during the restoration of the landfill site was the observation of the vegetation strip across the proposed land fill area. The second phase comprised monitoring an area from which the topsoil had been removed to provide the base of a clay bund in the northern part of the site.

Ditches were recorded which are assumed to be prehistoric in date although no dateable material was recovered. A posthole of unknown date and a probable hedgerow were also recorded. BEDFM:2014.20

Bedfordshire

Souldrop, Back Lane, Middle Farm (SP 9721 6244)

Luke Jarvis

A watching brief carried out prior to the construction of a wind turbine and associated infrastructure recorded two small ditches in the cable trench excavations. No finds were recovered. BEDFM 2015.48

Wilstead, Whitworth Way (TL 067 433)

John Walford

Magnetometer survey at Whitworth Way detected a few weak and disjointed anomalies of uncertain origin, and one which may relate to a 19th century field boundary. No certain archaeological features were identified. BEDFM: 2015.65

Wootton, Hall End Road (TL 0018 4540)

Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

Trial trench evaluation on land confirmed the presence of remnant furrows of a former ridge and furrow field system, now levelled. Residual pottery of 11th and 14th century date was recovered from the furrows and a layer of variant subsoil or plough soil recorded in the south-eastern part of the development area. BEDFM 2015.16

Wymington, North Lodge (SP 9665 6314)

Jim Burke

Trial trench evaluation on land at North Lodge produced evidence of modern disturbance and dumping, probably for levelling the area in the early 21st century. No archaeological features or artefacts were observed. BEDFM2015.06

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY EAST

Compiled by Katherine Hamilton and Rachel Clarke

Biggleswade, King's Reach Pipeline (TL 1893 4665)

Nick Gilmour

Works were carried out in advance of the construction of a new rising main, which now links the Kings Reach development to the existing treatment works. The work resulted in the discovery of a single middle Iron Age pit, along with a medieval quarry pit and several post-medieval ditches and trackways. The work also showed that the new pipe would not have an adverse impact on the known Bronze Age barrow, located within the existing treatment works.

Toddington, Toddington Manor (TL 0043 2955)

James Fairbairn

A programme of archaeological investigation, recording and analysis at Toddington Manor was undertaken in advance of the erection of an ancillary leisure building. Three test pits were monitored and three evaluation trenches were opened on the southern edge of the planned work. All features observed within the trenches were of modern date.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH

Dunstable, Kingsway, Central Bedfordshire College

(TL 0197 2242)

Carl Champness

Oxford Archaeology South (OS) was commissioned by ADAS UK Ltd to undertake an

archaeological evaluation. The work was undertaken in March 2015. Eight evaluation trenches were excavated, each measuring 50m x 1.8m. No archaeological features were identified and the only artefactual material comprised one sherd of 20th century pottery and

post-medieval tile, which were recovered from the topsoil.

WORK WEST OF THE WILLINGTON DOVECOTE AND STABLES, IN 2014 & 2015 (TL106499)

Andrew Johnson

Introduction and Background

The archaeological investigation of the area around the Stables building at the Willington National Trust site that began in 2013 (*SMA* 44, 17–18) was continued in 2014 and 2015. Again, local people from the Willington area and youngsters from Bedford's Saturday Archaeology Workshops (now a branch of the Young Archaeologists' Club) were invited to participate. Their work was supervised and mentored by Angus Wainwright (National Trust Archaeologist for the Eastern Region) and professional staff from Bedford, Jeremy Oetgen and Helen Parslow (Albion Archaeology) and Susannah Oliver (Higgins Museum).

On the basis of geophysical data from a resistivity survey, two 1m square test-pits had been excavated in 2013. For both pits, the 10cm layer below the first 10cm of turf and topsoil contained much mortar and other fragmentary material; the next two 10cm layers contained larger pieces of material and other artefacts.

Test-pit 1, some 30m south-west of the Stables entrance, was sunk to investigate signs of possible structural remains, perhaps the wall of a building. Scattered debris (including tiles, bricks, nails, glass, and worked stone) tended to confirm this belief, but the few artefacts (pottery and clay pipes) were assessed to date from the 18th century or later rather than the Tudor period to which the Stables and Dovecote are known to belong. Test-pit 2, some 12m west of the Stables entrance, yielded similar but fewer finds, again from the 18th century or later, but also compacted material that could have come from a surface such as a pathway or courtyard.

Taken to a depth of only 40cm, neither test-pit reached the natural geology and they were backfilled, Test-pit 1 with protective polythene sheeting at the base so that it could be re-opened and investigations continued at a later date.

More 'Secrets below the Surface' (Sunday 29th June 2014)

The excavation of Test-pit 1 was resumed. Restoration of the turf following backfilling allows the surface to recover, and subsequent identification of the test-pit – signs of which soon become invisible – requires careful measurement and can be hit-and-miss. Fortunately it proved possible to quickly locate

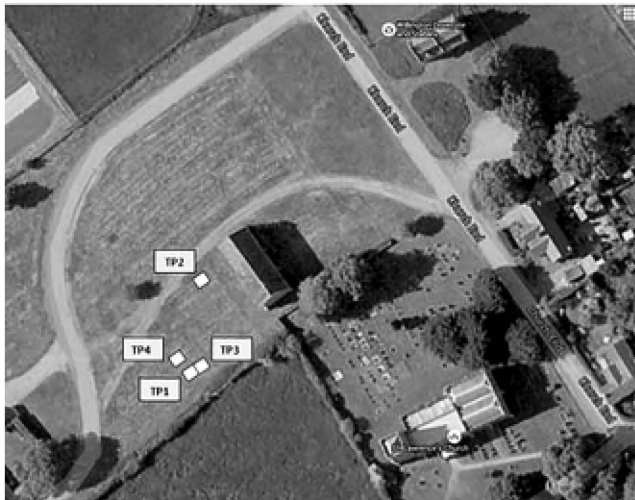


Figure 11. Aerial view of site showing approximate test-pit locations. Copyright Google.



Figure 12. June 2014 - Test-pit 1 re-opened and extended. Image from Julie Scherrer.



Figure 13. June 2015 - Test-pits 3 and 4 cordoned off and awaiting backfilling.

and re-open the pit on this occasion. Beginning mid-morning, the team removed the (unstratified) backfill from the previous year. This took a long while but yielded additional worked stone and other artefacts. The protective membrane was reached by midday and was removed. After a rain interruption, further layers were dug and sifted in the afternoon.



Figure 14. Sketch map of the Willington manor site in 1779. Courtesy of BARS and National Trust.



Figure 15. Overlay of 1779 sketch map onto aerial view of the site. Copyright Google.



Figure 16. Willington Dovecote, Stables, Church and reflecting pond c. 1950. Image courtesy of BAALHS.

The material in the three layers at 50cm and below contained domestic detritus – bone and a few sherds of pottery. However, more material was found, possibly the debris from building demolition, including brick, mortar, tile, glass, and worked stone. A sideways extension was made to the north, half the width of the pit, and beneath a deep layer of topsoil it revealed a 5-10cm thick layer of compressed gravel. This contained very few artefacts - two pieces of clay pipe and a piece of moulded stone. A final discovery at the base of the pit was of two slabs of stone with a texture suggesting they were from a hard igneous or glacial erratic rock not found

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locally; the pieces were left *in situ*. Once again, the pit floor was re-lined with polythene sheeting, the test-pit backfilled, and the turf replaced.

Yet More 'Secrets below the Surface' (Friday June 26th to Monday June 29th 2015)

Excavation work continued in 2015, this time over a full weekend, in conjunction with an Archaeological Fair hosted by the National Trust. The aim was to continue the investigation of Test-pit 1. On this occasion, however, the location could not confidently be identified. Ambiguity in the sketch-plan measurements could not be resolved, so two possibilities were tried - Test-pit 3 (which proved to be immediately adjacent to Test-pit 1), and Test-pit 4 (which turned out to be some 4m away). Youngsters and their parents worked on Test-pit 3 during Saturday and Sunday, while adult visitors from Willington and nearby worked on Test-pit 4 during the Sunday. In an adjacent area, a group of volunteers (including supervised youngsters) dealt with cleaning and bagging the finds from the two test-pits.

Material recovered from different depths of the two pits followed a similar pattern to the previous excavations. The top two layers (turf and topsoil) contained only fragmentary building material and artefacts such as pieces of bone, clay pipe, pottery, glass and metal. Such artefacts were found lower down but not in great quantity, and no pieces of clay pipe were found in the two lowest levels, those below 40cm. The lower levels contained significant quantities of building materials.

In Test-pit 3, in the four lower levels – below 20cm - recovered stonework included Barnack-like stone, oolitic limestone, and clunch. Large amounts of roof tile (accounting for 90% of the finds) were found in the middle two levels but with only a few fragments of brick. Below that there were large amounts of brick, mortar, and tile. At the base of this pit were two pieces of a grey and crumbly rock - one large and one medium-sized - which were removed and were identified as a gritstone, possibly of glacial erratic origin. The base of the pit still had debris material that was left in place when the dig finished.

In Test-pit 4, the four lower levels revealed a variety of stonework which included Barnack-like stone, oolitic and hard grey limestone, and clunch. In contrast, only small pieces and small quantities of tile and brick were recovered. A very large, rectangular, dressed piece of clunch was removed from the base level; the piece was smooth on one face, with tool marks covering the other face. The base of the pit (60cm deep) was identified as natural geology, a fine and reddish-brown sand.

The test-pits remained open on the Monday and local schools took the opportunity to visit and inspect the site and the trays of finds. Soon afterwards both pits were lined, backfilled and the turf restored. Subsequently, and to assist future identification, wooden pegs were driven in to mark the test-pits' corners.

Post-excavation Analysis

Soon after the excavation, the bagged material was examined at the National Trust regional office at Westley Bottom, near Bury St Edmunds. Small finds were retained and a representative selection was made of the bulk stone, brick, and tile; the remainder was discarded. All of the retained material was passed to the Higgins Museum where it is held alongside that from previous years. None of the material has

formally undergone 'accession' by the Museum, but it is available for analysis.

A preliminary examination has been made of the part-bricks that had been retained - all but one were from Test-pit 1 and (the adjacent) Test-pit 3. Bricks from different periods are characterised by their length, breadth and thickness, but diagnosis is not easy given the changing designs and fashions. In particular - as set out in Martin Hammond's 1990 "Bricks and Brickmaking" Shire publication - Tudor bricks were commonly 9½" x 4½" x 2" (242 x 115 x 51mm) but a 1571 Charter later stipulated 9" x 4½" x 2¼" (230 x 115 x 57mm). Taking this period as an example, from the 12 part-bricks whose thickness could be measured, only one (of 53mm) had a roughly appropriate width (112mm); there were four others of roughly appropriate thickness but whose breadth could not be measured. The majority of the bricks recovered therefore appeared to be of other than Tudor-period manufacture, although dating bricks by their dimensions alone is not an exact science anyway.

Discussion and Future Work

The worked-stone materials from the excavations are of types found in the fabric of the walls of the Dovecote and Stables. Brickwork is scarcely found in those walls; the Stables floor is of brick but of a different manufacture, being some 70mm thick. The distribution of debris may represent the remains of a stone and tile-roofed building in the vicinity of Test-pits 1 and 3; the large pieces of glacial erratic rock could be part of a foundation layer. The bricks might be from a wall or internal feature – the adjacent paddock, for example, is surrounded on three sides by a substantial brick wall, whose bricks are 55mm thick.

Additional work, going wider and deeper - perhaps by re-opening and extending Test-pits 1 and 3 - would be useful in providing more evidence of structural remains to the south-west of the Stables. However, this will require new permissions, following a change of ownership of part of the land in October 2015. Alternatively, it would be interesting to investigate the area north-east of the Stables and adjacent to the Dovecote, where other earlier buildings are known to have been demolished. A manorial map from 1779 indicates the extent of long-demolished farm buildings that were associated with the surviving Stables and Dovecote (Figs 4 and 5; Gostelow map of the Duke of Bedford's estate in 1779 (R1/75), *Bedfordshire Archives and Records Service*).

A further excavation and Archaeological Fair coinciding with the CBA's Festival of Archaeology has been planned for the weekend of 16–17 July 2016.

Acknowledgements

The archaeological enthusiasts (including the author) who were involved in the excavations are enormously grateful to the National Trust and its volunteers for hosting the events in the past three years. It is a privilege to work on such an historic site in its beautiful setting and to enjoy the hospitality offered by Willington and its church. Thanks are also due to the professional staff from the National Trust, Albion Archaeology, and the Higgins Museum for giving their time to encourage and advise the participants, young and old. Finally, we would also like to extend our continuing gratitude to the landowners, Mr and Mrs Richard Godber for their kindness in allowing access to the area.

The author would particularly like to thank Dorothy Jamieson (Bedford National Trust Association) for her tireless encouragement, Liz Pieksma (Keeper of Archaeology at the Higgins Museum) for her advice and help with the finds, and Joan Lightning (Albion Archaeology) for readily sharing her digital mapping and drawing expertise.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE Report for 2015

There have been further changes in personnel within Buckinghamshire County Archaeology Service this year. Sarah-Jane Farr returned on a temporary contract to job share with Eliza Alqassar to assist with planning advice while Eliza is an Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments for Historic England, covering the south-east. Paul Clements has joined us as the HER Assistant for three days per week on a temporary contract which we hope will be extended.

Development Management

The Service was consulted on 575 proposals during 2015 (to mid-November) and 79 development related fieldwork projects have been undertaken. Residential developments continue in various scales and field work for one development confirmed an Iron Age hillfort, thought to be present from cropmark evidence, north of Long Crendon. Excavation in Buckingham located what is likely to be the medieval town boundary ditch with 10th/11th century pottery from the earliest fills and 15th/16th century pottery from later fills. Solar farm applications have declined but evaluation works for all development sites regularly record late Iron Age/Romano-British rural settlement. Excavation of minerals sites in the south of the County continue to yield interesting results. One site near Denham has recorded Iron Age settlement and associated industrial activity, Bronze Age settlement and Romano-British enclosures.

The District Councils are increasingly consulting us over local plan preparation, area plans and neighbourhood plans. Eliza Alqassar has been invited to talk to local schools and community groups and presented a paper on Roman settlement along the Icknield Belt at the Solent Thames Research Framework launch at Reading University.

High Speed 2

The Parliamentary Select Committee hearings for Buckinghamshire County Council took place in October. Following discussion with the County's HS2 Team and senior management the archaeological petitioning points were addressed by assurances, changes to documentation and incorporation into larger County issues. Camden Council is taking the lead on historic environment route-wide issues. A meeting was held with HS2 Ltd at County Hall where their Lidar data was offered. This information is currently being generated but it will be some time until our systems are able to use it.

Atkins hosted a meeting on the Historic Environment Research and Delivery Strategy (HERDS) where invited people were asked to contribute to its development. This was well attended with members of the Buckinghamshire

Archaeological Society, Historic England, local authority archaeologist and academics being present. The County Archaeological Service is a member of the HS2 Heritage Sub Group with meetings held every couple of months to discuss route-wide issues.

Historic Environment Record

The numbers of HER enquiries continues to grow year on year, with 91 direct enquiries in the first three quarters of 2015, however numbers of enquiries have yet to recover to pre-recession levels.

The HER database and mapping software was moved onto a SQL server system and upgraded to the latest version of the software in September 2015. The new software involves some small changes to inputting and exporting processes but HER users won't notice many changes to the report formats that information is provided in.

HER volunteers continue to input records for milestones and mileposts and have completed the recording of railways, stations and halts. Records for historic public houses and inns are added using reports produced by the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society's Historic Buildings Group and are currently up-to-date.

Partnership projects include the Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust Research and Recording Project, which has secured grant funding to continue its work for another two years and is making rapid progress with 15 reports completed and work underway on a further 11 historic gardens. A second group of volunteers was recruited and trained over the summer and autumn of 2015 and has started researching a third tranche of sites.

Future

Ever increasing budgetary pressures has meant that the County Council has been reorganised during the year with the County Archaeological Service becoming part of the Environment Service within the Transport, Economy, Environment Business Unit. We currently retain support from senior management and the elected members and trust the service will continue in its current form.

Philip Markham
Buckinghamshire County Council

CONSERVATION & ARCHAEOLOGY IN MILTON KEYNES 2015

Development Management

The Conservation & Archaeology Team received 1049 planning consultations during 2015, 420 of which were for the Senior Archaeological Officer. The team were also consulted on a number of draft Neighbourhood Plans including those for Castlethorpe, Newport Pagnell and Sherington in addition to the emerging Plan:MK.

Fieldwork

Twenty two development-related fieldwork projects were undertaken in Milton Keynes borough in 2015:

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Highlights included:

The discovery of a second Romano-British mausoleum by MOLA Northampton during excavations at Passenham Quarry, Calverton.

Excavation of an early Saxon settlement by Albion Archaeology at Kickles Farm, Newport Pagnell.

The mapping and excavation of a further Neolithic cursus monument with associated round barrow at Haversham Road Quarry, Wolverton by Cambridge Archaeological Unit.

Building Conservation

In April, Milton Keynes Central Library was listed at Grade II, joining a growing number of designated early examples of MKDC architecture. Other New Town buildings considered for listing in 2015 included the Mies Van Der Rohe-inspired CMK office blocks Norfolk and Ashton House which were not considered sufficiently significant to be added to the national list.

Both Willen and Old Woughton Parish Councils have produced draft Conservation Area reviews for consideration. It is hoped that these documents and any agreed boundary changes may be adopted in 2016.

Historic Environment Record

A Historic England sponsored revisit of the 2011 HER Audit was begun by the Senior Archaeological Officer in August.

Outreach

In September the Senior Archaeological Officer led a third well-attended 'Heritage Hike' in the Ouzel valley as part of the Heritage Open Days season. Talks on recent archaeological discoveries in Milton Keynes were also given to Loughton & Great Holm Parish Council and Castlethorpe Heritage Group.

The 9th annual Milton Keynes Archaeology Day on Saturday 9th November was another successful and well-attended event attracting 600 people of all ages from Milton Keynes and beyond to enjoy the various talks, displays and activities on offer. Particularly popular was the 'Hands-on Archaeology Workshop' for young people organised by locally-based firm Cotswold Archaeology which had upwards of 40 participants. The talks in the Events Space attracted a total of 110 people over the day and gave insights into Marine Archaeology, Medieval Mosaics and the amazingly well-preserved 3000 year old fenland settlement of Must Farm. Many more stopped by at the displays of recent finds by local societies and metal detectorists in the foyer. Next year's 10th anniversary event is already being programmed and will be held on Saturday 12th November.

Nick Crank, Senior Archaeological Officer
Milton Keynes Council

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Milton Keynes, Dovecote Farm, Astwood
(SP 94604787)

Richard Gregson, Jackie Wells and Gary Edmondson
Mitigation works associated with construction of a wind turbine took place in June and July 2015. The investigation revealed two foci of activity - mid-late Iron Age enclosures

on the lower ground adjacent to Turvey Road in the south-west and a complex sequence of later Iron Age and Romano-British enclosures and boundaries on the higher ground in the vicinity of the turbine base. The enclosures were associated with pits and extensive spreads of material. Pottery was recovered from the surface of the exposed features, as well as a collection of metalworking debris indicative of both iron smelting and smithing. A series of medieval cultivation furrows were identified on the high ground to the east of the turbine base. These contained a significant concentration of metalworking debris, suggesting that the material had been dumped in the area to the east of the enclosures, before being subsequently incorporated into the furrows. OASIS ID albionar1-200895 Accession Number AYBCM:2015.62

Bierton, Land off Barnet Way (SP 83741573)

Ian Turner and Christiane Meckseper

Trial trenching revealed a c 12m-wide trackway or drove road (containing a few sherds of Iron Age pottery) and a small number of contemporary and undated pits and ditches which may be field boundaries and quarries. The relatively small number of artefacts retrieved from the features and the absence of refuse deposits suggests they were some distance from any settlement focus. The exception was one pit at the western edge of the site which contained a fairly large quantity of animal bone and Roman pottery. The earthworks of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation were observed throughout the site. It is possible that the drove road dates from the Roman period and is associated with a Roman settlement excavated at Vicarage Gardens to the south of St James's Church. OASIS ID albionar1-218872 Accession Number AYBCM: 2015.118

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Milton Keynes, Calverton Manor Pool House, Calverton
(SP 7896 3908)

James Coyne

An evaluation identified two parallel ditches and two postholes, all of which were undated.

Milton Keynes, Tathall End Flood Alleviation Works
(SP 8222 4790)

Jeremy Mordue

A watching brief by revealed no archaeological remains.

Milton Keynes, Holy Trinity Church, Old Wolverton
(SP 8034 4127)

Caoimhin O Coileain

A watching brief revealed no archaeological remains.

Milton Keynes, Manor House, Sherington
(SP 8890 4623)

Peter James, Mark Patenall, Paulo Clemente

A watching brief revealed no archaeological remains.

HERITAGE NETWORK

Dagnall, Dagnall Farm, Main Road North

(SP 9898 1633) Helen Ashworth

Dagnall Farm lies to the west of the village of Dagnall, on the south-west side of Main Road North, approximately 250m north-west of its junction with Ringshall Road. Planning permission for the installation of two rows of ground-based solar panels in a field to the rear of the farm buildings, was granted by Aylesbury Vale District Council, subject to an archaeological condition issued in line with the Department of Communities and Local Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

The groundworks consisted of a machine-excavated service trench, measuring approximately 66.3m in length, 0.35m in width and 0.65m in depth. The trench ran on a zig-zag course from a point to the west of the farmhouse (NGR 499034 216323) to the location of the solar array to the south of the existing farm buildings.

The stratigraphy exposed in the trench sections comprised a layer of very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) silty clay topsoil, 0.30m in depth, which overlay a dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) silty clay subsoil, 0.15m in depth. This overlay the natural chalk.

A single cut feature was exposed in the cable trench (NGR 499011.75 216323.40), running on a north - south alignment, approximately 11.5m to the south of Building 1. Its exposed area measured 0.50m in width and over 0.35m in depth, with steep sides. The base of the feature lay below the impact level of the trench. The feature contained fill (02), a yellowish brown (10YR 4/3) silty clay, containing frequent small sub-angular flints. No finds were recovered to date the feature, which may represent a field drainage trench.

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

Haddenham, Haddenham Airfield

(SP 7335 0900)

Greg Jones

In order to advise Aylesbury Vale District Council in advance of the determination of an application for outline planning permission for the proposed development of land to the south of Haddenham Airfield, Haddenham, the Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake a series of archaeological investigations to better understand the archaeological potential of the study area and the likely impacts of the proposed development on that potential. The study area was divided into seven areas, and three stages of investigation were carried out, including documentary and cartographic research, geophysical survey, and trial trenching.

Documentary and cartographic research, including a study of historic aerial photographs, showed that the site was located in agricultural land to the west of the village from at least the medieval period. Pre-enclosure maps, however, indicate that the medieval field system may have developed from late prehistoric co-axial fields.

The geophysical survey revealed a number of magnetic anomalies of possible archaeological origin, some of which could be identified as features relating to the past use of the site. A series of linear enhanced magnetic field anomalies

may be of archaeological interest and are likely to relate to past agricultural practice. A circular anomaly on the southern side of the site was also considered to be of potential archaeological interest.

Trial trenching confirmed the presence of a small number of later prehistoric features in the centre of the site, including a linear ditch which was observed in three trenches and a pit. A number of post-medieval quarry pits were also revealed in the centre of the site.

IAIN SODEN HERITAGE SERVICES LTD

Quainton, 32 Church Street (SP 7488 2017)

Building recording was undertaken by ISHeritage of an outbuilding at the Grade II Listed Baker's Cottage in order to inform planning proposals. The small timbered and weather-boarded outhouse to the rear of the cottage appears to have been built from numerous and disparate re-used elements, some from box-framing (such as Baker's Cottage itself is constructed), but many later, but which may not have been brought together in their current location and configuration until as late as the 19th century. The building is dilapidated and may have been both a stable or other animal shelter and partly a butcher's meat store in the past.

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

Compiled by Kimberley Dowding

Aylesbury, Old County Council Offices, Walton Street (SP 82109 13574)

Paul Murray

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during drainage and ground works. The watching brief identified a drainage ditch of probable medieval date and a brick culvert and brick drain, both with wooden shuttering, dated to the 19th century. A well and garden soils dated to the 19th century were also recorded. In addition alluvial deposits were recorded in the southeast part of the site.

Brill, 44 Temple Street (SP65600 14095)

Tom Reese-Jones, Paul Blinkhorn and Simona Denis

A programme of archaeological recording was carried out by during the replacement of dwellings at 44 Temple Street, Brill. The archaeological and artefactual evidence encountered revealed that the site was located on the edge of a dwelling founded in the 13th century, possibly associated with the nearby kilns; the core features excavated comprised an enclosure ditch and two pits which were found to contain evidence of domestic occupation. This occupation ended in the late 14th century. After a period of abandonment, activity was resumed in the 16th century; this later phase was characterised by four rubbish pits, possibly associated with a nearby dwelling, and a ha-ha ditch associated with nearby Brill House, built in the 18th century.

Dinton, Springhill Stud, Marsh Mead Farm, Cuddington Road (SP 7578 1157)

Dr Stephen Yeates MA, D.Phil, MCIfA

An archaeological excavation was carried out at what was Marsh Mead Farm and is now Springhill Stud prior to the

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erection of stud buildings. The work initially consisted of an evaluation, but following the identification of Iron Age and Roman remains, the work was changed to a full excavation. The earliest features dated from the Iron Age or early Roman period and consisted of large pits, possible quarry pits and plough soil. Activity continued into the 2nd century, which features included an enclosure ditch. There appears to have been minimal activity at the site between the 3rd and 16th centuries, with only one feature placed within this period. Activity increased during the 17th century, with several features being recorded and identified as agricultural features.

Haddenham, 2 Gibson Lane (SP 74045 08185)

Dr Stephen Yeates MA, D.Phil, MCIfA

An archaeological watching brief and building assessment was conducted as part of the compliance with planning permission for alterations to an attached structure in the curtilage of a Grade II listed building. The Watching Brief noted three essential phases on the site; the earliest of which is assumed from pottery finds to be focused on the 11th century. The features dated to the medieval period included five ditches that probably represent a series of recut boundary features of an enclosure. The next phase of activity is dated to the post-medieval period, possibly extending into the early 18th century. The feature associated with this material is probably a quarry pit associated with the excavation of witchert from the knoll, perhaps for the purpose of building 2 Gibson Lane. This was followed by alterations in the 19th century when the barn that was to be redeveloped was first constructed. This building is a limestone and witchert structure.

High Wycombe, All Saints' Church.

(SU 86564 93084)

Dr Stephen Yeates MA, D.Phil, MCIfA

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during an exploratory sondage in 2013 and additional groundworks in 2015, in order to determine the features around the south porch of All Saints' Church. The groundworks revealed the flint foundations of the porch and buttresses along the south wall, which are recorded as dating between 1273 and 1275. A medieval roof tile was recovered from a possible surface deposit surrounding the foundations. This indicated that the Penn-High Wycombe tile industry, located at Tylers Green may have started producing roof tiles earlier than previously recorded. There was also evidence of later activity at the church, most likely dating from the 19th and 20th centuries and demonstrate brick reworking of parts of the wall.

Nash, Land off Winslow Road (SP 78179 33781)

David Gilbert and Gwilym Williams

An archaeological desk-based assessment was carried out in relation to a proposed development on land at Wood End, Nash. There was no known archaeology identified within the vicinity of the site, but it was believed that a Roman Road ran close by. However, the desk-based assessment cast doubt on this and identified the proposal site as comprising part of a historic green on the edge of Whaddon Chase and the historic Wood End part of Nash hamlet.

Newton Longville, Land to rear of St Anne's Grange, Drayton Road (SP 84900 31320)

Andrej Ěelovský with contributions from Paul Blinkhorn and Simona Denis

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in order to inform a planning application for a residential development and comprised three trial trenches with a total length of 65m. There were no significant features dating from the medieval or post-medieval period, but there was a single sherd of medieval pottery and several fragments of 16th to 18th century pottery. Also there was a levelling layer that appears to be related to the demolition of an outbuilding that was identified on the Ordnance Survey maps and was demolished in the late 1960s.

Stokenchurch, Wormsley Park (SU 73935 94300)

Dr Stephen Yeates MA, D.Phil, MCIfA

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the excavation of footings and grading of land during the construction of a new auditorium. Grading to the north and south of the ha-ha identified the remains of a probable field boundary, while grading activity elsewhere failed to penetrate the subsoil. Excavations above the ha-ha wall uncovered the remains of a probable building constructed of timber and brick on a chalk platform, a possible Tudor conduit, and an earlier ha-ha produced evidence for a small area of medieval ridge and furrow in what was formerly a field called Home Field, a significant boundary marked on a map of 1759 and also a series of undated features from an area formerly called Haw Field.

KDK ACHAEOLOGY LTD

Edlesborough, St Mary's Church (SP 97011 19057)

Calli Rouse

In September 2015, a watching brief was undertaken at St Mary's Church, Edlesborough, during groundworks for the installation of a new external lighting system within the churchyard. Disarticulated human skeletal remains were found in all trenches except Trench 2. One skeletal assemblage was encountered during the watching brief, comprising the partial remains of at least two individuals. These remains are thought to represent a reburial resulting from earlier works carried out within the churchyard. AYBCM: 2015.117; OASIS 217636

Slapton, Slapton Lock (SP 9283 2036)

Carina Summerfield-Hill & Laura Dodd

In July 2015 an archaeological evaluation was carried out at Slapton Lock, Horton Road, Slapton, prior to the proposed construction of a 180 berth marina. Five shallow ditches/possible ditches, a gully and a deposit were revealed. Artefacts discovered would suggest that the site was in use throughout the medieval and post medieval era. The purpose of many of the features that were uncovered is unclear; however, it is possible that many of the ditches were constructed for drainage purposes. Several features could be related to the building of the canal in the 1790s, or the post-medieval brick manufacturing site 1km west of the evaluation area. OASIS 211568

MOLA NORTHAMPTON

Compiled by Pat Chapman and Andy Chapman

Aston Clinton, Bierton with Broughton and Weston Turville (SP 860 135)

Ian Fisher, Olly Dindol and Adam Meadows

Magnetometer survey of c 195ha of land for the proposed 'Aylesbury Woodland development' between Broughton and Aston Clinton identified evidence relating to at least six different archaeological sites of probable Iron Age to Roman date. Three of these comprise rectilinear enclosure complexes, each extending over several hectares, and a fourth comprises a possible trackway and enclosure. A fifth site, located on the edge of the survey area, cannot be fully characterised. The sixth site, previously known from excavation and cropmarks, did not respond well to magnetic survey. Apart from these six sites, the survey also identified medieval ridge and furrow and other minor features of possible archaeological interest.

Aston Clinton, College Road, Olleco Site (SP 878 138)

James Fairclough

No archaeological deposits or finds were recovered, with modern disturbance being seen in two trenches, during trial trench evaluation north of the Arla Dairy. AYBCM:2015.119

Aston Clinton, Park View, Woodgate House (SP 8814 1192)

Jim Burke

Undisturbed natural and modern disturbance and dumped levelling layers were recorded during trial trench evaluation. No pre-modern archaeological features were present. AYBCM:2015.97

Aston Clinton, Weston Road (SP 8688 1201)

Adam Meadows

Magnetometer survey identified three weak linear trends of potential archaeological interest and a modern metal pipeline.

Buckingham, West Street, Nursery Bungalow (SP 6928 3398)

Ben Kidd

Successive layers of alluvium and made ground/rubble were recorded during trial trench evaluation. No archaeological features or finds were recovered. AYBCM: 2015.139

Cheddington, Leeches Lane (SP 9219 1703)

Luke Jarvis

Trial trenching at Leeches Lane recorded five ditches and one small pit, all undated. The remnant furrows of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation were also present throughout the evaluation area, as indicated by the geophysical survey. AYBCM 2015.123

Maids Moreton, Church Farm (SP 707 356)

John Walford

Magnetometer survey of land at Church Farm detected a probable Iron Age or Roman settlement with enclosures, trackways and various unenclosed features. Medieval to early post-medieval ridge and furrow, droveway and a modern pipeline were also detected.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY EAST

Sherington, Manor House, High Street (SP 8881 46738)

James Fairbairn

Monitoring work on intrusive ground works, concentrating on the excavation of footings for a replacement part single storey rear extension, a two-part storey extension and associated service trenches, revealed drainage runs dating to the 18th and 19th centuries as well as areas of deposited limestone and brick demolition rubble.

Sherington, Moat Barn, The Manor, High Street (SP 888 463)

James Fairbairn

The standing buildings survey concentrated on a building known as Moat Barn that is located within the Manor courtyard. This was carried out in advance of proposed alterations and repairs.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH (OAS)

Milton Keynes, Shenley Church End (SP 014 3575 - SP 8127 3655)

Andrew Ginns

Between 12th-21st October 2015 OAS completed an archaeological watching brief upon the excavation of a cable trench corridor between Shenley Grounds Farm and the boundary of Hazeley School to the west of Milton Keynes. The fieldwork was commissioned by Western Power Distribution ahead of the installation of three 33kV electricity cables. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were encountered during the works although the impact and exposure of the potential archaeological horizon was very limited.

Whitchurch, Aylesbury Vale (SP 8094 2225)

Paul Booth and Carl Champness

In October 2014 OAS was commissioned by Buckinghamshire County Council to undertake an archaeological excavation to investigate a potential burial assemblage that was identified during a metal detecting rally. The findspot is located adjacent to a suspected Roman villa within an arable field that has previously produced a concentration of Roman finds. The excavation revealed a Roman (late 2nd century AD) wooden box burial with a rich assemblage of grave goods including samian ware cups and dishes, a pottery flagon, two glass vessels, a bronze jug with decorated handle, bronze patera, an iron open or lamp holder, two unidentified lead objects and a cremation urn, which contained an intaglio and remains of nailed shoes as well as burnt human remains. The remains of the wooden box were identified as an outline of iron nails and organic deposits

Buckinghamshire

within the burial pit. The pit was backfilled with the excavated boulder clay natural and then later sealed by modern ploughsoil. The grave goods were found *in situ* but had been disturbed by ploughing and partly crushed by the use of heavy farm machinery.

The burial lies at the western edge of the distribution of a group of relatively rare cremation burials found across south-eastern Britain which contain glass and bronze vessels and lighting equipment. Amongst these the present burial is one of only a handful of 2nd century date, and is therefore an important addition to this body of evidence, containing a characteristic combination of object types. The decorated jug is individually the most significant of these because of its religious scene depicting human figures worshipping in front of an altar. Because of the apparently unique detail it is a piece of national importance, enhanced by association with a securely dated burial context.

Wingrave, Land to the North of Leighton Road (SP 8710 1923)

John Boothroyd

On the 17th and 18th November 2015 OAS carried out a trial trench evaluation on behalf of Corylus Environmental Limited, comprising six trenches. The trenches confirmed the results of a preceding geophysical survey, indicating that the area has limited archaeological potential. Archaeological evidence was confined to the northern part of the site, where a single undated pit and a ditch, possibly of late Iron Age or Roman date, were found. All trenches, except one, contained traces of 'ridge and furrow', which are plough-formed earthworks resulting from long-term medieval and post-medieval open field agriculture. The ridges survive as visible landscape features in the surrounding fields.

SOUTERRAIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Lavendon, 8 Olney Road (NGR 491625, 253553)

Martin D Wilson

An 'as found' record was made of an abandoned 19th century house and its adjoining outhouses. The building, which was a village store and Post Office from about 1882 until c 1920, appears to have been constructed prior to 1856. The report provides a descriptive and illustrative account of observations, with plans, elevations, and photograph record. The analysis identifies traces of the occupiers and owners of the property throughout the period, and how they have contributed to the development and changes made to the building. OASIS ref: souterrai-215310

St Leonards, Lanes End, Grim's Ditch (Scheduled Monument No 1021200) (NGR 490376, 207518)

Martin D Wilson

A watching brief was maintained on the postulated course of the prehistoric earthwork known as Grim's Ditch, at a former haulage yard at Lanes End, near the village of St Leonards. The prehistoric ditch for most of its course is scheduled, and comprises of a bank and a ditch. In 2015, the presence of a non-scheduled section of the ditch was confirmed at the development site during an archaeological evaluation

(Eyers, 2015). The course of the ditch (aligned northeast/southwest) was subsequently extrapolated, close to the northwest boundary of the development site.

The watching brief was carried out in two areas of the site. The first area, in the northeast corner of the site, included a very small portion of a 2m buffer zone of the designated monument, where foundations were removed from a mid-20th century commercial vehicle workshop. It revealed the upper edge of the southeast side of the prehistoric ditch. The second area, in the southwest corner of the site, concerned an excavation for ground contamination remediation work. The ditch was not present in this area, but a former pond was identified, which is shown on a 19th century map.

OASIS ref: souterrai-241702

Reference

Eyers, J. 2015. 'Mount Pleasant, Taylors Lane, St Leonards, Bucks, HP23 6LQ: Archaeological Evaluation', Chiltern Archaeology, Report 132

St Leonards, Taylors Lane, Lanes End (490376, 207518)

Martin D Wilson

In January 2016, a historic building record was made of a Second World War air-raid shelter at Lanes End, near the village of St Leonards. The structure had been discovered by chance during a site consultancy visit in 2015. The report provides a descriptive and illustrative account of observations, including photographs and scale elevations and plans.

Three-quarters of the shelter was below ground, the upper part covered with an earthen mound. The structure was rectangular (3.7m x 1.8m). Its walls were built of brick, of single thickness (110mm) to a height of 1.82m. Two entrances were discernible. The interior of the structure had two components - a shelter (4m²; 1.58m x 2.56m) ventilated by a cast-iron pipe, and an ante-chamber (0.69m by 2.56m). These were separated by a blast wall, double the thickness (225mm) of the outer walls. Outside each entrance was a short length of concrete retaining wall. There was no indication of ties or counterfort walls. The concrete roof was reinforced with 60mm diameter scaffold tubes. The

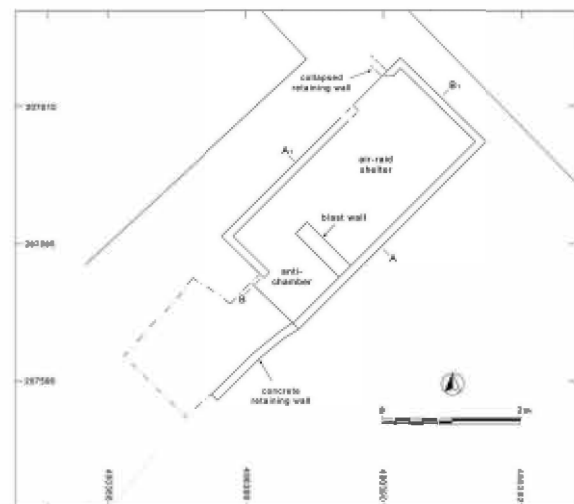


Figure 1. Plan of WWII air raid shelter Taylors Lane, Lanes End, St Leonards.

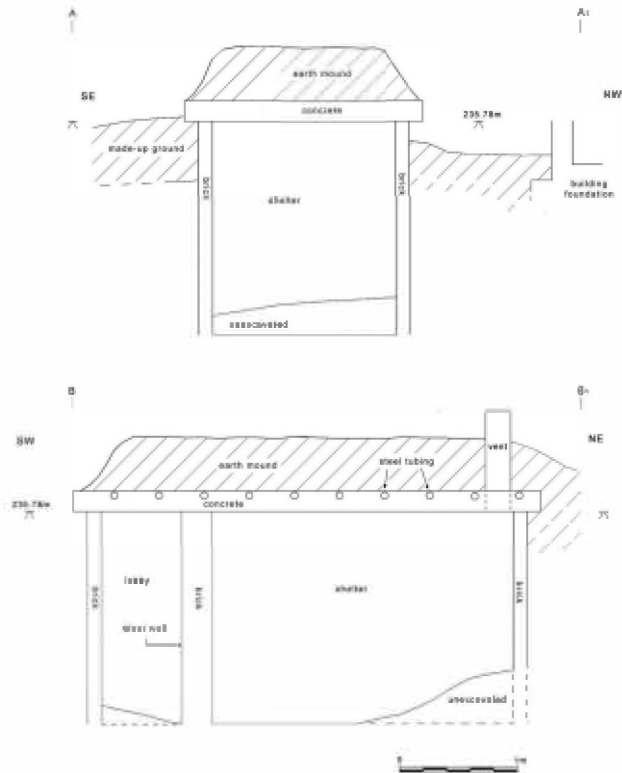


Figure 2. Profiles of WWII air raid shelter_Taylors Lane, Lanes End, St Leonards.



Figure 3. WWII Air raid shelter_Taylors Lane, Lanes End, St Leonards.

underside of the roof bore the impressions of wooden shuttering which had evidently been lined with sheets of newspaper. Remarkably, the ink from at least four newspapers was fragmentarily preserved in the concrete which provided a *terminus post quem* for the construction of the air-raid shelter, of the 21st of June 1940. OASIS ref: souterrai-241020.

North Crawley, 46 High Street (SP 92899 44669)
Martin D Wilson

A historic building record was made of a derelict timber-framed outbuilding. The structure consisted of a box-frame (c 8.85m x c 2.57m), with 3 bays and ridged rafter roof (height c. 3m) covered in pantiles. It had been purpose-built to serve a row of terraced cottages erected in 1864 by Lewis Wooding, a local carpenter/builder. The



Figure 4. Enhanced newspaper preserved in concrete_ air raid shelter, Taylors Lane.

structure was in existence by 1881. It was constructed of hand-hewn timber. Its sill beams had been reclaimed from a medieval/post-medieval building. It had been extensively restored and repaired in the late 19th/early 20th century. Four main phases of development or repair are identified.

The report provides a descriptive and illustrative account of observations with scale elevations and plans, and an account of the building's owners and users.

OASIS ref: souterrai-237559.

North Crawley, 36 High Street (SP 92869 44681)
Martin D Wilson

A predetermination 'as found' record was made of a derelict Victorian timber-framed outbuilding which was erected at some time between 1864 and 1881 by the Woodings, a North Crawley family of carpenters and builders. The building comprised two adjoining box-framed timber structures, constructed of hand-hewn timber, one of three bays with a rafter roof, the other of two bays, re-roofed in asbestos sheets. The two-bay structure (5.6m x, c 3.8 m x c 3.47m high) was probably a wagon shed, while the three-bay structure (10.4m x 2.4m; wall plate height 2.05m; ridge height c 3m) served as domestic sheds, and a workshop, for a row of terraced cottages, also built by the Woodings. The report provides a descriptive and illustrative account of observations, including photographs and scale elevations and plans. It identifies the owners of the property in the 19th and 20th century (including some of its tenants/users) and how they have contributed to the development and use of the building. OASIS ref: souterrai-237559

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Dinton, Church of SS Peter and Paul (SP 7666 1108)

Tim Dawson

Monitoring of the excavation of a pipe trench and cess pit revealed 22 inhumations, all aligned approximately west-east, and some disarticulated human bone. The only datable finds were broadly post-medieval but some of the burials, stratigraphically lower, and with no associated finds, could be earlier.

Haddenham, 21 Rosemary Lane (SP 7418 0933)

Andrew Mundin

Reduction of the footprint of a new house was carried out under archaeological supervision. No archaeological deposits nor finds of interest were encountered.

Kingswood, Akeman Inn (SP 6934 1892)

Dan Bray and Tim Dawson

No deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were observed during a recording action prior to landscaping for a carpark, but the groundworks did not penetrate to the archaeologically relevant horizon.

Hinton Waldrist, Glebe Farm, Priors Lane

(SU 3795 9891)

David Platt

Archaeological deposits were identified in all 6 trenches of an evaluation prior to residential development, including Iron Age ditches and a pit, and a possible medieval ditch. Foundations of a cottage correspond with a 17th century cruck-framed cottage shown on 19th century maps. Follow-up excavation over a small part of the area is ongoing at time of writing.

Lacey Green, Datcha, Kiln Lane (SP 8256 0040)

James McNicoll-Norbury

Two modern pits and a modern linear feature were revealed in the area under observation prior to groundworks for a new house, but no deposits or artefacts of archaeological interest were revealed.

Long Crendon, 18 Chearsley Road (SP 6991 0920)

Daniel Strachan

Evaluation trenching in advance of an application for permission to erect a new house revealed a high density of pits and ditches mainly of Iron Age date, with some Roman pottery also present (two sherds).

Long Crendon, Madges Farm (SP 6966 0918)

Tim Dawson and Daniel Bray

A magnetometer survey and evaluation trenching were required in advance of residential development. The survey indicated a range of magnetic anomalies likely to indicate buried archaeological features. Other anomalies were thought more likely to be caused by previous farming activity and underlying geology or areas of burning. The trenching confirmed the presence of archaeological deposits from a range of periods, but the majority were of Iron Age

date with what appears to be a ditched enclosure present. A small number of possible Roman features were present along with some areas of post-medieval quarrying. Medieval pottery and plough furrows were also recorded along with a few Neolithic or Bronze Age struck flints.

Princes Risborough, Laurel Farm, Thame Road

(SP 7920 0475)

Kyle Beaverstock

Magnetometer survey was carried out prior to construction of new housing. A moderate number of magnetic anomalies were recorded across the survey area. However, these are all likely to be modern in origin, representing interference from above ground magnetic objects such as the field gates and a metal track.

Wexham, George Green Quarry (SU 99562 81020)

Kyle Beaverstock

A watching brief was maintained for the purpose of recovery of any possible Palaeolithic material on a small part (c 0.14ha) of a larger area of gravel extraction. No archaeological deposits were observed nor were any artefacts recovered. A second phase of investigation (excavation) is anticipated.

WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY

Aston Clinton Road MDA, Broughton

(SP 84925 13300)

J. Powell.

Wessex Archaeology undertook a 37 trench evaluation on land south of Manor Farm, Broughton. Previous work on the site has included archaeological evaluation, geophysical survey, desk-based assessment, earthwork survey and cultural heritage assessment. A scheduled (SAM 29411) late medieval double moated enclosure of national importance lies within the site boundary.

A truncated pit containing possible Neolithic pottery, worked and burnt flint, charred hazel nutshells and charcoal was recorded. A pit and a ditch, at distance from each other, produced Bronze Age pottery, and further Bronze Age pottery was recovered from subsoil elsewhere, demonstrating dispersed Bronze Age activity throughout the site with no clear focus. Despite the southern boundary of the site being formed by the Roman road Akeman Street, no finds dating to the Roman period were found. It is possible that some undated features relate to a Romano-British field system.

Many of the features on site are broadly contemporary with the late medieval double-moated enclosure immediately to the north. Medieval features include an earthwork enclosure with a well-defined boundary and several discrete features, all of which produced evidence to suggest activity in the 11th/12th century. Medieval pottery was also recovered from a number of other ditches throughout the site, and together with the known ridge and furrow indicates a medieval field system associated with the Scheduled Monument.

Land at Golden Mede and West of Warmstone Lane, Waddesdon (SP 74569 16738 and SP 74882 16622), S. Clelland.

Nineteen trial trenches were excavated by Wessex Archaeology on two plots of land within Waddesdon, Buckinghamshire on land known as Golden Mede on the southern edge of the village and also on land to the west of Warmstone Lane. Archaeology was encountered only on the Warmstone Lane plot. A cluster of pits and post-pits possibly represent a medieval timber structure. The excavations also revealed a sub-rectangular possible hearth constructed of pottery fragments dating from the 12th-13th centuries AD. The features lay directly north of a series of probable contemporary agricultural ditches, and were overlain by a layer of abandonment debris including shell fragments, charcoal and pottery fragments.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Cottingham, Land off Rockingham Road

(SP 85009070)

Richard Gregson

Archaeological monitoring in January 2015 within the footprint of a new stable building (and associated parking and access) revealed the remains of post-medieval quarrying. The quarry was probably dug during the post-medieval period as a source of building stone. OASIS ID albionar1-198959 Accession Number ENN107890

West Haddon, Land off Guilsborough Road and Northampton Road (SP 63707190)

Marcin Koziminski

Mitigation works revealed an Iron Age boundary/enclosure ditch. Evidence of possible weathered bank material in one of the excavated segments suggested that a bank was located on the western side of the boundary. This deposit also produced a residual flint core of possible late Neolithic date, indicating early prehistoric activity in the vicinity. A number of undated features - three post holes and an isolated small pit - may be associated with activity in the Iron Age period. Evidence for medieval/post-medieval ploughing was encountered in the form of northwest-southeast aligned furrows, which survived on higher ground in the southern part of the site, spaced 6–6.5m apart. Modern remains were represented by wheel ruts and plough scars associated with modern agricultural activity. OASIS ID albionar1-215364 Accession Number ENN108050

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING SERVICES

Badby, Goat Cottage, The Green (SP 55985 59083)

An archaeological standing building survey was carried out in advance of the proposed conservation and conversion of the building to residential use. Goat Cottage is an interesting building with its varied history reflected in its current structure and fabric. The building began in the mid 17th

century as a domestic house with attached cow hovel, later becoming an ancillary building for the Hollies and later again a slaughterhouse. This change in status is reflected especially in the roof structure, which originated with well-finished carpentry later replaced with unfinished round wood repairs and tinned sheets overlaying thatch.

Geddington, Newton Mill Farm (Outbuildings), Newton Road (SP 88927 83239)

An archaeological standing building survey was carried out in advance of the proposed conversion of the buildings to residential use. Newton Mill Farm is an interesting range of buildings dating to the mid 19th century. The complex appears to be a wholly pastoral farm associated with the adjacent water mill. The complex retains a number of interesting features, most notably the extensive use of the Saltire symbol on door latches, a decorative flourish which originated to ward off evil spirits, as well as a copper for boiling swill and an unidentified timber-built stall within building B. There are a number of original timber-built structures surviving within the complex, some of which contain early graffiti which support the cartographic evidence of the complex.

Naseby, Shuckburgh House & Outbuildings, Church Street (SP 68812 78140)

An archaeological standing building survey was carried out in advance of the proposed conservation and renovation of the buildings for residential and domestic use. There is cartographic evidence of a building on the site from the 17th century and it is said to have played an early role in the pivotal Battle of Naseby. The cottage range is likely to be the earliest surviving element of the house, but itself shows evidence of at least three phases of building, or re-building which hints at a complex history. The bay abutting the southern gable of the cottage range is a largely modern build, but containing very limited remains of an earlier building. The stable, although simple in appearance is an interesting building with late 18th century origins and was re-built as a somewhat aggrandised stable in the 19th century.

Tansor, Tansor Grange (outbuildings), Tansor Wold Road (TL 07039 90273)

An archaeological standing building survey was carried out in advance of the proposed conversion of the outbuildings to residential use. The outbuildings are mid 19th century in date, built as an enclosure farm to provide an income to the incumbent of St Mary's Church. The farm was originally known as Glebe Farm, before being re-named Rectory Farm and finally Tansor Grange in the late 1920s. The buildings indicate the farm was originally mixed with a threshing barn and later became a pastoral farm with room for a significant number of animals before eventually being abandoned and used for poultry rearing. The easternmost range is very interesting as it contains a stable and carriage shed, both rendered and painted indicating they housed riding horses and a carriage better than a common farm cart. Both suggest the farm was prosperous and of some status, possibly as a result of its association with the church. Further evidence of the status of the farm is the quality of the finish of some of the buildings including brick floors and chamfered and stopped beams.

Northamptonshire

Thenford, The Threshing Barn, Lower Farmyard (SP 51949 41688)

An archaeological standing building survey was carried out in advance of the proposed conversion of the barn to residential use. The barn is mid 19th century in date, built as a threshing barn with a later extension to the west, and part of Home Farm. The barn is a fine example of a regional farm building dating from the early to mid 19th century and historical use is well preserved with large threshing doors in the easternmost bay and unequal cart doors in the westernmost bay, the westernmost bay also houses a line shaft indicating mechanical processing was undertaken in this bay.

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Brigstock, Bullymore's Lodge Farm (SP 7633 6442)

Jeremy Mordue

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology demonstrated that cropmarks previously identified within the site are the remains of an Early Roman settlement. The Roman features cut the silt deposits at the edge of a former stream course. A small assemblage of Early Roman pottery was recovered, along with charred cereals indicative of crop processing.

Northampton, Park Campus (SP 7633 6442)

Jeremy Mordue

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology identified two post-medieval or modern ditches.

Old Stratford, Land at Knotwood Fields Farm (SP 7723 4197)

Ralph Brown

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recorded curvilinear ditches likely to represent small enclosures and a roundhouse. These were found with Iron Age pottery and would seem to be the remains of a farm.

Potterspury, Homestead Farm (SP 7319 4562)

Peter James

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recorded Iron Age enclosures and ring-ditches along with pits, postholes and smaller ditches. These were probably parts of an Iron Age farm.

Towcester, Land at Springfields (SP 6840 4810)

Peter James

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified no remains of archaeological interest.

Wellingborough, Land north of Niort Way (SP 8763 7006)

Jeremy Mordue

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology followed on from a geophysical survey which recorded possible ditched enclosures and associated pits. The evaluation recorded a small number of ditches and a post-medieval/modern wall. One of the ditches yielded two fragments of post-medieval tile and two parallel ditches were in the approximate location

of a former field boundary depicted on late 19th-century mapping; the remaining ditches were undated. The presence of ridge and furrow throughout the site indicates that the site formed part of the open fields surrounding the medieval settlement of Great Harrowden.

Wicken, Mount Mill Farm (SP 7590 3864)

Peter James and Mo Muldowney

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recorded substantial Iron Age ditches, corresponding to enclosures recorded during a previous geophysical survey. It is likely that these remains represent Iron Age agricultural settlement. A subsequent watching brief revealed no further remains

Woodford, Club Lane (SP 9689 7687)

Dan Stone

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology recorded a post-medieval/modern stone-lined cesspit.

Yelvertoft, Flint Hill Farm (SP 6037 7394)

Dan Riley

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology revealed no archaeological remains.

COMMUNITY LANDSCAPE ARCHAEOLOGY SURVEY PROJECT CLASP)

Stephen Young - Archaeological Director

Anglo-Saxon Cemetery-Lower Street Leys, Whitehall Farm, Nether Heyford

A recent unexpected development was the unearthing by metal detectorists, Dave Derby and Alan Standish (NARC), of new finds associated with the location of the 5th century cemetery at Whitehall Farm, which had been extensively excavated by CLASP several years ago. The site, typically for an Anglo-Saxon cemetery, is situated adjacent to a major Roman Road and a probable Saxon military road in a field bearing the old and illustrative name, Lower Street Leys, (the lower clearing or meadow near the Roman Road). The surface finds comprised a brooch and shield boss, the latter of which was left *in situ* for further archaeological exploration. Their discovery signifies that the fieldwork undertaken by CLASP, although meticulous, had failed to identify both the full extent of the burial ground and to record the total distribution of interments across the site. In addition the chance discovery highlighted two important points: that modern agricultural practice continues to actively erode the subsoil and that

this was posing an ongoing threat to any unidentified surviving archaeological stratigraphy. Obviously the nature of the finds clearly confirmed that this was the situation in this case.

CLASP's original exploratory test pitting of the site covered a significant area of the field and located the remains of nine burials which were subsequently excavated. However, the limitation of the methodological approach adopted for siting the test pitting meant that graves might have evaded

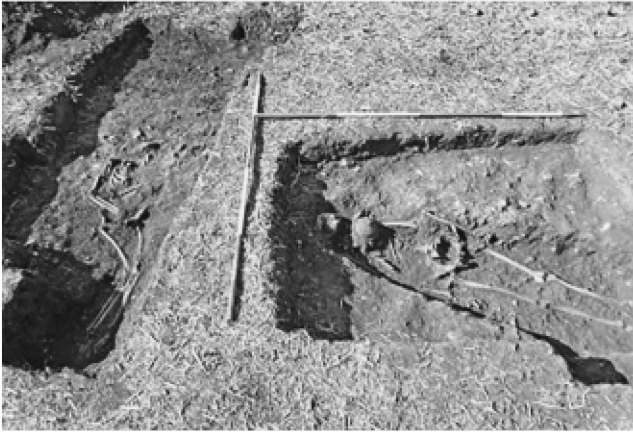


Figure 1. Anglo Saxon Cemetery Whitehall Farm Nether Heyford.

detection. At the time it appeared that we had identified the nucleus of the cemetery and that further outlying graves were unlikely. However, the new finds demonstrate beyond doubt that a number of other burials existed denoting a more extensive distribution over a wider area. Even more intriguing is that this supports the possibilities previously considered of at least two focal points for burial or family groupings within the graveyard and the probability that other unidentified burials are waiting to be found. An exploratory field visit revealed that the artefacts were associated with two new graves both of which were consistent in date with those previously recorded. Therefore CLASP obtained a licence from the Home Office to exhume any connected skeletal material and the remains of the two individuals were recovered. These are currently being cleaned before submission to scientific analysis. One burial was of an adolescent female which had been considerably damaged by the plough, decapitating the skeleton and crushing the skull, most of which had been diffused into the surrounding plough soil. Her grave was orientated east/west and she was buried with a brooch, personal knife and blue glass bead consistent with the other excavated female inhumation 5th century. However the other inhumation was of a male lying on his back with a shield laid on his chest of which the iron shield boss and outer shield rivets had survived. This grave had been subjected to plough damage but was more intact due to its proximity to the other grave which had protected the remains to some extent. Typologically the shield boss can be quite closely dated to the late 6th/early 7th century AD.

These new burials not only increased the skeletal assemblage available for study from the Whitehall Farm Post Roman cemetery but they proved to be of greater significance than they first appeared. Indeed their excavation will enable us to re-examine the historical context of the site and obtain a greater understanding of the development of the cemetery through time.

In short these inhumations prove that there were in fact two cemeteries of different periods associated with the Whitehall Farm site. Both the carbon dating from the earlier excavated skeletons and the dating of the material assemblages from all the burials indicate two relatively small cemeteries, one belonging to the mid 5th century with the other in use in the late 6th/early 7th century AD.

The first point to notice is that the burials of the latter graveyard lie immediately on top and across the general area of the earlier one (0.5h) suggesting a synchronicity of layout.

Interestingly only in one case does a grave from the later cemetery cut through an earlier interment, however whether this is by design or chance is difficult to determine in relation to the overall layout of the wider burial distribution. Therefore by and large the position of the earlier burials is respected by the latter ones. This signifies a mystical and sacred regard for the area through an extended period of time. Crucially though, it should be noted that although the burial ground can be seen to be in use during

both periods there is no sign of continuity between the two phases of interment. There is a gap of up to a hundred years between the active use of either cemetery which has startling ramifications for any interpretation of the development of the site. The underlying archaeological profile distinguishing the graves' groupings from one another also appears to confirm differences in layout, ritual observance and general burial practice.

Those of the 5th century are aligned east to west with a mixture of head positions at either end of the grave whilst those of the late 6th to early 7th lie north to south without demonstrating a preference for a head position at either end of the grave. The graves of the inhumations within the earliest cemetery were roughly lined and capped with stone although these were found to be much degraded by the plough. The range of inhumations included men; women and children and imply a family or small clanship grouping. None of the graves provided evidence of wooden coffins with the body posture of the 5th century females indicating the bodies were laid on their side while the males were positioned lying flat on their backs. Every individual burial contains personal items usually an iron knife, sometimes weapons for the men and brooches and glass bead jewellery for the women, although a 'toasting fork' and elaborate belt buckle were also retrieved from a female grave.

Conservation of the brooch from the adolescent female interment identified the imprint of a cross-stitched fabric which is an extremely rare survival on material recovered from Post-Roman funerary assemblages. Only three other examples of roughly the same date are known from Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk. CLASP's principle conservationist Dr Graham Morgan has been able to identify flax threads and to conclude that the fabric was most likely linen.

This could mean that a choice of fabrics was available to local people other than just woollen garments which would go against currently accepted belief on the interpretation of dress for this period. The other possibility was that the linen was being used for burial shrouds in the mid 5th century graveyard at least for some of the inhumations. Those graves associated with the late 6th to early 7th century so far only include male skeletons and are characterised by their martial assemblages. Again no evidence of wooden coffins or even the earlier tradition of stone lined and capped graves was found. The skeletons of the men are laid on their backs with each individual buried with a personal knife and a piece of military equipment; in one grave a sword whilst another contained a shield. The central factor common to these graves is the inclusion of only one piece of

equipment in each burial, possibly denoting a tokenistic approach to deposition. This being said the equipment itself was of good quality with the sword blade having a steel edge and the shield boss an intricate three piece construction indicative of a skilled manufacturing process beyond the

Northamptonshire

capacity of a local farming community. These burials are best interpreted as representing the arrival of the first English migrants into the area from Mercia after the collapse of British power in the region.

The earlier mid 5th century AD burial group probably are symptomatic of a mixed Christian/ Pagan rite whilst the latter late 6th to early 7th century AD appear to be out-and-out pagan in their funerary tradition. One might expect that the sequence should be the other way round but there is a perfectly reasonable explanation to account for this apparent conundrum. The original burials are probably those of Post Roman '*foederati*' whose funeral rite adopts an element of local tradition specifically in this case the orientation of burials. These treaty troops, probably of continental origin, were brought in to help defend surviving estates that formed part of a nominally Christian enclave that might have eventually become part of the British kingdom of '*Calchfynedd*'.

The battle of Bedcanford in 571AD saw the demise of this eastern British power base and the eventual infiltration of central Northamptonshire and the watershed of the River Nene by English migrants in the succeeding fifty years. Archaeologically speaking the late 6th to mid 7th century cemetery of inhumations characterized by a north to south alignment are the physical remains of these people. These migrants were almost certainly of Mercian stock especially as the watershed of the River Nene was recognised as forming part of the kingdom of Outer Mercia by the mid-7th century AD. The pagan burial ritual observed at Whitehall reflecting the religious realities of the early Mercian kingdom which is known to have remained pagan until the death of King Penda in 655 AD.

KDK ACHAEOLOGY LTD

Fawsley, Fawsley Hall (SP 56208 56847)

Jessica Bertrand

In July 2015 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Fawsley Hall, Fawsley, as a condition of the Planning Consent for the development of the site. The site stratigraphy comprises several made ground deposits and a buried topsoil horizon. The presence of buried topsoil to the west of the hall may relate to the landscaping of the gardens surrounding the hall in the 18th/19th century.

Three limestone walls were uncovered within the cable trench, as well as a limestone surface. All of the recorded features can be attributed to either the post-medieval or modern era, with two of the walls depicted on Ordnance Survey maps. OASIS 210343

Hartwell, 2 Park Road (SP 78502 50358)

Jessica Bertrand

In July 2015 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken at 2 Park Road, Hartwell. Ten postholes were revealed, seven of which still had surviving wooden posts. The postholes were most likely from modern fences or animal enclosures related to the building currently occupying the property. However, as there were no finds in any of the fills, and no maps depicting these potential structures, this cannot be confirmed. OASIS 207471

Helidon, Windover, Little Back Lane

(SP 51614 58056)

Carina Summerfield-Hill

In March and April 2015 an archaeological evaluation was carried out at Windover, Little Back Lane, Helidon, in order to inform development proposals. Two evaluation trenches were excavated exposing two stony deposits interpreted as building demolition activity. The finds comprised late medieval pottery and ceramic building material, including a glazed triangular 'infill' floor tile typical of the late medieval period. The demolition deposits indicate the presence of earlier building either on the site itself or in close proximity to it. OASIS 207044

Slapton, The Cottage, Church Lane

(SP 64184 46904)

Calli Rouse

During June 2015, a strip, map and sample excavation was undertaken at The Cottage, Church Lane, Slapton. The site is located within the core of a shrunken medieval village, and the surrounding fields contain the remains of house platforms or closes, and it was thought that there was the potential for surviving medieval settlement remains in the area of proposed development.

It was found that the previous extension had involved ground reduction across the site to a depth of c 1.3m below ground level. Any archaeological remains located within this area would have been removed during this earlier ground reduction, and consequently no archaeological finds or features now survive within the proposed development area. OASIS 209539

Towcester, Land adjacent to 173 Watling Street

(SP 69292 48624)

Calli Rouse

In February 2015, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land adjacent to 173 Watling Street, Towcester, in order to inform development proposals for the site. A 2m² test pit was excavated close to the north western boundary of the site. The upper fills of this test pit comprised layers of post medieval and modern made ground. These overlay a layer of dark soil, which was still present c 2.5m below the modern ground level. The natural stratum was not reached within the test pit.

This deep layer of dark soil may represent a post-Roman build-up of material, which has been seen elsewhere within Towcester town centre. While no significant archaeological remains were encountered during the evaluation, it is possible that they may survive below this layer, or elsewhere within the development site. OASIS 201140.

Wood Burcote, 5 Burcote Road

(SP 69511 46879)

Jessica Bertrand

In August 2015 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken at 5 Burcote Road, Wood Burcote, as part of the Planning Consent for the development of the site.

Eight archaeological features were uncovered; a cobbled pathway, a dumped deposit, and six postholes. Approximately six tree boles were observed spread across the site, in addition to a modern soakaway. The soakaway,

the cobbled pathway, and the dumped deposit all contained modern finds. The cobbled pathway may have existed up until 1977, when the development site was amalgamated with Bank Cottage to the west. The six postholes uncovered may relate to previous structures or fence lines, although as there is no cartographic evidence for a structure in this area, an obvious arrangement, nor finds associated with any of these postholes, it is difficult to date or phase them. OASIS 213799

IAIN SODEN HERITAGE SERVICES LTD

Earls Barton, Broad Street (SP 854 637)

Archaeological building recording was undertaken by ISHeritage in order to fulfil a condition placed on planning approval for the conversion of a former workshop built in the late 19th century at Broad Street, Earls Barton. The workshop was built at the same time as and to the rear of two brick cottages on Broad Street, probably as a response to the growing boot and shoe industry. The building seems to have been used to produce children's shoes and was known as a 'cack shop' ('cack's' being children's shoes), subsequently used to manufacture parts for submarines during the Second World War. The workshop retains its original external form, but none of the internal elements associated with its former purpose had survived.

Earls Barton, Bowlers Yard (SP 8536 6386)

Archaeological building recording of a former boot and shoe factory was undertaken by ISHeritage prior to its conversion to domestic use. Buildings are depicted on the site by 1885, with significant alterations undertaken at the turn of the century. The building has undergone considerable changes to its fabric, both during its original life as a boot and shoe factory and subsequently as a pie factory, wine importing warehouse and joinery workshop. The latter appear to have all taken place during the second half of the twentieth century and each phase no doubt caused further changes to be made although it is impossible now to determine their sequence with any certainty. No fixtures or fittings remained from the boot and shoe period of the buildings' use.

Kings Sutton, Three Tuns (SP 4987 3626)

Level 2 building recording by Iain Soden Heritage Services Ltd took place as a condition of planning permission prior to the conversion of this former public house to domestic use. The former Three Tuns was probably built in 1690, but little of its interior survived unaltered. It subsumed an adjacent domestic property on the south around 1900, while buildings on the north were demolished before 1922. Of note in its interior are an over-mantel wall-painting in a first floor former bedroom, potentially c 1830, and an 18th century spit-rack downstairs over a more recent fireplace. A Sun Alliance fire insurance plaque is attached to the exterior, but its provenance could not be corroborated.

Spratton, Millers Barn (SP 7190 6850)

Archaeological building recording of a group of field barns to the south of Spratton was undertaken by ISHeritage. The barns originated in the 17th century, but have been extended in the 19th century and extensively altered and large portions

rebuilt in the modern period. Areas of cob-walling survived on the inside and the exterior walls were largely ironstone, with brick repairs and modern extensions in cement blockwork. A variety of shallowly-inscribed graffiti was inscribed on the internal plaster surfaces covering the cob-walling. These included letters in a characteristic 17th century style, apotropaic marks (ritual markings to protect a building from evil spirits or witches) and a crudely drawn post-mill.

Rushden, Former Stromag factory (SP 956 665)

Archaeological building recording was undertaken by ISHeritage of a former boot and shoe factory on Wellingborough Road, Rushden. The original house was probably built in the early 19th century and was initially a domestic tenement with bake-house and orchard. The property was bought by William Claridge in 1875, but appears to have been already occupied by him and used as a shoe factory at an earlier date. At least one warehouse had been constructed by 1879 and by 1884, there appears to have been considerable modification to the original tenement. Further major phases of building and modification were undertaken until the turn of the 20th century, but thereafter there was little change to the factory complex. The factory was bought by Stromag, an engineering firm in 1969 and remained with that company until recently. Much of the internal evidence relating to the buildings origins as a shoe factory had been lost during Stromag's long tenure and most of the interiors were subdivided, with many windows being blocked.

Maidwell, The Old Bakehouse (SP 7485 7695)

The stables at The Old Bakehouse were recorded by ISHeritage prior to their conversion into domestic accommodation. The brick-built building is probably late 19th century in date and was of basic construction to simply provide a serviceable shelter. It was probably in use as stables for only a short time as suggested by the lack of wear to the bricks. One travis remained, but little else, except for scars and hints at former fittings. The building was constructed off an existing boundary wall to the plot and was once part of a longer range, cut down by 1900.

Mears Ashby, Hill Farm (SP 837 664)

A programme of archaeological investigation was undertaken by ISHeritage as a condition of planning permission for the conversion of listed barns into domestic use and construction of new houses at Hill Farm. Archaeological buildings recording in keeping with Historic England Level 2 requirements revealed that this farmyard grew organically from c 1800, with most building taking place c 1850-83. It was subsequently added to, but only the buildings of the north range retain any historic detail, and then no fixtures or fittings. Archaeological trial trench evaluation immediately to the west of the core of the farm found no archaeological finds or features; the land appears to have been paddocks or other agricultural land throughout.

Little Harrowden, Former 10 o'clock Public House (SP 8706 7155)

A programme of archaeological investigation was undertaken by ISHeritage to fulfil a condition placed on

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planning consent for the refurbishment of the former public house and construction of three new houses on associated land. The building was built as two separate low-status cottages between 1817 and 1885. They were subsequently joined together and for most, if not all, of the 20th century, removed most historic fabric and almost all historic detail. Archaeological trial trench excavation on land to the rear of the building found evidence of probable 16th century stone drains and the remains of a stone-founded building. There was also a pit containing a significant amount of medieval pottery. Further excavation took place at the very end of 2015 which excavated the 12th-13th century Manor House (Hall and Chamber block). This will be reported more fully next year as results have not yet been analysed.

Geddington, Croft Barns (SP 8920 8280)

The groundworks for new stables, an equestrian manège and turning head were archaeologically monitored by Iain Soden Heritage Services Ltd. The remains of furrows, remnants of the medieval/post-medieval open field system of agriculture and a later field boundary were found in the area of the new manege. There were no other archaeological remains.

Newnham, 5 Badby Road (SP 5765 5946)

Archaeological monitoring of the groundworks for a new house was undertaken by ISHeritage. The investigation showed that the area was a long-lived garden, with the remains of Victorian planting trenches. There was no earlier archaeology present. The remains of a wall-mounted bread oven in a boundary wall indicated that there was formerly another frontage building on Badby Road and the garden remains may relate to this earlier house.

Lower Benefield, Causin Way (SP 9939 8901)

Archaeological building recording was undertaken by ISHeritage of a stone house constructed in c 1700 at Benefield. Originally of a simple two-unit plan, a bread oven was built against the east gable between 1850 and 1864. Although the house served as the village bakery, the size of the oven appeared to have been over-sized for its purpose. At the same time the original house was significantly altered and a range of outbuildings constructed to the rear.

Helmdon, Astwell Castle (SP 61254 44180 (Site 1) and SP 61412 43848 (Site 2))

Archaeological trial trench excavation was undertaken by ISHeritage in advance of two small areas of potential development near Astwell Castle Farm. The trenches were located some distance from the remains of the deserted medieval settlement that lie close to the scheduled and listed Astwell Castle. No archaeological remains were present in Site 1 but a scatter of Roman features, including pits and a probable ditch, was found in Site 2, close to an area of known Roman activity.

Ringstead, 20 Denford Road (SP 9897 7523)

Archaeological observation of the groundworks for a new house was undertaken by ISHeritage in order to fulfil a condition on planning consent. The ground levels had been greatly reduced, probably in relation to an adjacent car park development, removing the potential for the preservation of archaeological remains.

Northampton, Delapre Abbey (SP 7595 5908)

Following test pitting and evaluations in 2014, excavation work and buildings recording have continued throughout 2015 across the Abbey buildings by ISHeritage. Work has uncovered part of the Tate South range of c 1600 below the existing drawing room, with nearby part of a 15th century cellared monastic range, possibly the Abbey sub-dorter. Elsewhere a Victorian Conservatory/Winter Garden was recorded on what was called 'the gap site', between the dining room and the billiard room. Building recording has been varied and widespread and has documented floor framing, and the resolution of the Tate 2-storey south wing into its current 3-storey successor. Considerable amounts of monastic architectural stonework have been retrieved along with good stratified medieval and post-medieval pottery groups.

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

Compiled by Kimberley Dowding

Alderton, Moat House, Church Lane

(SP 74037 46964)

Mark Woodley and Andrej Ěelovský

An archaeological evaluation and watching brief were conducted in accordance with planning permission that had been granted for an extension to an existing building. The evaluation consisted of two machine-dug trenches, the first of which contained a rubble layer consisting of a large amount of broken limestone blocks of various sizes. The rubble layer has been interpreted as a demolition deposit for a possible medieval wall. It was also noted that within Trench 1 there was a large spread of dark grey silt-clay with moderate amounts of charcoal fragments and medieval pottery.

Within Trench 2 the remains of a wall constructed of roughly hewn limestone blocks with yellow-brown lime mortar was identified running northeast to southwest. To the east of the wall was a collection of limestone blocks with occasional patches of lime mortar and this appeared to be evidence of collapse or demolition of the adjacent wall. Additional investigations within the area revealed that the wall within Trench 2 continued to the northeast of the existing building.

The watching brief, which was conducted during the groundworks for the extension, revealed the return wall of the wall which was identified in Trench 2 during the evaluation, with additional wall foundations. Also recorded was a dump of roughly hewn sandstone blocks, which appears to be related to the demolition rubble, noted in Trench 1 during the evaluation. A series of deposits were recorded beneath the wall and masonry deposits, one of which contained pottery of 11th to 12th century date. There were no other finds recorded of a later date, and it was not possible to give a clear date of establishment of the walls, but cartographic evidence states that the buildings were in place by 1883.

Boddington, Paradise Farm Barn, Lower Boddington (SP 481482 51848)

Kimberley Dowding

An historic building recording was carried out on the barn at Paradise farm as part of a planning application to convert the building. The building was of three component parts, a 17th to

18th century stone building containing a barn and stable and a 20th century brick and an addition on the south side.

Rothersthorpe, Land West of Banbury Lane

(SP 71234 57604)

Andrej Ěelovský and John Moore

An archaeological evaluation was conducted prior to the establishment of a solar development. A total of 27 trenches were mechanically excavated, 23 of which measured 30m by 1.8m 3 measured 30m by 3m and 1 measured 40m by 1.8m. During the evaluation two ditches were identified containing later Neolithic pottery within the north part of the site and another ditch close by containing struck flint flake. A ditch was identified in Trench 15 containing two sherds of possible medieval pottery. Sporadic features were found across parts of the rest of the site comprising small pits, gullies and ditches, all of which were undated. Medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered from agricultural furrows and subsoil.

Towcester, 122 Brackley Road (SP 68597 48518)

Paul Murray

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during ground-works for a proposed basement. No significant archaeological features or deposits were identified.

KEEVILL HERITAGE LTD

Fawsley: The Well House (SP 5533 5655)

Graham Keevill

Fawsley, near Daventry, retains remarkably intact elements of both the medieval and Tudor landscapes. The Well House is a small Grade II* listed stone and brick conduit head c 0.9km to the west of Fawsley Hall (now a hotel and independent of the Estate). The building had fallen into very poor condition, with a risk of severe structural failures to the walls and roof. A contract was awarded for conservation of the building during January-March 2015, funded by Natural England. We were responsible for archaeological recording during this work. A detailed, comprehensive photographic record was made of the building before, during and after the work, with a drawn record of elevational details as required. It was clear that the original Tudor building had been extensively altered in the post-medieval period, probably during the 18th century; the brickwork in particular all appears to belong to this era. Despite this, much earlier detail remains in situ, and the conservation work has ensured the building's immediate survival.

Fawsley: The Dower House (SP 5703 5789)

Graham and Cathy Keevill

The Dower House is both a Scheduled Monument and Grade II listed, 1.35km to the north-west of Fawsley Hall. Sadly the Tudor building was in even worse condition than the Well House, and had suffered several substantial masonry collapses. A major programme of conservation, consolidation and repair started at the very end of 2015 (again funded by Natural England), but was preceded by an archaeological evaluation during March 2015. Two trial trenches were dug, 6.2m and 5.4m long across the south and west arms respectively of the ha-ha surrounding the ruins. The aim was to determine whether, as suspected, this shallow

ditch with a stone inner face was a post-medieval/modern feature. If so, had it replaced a Tudor moat? The apparent shallowness of the ha-ha ditch was found to be genuine, with only c 0.2m of accumulated silty material onto natural clay. Water soon welled up in the bottom of the trenches. Only modern artefacts (especially glass) were found in the fill. Traces of paths outside to the south arm of the ditch also appeared to be modern, no doubt part of the picturesque and romantic setting/use of the ruins over the last century or two. In the western trench, however, the ha-ha cut a much more substantial broad linear feature running north-south. The fill contained pottery predominantly of 16th to 17th-century date. While further work would be needed to be certain, it is at least possible that a broad moat surrounded the Dower House originally; earthworks flanking and to the south of the ruins may also relate to such a feature, though admittedly some of them are as likely to belong to contemporary (or later) gardens.

MOLA NORTHAMPTON

Compiled by Pat Chapman and Andy Chapman

Badby, Bridge House (SP 5590 5938)

Gemma Hewitt

A watching brief recorded two service trenches, both containing modern out-of-use services. Event Number ENN108029

Barby, Elkington Lane (SP 5412 7030)

Paul Clements

An archaeological watching brief south of Elkington Lane, during the excavation of eight geotechnical test pits, observed that the majority of the stratigraphy had been previously disturbed or truncated. Event Number ENN108180

Barby, 56 Rugby Road (SP 5421 7070)

Ben Kidd

Trial trenching identified one late post-medieval ditch. Event Number ENN108201

Barton Seagrave, 58 St Botolph's Road

(SP 8866 7699)

Tim Sharman

A watching brief during construction work recorded a ditch, c 1m deep containing a sherd of Lyveden/Stanion 'B' ware of AD1225-c1400 date. A modern, possibly early 20th century brick-lined well was also present within the development area.

Blisworth, Knock Lane (SP 738 522)

Adam Meadows

Magnetometer survey at Knock Lane was dominated by strong geological responses, but some small anomalies of possible archaeological origin were also detected, tentatively interpreted as representing two ditches, a pit cluster and, possibly, a roundhouse.

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Boughton, Moulton Lane (SP 755 660)

John Walford and James Fairclough

Magnetometer survey on c 2.4ha of land north of Moulton Lane identified a probable prehistoric ring ditch and a few other features of possible archaeological significance. A rectilinear pattern of magnetic anomalies was also detected across the site, but this is thought to represent a set of natural fissures in the underlying ironstone. Event Number ENN107936

Evaluation trenches confirmed the presence of a ring ditch and the possible geological features were field systems comprising a series of boundary ditches, as well as several pits. All features were undated.

Braunston, 34-36 High Street (SP 5413 6625)

Tim Sharman

A watching brief undertaken during the groundworks for the construction of a new dwelling observed a small early-middle Saxon ditch and two modern features. Event Number ENN107907

Burton Latimer, Finedon Road (SP 9882 7392)

Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

Trial trench evaluation on land at Finedon Road confirmed the presence of alluvial deposits at the base of the slope with colluvium on higher ground. Two modern ditches were recorded. Possible remnant furrows seen in geophysical survey were not seen (*SMA* 43 (2013), 35). Event Number ENN107930

Burton Latimer, Higham Road (SP 906 744)

Jonathan Elston

A trial trench evaluation at Higham Road targeted geophysical anomalies. Furrows along the western edge of the ridge and furrow medieval field system were identified. Quarrying, and activity associated with an old tramway, was identified in the northern part of the development area. Undated features and a possible old field boundary were also recorded. Event Number ENN 108103

Canons Ashby House (SP 5751 5080)

Tim Sharman

A watching brief at the National Trust's Canons Ashby House (SM 1015534; Registered Park and Garden 1000488) during the replacement of a sewage treatment tank recorded a 19th century ceramic land drain along with a modern overflow pipe, and a layer of modern build-up. A possible footings trench may have been observed below the original tank position. One piece of iron fencing spike was found.

Chelveston, 1 Kimbolton Road (SP 9921 6958)

Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

A watching brief uncovered a shallow rubble-filled trench during the groundworks for the new house. Event Number ENN107941

Clopton, 18 Main Street (TL 0615 8041)

Tim Sharman

A watching brief was undertaken during groundwork excavations on the site of a proposed new house. No

pre-modern deposits were recorded. Event Number ENN 107866

Cogenhoe, Station Road, Baptist Church

(SP 8305 6067)

Amir Bassir

A Level 2 photographic survey of the Baptist Church, ahead of the conversion of the building to a residential dwelling was carried out. The Church dates to 1910, replacing an earlier Baptist Chapel on nearby Church Lane. The Church was deconsecrated in 2007 and has been disused since. The red brick building was found to be in good condition, retaining a range of ecclesiastical furnishing such as an organ, pulpit, baptismal pool and a full complement of pews. The Art Nouveau/ Mackintosh style which was fashionable in the early 20th century is expressed in the design of the church windows and their decorative embellishments (Figs 2 and 3). The organ was a later addition to the original church and was housed in a brick extension on the west side of the church. A range of modern brick extensions housing a kitchen, WC and store rooms were located north of the original Church.



Figure 2. Art Nouveau/ Mackintosh style window 1, Cogenhoe Baptist church.

Corby, Weldon Park (SP 935 897)

Christopher Jones, James Fairclough and Adam Meadows

Two strip, map and record operations were carried out. An area, previously evaluated in 2009, contained a number of furrows aligned east-west. The second area, also evaluated in 2009, had been stripped for subsoil removal, so only the initial stages of the stripping were observed.

Magnetometer survey on land at the Weldon Park Development Area identified several linear and curvilinear ditches and a number of probable pits of possible archaeological interest. Evidence of potential small-scale ironstone quarrying and medieval ridge and furrow cultivation was also identified.

Daventry International Rail Freight Terminal (DIRFT)
(SP 570 730)

Andy Chapman

Archaeological excavations in advance of the development of the Daventry International Rail Freight Terminal (DIRFT), adjacent to Junction 18 of the M1 in west Northamptonshire, spanned twenty years, 1993-2013 (*SMA* 25, (1995), 37-39). Several archaeological contractors were involved: Northamptonshire Archaeology (now MOLA Northampton), Foundations Archaeology, Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU) and, most recently, Cotswold Archaeology. Throughout RPS acted as the consultants and they are to be praised for convincing the current developer, Prologis, to cover the cost of bringing the results of the 1990s excavations, carried out under previous owners, to completion, so that all stages of fieldwork are now reported together, something that for many years had seemed unlikely. The work of the individual contributors has been brought together by Rob Masfield of RPS, who has also provided the overview of the development of this complex of settlements.

The excavations, covering 178ha, recorded one of the most extensive Iron Age farming settlements yet discovered in the British Isles. It comprised at least five individual sites of house clusters and enclosures, spread around the rim of a shallow valley overlooking around 100ha of open pasture (front or back cover perhaps). At its peak between 400 BC and 100 BC the settlement would have contained up to 100 circular buildings.

Volume 1 describes the excavation of the largest of these individual sites, that at Covert Farm, excavated by BUFAU.



Figure 3. Art Nouveau/ Mackintosh style window 2, Cogenhoe Baptist church.

Crick, Bury Dyke (SP 5890 7260)

Carol Simmonds

An earthwork survey of upstanding remains, within the historic core of Crick, that likely relate to the early medieval settlement of Crick comprise a ladder system of hollow-ways with housing platforms either side. The site had undergone some disturbance after it fell out of use; there are a number of depressions which might relate to extraction. The reinstatement of the site following the construction of an unauthorised BMX track was not visible. Event Number ENN108071

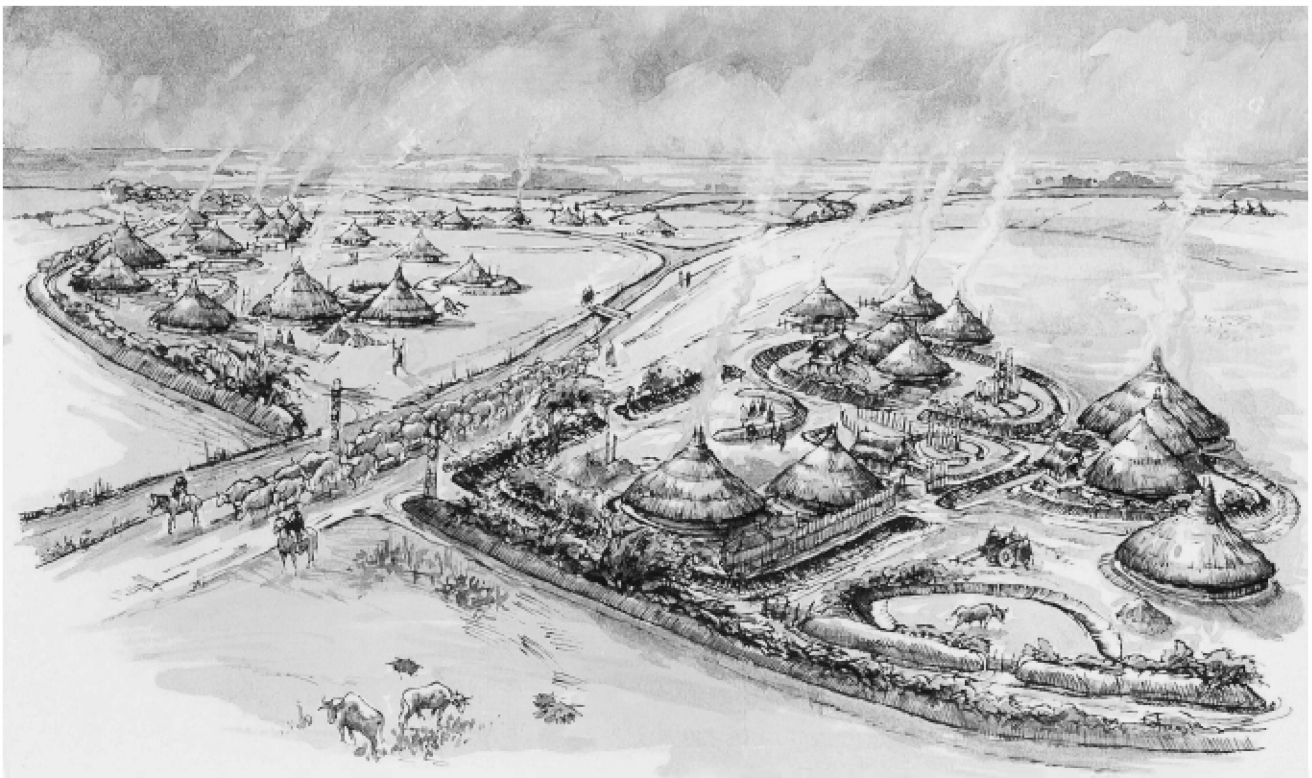


Figure 4. The northern end of the DIRFT settlement complex, looking south, showing a possible shrine at the Long Dole, where a large saddle quern had been buried on top of a clay-filled pit at the centre of a ring gully with a western entrance, as opposed to the eastern entrances of the domestic roundhouses, and set within a square enclosure with a formal entrance to the east and within a larger rectangular enclosure. The domestic roundhouses of Covert Farm lie on slopes to the east (left).

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From the outset the excavations adopted an innovative approach to examine social themes in Iron Age studies, such as relationships with rubbish, fire and water, and the way life in the settlement may have been experienced by its inhabitants - themes that are presented and discussed in this book.

Volume 2 describes the excavation of four individual sites, undertaken at various times by MOLA Northampton (then Northamptonshire Archaeology) at The Lodge and Long Dole (Fig 4 and cover.), by Foundations Archaeology at Crick Hotel, and by Cotswold Archaeology at Nortoft Lane, Kilsby. The site reports are followed by a wide-ranging discussion, putting the discoveries at DIRFT into the context of Iron Age settlement patterns and dynamics in the East Midlands region.

The Iron Age and Romano-British Settlement at Crick Covert Farm: Excavations 1997-1998 (DIRFT Volume I) by Gwilym Hughes and Ann Woodward. 2015. Archaeopress, £48.00 (eBook, £19.00 incl. UK VAT)

Origins, Development and Abandonment of an Iron Age Village: Further Archaeological Investigations for the Daventry International Rail Freight Terminal, Crick & Kilsby, Northamptonshire 1993-2013 (DIRFT Volume II) by Robert Masfield (ed), Andy Chapman, Peter Ellis, John Hart, Roy King & Andrew Mudd. 2015. Archaeopress, £48.00 (eBook £19.00 incl. UK VAT)

Colour reconstructions are by Mark Gridley for RPS.

Crick, Shenley Drive, Shenley Farm (SP 7512 7480)

Amir Bassir

A Level 1 photographic survey of a former farmhouse and a complex of associated agricultural buildings at Shenley Farm, Crick was carried out ahead of the planned demolition of the structures. The site formerly operated as a dairy farm and retained a number of modern cow sheds and a milking parlour. The brick-built farmhouse dates to the mid-19th century, with a number of modern alterations and some internal changes. Other surveyed buildings included a modern garage and a mid-19th-century potting shed and former stable or store. The survey area was found to be derelict, overgrown and in a state of disrepair.

Crick, Watford Road (SP 591 718)

Paul Clements and Carol Simmonds

Trial trench evaluation east of Watford Road recorded Iron Age ditches and gullies, furrows of medieval to post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, and backfilled remains of undated ponds. An earthwork survey recorded the surviving ridge and furrow earthworks across the fields. Event Numbers ENN107914, ENN107915

Daventry, Braunston Road, Apex Park (SP 554 642)

James Ladocha and Sam Egan

Magnetometer survey at Apex Park on the north-western edge of Daventry identified prehistoric features including a pit alignment, ring ditches, linear ditches and a probable sub-circular enclosure. Medieval to early post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation and historic field boundaries were also detected.

Trial trenching confirmed the presence of two circular enclosures, a pit alignment, a ditch and a group of intercutting pits and ditches. Another possible pit alignment

was identified as well as a small number of additional pits and ditches. The limited amount of pottery recovered indicates the remains were probably middle to late Iron Age in date. The remnant furrows of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation were also present throughout evaluation area as indicated by the geophysical survey. Event Number ENN107955

Daventry, Monksmoor (SP 579 644)

Jeremy Mordue, Sam Egan and Chris Chinnock

Excavation on land within the Monksmoor Farm housing development recorded a Bronze Age boundary ditch, a late Iron Age settlement and a series of Romano-British field boundary ditches dating to the 1st-2nd century AD. The Iron Age settlement comprised seven roundhouses with associated enclosures, pits and postholes and a separate, large rectangular enclosure with an internal roundhouse (Fig d). Pottery, animal bone, burnt stone and slag were recovered from many of the features.



Figure 5. An Iron Age roundhouse at Daventry, Monksmoor.

Deanshanger, Stratford Road, West Barn (SP 7685 3990)

Gemma Hewitt

A watching brief recorded nine small undated pits. A small quantity of unstratified late Iron Age pottery was also collected, perhaps suggesting a date in the 1st century AD.

Denford, Pegs Lane, Hill House (SP 9935 7664)

Ben Kidd

Trial trenching recorded one ditch dated to the Roman period. There was a boundary ditch of 11th-12th century date and four other ditches of unknown date. Event Number ENN107889.

Ecton, 56 High Street, The Manor House (SP 8280 6337)

David J Leigh

A strip, map and recording action during the construction of a new dwelling recorded an undated pit and two pits of modern date and remnant soil horizons contained some post-medieval pottery and clay tobacco-pipes. No earlier archaeological features or artefacts were present.

Eydon, Leicester Lane, Rye Hill Farm (SP 5593 4868)

Amir Bassir

A Level 2 photographic survey of a complex of agricultural buildings associated with Rye Hill Farm, ahead of the conversion of the buildings to a residential dwelling, was undertaken. The surveyed buildings, derelict, partly unroofed and overgrown, date largely to the mid-19th century with intermittent alterations and repair work in the following years. The buildings, mainly brick-built, had a range of functions and included a barn, stable, cart shed, cow shed and a modern shelter.

Flore, Brockhall Road (SP 6438 6075)

Luke Jarvis

Trial trenching identified furrows indicative of ridge and furrow cultivation. These match three distinct furlongs previously recorded in the area of proposed development. Four irregular linear and parallel ditches were present and contained a few sherds of post-medieval pottery, roof tile and clay tobacco-pipe. No other features of archaeological interest were present. Event Number ENN108170

Great Addington, Rectory Farm (SP 9524 7542)

Amir Bassir

The historic building recording of agricultural buildings at Rectory Farm comprised barns, chicken shed and a former milking parlour and milk room arranged around a central yard, which has latterly been occupied by a modern shed. The buildings date to the early 19th century with a phase of mid-late 19th century and minor 20th century alterations. The buildings, which are not listed or considered to have historic significance, are typical of their type and period, utilising locally-available materials including limestone and brick.

Greatworth, Floyds Farm (SP 5526 4228)

Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

Building recording was undertaken of a 19th century cowshed and pigsty prior to their demolition and the construction of a new dwelling on the same site. The cowshed was built with roughly-coursed limestone with a brick skin and a later brick-built partition wall and fireplace. The pen-and-run pigsty is also built with roughly-coursed limestone with brick and stone coping on the walls and a corrugated metal roof. A watching brief during the excavation of seven geotechnical test pits around the property at the same time found no archaeological deposits or finds.

Hardingstone, 19 Coldstream Lane (SP 7618 5801)

Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

A watching brief during the groundworks recorded no archaeological features or finds. Event Number ENN108126

Harpole, M1 J16 Midway Park (SP 681 596)

Olly Dindol and Jim Burke

A magnetometer survey at the Midway M1 J16 site identified ring ditches, a probable late Bronze Age to early Iron Age pit alignment, an Iron Age to Roman settlement and field system, medieval ridge and furrow, a post-medieval watermill and a possible post-medieval lime kiln. A probable palaeochannel of the River Nene was also detected.

Trial trenching identified two areas of Iron Age rectilinear field system as indicated by the geophysical survey, with a pit alignment, circular enclosures and a probable roundhouse. Two areas of 1st to 4th century Roman settlement were also recorded, including a large rectangular enclosure with rectilinear field systems, a sub-circular enclosure and the stone foundations of two structures, probably relating to food-processing activity. The remnant earthwork remains of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation strips were also present in parts of the site. Event Number ENN107968

Harringworth, Church of St John the Baptist (SP 9165 9746)

Paul Clements

A watching brief during groundworks relating to the installation of a trench arch for foul water drainage on the north side of the church revealed the top half of an *in situ* burial and the foundations for the north aisle of the church.

Helmdon, Jackson's Farm (SP 5962 4478)

Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

Building recording was undertaken, in advance of the conversion into a residential dwelling, of a two-storey barn and a single-storey barn, partially open on its northern side, constructed of limestone with more recent brick and breeze block with roofs of corrugated iron sheets. The barns likely date to the late 18th century and were part of a U-shaped courtyard farm of barns and open hovels. An oak manger had been constructed with three planks of wood supported on two wooden tree trunks. The wood running the length of the manger has an iron chain to secure the animals remaining at the southern end. By the 1970s the open hovels were demolished leaving the two barns.

Helmdon, 35 Wappenham Road (SP 5894 4406)

Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

Building recording was undertaken in advance of the proposed conversion of the former barn/stables and hayloft for residential use. The Grade II listed farmhouse dates to the 17th century. The farmhouse is constructed of locally available limestone as well as some of the walls of the associated stables, passage and barn. Dividing walls and the barn wall facing the yard are constructed of brick. The roof is slate, only the barn is a later corrugated sheet roof. The stable and passage were part of a butcher's establishment with the shop at the entrance of the property fronting the road. The manger and hayrack is very similar to another barn, just outside Helmdon at Jackson's Farm (see above). This may indicate they were made by the same person.

Higham Ferrers, Vine Hill Drive, Saffron Moat (SP 9584 6872)

Tim Sharman

A watching brief was undertaken for Higham Ferrers Town Council during excavations for the installation of a skateboard park at Saffron Moat, close to the Scheduled Monument of Saffron Moat (SM No. 13645). No pre-modern deposits were recorded, two pottery sherds dated 1100-1700 were found. Event Number ENN 107903

Northamptonshire

Irthlingborough, former Tower Factory

(SP 94214 70376)

Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

A watching brief during construction works at the former Tower Factory site recorded that the site had been heavily disturbed by modern building activity and no pre-modern archaeological deposits or finds were recovered.

Isham, Mill Lane (SP 8887 7404)

Chris Chinnock, James Ladocha and Mo Muldowney

Geophysical survey on land south-east of Mill Lane led to the discovery of extensive remains associated with the shrunken medieval village of Isham. Possible trackways, field and property boundaries and other linear and curvilinear features were identified in the geophysical data. Extant earthworks on the site correlated well with the survey results.

An earthwork survey identified features likely to be on the periphery of the medieval village, including landscaping and terracing separated from the ridge and furrow of the open-field system by a possible hollow-way or field boundary. The evaluation trenches revealed at least one prehistoric or Roman ditch, medieval to post-medieval ditches, pits, cobbled surfaces and a possible structure and traces of ridge and furrow. The later medieval pits may indicate backyard activity from a plot fronting Mill Lane. Event Numbers ENN107976, ENN107978

Kettering, Gipsy Lane (SP 8525 7883)

Chris Chinnock

Trial trench evaluation on land at Gipsy Lane recorded an undated ring ditch with two internal pits and post-medieval/modern boundaries and trackways. Event Number ENN107953

Kettering, Pythley Lodge Farm (SP 882 752)

Ian Fisher and Olly Dindol

Magnetometer survey on an area of land referred to as Plot B at Pythley Lodge Farm identified two principal areas of archaeological interest, one of which contains a rectilinear pattern of ditches and the other of which may contain a pit cluster. These remains are tentatively dated to the late prehistoric or Roman periods. Medieval ridge and furrow, post-medieval field boundaries, an abandoned stream channel and other features of possible minor archaeological interest were also detected. Event Number ENN108093

Lilbourne, Rugby Radio Station, B Building

(SP 5623 7511)

Amir Bassir

Historic building recording was carried out at B Building of the Rugby Radio Station. Rugby Radio Station began operations in 1926, and originally comprised a single main building (Building C) which was joined in 1929 by A Building. As a response to an increased demand for communications technology and a need to expand the facility, B Building was constructed in 1953 and formally opened in 1955. It comprised three transmitter halls containing 28 transmitters, two aerial switching rooms, transformer blocks, administration block and a range of training and development rooms and buildings.

The layout of the building remained largely unchanged until the 1980s and early 1990s when it was converted to carry long range maritime services. This conversion comprised a technological upgrade accompanied by a degree of internal remodelling and partitioning, largely within the transmitter halls. As part of this conversion, the original transmitters and associated plant and equipment were removed from the building. B Building remained in operation until 2000, its closure brought about by advances in communications technology which largely rendered the facility redundant. The building is scheduled for demolition in 2015 as part of a wider scheme of redevelopment of the area.

Little Brington, Rose Tree Cottage (SP 6601 6373)

Ben Kidd

Trial trenching recorded one undated linear ditch.

Little Irchester, London Road (SP 904 659)

Adam Meadows

Magnetometer survey on land east of London Road identified archaeological remains likely to date from the Iron Age or Roman periods. These comprise a number of potential enclosures, pits and linear ditches. Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation was also identified.

Middleton Cheney, High Street, former Red Lion Car Park (SP 4990 4185)

Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

A watching brief during the groundworks saw two modern rectangular pits uncovered.

Northampton, Bridgewater Drive, former Abington Vale Middle School (SP 7831 6134)

Tim Sharman

A watching brief during construction recorded a former pond, possibly associated with nearby medieval fishponds, and two small archaeological features, both likely to be post-medieval.

Northampton Castle Station (SP 7477 6043)

Andy Chapman

Following the open area excavation on the footprint of the new station in 2013 (*SMA* (2014), 44, 43-45), the final stage of fieldwork comprised an intermittent watching brief during the removal of the floor slab of the previous railway station, lying to the north-west of the excavated area but still within the outer bailey of the former royal castle. This area was much disturbed by basements along the western side of the former station and also by two sunken rail lines, which had been backfilled with brick rubble from the Victorian station prior to the construction of the 1960s station. Limited areas of truncated natural were exposed between these disturbances, but no cut features were visible and no pre-modern finds were recovered.

In the new station the former history of the site is recognised in a display panel covering the history of the castle, the recent excavations, and the history of the railways and former stations (Fig 6). John Speed's map of Northampton in 1610 decorates the large station windows (Fig 7), with an explanatory panel, and outside the building Speed's map has been recreated as a 3D model (Fig 8).



Figure 6. Display panel in the new Northampton railway station.



Figure 7. Part of Speed's map of Northampton in 1610 showing the castle, reproduced on the windows of the new railway station.

Northampton, Crestwood Road, former Goldings Middle School (SP 7992 6411)

Tim Sharman

A watching brief during construction recorded a small ditch of unknown date.

Northampton, Delapre Golf Course (SP 7648 5849)

Anthony Maull

Archaeological assessment was carried out on unauthorised groundworks at Delapre Golf Course, which lies within the Registered Battlefield of the Battle of Northampton in 1460. The groundworks comprised the removal of shrubs and trees and the stripping of topsoil by no more than 0.3m with a mechanical excavator over a 0.106ha area, exposing the subsoil, or some patches of natural substrate. In some areas topsoil remained *in situ*. The assessment included cleaning stripped surfaces by hand and scanning spoilheaps and stripped surfaces with a metal detector. Golfing earthworks of 20th century date were uncovered, as well as trenches for

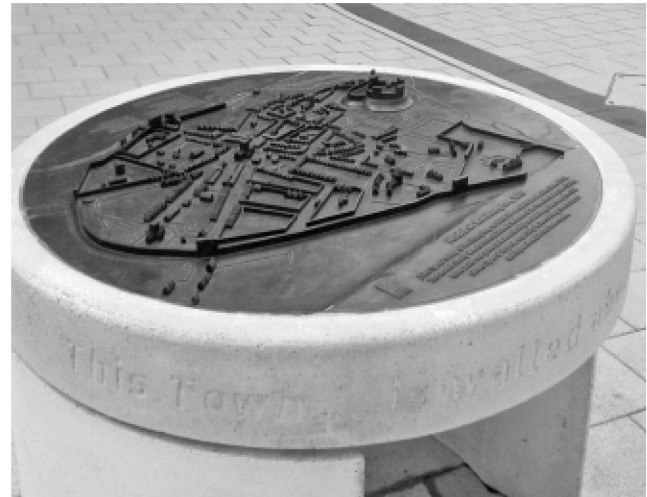


Figure 8. Speed's map of Northampton in 1610 recreated in 3D.

service pipes and a former tree line. A bank surrounding the area was shown to be constructed of redeposited natural clays and modern building debris. A number of finds were recovered, including post-medieval lead shot, horse tack, and a 14th century silver annular brooch. Event Number ENN107952

Northampton, Pineham Zone H (SP 7053 5882)

Carol Simmonds

In general the trial trenching proved the veracity of the geophysical survey results (SMA 45 (2015), 45) and clearly defined the extent of archaeological features located on the higher ground. The features comprised three pit alignments thought to be of Iron Age date, and a palimpsest of ditches forming long used enclosures with gullies and sub-enclosures and possible boundaries dating from the Iron Age, Roman and early Saxon periods. The trenching exercise also identified smaller features such as gullies, postholes or small pits which were not visible on the geophysical survey. Event Number ENN107946

Northampton, Spring Lane, Spring Lane Primary School (SP 7492 6079)

Tim Sharman and Adam Reid

A watching brief during construction works at Spring Lane Primary School observed that much of the site had been disturbed by modern building activity but small areas of medieval stratigraphy survived. Two pits have produced small pottery assemblages dating to the 12th century. An ironstone wall and a stone-lined well date to the 12th century or later, with the well backfilled in the 19th century. One complete clay tobacco-pipe bowl dating to c 1810-1840 and nine stem fragments were recovered. This is of interest, since clay tobacco-pipes were manufactured in neighbouring Scarletwell from 1831 to 1920.

Northampton, Swan Street car park (SP 7566 6026)

Jeremy Mordue

Excavation was carried out in 2014 at a former car park on Cow Lane, now known as Swan Street. Prior to the Norman Conquest the area was mostly open land, perhaps with some low level agricultural activity outside the Saxon *burh*. In the late 12th century an ironstone quarry was established, perhaps

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to supply stone to the Norman New Borough. By the 13th century Cow Lane (Swan Street) had been laid out, the quarry pits were being backfilled and the land terraced for occupation. From the late 13th century, an ironstone wall served as a property boundary and revetment for the terrace. This boundary wall was retained through later periods up to the present development. In the 15th century, on the upslope side of the wall a number of dwellings were erected with gardens and stone-lined cesspits to the rear, and probably with stables and orchards beyond.

In the 16th century, the buildings had been demolished, the stonework robbed, and existing pits backfilled to level the land for horticultural use. The 17th and 18th centuries saw renewed activity, and the site again became used as backyards, with drains, stone-lined cesspits, and post-built structures. In 1830 the Lion Foundry ironworks was constructed to the north of the revetment wall. Several circular pits, possibly wells, were backfilled with large quantities of iron and copper slag waste, as well as domestic pottery. The foundry was demolished in the 1960s and replaced by a car park. Below the revetment was a row of three-storey terraced brick houses forming St John's Terrace, built in the mid-19th century. The terrace had two public houses at its eastern end, which were demolished in the late 20th century. Event Numbers ENN108056 / ENN108057

Northampton, Wootton, Wooldale Road (SP 764 559)

Adam Meadows

A detailed magnetometer survey on land south of Wooldale Road detected part of a probable late Bronze Age or early Iron Age pit alignment that may be a continuation of the pit alignment previously detected to the north on the site of the Wootton Roman villa in 1999. Two ditched enclosures of probable Iron Age or Roman date which lie partially within the survey area are associated with possible roundhouses, a trackway and other ditches and form part of a larger complex that extends northwards beneath Wooldale Road. The survey also detected magnetic anomalies arising from medieval ridge and furrow earthworks. Event Number ENN107839

Old, Bridle Road (SP 7850 7284)

David J Leigh

A strip, map and record action, during the construction of a new cattle building, recorded relatively thin topsoil directly overlying the natural substratum throughout the investigation area. No archaeological remains or artefacts were identified.

Old Stratford, Towcester Road (SP 7753 4122)

Adam Meadows

Trial trench evaluation on land south of Towcester Road, recorded a large curved ditch, a probable boundary ditch and a posthole that may have been part of a late Iron Age settlement of 1st century BC to 1st century AD date. Four parallel ditches may have been part of former field systems. Event Number ENN107924

Oundle, Blackpot Lane, Oundle School (TL 0404 8838)

Adam Meadows, Adam Reid, John Walford,

A watching brief was carried out during construction work at Oundle School, for a new two-storey mathematics block and an extension to an existing engineering block. No archaeological features or finds were identified.

Passenham Quarry, Rees Land (SP 760 391)

Paul Clements

Trial trench evaluation identified an Iron Age pit and furrows of medieval to post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. The edge of a palaeochannel was also identified which correlated with an anomaly identified by the geophysical survey. Event Number ENN108064

Potterspury, 2 Watling Street (SP 7650 4231)

Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

A watching brief during the groundworks recorded two modern pits and no earlier features or finds were recovered. Event Number ENN107941

Raunds, Darsdale Farm (SP 9934 7195)

Adam Reid

Mitigation excavation uncovered a series of rectilinear field boundary ditches bounded to the east by a linear land boundary with the multiple recuts indicating a long period of use. Stone in the upper fill of ditch may have come from an associated trackway. A rectangular enclosure abutted the western side of the boundary system, and an oven/hearth contained two intact triangular fired-clay loomweights. The pottery assemblage spans the 1st century AD, comprising late Iron Age and early Roman vessel types. Two poorly preserved inhumation burials of unknown date were found to the south-west of the enclosure. There were at least three small post-built structures of probable early/middle Saxon date.

Raunds, 47 Holmes Avenue (SP 9995 7234)

Tim Sharman

A watching brief in advance of residential development observed that the site was significantly built up by 19th century quarry backfill, overlain to the north by a thick dump of modern construction debris. No archaeological features or finds were observed. Event Number ENN108066

Raunds, Warth Park (SP 9843 7261)

Carol Simmonds

A previously known prehistoric henge (Cotton Henge) was re-examined during trial trenching on land at Warth Park. The outer ditch showed a complex sequence of silting, possibly suggesting the presence of an external bank, while the stony fills and recutting of the inner ditch also indicated the presence of an outer bank. The only finds were four worked flints from the outer ditch. A small group of sherds from an early Bronze Age vessel with twisted cord decoration, and two flints, came from a trench 150m to the west of the henge. A number of trenches produced Iron Age and Roman pottery, suggesting the presence of Iron Age and Roman activity to the west of the henge, a small focus of Iron Age activity to the north-east of the henge, and some further

Iron Age activity towards the eastern end of the development area. Extensive medieval to post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation was also observed across the site. Event Number ENN108136

Raunds, West End, Brick Kiln Lane (SP 9940 7380)

Carol Simmonds

Mitigation on land north of Brick Kiln Lane comprised the excavation of a series of ditches of early to middle Iron Age date superseded by a rectangular enclosure dating to the late Iron Age and three possible ring ditches which respected the position of the enclosure. Two oven/hearth features and a quantity of metalworking debris were also present. During the post-medieval period a substantial curvilinear ditch, open on the western side, was present. It is possible that this may be the remains of a windmill. Event Number ENN107505

Road, Ashton Road (SP 759 513)

Chris Chinnock and Luke Jarvis

Trial trench evaluation was carried out on land at Ashton Road. A large ditch and a gully, both of unknown date were present beneath the car park to the east of Ashton Road. Truncated furrows of former ridge and furrow cultivation were present in both the eastern and southern parts of the evaluation area. Undisturbed ground levels were encountered in areas between the factory buildings.

Within the former factory site to the west of Ashton Road, further observation revealed no evidence of archaeological features. Event Numbers ENN107951 and ENN107982

Rothwell, land north (SP 805 815)

Ian Fisher and Olly Dindol

In 2006 a sample geophysical survey across parts of a proposed development site north of Rothwell led to the discovery of an extensive settlement complex of presumed Iron Age or Roman date, overlain by medieval ridge and furrow, a post-medieval barn and other agricultural remains (*SMA* 37 (2007), 71). In 2015 the remaining parts of the development area were surveyed. Further remains of probable Iron Age or Roman date were found, lying to the east of the previously discovered site.

Trial trench evaluation confirmed the presence of a late Iron Age settlement, dated from the 1st century BC to early 1st century AD, centred on a rectilinear enclosure and an isolated Roman enclosure with three pits, dated to the early to late 1st century AD. The remnants of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation were also present as indicated by the geophysical survey, along with modern field boundary ditches.

Rothwell, Harrington Road (SP 8065 8081)

Olly Dindol and Chris Chinnock

A series of ditches, identified in the geophysical survey on land north of Harrington Road, were confirmed during evaluation as part of several large enclosures. The pottery assemblage, including Fenland briquetage, indicates a date range that may have begun in the 2nd century BC, but certainly spanned the 1st century BC to the middle decades of the 1st century AD, up to and perhaps even slightly after the Roman Conquest.

There was an undated trackway, undated quarrying and remnant furrows of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation across the site. Event Numbers ENN107881, ENN107882

Rushton, Desborough Road, Rushton Hall

(SP 8364 8283)

Tim Sharman

Archaeological observation at Rushton Hall in advance of development found a length of curving ditch and three pits, dating from the 12th-13th centuries, along with a planting bed and stone-lined drain from a former garden arrangement, an undated drainage gully, and brick sills from temporary Second World War buildings.

Silverstone, Church Street (SP 6627 4442)

Tim Sharman

A watching brief during the installation of a concrete culvert over the Silverstone Brook, recorded stone and brick from an earlier, possibly post-medieval bridge, a modern retaining wall, and a leather hob-nailed boot sole was recovered. No other archaeological features or finds were found. Event Number ENN107895

Stanwick, Church of St Laurence (SP 9801 7145)

Amir Bassir

Archaeological observation was undertaken during groundworks associated with the installation of a new heating system within the church. The works comprised the lifting of stone floor slabs at the west end of the church, the reduction of ground level within these areas and the excavation of pipe trenches and inspection chambers. A number of disarticulated and disturbed human remains, a stoned-capped drain and brick flues relating to a previous heating system were identified and recorded.

Towcester, Watling Street, Sun Yard (SP 6958 4848)

Adam Meadows

A trial trench evaluation found a large pit containing pottery, oyster shells, a copper-alloy nail and a quantity of cattle horn cores. This was overlain by modern building debris, which extended across the whole site. Event Number ENN107923

Weekley, 4 Weekley Wood Lane (SP 8848 8088)

Tim Sharman

A watching brief during construction work identified a single ditch, possibly post-medieval in date. Event Number ENN108047

West Haddon, 15 Guilsborough Road (SP 6321 7195)

Tim Sharman

A watching brief, following evaluation in 2014 (*SMA* 45 (2015), 47), during construction work recorded two medieval ditches, one post-medieval ditch, two possible post-medieval quarry pits and the remains of a modern building within the development area. Event Number ENN107880

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY EAST

Brackley, Radstone Fields (SP 5898 2334)

Ian Cook

A watching brief was undertaken at land near to Turweston Road, Brackley during the laying of a pipeline by Anglian Water. The only feature present was recorded during excavation of Manhole 23 and comprised a large modern rubbish dump which contained pottery, glass bottles, wood and metal objects.

Crick, Bury Dyke Deserted Medieval Village (SP 5890 7263)

Louise Bush

An evaluation was carried out in support of an outline planning application for residential development in an area containing upstanding earthworks thought to date to the medieval period. Although archaeological features were encountered within all seven of the trenches, many of these did not appear to relate to the earthworks, apart from in the area of a hollow way. In general, the features that are datable appear to date from the 11th to 12th centuries, with a background scatter of Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman pottery, and a slightly larger assemblage of Anglo-Saxon pottery. Features include postholes forming a possible structure, along with numerous ditches aligned parallel with or perpendicular to old boundaries (and Church Street) still in existence today, with a clear bias toward a north-northwest to south-southeast axis. A number of phases of activity were represented, with much of the site being sealed by two thick subsoil layers.

Although there was little direct evidence for domestic occupation, the recovery of fragments of baked clay from the burnt fills of a number of features could indicate that a building may have been situated in this area. Despite relatively few finds being recovered, environmental samples taken from features across the site have produced extremely high quantities of charred plant and cereal grains.

Higham Ferrers, Rising Main Replacement (SP 9542 6935)

Nicholas Cox

A programme of archaeological investigation and recording carried out along the Anglian Water Rising Main Replacement included monitoring of ten drill pits where the scheme crossed environmentally sensitive areas (an SSA and RAMSAR site of international importance due to its bird population). Although no archaeology was present across the base of the Nene valley, evidence of early Roman quarrying and domestic waste was found on the western side of the valley.

Kettering, Cranford Business Centre (SP 9036 7613)

Louise Bush

Of the 55 trenches excavated ahead of the proposed construction of an industrial estate, 27 contained archaeological features. The earliest feature was a single Early Bronze Age collared urn cremation, while very low levels of contemporary struck flint were also recovered from the surrounding trenches. Middle Iron Age activity was

concentrated across the north and eastern portions of the site, represented by pits and a number of substantial enclosure ditches. Early Roman remains dating from the 1st to 2nd century AD were uncovered both to the north and south of the A6, largely represented by a series of farmstead enclosures. A very large pit containing a substantial assemblage of Roman pottery, glass and metalwork was also identified in this area. The south-eastern extents of the site were dominated by a former early 20th century ironstone quarry and associated tramways.

Wellingborough, Park Farm Way (SP 870 670)

Gareth Rees

A total of 32 trenches were opened in advance of a proposed planning application for residential development of the area. Archaeology was primarily uncovered in the south-west of the area, where ditches, pits and postholes dating to the Late Iron Age (c0-50AD) were revealed. Along with the pottery assemblage, the environmental and faunal remains recovered from these features tend to indicate that domestic activities were taking place on the site. Three worked bone weaving tools recovered from this area are further evidence of occupation in the vicinity.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH

Long Buckby, West Haddon to Daventry 33kv Cable Works (SP 6214 6789 to SP 6215 6812)

Vix Hughes

Oxford Archaeology South was commissioned by Western Power Distribution to undertake archaeological recording and reporting upon the excavation of a new trench to accommodate electricity cables. The fieldwork was completed in September 2014. Within the southern field six modern and historic field drains were recorded providing drainage to the low lying ground. Of these, one was a stone-constructed drain which, along with a ceramic drain, were cut into the base of a ditch. Both the former ditch and drains were overlain by a clay and rubble deposit levelling the ground surface. No artefacts were present in association with the ditch and stone drain. A further deposit of redeposited clay and rubble was also recorded levelling a previous shallow hollow north of the stone drain and ditch. Artefacts recovered from the topsoil and this levelling deposit all dated from the 19th and 20th centuries.

STEANE PARK ENVIRONS

Dr Wendy A Morrison

Introduction

Prehistoric and Roman settlement activity has long been known of in the Steane Park environs. Villas at nearby Brackley, Farthinghoe, and potentially Halse have all been documented, and many Iron Age and Roman coins have been recovered through the Portable Antiquities Scheme in this immediate area. The medieval village of Steane (Fig 10) is first recorded in Domesday as *Stane*, with subsequent appearances in various medieval documents as *Stanes* in the 12th century, *Stene* in the 13th century, and *Stone* in the 14th century, before appearing as *Steyn* in the 16th century. Given that *stán* is the Old English word for 'stone', one could be cautiously optimistic that the fields adjacent to the deserted

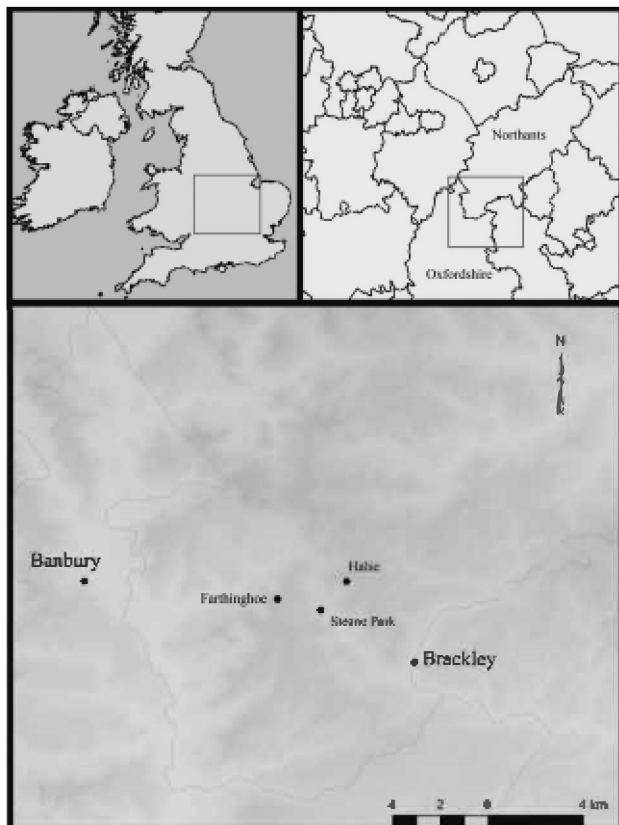


Figure 9. Location of site in relation to national geography.

Northamptonshire

medieval village (probably established in the 9th century and deserted by the 14th) were probably known to produce copious quantities of stone; coupled with the presence of coinage in the area, this would be enough to believe that Steane Park might be host to a Roman settlement. However, prior to the beginning of the 21st century, there was no such suggestion. Since the 16th century, the grounds have been home to Steane Park manor, former residence of Lord Crewe (one-time Bishop of Durham) and is currently the home of Lady Anne Connell, without whose kind and enthusiastic permissions, this project would not be possible.

In 1976 a rather unusual artefact was recovered from agricultural activity in a field to the north of the Steane Park manor house. Although it was some years before its proper identification (and subsequent accession into the Ashmolean Museum collections), the piece is now identified as a copper alloy bust of Marcus Aurelius dating to the 3rd century AD (Walker 2014). The Keeper of the Department of Antiquities at the Ashmolean, Dr Susan Walker, having secured its accession, wanted to place the object in an archaeological context and thus commissioned a geophysical survey of the field in which it was found (Wintle 2014). This led to the discovery of a densely packed multi-phased site (Fig 11), which was then subject to excavation in 2013, under the direction of Susan Walker (report in prep.). That project excavated a series of small trenches (marked in white in Fig 11) and found a Roman stone structure, a male skeleton of uncertain date, buried in an ill-defined shallow grave with

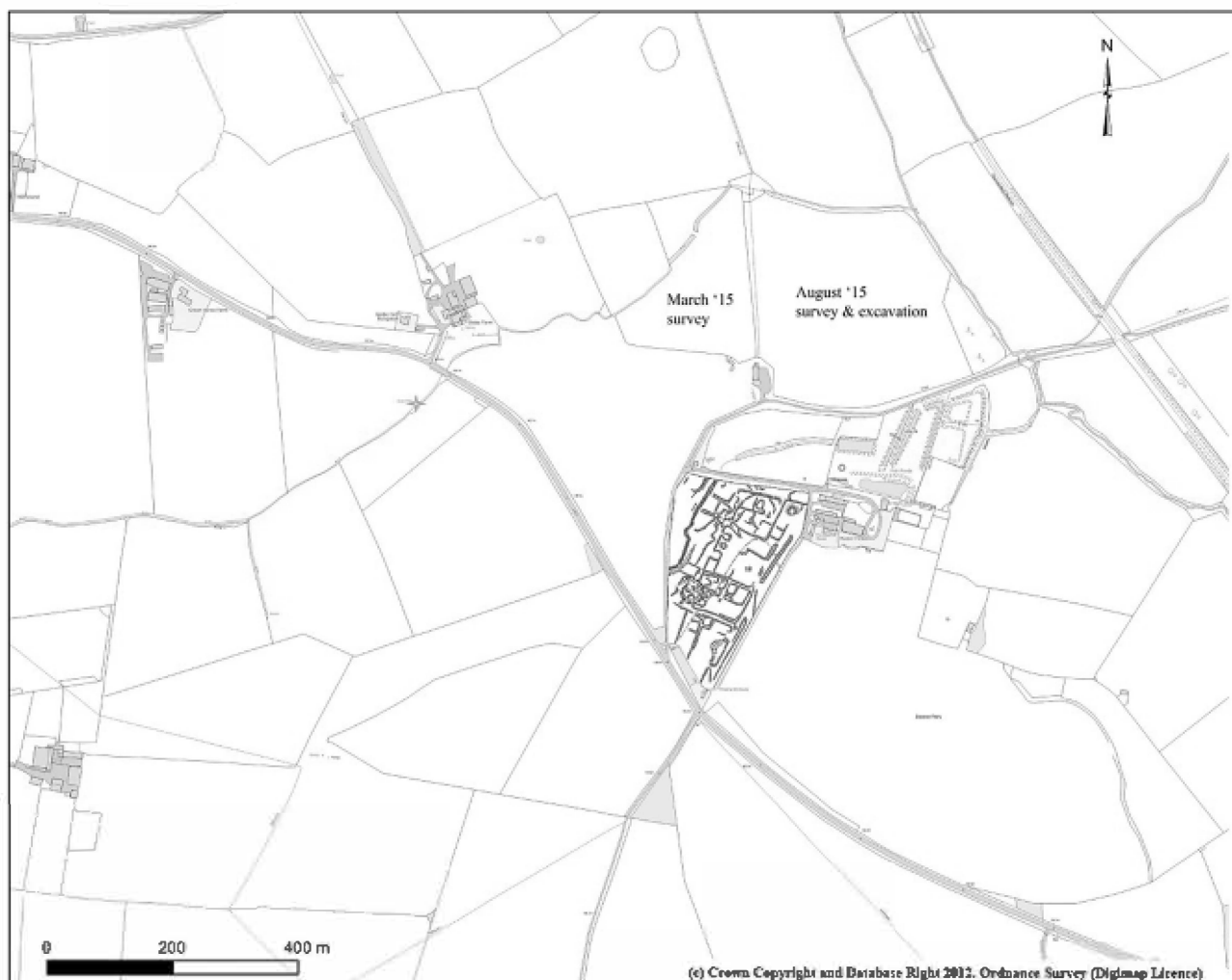


Figure 10. Map of Steane Park and environs, with DMV and location of Ouzell Spring marked with blue star.

Northamptonshire

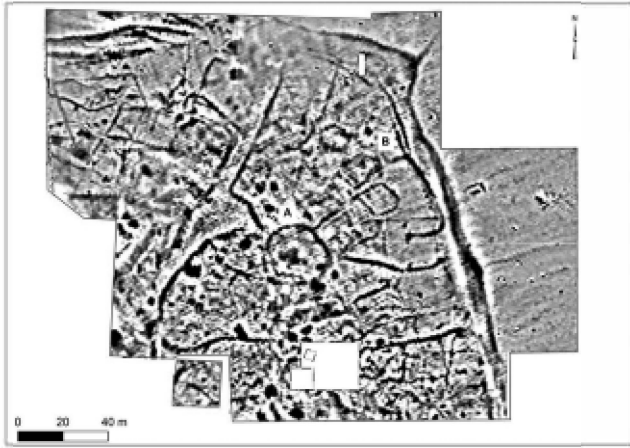


Figure 11. Results of William Wintle's 2012/13 survey with SPEX13 excavations marked in white.

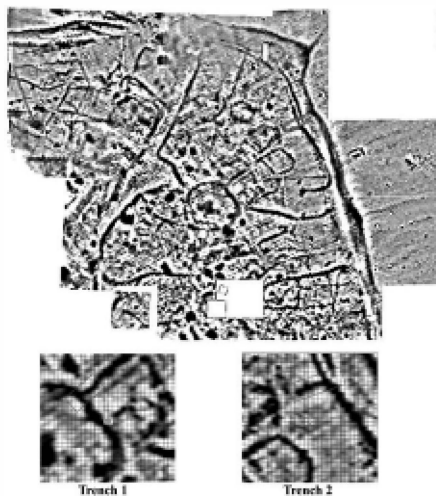


Figure 12. Location of the two 2015 trenches, relative to the general site layout.

2-4 neo-nates, an undated hearth, and a pair of late Roman pewter plates of possible national significance.

There was no intent to return to excavate further, but Susan Walker approached the author and suggested that there was more to learn from the site. Therefore, after careful examination of the surrounding area, the author created the Great Ouse Ancient Landscapes project (GOAL) in order to place this large settlement within its wider landscape. Although the Great Ouse is considered to rise in Syresham, to the northeast of Steane, Ouzell Spring (starred in Fig 10) gives rise to a major stream that also feeds into the fledgling Great Ouse.

Permissions were kindly given by Lady Anne Connell of Steane Park to survey and excavate and facilitated by Rod and Sally Thomas of Farm and Jo Robinson of Farm who also permitted survey on the fields adjacent. Lady Connell has generously allowed us to make use of her hay barn for the storage of our tools and equipment, and shelter from inclement weather.

Research Design 2015

The plan for the inaugural season was modest in ambition and consisted of two parts. Firstly, in the spring, geophysical survey to determine if the settlement extended beyond the areas already surveyed by the Ashmolean project. Secondly,

in late summer a small excavation with three main questions to answer:

Is the large enclosure Iron Age in date? (marked A on Fig 11)

Is the settlement enclosure ditch Roman? (marked B on Fig 11)

What is the character of the natural geology?

Therefore two small hand-dug trenches would be placed over each of these features with the hope of getting enough datable material to answer the questions. The small scale of the interventions would also allow for a manageable post-excavation process, given the lack of any funding for the 2015 season.

Geophysical survey

In March 2015, both single and double tube Bartington gradiometers were used on the North West Field from the main Suckling Field, in order to determine if the settlement and enclosed area continued outside of the current field boundaries. Although there was significant disturbance from medieval ridge and furrow agricultural activity, it seemed that the bulk of early activity was indeed confined largely to the Suckling Field. (Fig 11).

Further survey work was conducted during the course of the excavation in August. This consisted of three small grids to the south and the remainder of the Suckling Field to the north, downslope from the crown of the hill. These results in particular were to be the most interesting, as they suggest a trackway, predating the ubiquitous ridge and furrow, leading up to the settlement from the river bank. This had the precise effect of turning the map on its head, as it had been presumed that one entered the enclosed ditched area from the south (now lost to landscaping and later trackways).

All geophysical survey was conducted and processed by Dr William Wintle, to whom the author is greatly indebted and hugely grateful.

The excavation

This first small scale and unfunded season involved the excavation by hand of two small trenches (Fig 4). Trench 1 (4mx12m) successfully dated the large circular feature to the Late Iron Age, with much residual Middle Iron Age material hinting at a longer use of the site. Trench 2 (4mx6m) revealed a series of intercut and recut drainage and boundary ditches which were backfilled deliberately in the 3rd century. Additionally, both trenches produced much fine flint work of Late Neolithic and Bronze Age date suggesting a longevity of activity. The potential importance of the site in the Roman period may well be a result of its earlier significance in the prehistoric period.

The natural geology

The geology is incredibly diverse for such a small area, reflecting the glacial and post-glacial energies expended. Boulder clay and till overlie a mix of ferruginous Northampton Sands and shattered Whitby Mudstone.

Late Neolithic and Bronze Age

No features could be dated to this early period, but there were sufficient residual flints from both trenches to suggest a nearby focus of activity of some type (not necessarily domestic or occupational).

Early-Middle Iron Age (Trench 1)

There is one feature (F8) that may date to the Early Iron Age, in that it produced only 2 animal bones and a single sherd of a non-standard scored ware, which is possibly Early Iron Age in date. A pit (F9), heavily truncated by later enclosure ditch (F3) produced good Middle Iron Age ceramic evidence. However, there were far more features which produced residual Middle Iron Age shell-tempered wares, which strongly suggests more activity in the vicinity during the Middle Iron Age.

Late Iron Age (Trench 1 and 2)

Most of the features in Trench 1 produced prodigious amounts of Late and Latest Iron Age ceramics (200BC-AD50) but also contained up to 30% Middle Iron Age residual sherds. The material suggests that there were two phases of enclosure in the Late Iron Age, one which established the line of enclosure and was likely only about 1.2m in width and a later re-defining of the circular enclosure, which would have been over 2m in width. Probably in this same phase came the cutting of Pit F6, which contained contemporary material and cut earlier east-west Ditch F3.

In Trench 2 Ditches (F5 and F6) run east-west and predate the northwest-southeast ditches (F1/3 and F2), which was apparent stratigraphically in plan, but not through any datable material, which was absent. These are probably related to the initial cutting of ditch F2, which produced Late Iron Age material. Although difficult to say with certainty, it is likely that ditches F3 in Trench 1 and F5, F6, and the initial phase of F2 in Trench 2 formed part of a broader network of drainage and water management features. Standing water is even today a problem on the field, despite its location at the crown of the hill, and one can speculate that this would have needed to be dealt with in the past.

Roman (Trench 1)

The bulk of the material dating to the Roman period comes from two main depositions. A thick layer of domestic detritus and building material that sealed the earlier features, and a pair of pits which were cut into the fills of Late Iron Age Ditch (F3). This material is largely 3rd century in date, and probably relates to the demolition of a structure elsewhere, but nearby, on the site.

Roman (Trench 2)

Trench 2 revealed a pair of roughly northwest-southeast ditches (F1/3 and F2), with multiple recuts, ultimately having been deliberately infilled after the middle of the 3rd century. One of the ditches (F2) may have had its origin in the Late Iron Age, and was subsequently recut. At least one, (F1) truncates earlier drainage ditches (F5 and F6). The infilling of F3 in particular was significant in the tight packing of stone building detritus. It is possible this may be from the same demolition event which generated the debris layer in Trench 1.

Small finds

Coins

Only three coins were recovered from the excavation, all of them copper alloy and all Roman. Whilst the two coins from Trench 1 came from the detritus layer (9), the single coin

from Trench 2 was well-seated in the fill of Ditch F, giving a terminus post quem for the infill of that feature.

C1 A corroded ovate copper alloy coin of Tetricus II (AD270-274)

C2: moderately corroded and abraded coin of Constantius II, with *Fel. Temp. Rep.* on the reverse. (AD 350-360)

C3: well-preserved coin of Gallienus, with Concordia on the reverse (AD 260-268)

Objects of Iron

15 iron nails of various sizes, ranging from a single hobnail to a roof-tile 'spike' measuring 11cm.

Objects of copper alloy

Apart from the above mentioned coins, the only copper alloy finds were a strap end of probably Roman date, a fragmentary upper half of a Roman period clapper bell (too fragmentary for further identification or for conservation) and a brooch pin, from the ploughsoil, but likely to be Iron Age in date.

Objects of stone

A single perforated sub-circular stone from the detritus layer under the ploughsoil; probably a small loomweight.

A fragment (25cm) of a rubber stone, possibly for a quern. Its presence in the detritus layer sealing the site suggests that it may have been re-used as building material and thus is likely to be sharply anachronistic to the Roman layer (19) in which it was recovered.

Flint

A total of 42 flints were recovered from both trenches in the 2015 season; however, it is notable that more than 70% of these were found in Trench 2. The majority of the flints come from the ploughsoil, and their concentration in Trench 2 may in some part be due to colluvial action, since Trench 2 is downslope from Trench 1, but the character of the struck flints suggests that they fall into two discrete groups (ie, the nature of Trench 1 flints seems different from trench 2 flints).. However, due to both the small sample size and the largely non-diagnostic character of most of the assemblage, very little substantive can be said. Nonetheless, a few flints were worthy of a little more attention.

Trench 1

FL1 An end scraper (2)

FL2 two joining pieces comprising a scraper (2)

FL3 fragment of a core (2)

FL4/5 Elongated flakes likely struck with a hard hammer (2)

FL6/7 small flakes with serration (2)

Trench 2

FL8 side scraper (2)

FL9 core (broken axe reused?) (2)

FL10 elongated blade (6)

Of these, all save F10 were suggestive of the Middle to Late Bronze Age; F10 was heavily patinated and was more likely originating from the Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age. It should be noted, however, that all of these flints were residual and not in secure pre-Iron Age features.

Northamptonshire

Bulk finds

Pottery

No medieval or post-medieval sherds were identified. Roman and pre-Roman potsherds were plentiful, but due to time and budget constraints, there has been no full-scale characterisation of the assemblages. Nonetheless, sherds from significant contexts have been examined by period specialists in order to provide a cursory understanding of the material and to allow spot dating of features.

Overall the Roman assemblage is a heterogeneous assortment of cooking and storage vessels, mixed with rather a high percentage of quality table wares. Only a few small abraded sherds of residual Samian ware were present, but there was a copious amount of Nene Valley finewares, unsurprising given the relative proximity of their source. The Oxfordshire industry was well represented, as well as the more local pink-grogged ware. Some few amphora sherds were also present. Most of the Roman material came from the detritus layer sealing the earlier features in Trench 1 (9;14;19) but a sufficient quantity was also recovered from the ditches and recuts in Trench 2 (3;8;9). The broad date range for most material is AD240-400.

The Iron Age material contains much of the very latest Late Iron Age material, with many wheel-finished (if not wheel-thrown) examples. Based upon regional trends, it is likely that this material dates from about 100BC at the latest. There are some large storage jars represented including those of grog-temper and the assemblage includes a sherd with a rivet hole, likely from the same tradition of repairing large storage containers; similar examples have been found in other parts of the Midlands, including a whole jar with multiple staples from Gill Mill, Ducklington (P. Booth pers. comm.). However, much shell-tempered residual material, largely in the form of jars, dates from the Middle Iron Age (400-200BC), suggesting a possible earlier focus of activity nearby. Indeed a Middle Iron Age settlement 4km to the southeast (outside Brackley) was noted in a 2009 evaluation, containing very similar assemblages of Middle Iron Age material (Wheaton 2010).

Animal bone

As with the ceramic assemblage, the full-scale characterisation and analysis of the bone is yet to be done, but preliminary examination of the material has shown a typical mix of ovicaprid (sheep/goat), cattle, and pig. A few fragments of horse were also recovered, as well as the mandible of a medium-sized dog from the large enclosure ditch in Trench 1 (F3). Only one instance of faunal deposition seems particularly worthy of note, and will be undergoing further study before the commencement of next season: in the fill of F3, a burned collection of bones was recovered. 100% sampled for later examination, this proved, upon dry sieving in the lab, to contain a mix of neonate sheep bones and neonate/infant human bones, heavily burned. More work must be done, but the deposition of mixed animal/human 'hybrid' burials in significant boundaries and monument ditches is not unknown (Bendrey *et al.* 2010)

Building material

Curiously, given that there is a known structure from the Roman period at the southern end of this field (Walker), there was a marked absence of ceramic building material that is more usually recovered from such sites in the region. Between both trenches was produced only one fragment of brick, unusually smooth faced yet rough of fabric, with large

flint inclusions in the temper. However, there were over 50kg of stone building material (only some retained for analysis). These included a few faced stone fragments (between 15-35cm in length) and copious stone roof tiles and tile fragments. Indeed, the outer field enclosure ditch in Trench 2 (Figure 7) was completely rammed shut with the deliberate dumping of this limestone building material.

Environmental samples

All negative features were sampled for charred plant remains. 5-20 litres of soil were sampled, dependent upon the quantity of fill in the features. Areas of intense charring within fills were also 100% sampled for later flotation and analysis. This work will be carried out in the spring and the results disseminated in the following season's interim report, as well as in the final monograph.

Conclusions and Future Work

Of course, it is too early in the project to say with any degree of confidence what these two small trenches mean, in any real sense. However, a few things are possible to speculate about. It may be that the field, due to its prime situation in the surrounding landscape, was a focus for late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age activity, although not necessarily of a domestic character. In the Middle Iron Age, stock may have been enclosed here, and a series of drainage ditches dug to manage surplus water. By the Late Iron Age this presence was monumentalised by the construction of the still-poorly-understood 'banjo' type enclosure. Out of use by the 1st century AD, the environs were beginning to be filled with stone structures, as discovered to the south by Walker in 2013. Sometime in the late 3rd-4th century, the use of the site is completely overhauled, with the structures demolished and the outer enclosure ditches, which had served as both settlement boundary and drainage, were backfilled and taken out of use. Naturally, this entire narrative will need to be adapted as we go forward and add more information to the picture.

It would seem that the results of this season's first foray into the project offer tantalising suggestions of a site with a long period of use and, indeed, of significance. The three main questions set for the 2015 season were answered to satisfaction, and the answers now offer us the chance to offer up new questions upon which to build the narrative of this significant settlement.

With the kind permission of Lady Connell, the plan for the 2016 season consists of two parts. Firstly, a campaign of geophysical survey in the wider environs to determine the relationship of this settlement to the wider landscape – permission to survey several of the adjacent fields has been secured. Secondly, three weeks of excavation will address three main questions:

- What is the nature of the apparent closed entrance?
- Are the apparent antennae ditches contemporary and related to the enclosure?
- What is the date of the newly discovered trackway?

The first two questions will be addressed by opening a 12mx12m trench over the purported entrance and intersections with the ditches. The third will involve a smaller 2mx6m trench across the trackway.

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THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Rothersthorpe, Hill Farm (SP 7000 5694)

Tim Dawson

In advance of a proposal to construct a solar farm, a magnetometer survey was carried out. Two weak positive linear anomalies most likely indicate a field boundary shown on 20th century maps. The majority of the field was subject to a large amount of magnetic noise, caused by metal refuse in the topsoil, and a modern service.

Towcester, Proposed Baptist Church, Northampton Road (SP 6936 4928)

Susan Porter

An evaluation carried out in advance of construction of a new church and community centre has revealed a number of deposits certainly and probably of archaeological interest. Dating evidence was sparse but two features are most likely to be of early Iron Age date and suggest prehistoric occupation on the site.

Warkton, St Edmund's Church (SP 8935 7982)

Susan Porter

A field evaluation was carried out in advance of determination of an application for an extension to the church. A single ditch was revealed, dating probably to the middle or late Iron Age, based on just two sherds of pottery. A single prehistoric struck flint (core) was also recovered.

Warkworth, Central M40, Land at Overthorpe Road (SP 4742 3965)

Rebecca Constable and Andy Taylor

A proposal to erect new industrial units and create a balancing pond led to a requirement for fieldwork. Magnetometer survey yielded anomalies of archaeological interest which appeared to comprise large and small curvilinear enclosures. A water main, and the railways to the north (disused) and south (current) of the site caused large areas of disturbance which could have obscured other anomalies of archaeological origin. Medieval ridge and furrow was present across the entirety of the site. Evaluation trenching confirmed that the site has archaeological potential with the identification of deposits of Iron Age date corresponding with anomalies in the southern portion of the site. The evaluation also revealed some foundations of the former munitions works in the northern portion of the site.

OXFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGY IN OXFORD CITY 2015

The excavation of the Franciscan Friary at the Westgate

The 2015-16 excavations at the former surface and multi-storey car park sites at the Westgate Centre represent one of the largest archaeological digs ever undertaken in the city and the largest ever exposure of robbed out medieval buildings in the town. The site is located south of the Late Saxon burh and 13th century town wall and was reclaimed from the floodplain in the 13th century in order to allow the extension of Oxford's impressive Franciscan friary across the line of the town wall. The friary served as a *Studium Generale* (college) for the order and in the 13th-14th centuries attracted scholars from across Europe. It was notably closely associated with the first Chancellor of the University Robert Grosseteste (c 1175-1253), who acted as a Reader to the friars, also Franciscan scholars such as Roger Bacon (c ?1219 - c ?1292), William of Ockham (c 1287 - 1347) and Duns Scotus (c 1266 -1308).

Recording of one kind or another was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology at the four-hectare site throughout the year alongside an extensive public outreach programme. In January the plots of four 1820s houses were excavated from the now demolished suburb of St Ebbe's revealing foundations of varying quality, outhouse structures and backyard waste pits. Over the summer the southern precinct of the friary was investigated revealing an extensive arrangement of conventual buildings comprising largely robbed-out stone walls, localised rubbish pits and isolated floor surfaces. Notable discoveries include the well-preserved friary kitchen or bake house with intact floor levels and the stone built conduit that provided the site with running water. Towards the end of the year the excavation moved southwards revealing 13th century floodplain reclamation deposits, further robbed out friary buildings and the well-built precinct wall.

The investigations revealed how a variety of approaches were adopted by 13th century builders in order to provide stable foundations for the friary buildings located on the reclaimed floodplain. These included the use of compacted gravel foundations, stone relieving arches and clusters of wooden piles reinforcing dumped reclamation deposits. Over 2,000 wooden piles were recovered from the site. Remarkably, perhaps 35% of these proved to be re-used medieval building timbers. These were carefully assessed and recorded, with exemplary pieces submitted for freeze drying and retention by the Oxfordshire Museums Service. South of the Trill Mill Stream a series of north south channels were recorded. Some of these preserved stone and timber structures belonging to medieval and post-medieval water management systems. Elsewhere on the site sections were excavated through the Royalist Civil War defences and the Holocene channel that evolved into the medieval Trill Mill Stream. One of the Trill Mill Stream sections revealed an ox skeleton embedded in a medieval channel and an enigmatic compacted gravel surface of likely anthropogenic origin. Scientific dating of the alluvium above this surface has produced a Middle Bronze Age date. The Trill Mill Stream section was extended southwards to allow the completion of a detailed transect of the wider floodplain.

Oxfordshire

Further recording, including additional targeted excavation, was to follow in 2016.

Other significant excavations in 2015

Elsewhere in the historic core excavations between October 2014 and April 2015 by Oxford Archaeology South within Magdalen College's Victorian 'New Library' revealed evidence for floors, walls and hearths belonging to medieval properties fronting onto High Street (formerly Bridge Street), including a thick walled stone-built industrial building on the corner of Longwall Street that is likely to be a forge. In February and March Oxford Archaeology South undertook a small excavation in the rear garden of St Cross College on St Giles. Here a surprise discovery was the grave of a young woman. Two 17th century coins were recovered which may have been placed over her eyes or mouth, including a silver half groat of Charles I.

Other college investigations by Oxford Archaeology South include a large excavation in the Provost's Garden at The Queen's College between March and May prior to the construction of an underground library. The excavation exposed Late Saxon metal surfaces, associated cellar pits and post holes, all at a different orientation to the extant rectilinear arrangement thought to originate at the time of the eastern expansion of the burh. Between April and August an evaluation project by Oxford Archaeology South and MOLA at Corpus Christi included trenches within the former medieval Shidyrd Street that revealed a series of clay silt deposits and limestone rubble surfaces dating from the pre- and post-Conquest periods. Charred material, wood and seeds, animal bones recovered from these features may represent trample and/or domestic refuse deposited by the occupiers of structures fronting on to the street in the late Saxon to early Norman period.

On the perimeter of the City excavations by Oxford Archaeology South between October and December, prior to the construction of an extensive new housing development at Barton Park revealed a series of parallel drainage ditches potentially of Late Iron Age or early Roman date. This arrangement was replaced in the 2nd-4th century by a more extensive and organized agricultural landscape of rectangular fields, 'D' shaped enclosure and droveways. A contemporary field edge cremation with associated pyre pit was also recorded. Furthermore from across the excavated areas a 7th century spearhead and knife, and pre-Conquest horseshoe and horseshoe nails, were also recovered.

Outreach

The Westgate project has involved an extensive outreach programme comprising projects with local schools, guided walks, pop-up museum displays, a site blog, a viewing platform, two public open days which attracted over 3,500 visitors and extensive media coverage. A series of public talks organised by the Westgate Archaeological Advisory Panel covering the history, context and results of the Westgate excavation are available on You Tube¹. A successful open day was also held at the Queen's College excavation on 18th April with over 750 people attending.

1 See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4xUXl74GEvc>

David Radford

City Council Archaeologist, Oxford City Council.

ABINGDON AREA ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY SOCIETY RESEARCH GROUP

Culham, 27 High Street (SU 5048 9504)

Jeffrey Wallis

Archaeological evaluation was at the request of Mr. A. Steele prior to building work planned to the side of number 27 High Street Culham. The area is surrounded by a palimpsest of cropmarks. Finds of archaeological material have been reported to the HER. Cropmarks have been recorded for many years (Allen 33 391 SW 505948) (O.A. finds PRN 5652), St Joseph 59 YB 90 and PRN 8476. Cropmarks logged as enclosures, pits and linear features are recorded. (The Upper Thames Valley: An archaeological survey of the river gravels, Don Benson and David Miles with C J Balkwill and N Clayton, Oxford Archaeological Unit 1974.) Currently Google Earth shows clear cropmarks on a "gravel island". Abutting rectangular and sub-rectangular enclosures extending west to east are situated in a field immediately south of the rear garden of number 27 High Street. The "island" may have palaeo-channels immediately north and south. The rear boundary fence may be marking the edge of 1A gravel and the junction with an alluvium filled channel. Two 3m x 1m trenches were excavated.

Trench 1 exposed palaeosoils directly overlaying terrace gravel. A flint flake was recorded from this context. Cutting this layer was a shallow gully or footing turning through 90 degrees at the east end of the trench. A group of mainly 18th and 19th century pottery and residual medieval sherds was recovered from silt fill.

Trench 2 also exposed the same palaeo-soil horizon. This was cut by an indeterminate pit-like feature. A dark "occupation material" layer near the bottom of this feature produced sherds of medieval Abingdon type fabrics. This collection also included a possible bone whistle. It is possible that medieval domestic occupation and associated structures may lie close by roughly on the same frontage as the current house.

ABINGDON GEOPHYSICS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

Drayton (SU 477951)

R Ainslie

The remainder of this site has been surveyed using magnetometry, (see *SMA* 2015 p57 for more detail). It shows an elliptical enclosure, probably prehistoric, 2 round house-type anomalies, ditches, presumably Roman, in 2 orientations, the mound and various pits and ridge and furrow.

The mound is still unresolved but as it is surrounded by presumed Roman anomalies, the likelihood is that it is of Roman date.

It is understood that Cotswold Archaeology have excavated part of this area prior to housing development.

The magnetometry survey report has been submitted to the Archaeology Data Services grey literature system, no 245999 but is awaiting validation by Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record.

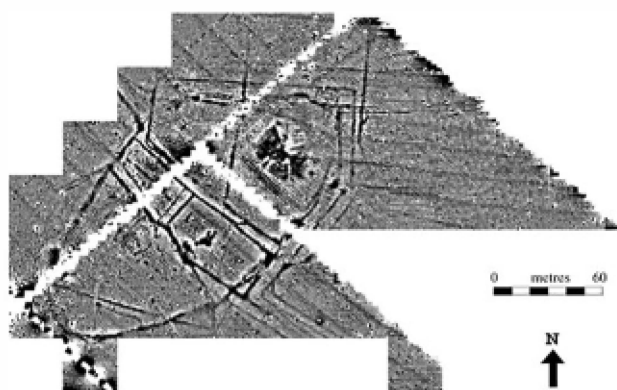


Figure 1. Drayton Tumulus area magnetometry.

AVON ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT LTD

Andrew Young ACIfA

Cowley, Site off Barns Road (centred at SP 54368 03954)

Introduction

Archaeological fieldwork involving strip and record and watching brief was undertaken between May and November 2014 on behalf of GreenSquare Group, both in advance of and during the construction of new residential and retail development at a site located off Barns Road, Cowley, Oxford. The fieldwork was carried out by Avon Archaeological Unit Limited in order to mitigate the archaeological impact of the development and followed on from a programme of preliminary Geotechnical Survey, Desk-based Assessment and Trial Excavation (*SMA 2014*, 44, 88-9).



Figure 2. The strip and record area during excavation.

The preceding works identified that the site lay in close proximity to significant buried remains, including pottery production kilns, associated with the nationally important Roman pottery industry in Oxford, centred on the modern St Luke's Road to the northeast.

The site consisted of a single, level plot lying at *c* 74.5m aOD and previously occupied by the post-war Cowley Community Centre demolished in 2010. Prior to this, map evidence shows the site was open agricultural land, with a cluster of buildings established at its southern end by the early 19th century. Four evaluation trenches opened on the site in 2013 revealed a number of shallowly-buried archaeological structures, deposits and cut soil features, none of which provided specific evidence associated with the nearby Roman pottery production site. Rather, the limited Romano-British pottery assemblage yielded by the ditch and large pit recorded suggested the features were located outside the focus of Roman settlement. Later activity was restricted to a series of post-medieval and modern features including two limestone wall foundations, probably the remains of buildings shown on 19th century maps.

Methodology

The strip and record exercise was undertaken within the footprint of the new building sited on the Barns Road frontage (Fig. 3), whilst the watching brief was designed to monitor development groundworks outside this area.

Strip and Record

Four periods of activity ranging in date from the Romano-British period through to the 21st century were recorded.

Period I: Romano-British

More detailed and extensive investigation of the ditch and large pit previously recorded during the evaluation stage revealed that the Roman pottery retrieved was, in fact, residual in features of medieval date (Period II below). Further residual Romano-British sherds were recovered over the footprint, but no related deposits were identified. This confirmed only low intensity activity had occurred over the site and that it lay outside the southern limit of the Roman pottery production industry identified at St Luke's Road (Oxford HER 3817; Green, S. 1983 *The Roman Pottery Manufacturing Site at Between Towns Road, Cowley, Oxford. Oxoniensia XLVIII* 1-12).

Period II: Medieval

Two distinct phases of medieval activity were identified during the strip and record. The earlier phase was dated to the 11th-13th centuries from the small collections of pottery sherds recovered from three parallel, northwest to southeast oriented ditches (Ditches 521, 529 and 586, Fig. 3) and a related narrow slot (Cut 603) crossing the northern half of the footprint. The northwest terminal of Ditch 529 was previously investigated during the evaluation stage, yielding a small assemblage of Roman pottery sherds since proved to be residual in context. The position of the three ditches and their orientation coincides precisely with the southern boundary of an area of medieval open strip fields shown on a map of Corpus Christi College lands dated 1605.

Stratified pottery sherds recovered from cut soil features attributed to the later phase of medieval activity ranged in

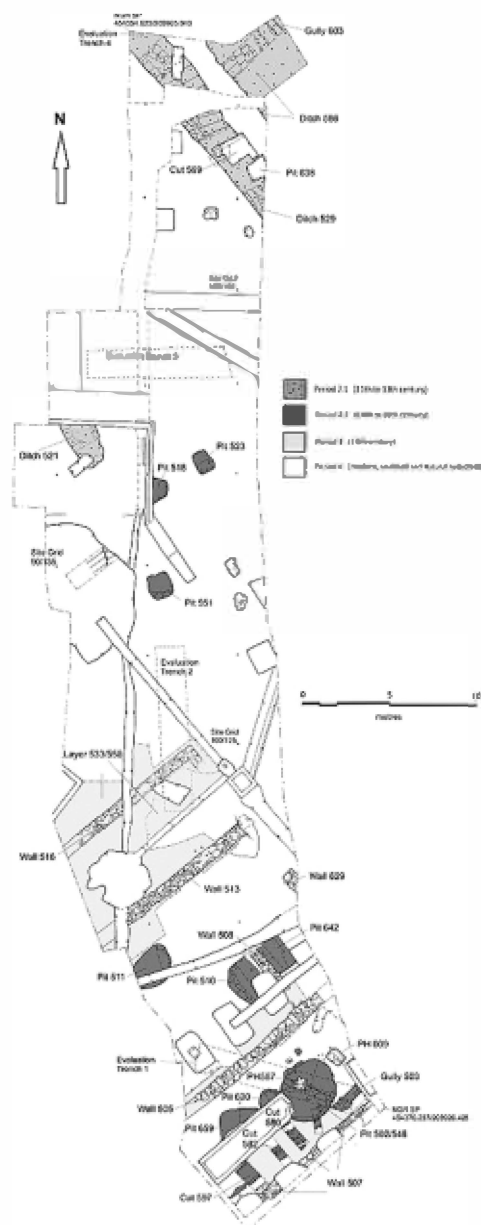


Figure 3. Phase plan of the strip and record area as excavated.

date from the 14th to 16th centuries, spanning the late medieval/early post-medieval transition. The activity was represented by pit and gully digging at the southern end of the footprint (Pits 502/564, 510, 511, 620, 642 and 659 and Gully 503/580/582/597, Figs. 3 and 4) and by three centrally-located pits (Pits 518, 523 and 551, Fig 3). Whilst the pits varied in form and fill, they shared some similar characteristics. As far as exposed, many having been disturbed by subsequent activity, the pits were large in size, all were >1.5m in length and most exceeded 2m. Likewise, each had been opened to a depth in excess of 500mm sufficient to expose the surface of the bedrock underlying the sandy silt substrate. The pits usually contained more than one fill and some yielded residual assemblages of Roman and early medieval pottery, including Pit 502, recorded as a possible Romano-British feature during the preceding evaluation stage. The recut gully (503 etc.), although aceramic, was considered to be contemporary with the

pit-cutting activity, as it respected the southern edge of Pit 502.

The pits appear to have been dug to obtain the local natural sandy silt substrate, quarried for building material. A collection of glazed pottery jug fragments recovered from some pit fills possibly represented breakages from foodstuffs brought onto the site by the quarrymen. The quarrying appears to have been relatively short-lived, as a Christ Church College map of 1777 indicates the site was essentially open agricultural land by that time. The Oxford HER records several further instances of similar medieval pits in the Cowley area, such as those at Cowley Road Police Station, Temple Cowley Road and Temple Road (HERs 14409, 15947 and 26014). These, along with several other recorded sites, point to an established and long-standing practice of quarry extraction in Cowley during the later medieval period.

Period III: Post-medieval

A number of silt-clay bonded limestone rubble walls (Walls 505, 507, 508, 513, 516 and 629, Figs. 3 and 4) were constructed in the south of the site after a period of diminished activity, during which an extensive soil (644) accumulated sealing the Period II quarry pits. The wall foundations survived to a maximum of four courses and were similar in form and width (c 800mm), save for Wall 508, which was narrower at 550mm wide. The layout of the walls on perpendicular northwest to southeast and northeast to southwest alignments corresponded with a range of buildings first depicted on an 1853 Cowley Enclosure map, part of a more extensive complex of buildings that originally extended eastwards as far as old Hockmore Street. The less robust construction and position of Wall 508 suggested it had acted as an internal partition, whilst the remainder were external walls. A second possible internal structure was indicated by Postholes 609 and 567 sited between Walls 505 and 507. It is unclear when the range of buildings was erected, but this must post-date the compilation of the previously mentioned 1777 Christ Church College plan that shows the site as agricultural land. Quantities of 18th century building materials recovered from an extensive soil deposit (533/588) that accumulated against Walls 513, 516 and 508 and between Walls 516 and 508 suggested a late 18th century origin.

Period IV: Modern

Evidence for modern activity on the site was extensive and included a group of related mass-poured concrete foundations (Features 543, 544, 545 and 536-539) revealed in the south of the footprint. A similar though more widely spaced group of concrete foundations (Features 520, 549, 557 and 652-655) was also revealed in the centre and north. Other modern features included a series of service trenches (Features 534, 550, 556 and 656), a brick service inspection chamber (517), a trench for a disused high-voltage cable (657) and two large irregular modern pits (Features 547 and 658).

Two modern features of note were also recorded. The first, Pit 638 (Fig. 3), yielded a large assemblage of ceramics and glassware probably derived from Trinity College, Oxford. The objects ranged in date from the late 18th to early 20th century, at which time they were deposited. The second

BLEWBURY LOCAL HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUPS

Blewbury Big Dig - 4th Interim Report (SU 531859)
(village centre)

Lindsey Bedford and Dave Carless



Figure 4. Wall 508 and Pit 642 as excavated looking southwest. Scales 2m (vertical) and 1m.

feature, a regular, squared pit (569, Fig. 3), contained a small bowl-shaped hearth (593) of indeterminate function sealed with 20th century deposits.

Watching Brief

The monitoring exercise was undertaken during construction clearance and reduced level dig over the north and east of the site. This involved the removal of the brick and concrete foundations of the Cowley Community Centre buildings and of up to 700mm of topsoil and modern mixed deposits, exposing the underlying sandy silt substrate.

Features of archaeological interest were restricted to a short length of northeast to southwest orientated gully (667) and discontinuous exposures of a broad ditch orientated northwest to southeast (669 and 671). On the basis of their relative positions, size and alignment, these features probably reflected further parts of the Period II.2 late medieval gully (Gully 503/580/582) and Period II.1 medieval Ditch 586 identified in the strip and record area. If so, this confirms that the Period II.1 ditch extended across the entire site pretty much exactly as the boundary between strip fields and open land is delineated on the 1605 Corpus Christi map of the area.

Conclusion

The results of the project are not those envisaged by the preceding Desk-based Assessment and Evaluation stages, both of which indicated potential for some significant Roman activity on the site. The exercise has been useful, however, in that the absence of such activity has conclusively established the southern and western limits of the Cowley Roman pottery production industry. In contrast, evidence of medieval and post-medieval occupation in Cowley is limited and the site is an indicator that, despite the intensity of 20th century development, further evidence of comparable quality associated with medieval and later activity may be preserved elsewhere in the Barns Road area.

Introduction

Last year, in addition to further results from our test pit programme, we reported on a number of geophysical surveys in open areas within the village and on potential evidence of early Saxon settlement. In 2015 we excavated one of the geophysical anomalies (at the Rectory) revealing a lost farm track and the potential early Saxon site revealing a sunken featured building. These are reported below.

The Rectory

The geophysical survey completed in 2014 identified a linear feature with high resistance. Strong magnetic signals were seen on one side of it. It was thought that the feature might be a path or a collapsed wall and so the primary aim of this excavation was to determine which, if either, it was and extract any available dating evidence. A 4m x 0.75m trench was dug at 90 degrees to the feature.

The feature was clearly identified as a path made of small (c 20mm to 50mm) flints, lying approximately 150mm below the modern surface. It was 1.7m wide and appeared to be cambered. Either side of it and underneath the flint layer was a dark grey alluvial deposit which remained wet despite little recent rain. Local knowledge suggests that there is a ford across the adjacent stream in line with this path, leading to the Parsonage Farm. Above and around the path there was a mix of pottery sherds dating from medieval to modern. The path itself, which appeared to be undisturbed, contained a few medieval pottery sherds but nothing more recent, so the path is presumed to be medieval or later. There were few other finds of note with the exception of a medieval Chippenham Type 1 arrow head (Fig. 5) lying on top of the flinty surface.

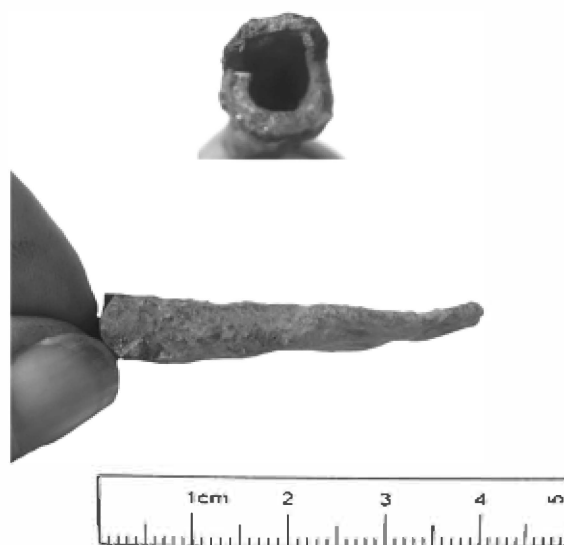


Figure 5. Medieval Chippenham Type 1 Arrowhead.

Oxfordshire

Two test pits were dug within the area where strong magnetic anomalies had earlier been identified. A great deal of 20th century domestic rubbish was found in these which would account for these anomalies.

The Early Saxon Site

In 2014 seven test pits were dug at the site and a rich assemblage of early Saxon material was recovered from some of them. Geophysical, metal detector and auger surveys were subsequently undertaken. The auger survey indicated an area of deeper soil above the natural chalk of a few metres length and width. We concluded that it was most likely that this represented the remains of a sunken featured building in which secondary or tertiary deposit of 6th century material has taken place. Consequently, in the summer of 2015 a full excavation of a 5m x 5m square was undertaken to ascertain the nature and date of the feature and recover any further material from it.

Down to a depth of 250mm a mix of modern and later medieval material was found but below this large quantities of Saxon material were excavated. This Saxon material was located within the deep soil area which measured approximately 3.5m x 3.0m. There were two post holes located roughly at the centre of the two short sides - see plan (Fig 6) and section (Fig 7) showing that this was indeed a classic two post sunken featured building.

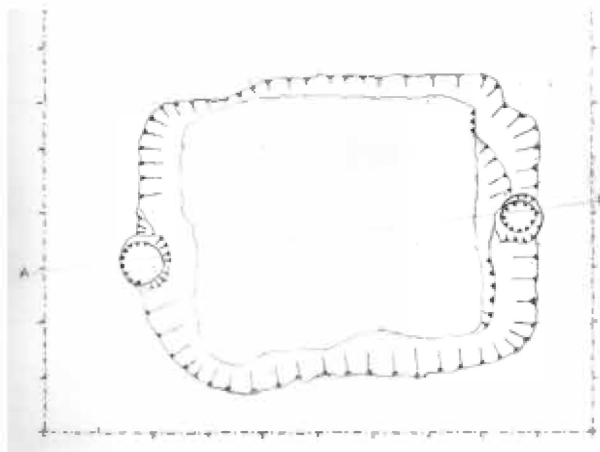


Figure 6. Plan of Saxon Sunken Featured Building.



Figure 7. Section of Saxon Sunken Featured Building.

Finds analysis is not yet complete but preliminary results can be reported here. 1428 sherds of pottery were recovered. Just 4% of the total assemblage was post-medieval to modern. Below a depth of 250mm it was almost entirely early Anglo-Saxon to Saxo-Norman. The majority of Saxon pot sherds were black, organic-tempered ware. Some of these pieces were quite large and some had been burnished. In addition to the organic-tempered material were 20 sherds of incised and stamped pottery with a number of different decorative styles suggesting these were the remains of



Figure 8. Anglo-Saxon Decorated Pottery Strap Handle.

several different decorated vessels. Some of the designs included flower motifs, small triangular patterns, circles, squares, double lines and zig-zag lines. This type of decoration on pots is frequently associated with cremation urns. A fine example of a flat strap handle (Fig 8) is most unusual and parallels have yet to be found. The fabric is sandy and the decoration is elaborate with diagonal scores cut into both edges with two sets of lengthways grooves running from end to end and two rows of sub-triangular impressions lined along the centre. The back is flat and

undecorated. A small number of earlier, Roman pieces were also recovered including some Oxfordshire Colour Coated ware. This material would appear to have been “curated” by the Saxons as it was found in and above secure early Saxon contexts. Roman pottery has only been found in one other location in the village of Blewbury. Roman pottery had also been used to create 3 gaming counters found in the Saxon contexts.

Four glass beads and one of amber were recovered, all of different size, form and colour. Metal finds included a tiny iron annular brooch (possibly medieval), a copper alloy tube which may be a metal bead and an iron pin (fragmented). In addition, an early Anglo-Saxon, undecorated, square-headed brooch (incomplete) was found in a small hole dug by the landowner approximately 10m away from the sunken feature building.

Approximately 4000 bone fragments, all thought to be animal, were recovered. In addition 25 burnt bone fragments were found which could potentially be from a human cremation. There were also some worked bone artefacts including a section of a double-sided hair comb and a few snapped off comb teeth. Other bone finds included weaving tools: a broken pin/needle tip, a double-ended pin beater, an intact needle with a triangular head with thread hole and a spindle whorl. The rest of the finds assemblage comprised other natural materials including several nodules of pyrites (which have also been found in other Saxon burial deposits and included for their reputed amuletic properties), several small lumps of a yellow coloured mineral (thought to be yellow ochre) and, right at the base of the western post hole, a single small rounded quartz pebble.

In free-draining chalk lands organic material including pollen does not survive well and hence the opportunities for environmental sampling are limited. However, calcareous material does survive well in the alkaline conditions and hence a mollusc survey was carried out at the edge of the trench. A total of 1577 microscopic shells representing 21 species were present. Species associated with open country (*Vertigo pygmaea*, *Pupilla muscorum*, *Vallonia costata* and *V. excentrica*) account for the majority of shells in every

sample, especially in the most superficial topsoil sample. Shade species are poorly represented, with only sporadic numbers in the topsoil and subsoil, and none in the underlying chalky sediments. The molluscs from this site show that the land surrounding the location of the sunken feature building has been open since sediment accumulation commenced, with little or no woodland or scrub in the close vicinity; the shade trees now present on the site are likely to be a very recent introduction. The superabundance of *Vallonia excentrica* suggests short grazed grassland throughout the period of sediment deposition.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to all our diggers, garden owners and supporters. The programme is jointly undertaken with the South Oxfordshire Archaeology Group and we are grateful for financial support from Blewbury Bulletin. Particular thanks to Tom Walker for the environmental work and Richard Miller for photography.

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Wantage, Elms Farm Grove (SU 41608 89720)

Jonathan Orellana

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology revealed a pit/posthole and a ditch, both of which were undated. A probable modern boundary ditch was also observed.

Eynsham, Abbey Street (SP 4322 0911)

Tom Weavill

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recorded two modern pits.

Shrivenham, Land East of Highworth Road (SU 2361 8943)

Christopher Leonard

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified ditches, pits and postholes associated with settlement activity focussed on a ridge of high ground. Finds from these features suggest that they relate to activity which began in the Middle Bronze Age and continued throughout the Iron Age period. Two Roman ditches were also recorded and probably represent further elements of field systems related to a known Roman settlement located further to the west on the same ridge.

East Hanney, Landmead Solar Farm (SU 4341 9414)

Luke Brannlund, Jay Wood, Jonathan Orellana

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology revealed a pit filled with topsoil, an undated ditch and several plough furrows.

Fulbrook, 2 Manor Farm Cottages (SP 2594 1332)

Greg Crees

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology exposed four possible pits and two postholes. A single find from one of the possible pits may be of medieval or later date. Other features were post-medieval to modern in date or remained undated.

Drayton, Land at Abingdon Rd (SU 447790 195000)

Ray Kennedy

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology included a trench targeted upon a suspected prehistoric barrow. This was visible as a low-lying earthwork during the evaluation but was shown to have post-dated the Roman period. Evidence for Bronze Age activity was present however in the form of an Early Bronze Age miniature bipartite collared urn found within a possible cremation grave. The relationship of this possible grave to the later mound is currently unknown. The evaluation also revealed ditches forming part of an extensive Late Iron Age to Roman field system.

Steventon, Land at Abingdon Road (SU 4735 9250)

Tom Weavill

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology revealed ditches forming part of prehistoric and Roman field systems, as well as a post-medieval/modern field boundary and plough furrows.

Harwell, Valley Park (SU 5011 9026)

Alistair Barber and Ray Kennedy

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified multi-period remains. Prehistoric activity was represented by Late Palaeolithic to Early Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age artefacts. Later remains included an Iron Age to Roman double-ditched enclosure with internal ring-ditches, pits and postholes. Evidence of intensive recutting and remodelling of the ditches was noted. A second Late Iron Age to Roman enclosure with internal features and outlying ditch-defined plot or field boundaries was also present. Saxon remains included a sunken-featured building and a ditch. Undated ditches and palaeochannels were recorded across the site and the former perhaps formed parts of Iron Age/Roman field systems. Medieval and/or post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation remains were also encountered across the site.

Stadhampton, Land east of Newington Road (SU 6027 9794)

Christopher Leonard

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology followed on from a previous geophysical survey and evaluation which had identified boundary ditches dating to the 1st century AD. The present evaluation recorded a large Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pit as well as the remains of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation and a single undated posthole.

Kingston Bagpuize, Land south of the A420/east of the A415 (SU 4101 9848)

Christopher Leonard

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recovered a small assemblage of flints from the topsoil and subsoil. Post-medieval ridge and furrow remains and 18th century field boundaries were also found. Two large quarry pits remained undated.

Faringdon, Coxwell Road Gas Main Replacement (SU 2822 9457)

David Kenyon

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology recorded an undated ditch.

Oxfordshire

Wallingford, Whitley Road (SU 5964 8894)

Ray Kennedy

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a possible palaeochannel.

Wendlebury, New Stone House Farm (SP 5589 1879)

Jeremy Mordue

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recorded an undated ditch.

Chinnor, Land at Mill Lane (SP 7505 0127)

Stuart Joyce

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology confirmed the results of a geophysical survey in demonstrating that the land once formed part of a medieval open field, with the selions (strips of land) on a north-east to south-west alignment. A post-medieval ditch that roughly corresponds with a ditch shown on 19th century maps was also found.

Banbury, Wykham Park Farm (SP 4542 3850)

James Coyne

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology revealed five shallow ditches. Two of these may have flanked a trackway. All were undated by finds but pre-date medieval plough furrows found across the site.

Lower Arncott, Land at Brook Farm (SP 5988 1760)

Peter James and James Coyne

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a Roman ditch system dating to the mid 1st to 2nd centuries AD. This probably represents the remains of a small farming settlement on the edge of the floodplain of the River Ray. A small assemblage of Roman pottery and animal bone was recovered, along with fragments of Roman roof tile. Other features comprised three undated ditches, probably field or track boundaries associated with the Roman settlement, and medieval/post-medieval furrows.

Chalgrove, Hampden Field Development

(SU 6475 9723)

Jake Streatfield-James

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology exposed the brick and mortar bases of three buildings thought to have been associated with Chalgrove airfield which was formerly occupied by photo-reconnaissance units of the United States Army Air Force.

Middleton Cheney, Land off Banbury Lane

(SP 4958 4243)

Stuart Joyce

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recorded plough furrows relating to the medieval open field system surrounding Middleton Cheney.

HENLEY-ON-THAMES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL GROUP VERNACULAR BUILDINGS RESEARCH

Henley-on-Thames, Medieval rear wing with scissor brace truss of 1471 at 25 Market Place

Ruth Gibson

Whilst much of Henley has the look of an 18th century brick built market town, there are numerous instances where the often bland facades conceal much earlier cores.

No 25 Market Place is located right in the centre of the medieval planned town, occupying a burgage plot of 429' length running down to the town ditch and the then boundary with Rotherfield Greys parish (see 1878 map). This timber framed building is so well hidden behind its red brick frontage that it was listed as circa 1800 for its *group value* only. The significance of its three sham windows (the two central ones and left attic window) above the modern shop front was overlooked.

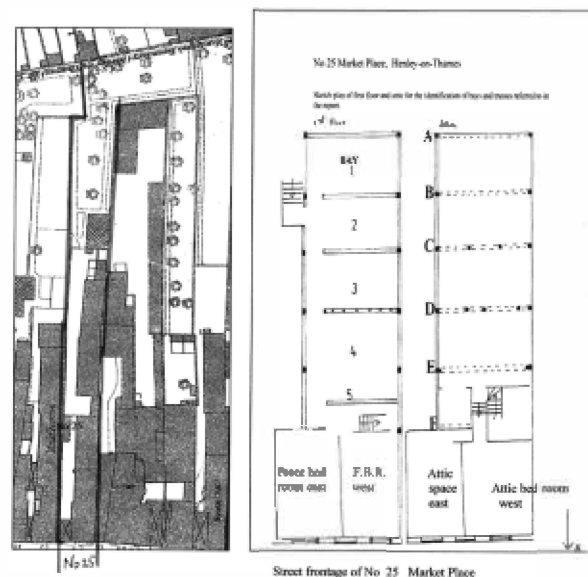


Figure 9. 1878 O.S. map of Henley showing long burgage plot running to the parish boundary with Rotherfield Greys
1st floor and attic plans of No. 25/25a Market Place
showing location of Truss E



Figure 10. 25 Market Place. North facing c 1800 brick front with three sham windows to create symmetry and hide timber framed structure.

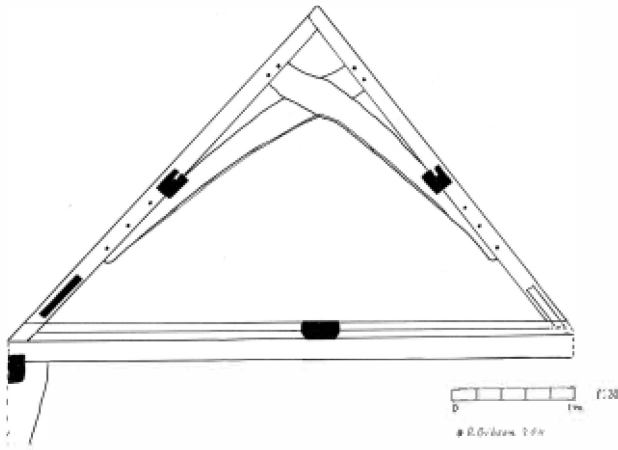


Figure 11. 25a Market Place, 1471 scissor brace Truss E on plan, facing south.



Figure 12. Bay IV, Scissor Brace Truss E, 003.

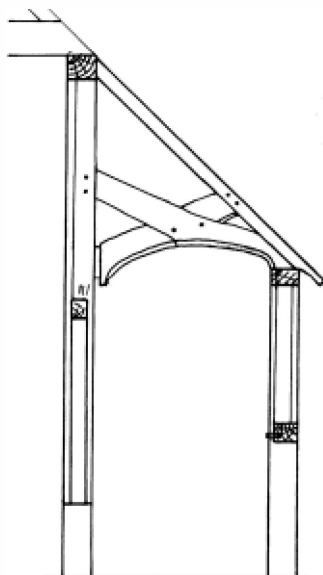


Figure 13. Abingdon Abbey Long Gallery. Scissor brace in corridor of first floor accommodation range. Dendro date 1455.

These window recesses and the red brick facade conceal earlier timber framed walls and part of the original, steeply pitched roof structure. The central arch braced truss survives in the tiny loft space, but the tie beam, if there was one, is hidden. Therefore it is not possible to say whether it was an open truss hall originally. (The front part of the house has not been dendro dated). Whilst the rear roof retains its steep, tiled pitch, the front wall was raised to allow the construction of a shallow pitch slate roof, all part of achieving a fashionable, symmetrical street frontage in this important town centre location.

Behind the two-bay timber framed front range runs a five-bay rear wing, which has

escaped the modernization of c.1800 of the frontage. The wing remains very much as built in 1471 (dendro dated by Dr. Dan Miles, 2015). It retains one rare scissor brace truss in its attic - in fact the only one known in Henley. Here it was probably displayed in the upper chamber of a wealthy merchant's house. Similar scissor braces dating from 1455, were used for roof trusses of the aisle corridor of Abingdon Abbey's Long Gallery.

Historic Background: In 1585 the building was left to Henley Town Corporation by wealthy yeoman William Barneby for the upkeep of the bridge and the supply of bread and smocks for the poorest women in the almshouse. It is still owned by the town, administered by the Municipal Charities. It was the Rose and Crown hostelry and is documented as such until 1785. In 1896 it became Facy's ladies fashion outlet - a use still continued by the same family in the adjoining Nos. 27 - 31 Market Place.

Summing up: This is a further example of the thriving 15th century economy of the town as our research over several decades has identified quite a number of buildings of that period. The mid 15th century is especially well represented in the vernacular architecture of quality buildings. This was a time when the wool and corn trades were doing well utilizing the Thames as their essential transport artery (R.B.Peberdy: *Navigation on the river Thames, Oxoniensia* 61) and merchants had the means to put up quality buildings.

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

Compiled by Kimberley Dowding

Abingdon, 16-18 Bath Street (SU4963097155)

Pierre Manisse, Tom Rose-Jones

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the excavation of footings trenches and a soakaway prior to the construction of four one-bed flats. A series of medieval and post medieval cultivation soil layers dating from the 11th to 17th centuries were recorded. These deposits were capped by a sequence of post-medieval levelling deposits, which in turn were truncated by several walls of undetermined function, dating to the 18th or 19th century.

Abingdon, 14 Ock Street (SU 49555 97040)

Andrej Èelovský

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the excavation of footing trenches for an extension to the rear of the property. The lowest deposits encountered contained early post-medieval ceramic building material and possibly represent the top fills of a pit. These deposits were overlain by a series of soil layers. The majority of finds recovered from those layers were fragments of 18th-19thcenturies ceramic building material and clay tobacco pipes. Three sherds of red and white Earthenware and one residual fragment of Roman roof tile were recovered as well.

Abingdon, Mayott House, Ock Street (SU 4922 9692)

Andrej Èelovský, Tom Rose-Jones

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at Mayott House during the course of groundworks. The site had previously been the subject of an archaeological evaluation by JMHS in 2013. The medieval period was represented by four pits and one posthole dated from the late 11th to late 12th century.

Oxfordshire

14th centuries. Material recovered from the features indicated predominantly domestic activities, although some indication of industrial activity was also present. The earlier post-medieval period was represented by a cesspit dated to the 17th century. These deposits were capped by later post-medieval/early modern layers of garden soil. One ditch related with the boundary clearly visible on the historic map dated from 1874 to 1960 and the remains of a stone foundation related to a long building shown on historic maps from 1874 to 1899 were also recorded.

Appleford, 15 Chambrai Close (SU 52508 93500)

Paul Murray

An archaeological watching brief was conducted as part of the erection of a two-storey extension to the existing building. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

Ardley, Millen Cottage, Church Road (SP 5420 2737)

Tom Rose-Jones

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the groundworks for a small extension and the reduction in ground level to accommodate a concrete slab for a garage. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

Aston, 3 High Street (SP 3392 0302)

Mark Woodley

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the initial construction phase of development. The foundations of a c 17th century wall and three early period medieval ditches were observed.

Banbury, 26 Horse Fair (SP453404)

Tom Rose-Jones

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during ground reduction and footings trench excavation for an extension to the rear of 26 Horse Fair. A series of features were recorded relating to a period of domestic activity starting in the 13th century, possibly associated with the creation and expansion of the planned town in the late 12th to mid-13th century. These features included a stone-built well; stone-built hearth and a compact earth surface. These features were overlain by a garden soil that had accumulated between the 14th and 17th centuries.

Benson, Land to the rear of Blacklands Road

(SU 6222 9208)

Tom Rose-Jones

An archaeological evaluation consisting of nine trenches, between 20m and 5m in length, was carried out prior to the erection of nine dwellings. Four gully/ditches, possibly part of a field system or enclosure were identified. Worked flint from one of these features may indicate a possible prehistoric date. A pit backfilled with re-deposited natural and occasional fragments of animal bone was also recorded.

Bicester, The Former Centurion PH, Leach Road

(SP 5747 2267)

Steve Leech

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the excavation of a service trench for drainage around the

footprint of a new development. No archaeological features were identified in the trench.

Bloxham, Land off Tadmarton Road (SP 4222 3575)

Andrej Ěelovský with contributions from Simona Denis and Jane Timby

An archaeological evaluation was conducted prior to the construction of 60 dwellings and associated features. The fieldwork comprised a scheme for the mechanical and limited hand excavation of 14 trial trenches across the site in total length of 430m. At the northern edge of the site three features were investigated; a small pit dated to the late Iron Age, a posthole and a ditch. These features represent activity which may have predated the Roman burial ground, which was identified during an archaeological rescue excavation in 1929-1935 during the quarrying of the area for ironstone. Further activities within the site were represented by post-medieval furrows investigated at the southern edge of the site and 19th century land drains encountered within Trenches 1, 7, 10 and 11. While the south part of the site has continually been used as arable land up to the present day, the north part was used as a quarry during the early 20th century, and subsequently after the closing down of the quarry, as a pasture. However, the evidence obtained from Trench 3 located at the southern edge of the disused quarry suggests that this area was used as dump in the mid 20th century.

Checkendon, The Church of St Peter & St Paul

(SU 90507290)

Gwilym Williams & Wayne Perkins

A watching brief was conducted during the excavation of a storm water drainage trench, due to records indicating the presence of burials within the trench. Two human burial deposits were observed in the trench during the groundworks. Both contained evidence for having been buried in coffins.

Chinnor, The Rectory, High Street (SP75700098)

Gavin Davis

An excavation was conducted in the garden of The Rectory. The limits of the excavation were defined by the footprints of a new dwelling and related garage. The earliest phase of activity, dated to the 12th century, comprised two walls and deposits of stone within a partially sunken floor that were part of a medieval building or walled area. Another two possible wall foundations were identified but the nature and extent of these were not fully revealed due to their location that was mostly beyond the limit of the excavation. A pit of 15th to 16th century date that had been partially excavated during a previous evaluation was also further investigated during the excavation. Later phases of destruction and robbing were identified in the walled area and these were probably related to a linear ditch containing a fill with medieval deposits. The area of destruction was later levelled with a series of deposits containing medieval pottery. This was followed by the construction of two new wall foundations, cuts that were dug into these levelling layers. The two new walls abutted the one remaining earlier wall which must have been still upstanding at the time of their construction.

The medieval features were capped by a series of levelling deposits, some of which contained an abundance of brick and

tile considered to be post-medieval or later in date. The purpose of these deposits was to build up the area within a walled garden to the horizontal against the downward natural slope of the hill. Some of these deposits had been landscaped into a raised path that can be located on an 1881 map of the area.

Following the raising of the ground level across the site a modern pit was dug through the lower garden soil layers. The pit contained post-medieval bricks laid towards the base of the fill, a piece of post-medieval pottery and a fragment of modern glass.

Chinnor, Lowfields, Manor Farm Barns, Henton

(SP 7632 0266)

Steve Leech

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the excavation of two foundation trenches for an extension to an existing building. Trench 1 contained the remains of part of a moat, which was backfilled with post-medieval debris and Trench 2 was devoid of any archaeology.

Cholsey, Land west of Reading Road

(SU 6025 8793)

Andrej Ěelovský

An archaeological evaluation was carried out prior to the erection of a solar photovoltaic facility at land west of Reading Road, Cholsey. The evaluation consisted of five machine-dug trenches, 1.8m wide and between 8.6m and 30m long. The only feature recorded was a linear ditch which contained no finds.

Churchill, 1 Sidings Road (SP 2800 2439)

Gavin Davis

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the excavation of foundations for a new dwelling. No archaeological finds or features were identified.

Cowley, Former W.H. Smith Ltd, Unit 24, Peterley Road (SP 55660 04740)

Tom Rose-Jones

An archaeological evaluation consisting of three trenches each measuring 15m by 2m was conducted prior to the construction of a new building. Only Trench 3 contained any archaeological features, which consisted of a shallow pit of unknown date.

Crowmarsh Gifford, Clack's Farm, Clack's Lane

(SU 63797 89820)

Steve Leech

An archaeological evaluation was carried out prior to the determination of a planning application to erect a steel portable framed building and relocation of existing silos. The work consisted of two trenches with the only noted feature being a prehistoric pit cut into a treehole and containing two pieces of burnt flint.

Crowmarsh Gifford, Land south of The Street

(SU 6116 8940)

Andrej Ěelovský

An archaeological field evaluation was carried out as part of a planning application for the construction of a new access

road and associated floodplain compensation area. Four machine-dug trenches were dug to the north and south of The Street, in order to determine if there were any features related to the defensive bridgehead of Wallingford Bridge or the Siege Castle within the proposed site. Trench One contained a series of levelling deposits containing rubble formed of 19th and 20th century building material. Based on historical maps the levelling appears to have taken place in the 1960s, as pre-1968 Ordnance Survey maps show a river channel, assumed to be the remains of a Saxon and Medieval defensive bridgehead. Trenches 2, 3 and 4 did not contain any archaeological features.

Didcot, Manor Cottage, 33 Manor Road

(SU 51983 90302)

Steve Leech

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the replacement of a garage with a detached dwelling and access. No archaeological features were noted during the work.

Dorchester-on-Thames, 8 Malthouse Lane

(SU 5771 9425)

Andrej Ěelovský with contributions from Paul Blinkhorn, Simona Denis and Jane Timby

An archaeological evaluation consisting of two trenches was conducted as part of the determination process for planning permission for an extension to the existing building. Trench 1 contained an occupation layer and remains of a wall foundation dating to the 4th century AD. The upper deposit within the trench was a homogenous layer representing modern disturbance and possible post-Roman town use. Trench two contained three layers and one pit. The two lower layers were related with 4th century Roman occupation and the upper layer was identical with the upper layer in the Trench 1. The cut feature partially exposed within the trench, represents a mid 20th century rubbish pit or soakaway. The finds recovered during the evaluation shows intensive Roman occupation of the site up to late 4th century, some limited activities during the Saxon and medieval period and increasing of activities from the late post-medieval up to the present day.

Dorchester-on-Thames, 60 Watling Lane

(SU 5768 9394)

Stephen Leech

An archaeological evaluation was carried out as a condition of granting planning permission for the replacement of two dwellings. The evaluation consisted of one 10m long trench across the development site. The trench contained part of a large post-medieval quarry pit.

Dorchester-on-Thames, 3 High Street

(SU 57853 94140)

Andrej Ěelovský

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the groundworks for an extension on an existing dwelling. The only feature recorded was a sub-circular pit, which produced Roman and late medieval pottery. The remainder of the finds indicate that there was activity within the site during the 18th to 20th century.

Oxfordshire

Drayton, Land East of Drayton (SU 4851 9448)

Andrej Ěelovský

An archaeological evaluation was carried out consisting of five machine dug trenches, each approximately 30m long. The aims of the investigation were to establish if features relating to the prehistoric landscape and Anglo-Saxon settlement or activity were present on this site. Two residual struck flints were discovered in Trench 2, in addition to the stratigraphically earliest features. These features consisted of a linear ditch and associated posthole which pre-dated the 18th/19th century drainage ditch; however, the period from which the features date is unclear. Five furrows from medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrows were identified within Trenches 2, 3 and 5 and were in use until at least the 18th century. The next phase of activity identified on the site dates to the 18th/19th century based on a drainage ditch located within Trenches 2 and 5. There were also two rubble land drains discovered in Trenches 1 and 2, which are likely to be of late 19th century date. Within Trench 4 there was an undated ditch and pit, which is unlikely to be related to the early medieval period.

Easington, Easington Farm (SU 66165 97125)

Paul Murray

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the ground works for agricultural buildings and associated services trenches. A layer containing a moderate quantity of 18th-19th century roof tiles was recorded close to The Old Rectory, and almost certainly associated with its construction or repairs to its roof. No other significant archaeological remains or deposits were recorded during the course of the watching brief.

Easington, The Old Rectory (SU 6618 9708)

Mark Woodley with contributions by Paul Blinkhorn, Gavin Davis and Dr Stephen Yeates MA, D.Phil, MCIfA

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in accordance with granted planning permission for the demolition of a building and the erection of a new building. The evaluation consisted of two 15m long trenches that were machine excavated to the natural geology. The identified features within Trench 1 included a masonry footing, which could relate to the late medieval rectory. Also a possible modern garden pathway was recorded to the west of the masonry footing and consisted of coarse aggregate and loose limestone blocks. Additionally a large pit or well was also identified and dated as possibly late medieval, beneath the layer containing the possible pathway and masonry footing. Within Trench 2, a small modern east-west garden path was identified consisting of large flat limestone blocks with no mortar and a modern pit, which was excavated by machine.

East Hanney, Half Acre, Main Street (SU 4145 9257)

Gavin Davies

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the removal of a concrete platform and footing for a demolished building. No features were identified and the only material recovered was a small amount of pig and sheep bone from just below the topsoil imbedded into the top of the subsoil.

Eynsham, 4 Oxford Road (SP 4350 0920)

Paul Murray

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of a planning application for the construction of two dwellings. The evaluation comprised three trenches, totalling 32m, placed within the footprint of the proposed dwellings. Within Trench 1 a ditch with a depth of 2.2m was identified, possibly representing the northern boundary to the medieval Eynsham Abbey grounds. Trench 2 contained Mesolithic worked flints and a ditch, shallow parallel features and a gully of possible Roman date. Within Trench 3 a gully and several tree holes were recorded. Deposits in Trenches 2 and 3 appear to have been imported soils to raise the ground level and landscaping to form the current garden.

Eynsham, Litchfield Farm (SP 4274 0910)

Andrej Ěelovský

An archaeological evaluation was carried out as part of a planning application relating to the construction of a residential care centre. Two machine-dug trenches, each 30m in length, were excavated across the site. The only feature of note was an undated linear ditch, recorded in Trench 2. On the basis of stratigraphical evidence a possible prehistoric or Roman date was assigned. Additional features investigated in both trenches were identified as natural features.

Goring-on-Thames, 44 Gatehampton Road

(SU 60463 80272)

Tom Rose-Jones

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the demolition of the existing building and footings and the excavation of new footings. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the course of the watching brief.

Goring-on-Thames, Gatehampton Barn, Gatehampton Road (SU 60850 79830)

Paul Murray

An archaeological watching brief was carried out after the excavation for the construction of a basement and garage. The work consisted of exposing, selective cleaning and recording of sections. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the course of the watching brief.

Great Tew, The Walled Garden at Great Tew Estate (SP 3970 2906)

David Gilbert and John Moore

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during several phases of groundworks regarding alterations to the late 17th - early 18th century walled garden that was split into three sections; however, not all work was monitored. The work included recording the garden walls, especially areas of damage or alterations. A significant feature noted during the watching brief was the remains of a glasshouse within the north western corner of the northern garden. Also noted within the northern garden were the remains of a wall, an area of burning and two deep planting beds.

A series of features were noted within the southern garden and included a gully and pits, which appear to be of medieval date. While in the middle garden the only features noted were

two large planting beds, eight planting pits and a possible raised planting bed in the southeast corner.

There were also several features noted outside of the walled garden area, within the vicinity of a shed. These features predated the shed and consisted of a pit and a stone drain. To the north of the walled garden area, the remains of a brick paved surface, which was overlaid by a small mound that was removed without supervision.

Great Tew, The New Drive at Great Tew Estate
(SP 3970 2906)

David Gilbert

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the groundworks for a new drive. The work revealed remnants of ridge and furrow agriculture predating the late 16th century seen across a large part of the area monitored.

Harwell, Land off Orchard Way (SU 4880 8915)

Andrej Čelovský with contributions by Jane Timby

An archaeological evaluation consisting of two machine-dug trenches each 30m long was conducted as part of a planning application to develop an area for residential use. Within both trenches a major boundary/drainage ditch was recorded containing Roman pottery. Trench 1 also contained a small pit of Roman date, in addition to several undated features (rectilinear ditch, gully and a second ditch) within both trenches. Trench 2 contained two possible furrows that appear to relate to the ridge and furrow field system within the area.

Kingston Lisle, Land between Oakfield and Downside
(SU 3279 8818)

Andrej Čelovský

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the ground works for the foundation trenches for four new dwellings. All features encountered during the fieldwork were late 19th and 20th century in date. The earliest features were two land drains built of short-length ceramic pipes related to agricultural use of the area presumably up to the 1920s. The following activities on the site were represented by a rubble yard surface, footpath, and a water supply system that were related probably to the post Second World War Polish resettlement camp shown on 1959 and 1960 OS maps. The last stage was represented by remains of a 1970s barn dismantled prior the new development and driveway.

Little Milton, 5 Milton Manor Drive
(SP 61896 00778)

Pierre-Damien Manisse

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the groundworks for a two storey extension. Only modern foundation trenches, a potential large modern pit, another undated pit and a possible natural feature were found. The site shows a very low archaeological potential, although it is set in the vicinity of prehistoric remains.

Long Wittenham, Hamilton Barn, Road between Little Wittenham Road and Northfield Farm

(SU 5501 9411)

Tom Rose-Jones

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the groundworks of footings for an extension to Hamilton Barn. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

Long Wittenham, Northfield Farm (SU 55849512)

Tom Rose-Jones

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the excavation of footings trenches and ground level reduction for a recreational/pool building. One shallow ovoid pit and one linear ditch were present within the area of the footings trenches; although no dating evidence was recovered these features are thought to be contemporary with the surrounding prehistoric and Roman enclosures.

Long Wittenham, Pear Tree Cottage, High Street (SU 54507 93727)

Steve Leech

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the groundworks for an extension to the front and rear of an existing building. No archaeological features were present in any of the trenches.

Milcombe, Parish Church of St. Laurence
(SP 41048 34592)

Gavin Davis

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the excavation of drainage trenches and a soakaway in the churchyard of the Parish Church of St. Laurence. The only items recorded were two pieces of corroded iron and a piece of late post-medieval pottery from the topsoil.

Milton, 48 High Street (SU 48582 92319)

Andrej Čelovský

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the excavation of a foundation trench for an extension to the existing dwelling. During the work one undated feature and 20th century rubble soakaway was present within the foundation trench, in addition to an undated linear feature.

Milton Common, Land East of No 1 Lobb Hill
(SP 65985 03120)

Stephen Leech

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in order to assess the archaeological potential of the site prior to development. The evaluation consisted of two trenches; Trench 1 was 20m in length and contained one linear ditch from which a single sherd of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery was recovered. Trench 2, which was 5m in length, was devoid of any archaeological features or deposits.

Northmoor, Church Farmhouse (SP 4211 0260)

Tom Rose-Jones

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the excavation of 10 post pads and a soakaway. No archaeological features or deposits were present.

Oxfordshire

Oddington, Goms Yard (SP 55179 14856)

Kimberley Dowding and Dr Stephen Yeates MA, D.Phil, MCIfA

A Heritage Impact Assessment was carried out regarding a development at Goms Yard, Oddington. The investigation revealed that there was limited archaeological evidence of activity within the area prior to the medieval period. Following this the activity seems to have been based around the increase in the number of dwellings within the village, with the majority of the records from this period regarding listed buildings. During the investigation, a house of early 18th century date was identified within the village but was not within the records.

Oddington, Logg Farm (SP 55052 14465)

Dr Stephen Yeates MA, D.Phil, MCIfA

A survey was carried out at the Grade II listed building prior to proposed alterations on the building. The work consisted of an examination and recording of the building features, some of which were revealed during construction work which did not have listed building consent. The building was initially constructed during the 17th century and has undergone several later alterations, one of which is an underground hypocaust (air) or culvert (liquid) structure constructed in the floor of the dairy that was added in the 18th century.

Oxford, Land to rear of 17 Between Towns Road

(SP 544 041)

Andrej Ěelovský

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of a proposed planning application for the erection of a block of flats. A mechanically excavated trench 15m in length was opened across the site. A modern animal burial along with subsoil containing modern material was found. Two residual sherds of Oxford colour-coated Ware pottery of 1st-3rd century AD date were found in the backfill of the animal burial. These sherds were assumed to relate to the Roman pottery manufactory of the 2nd to 3rd century AD located within the vicinity of St Luke's Road.

Oxford, Land to rear of 115 Banbury Road and Staverton Road (SP 50870 08220)

Steve Leech

An archaeological evaluation was carried out as part of the consideration process for a planning application for student accommodation development. The evaluation consisted of four trenches, three of which were devoid of any archaeological features. The fourth trench contained two possible pits and an east to west linear ditch, all of which are undated.

Oxford, Former Cooper Callas Site, 15 Paradise Street (SP 5089 0612)

Andrej Ěelovský and Dr. Stephen Yeates MA, D.Phil, MCIfA with contributions from Paul Blinkhorn and John Moore

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in order to establish the character and extent of any medieval or post-medieval activity, in particular anything relating to the Castle Mill. Three trenches were excavated across the site, measuring 13m in length. None of the trenches were

bottomed due to Health and Safety reasons. Trench 1 was located outside of the existing building and contained an occupation layer of 13th to 14th century date. Also recorded within Trench 1 were the remains of a late medieval or post-medieval wall and the entire trench was sealed by three layers of 20th century made up ground.

Within Trench 2 the remains of three wall foundations and related deposits were recorded. At least three stages of building activity were identified and dated from the 13th century to the mid 19th century. Overlying the wall foundations was a concrete floor of late 19th century to early 20th century date, which was overlaid by five successive levelling layers and the concrete floor of the existing warehouse.

Trench 3 was located within the south area of the existing building and contained a foundation of a curved wall, which was interpreted as being an internal wall within the brewery and dating from the 19th century. A possible pit was also identified and contained a large assemblage of clay tobacco pipes, which was stratigraphically later than the foundation. Additional features within Trench 3 consisted of two occupation deposits to the north end of the trench and an occupation layer to the south of the foundation. Both the foundation and the occupation layer were covered by a firm surface, possibly indicating internal changes within the brewery.

Oxford, Kellogg College, 62-64 Banbury Road

(SP 51170 07511)

Paul Murray

An archaeological watching brief and an archaeological evaluation were carried out in advance of a proposed planning application for the erection of a "Hub" building at land to the rear of Kellogg College.

The watching brief involved the monitoring of four small, shallow hand-excavated test pits. The evaluation comprised a single trench, measuring 7.6m in length, and targeted a test pit excavated in 2005. Human remains and Bronze Age pottery were recovered from this test pit during an excavation in 2005; the edge of a feature identified in section was interpreted as a grave, although unconfirmed. The evaluation successfully located the Test Pit, although it did not identify the feature interpreted as a grave. In addition a probable geological feature was investigated and a layer representing a garden soil dated to the late 19th -early 20th century was identified.

The evaluation identified a single undated feature containing the fragmented remains of a small mammal. Two narrow, shallow features possibly representing plough scars were recorded

Oxford, 30 Plantation Road (SP 5074 0735)

Tom Rose-Jones

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during footings and soakaway trench excavation. A linear ditch of possible Iron Age date was recorded within the footings trench presumably associated with the extensive prehistoric landscape of the Summertown/Radley 2nd terrace; two post-medieval features relating to occupation at the property were also recorded.

Oxford, 96 Walton Street (SP 506 072)

Steve Leech

An archaeological evaluation was carried out within the cellar, prior to the application to extend the cellar within the house. The trench contained one late post-medieval pit cut into the natural sand and was overlain by two layers of made ground and the stone and brick floor of the cellar. A brick relieving arch was noted as forming part of the front wall of the cellar that was created to span the in-filled pit and stop subsidence of the foundations.

Oxford, 9 Fyfield Road (SP 51465 07735)

Dr Stephen Yeates MA, D.Phil, MCIfA and Mark Woodley

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the ground works for a single storey rear extension. The site was on the North Oxford sand terraces and parts of a palaeochannel, a ditch and a pit were located.

Oxford, Worcester College (SP 5075 0667)

D.S. Young

A geoarchaeological investigation was carried out in connection to a proposed development of land at Worcester College in place of an archaeological evaluation, due to the location of the water table. The investigation consisted of five geoarchaeological boreholes within the site boundary. The resulted stated that the site lies within an interface between a floodplain to the west and Higher Gravel terrace to the east, meaning that it represents an attractive location for prehistoric human activities.

Oxford, Kirkley House, 10a Mayfield Road

(SP 509 090)

Paul Murray

An archaeological evaluation was carried out as part of granted planning permission for the replacement of a building with three dwellings and associated facilities. No significant archaeological features or deposits were identified. A fire waste pit and a planting hole of late 19th to early 20th century were recorded.

Oxford, 16 Crick Road (SP 5127 0769)

Alessandro Guaggenti and Tom Rose-Jones

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the groundworks for an extension to an existing dwelling and construction of a basement. No significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the watching brief.

Oxford, 7 Norham Gardens (SP 51283 07389)

Dr Stephen Yeates MA, D.Phil, MCIfA

An archaeological watching brief and building assessment was carried out prior to and during the demolition of the conservatory. The building assessment noted that the building was of multi-phased construction, with the initial phases dated to 1862 and the first two phases being the most significant in regard to the layout of the building. The watching brief identified two possible wells and a wall, all of which are likely to date from Phase 2 between 1862 and 1876.

Ramsden, Woodland View, Akeman Street

(SP 3538 1510)

Tom Rose-Jones

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on land adjacent to Akeman Street (a Roman road) during a topsoil strip and excavation of footings trenches. Despite the area's potential, no archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

Shilton, Westerfield (SP 27110 09720)

Paul Murray and Dr Stephen Yeates MA, D.Phil, MCIfA

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the ground-works for a new solar farm, including the topsoil stripping, the excavation of the cable trenches, a temporary compound and haul road. The watching brief also comprised a small scale excavation, which consisted of two hand-excavated test pits, four machine-excavated trenches and the detailed investigation of structural remains in selected areas due to the significant archaeological evidence identified. The archaeology consisted of features, structures, deposits and artefacts dating to the Late Iron Age and mid-Romano-British periods. Much of the remains were sealed beneath a layer of subsoil.

A number of residual early prehistoric flint artefacts were recovered providing evidence for flint tool production in the general area.

The features identified dating to the late Iron Age/early Roman periods include three sinuous ditches representing enclosures and a small area of burning within a small rectangular structure.

In the early 2nd century the site was developed with the construction of a rectangular building with stone foundations. No evidence of activity is evident after the 2nd century.

A systematic metal detection survey of the site was carried out which recovered artefacts. Notable finds include ear spoon, tweezers, stylus, brooches (including two diminutive brooches), copper pins, a votive miniature shield and a stone pestle. The iron objects including a bill hook, drill bit and spike, as well as numerous iron nails and fixings.

Steventon, Land off Barnett Road (SU 4659 9228)

Mark Woodley

A small archaeological excavation was carried out within an area of 21m by 7m at the site, prior to the development of a residential area. During the excavation a series of ditches, postholes and laid stone masonry forming part of a stone-constructed culvert, to part of a longer land drainage feature were recorded. None of the features identified were dated.

Sutton, Land at Beaumont House (SP 41515 06589)

Kimberley Dowding

A Heritage Impact Assessment was carried out in order to determine the level of impact new semi-detached dwellings would have on Tudor Cottage, Sutton and the conservation area of Stanton Harcourt and Sutton. Tudor Cottage was established as being a 17th century timber framed building with colour washed limestone infilling, which had recently been restored following a fire.

Oxfordshire

Thame, Childrens Residential Pathway, Chinnor Road (SU 4855 9572)

Gavin Davis

An archaeological evaluation was carried out as part of a planning application for a new residential building. There were no features recorded during the work; however, several finds were recovered from the subsoil. The finds consisted of two fragments of post-medieval pottery, five fragments of tile, one fragment of peg tile, two undiagnostic brick fragments and two fragments of land drain.

Thame, Site F, Oxford Road (SU 4855 9572)

Paul Murray

An archaeological evaluation was carried out prior to the construction of a housing estate on land north of Oxford Road. The work consisted of 46 evaluation trenches representing a 2% sample of the development area. A series of features and finds were identified and dated from the Mesolithic period to the Post-medieval period, based around an area of natural springs.

The evidence for activity during the Mesolithic to Late Neolithic period consisted of flints, which indicated that the area was used primarily during the hunting season. The earliest features date to the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age period and are located within the southern part of the site. The features consisted of enclosure and boundary ditches, house gullies, grain storage pits and a crouched human burial.

The activity within the site then shifts to the west and southwest of the site during the Later Iron Age and Roman period. A substantial ditch was recorded from this period and identified as a large circular enclosure dominating a plateau at the highest point of the site.

Uffington, Land West of Fawler Road

(SU 30799 89110)

Stephen Leech

An archaeological field evaluation was carried out as part of a planning application for the erection of up to forty-two dwellings within the proposal site. A total of 13 trenches were mechanically excavated measuring 30m long by 1.6m wide. The proposal site had ridge and furrow within the south southern area and land division earthworks to the north. The evaluation confirmed the existence of the ridge and furrow and evidence of land use from the medieval period onwards. Within Trench 6 a possible Iron Age ditch was identified.

Wantage, 20 and 21 Church Street (SU 3969 8785)

Gavin Davis and Mark Woodley

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during demolition and groundwork. The excavations at number 21 Church Street recorded a human femur and recovered a number of animal bones from a buried soil layer below the floor of the house. The excavations also uncovered a concrete-capped well inside the house and another capped well towards the rear. During the excavation of foundation trenches for a new build following the demolition of 20 Church Street, to ditches, a well, and a fragment of brick floor were discovered. The northerly ditch contained pottery from no earlier than the 17th century. A ditch running parallel to this ditch towards the south of the area contained no dateable finds but did contain a disarticulated human bone,

which may have been disturbed during the construction of the ditch.

Wantage, 39 Barwell (SU 3972 8833)

Andrej Ěelovský with contributions from Simona Denis and Jane Timby

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the mechanical and limited hand excavation of foundation trenches for an extension to an existing dwelling. The features recorded consist of three pits and two ditches which were dated to the Roman period and modern service features associated with the existing dwelling.

Wantage, Land at Post Office Lane (SP 39935 87840)

Gavin Davies

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the groundworks for the erection of four dwellings and associated features. The features identified consisted of a linear ditch dated to the 19th or 20th century, four possible linear features, one of which dated to the late post-medieval period and a large modern service trench.

Wantage, Point to Point Course, Lockinge Estate, Ardington (SU 41692 85717)

Tom Rose-Jones

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the topsoil stripping and reduction of ground level prior to the construction of a small reservoir. No archaeological features or deposits were present.

West Hanney, Priors Court, Church Street

(SU 4043 9273)

Gavin Davis

An archaeological evaluation was carried prior to the groundworks for the erection of six new dwellings. The only archaeological feature identified was a shallow furrow identified in the section.

Weston on the Green, Land at Rowles Farm

(SP 5345 1653)

Gavin Davis with contributions by Jane Timby, Dr Stephen Yeates MA, D.Phil, MCIfA and Simona Denis

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the excavation of cable trenches for the construction of a solar farm on land at Rowles Farm. An amount of excavation had already taken place prior to the archaeologists being asked to attend the site. During the observed excavations 18 linear ditch features, 3 features found in section which may have been pits or linear ditch terminuses and 2 possible pits were recorded. The majority of the dateable features were dated to the Early to Mid Iron Age, with only 1 ditch associated with Roman finds and pottery dated from the 2nd century onwards. A single sherd of unstratified Bronze Age pottery was recovered from the west field.

Witney, Land to the rear of 45 High Street

(SP 3563 0996)

Tom Rose-Jones

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during groundworks. A series of garden soil layers and walls were

recorded, associated with the medieval and post-medieval occupation of the immediate area.

Witney, Cogges Manor Farm (SP 36128 09477)

Mark Woodley

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the excavations of 16 postholes for the construction of an adventure playground within the site of the scheduled ancient monument. One posthole contained masonry remains of a possible medieval wall.

Yarton, Land Parcel 9827, The Flit (SP 4894 1216)

Steeve Leech

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the construction of a solar farm at The Flit. No archaeological features were observed in any of the trenches.

KEEVILL HERITAGE LTD

Longcot, Stone Farmhouse (SU 2692 9030)

Graham Keevill

Keevill Heritage Ltd carried out an archaeological watching brief and building record during the refurbishment of Stone Farmhouse, Longcot during 2015. This is a Grade II listed building. The work was commissioned by the project architect, Andrew Gantlett. A few substantial alterations as well as more minor ones were monitored and recorded during the progress of the works. In doing so several areas of previously hidden historic panelling were exposed and, for the most part, retained and exposed within the refurbished house. Evidence to suggest that a window that was converted into a door as part of the 2015 works had in fact been a doorway originally was also noted. The overall phasing of the house's historic development was also assessed, and a suggested phase plan is included in the project report.

Oxford, 98 St Aldates (SP 5136 0604)

Graham Keevill

An archaeological building record was made of a first-floor stud partition at the Grade II listed 98 St Aldates, Oxford, on behalf of the Frewen Club. This consisted of a preliminary photographic record, monitoring and recording of minor opening up (both in October 2014), and a full photographic record during stripping out of the partition (in September 2015). A measured survey drawing of the stud frame was also made. The work confirmed that the frame was made with machine-sawn softwood timbers, of late 19th or earlier 20th century date. A wide arch in the partition was shown to be of more modern origin, interrupting the original form of the studwork. The arch is thought to have been formed during the mid- 20th century. No artefacts were found during the stripping out.

Oxford, Christ Church (SP 515 060)

Graham Keevill

As in previous years, Christ Church dominated our work in Oxfordshire during 2015. We have been involved in several projects on behalf of the Foundation, ranging from very small to major works. These projects are summarised briefly



Figure 14. View of the magnificent roof over Wolsey's Great Hall at Christ Church, during urgent repairs in the



Figure 15. The scaffolding for the roof repairs at the Great Hall, Christ Church, Oxford.

below, though in some cases work is ongoing and further notes will be provided in coming years.

Refurbishment of domestic and office accommodation in the East Cloister Range took place at the end of 2014 and into the early months of 2015. Most of the work was very minor and did not impact on significant historic fabric, but lifting of floor boards and other opening up works provided opportunities to survey the building and carry out dendrochronology sampling. The former was carried out by Ross Cook and Graham Keevill, and the latter by Dan Miles. An intact moulded ceiling was found concealed by a later 'false' ceiling when floor boards were lifted in the southern bay on the second floor. The ceiling timbers were dated by dendrochronology to spring 1490, making it a remarkable late monastic survival. It appears to have been within the



Figure 16. This matchbox was found in a chimney flue within the west wall of Fell Tower, Christ Church, Oxford. The paper inside provided us with a memorable description of work that had taken place here 76 years previously.

prior's lodging. In the attic floor, meanwhile, timber joists under the floorboards in the middle and southern sections of the range had clearly been re-used. These were dated to spring 1245. They appeared to derive from a roof, perhaps the original medieval one over the East Range (the attic storey is a post-medieval addition). Later phases of work were dated to the 1630s, again by dendrochronology.

The Great Hall Roof is one of Christ Church's great structures in its own right. In 2014 the tenon of a purlin failed; fortunately the timber became wedged against its truss, or it would have fallen to the floor below. A simple emergency repair was put in place at the time, but a more substantial project was clearly needed. Thus a scaffold deck was erected under the roof within the Hall during the first half of 2015 so that a detailed assessment and repair programme could be put in place. The timberwork was given a conservation clean as part of the work as well. A comprehensive record was made throughout the work, using photography, hand drawn and point cloud survey. Dan Miles also carried out a substantial programme of dendrochronology sampling. The work revealed many useful details of the original Wolsey-period roof; repairs following a major fire in 1720; and successive repairs of the 19th and 20th centuries. The first two phases were very well represented in the dendrochronology dates. A mid-14th century date was also gained from a re-used timber under the High Table dais.

A watching brief during refurbishment of the male chefs' changing area within the kitchens covered demolitions and excavations below existing concrete floors in late July-August. Only modern fabric was affected and the excavations did not penetrate beneath the bedding for the modern concrete floors. Thus nothing of archaeological interest was exposed. By contrast, a watching brief in Fell Tower during August-September recorded significant archaeological remains in the west wall on the first floor. A rendered rubble masonry wall face with strongly expressed quoins marking a south-eastern corner was found under modern panelling and cement render. The brick surround of the fireplace in the room butted against (and thus post-dated) this corner. The stone masonry extended through the full thickness of the wall, and may have been a 17th century chimney. A flue was found within the thickness of the wall, although it was unclear whether this was original or for an

inserted fireplace on the west side of the wall. The new fireplace, at least, was dated by an inscribed paper from 26 October 1939. This was found in a matchbox carefully placed within the flue, and described the difficulty of the work in colourful language. The flue itself may be earlier, perhaps original to the masonry wall. Finally a photographic record was made of a highly eroded statue on an external western buttress of the Cathedral. The statue is probably medieval and may be an effigy of St Frideswide. It is now far too heavily eroded for confident identification, though a Henry Taint photograph from c 1880 shows it in better condition, with more surviving detail.

Several projects continued into 2016, and are still ongoing at the time of writing. These included a new greenhouse and other facilities in the Nursery, where late medieval and post-medieval pottery found at the bottom of new foundation trenches may indicate the presence of rubbish pits just beyond the depth of excavation; work on the Thatched Barn project, where the barn itself and evidence for the city's Civil War defences have been examined (and are the subject of further work in 2016); and a substantial programme of refurbishment around Peckwater Quad. Staircases 6-8 have been the focus during 2015-16. Victorian outside lavatories behind 6-8 (ie east of the Quad) were recorded prior to demolition, and areas of exposed historic fabric internally have also been recorded. Intriguingly this has included several areas of ashlar masonry in partition walls that seem out of character with the early 18th century date of the range.

Stanton St John, the Church of St John the Baptist

(SP 5774 0937)

Graham and Cathy Keevill

Two consecutive projects were undertaken for the Parochial Church Council as part of a conservation and refurbishment project at the Grade I listed St John the Baptist church. Firstly seven small test pits were archaeologically excavated in the churchyard during June 2015. These were for percolation testing of the ground in advance of work to establish new linear soakaway drainage for the church. Small quantities of human bone (all disarticulated), pottery and other artefacts were recovered from subsoil layers in the pits, but nothing of archaeological significance was found otherwise. The human bone and other artefacts were re-buried in the pits when they were backfilled. The subsequent watching brief during the main contract in September-October 2015 did not add anything further to the test pit results, and again the small amounts of disarticulated human bone were reburied as the trench excavations progressed.

LITTLEMORE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Julia E Brocklesby

Littlemore, Oxford (Centred on SP 5372 0215)

The Background Noise of History Project Fieldwork in 2015 During 2015 archaeological work reported in SMA9 45 continued and a report on 1m x 1m hand trowelled test pits NR14 and STGL14 was sent to the Oxford City Archaeologist David Radford for inclusion in the HER database. Surface finds from a local allotment TTA 14-15 made over 2014 and 2015 years were analysed and recorded.

Results

Both test pits NR14 and STGL14 yielded finds consistent with some domestic occupation from a sparse mid to heavier late medieval date as shown by the dominance of late Brill to post-medieval pottery. The few flints and small sherds of Roman pottery are probably residual. Both pits were in disturbed soils containing animal burrows, and were likely to have been manured; historical records and maps indicate agricultural use. No Anglo Saxon pottery was found, and the identification of medieval Oxford OXY/OXBF ware could be as late as mid 13th century. No firmly datable 9th or 10th century pottery was found. Historical records of change of use as a pig farm and later tennis courts exist for STGL14 in the grounds of Littlemore Hospital built in the 19th century. The surface collection of 213 finds on the allotments TTA 14-15 included 60 very abraded Roman pottery sherds in addition to 56 medieval pottery sherds. A Roman kiln near the site was destroyed with little recording during the construction of the Eastern bypass in 1957. There has been considerable landscaping since this but it is likely that some sherds survived in the topsoil from Mount Pleasant. Further work is planned for 2016 to investigate routeways, settlement and industry in the Littlemore area.

Test Pit STGL14 SP 5349 0248

The 1770 finds weighing 3.643kg were in very disturbed ploughsoil of the old Littlemore Hospital grounds. Nine small abraded Roman pottery sherds may have come from local kiln sites of which there are several in the area.

As well as an assortment of early and late Brill/Borstall wares, the 100 small sherds of medieval pottery were largely of local manufacture, with a mixture of limestone, shell, sand and quartz inclusions reflecting South Oxfordshire geologies. Two late 18th century or Victorian sherds of fine glazed white ware, one with blue lettering "LITTL..." may have been commissioned by the Asylum management. Unfortunately an undocumented high voltage electricity cable was exposed at a depth of 78m, and excavation was stopped (Fig 17).

Test Pit NR14 Pottery Finds Analysis SP 5388 0327.

The 120 sherds of pottery found weighed 294g. Six small sherds were Roman, and 68 mid to late medieval of local South Oxford, Cotswold and largely Brill manufacture. It was identified by society members after an instruction and training workshop with Paul Blinkhorn using Mellor (1994), but may need refinement as we learn and handle more. The

sherds were all small and abraded, but are being built up into a local reference collection to aid future work in the village. Local residents remember farm buildings and orchards hedged from the pathway which became Long Lane when the houses were built in the 1930s.

Surface Finds Collection on Littlemore Thompson Terrace allotments TTA 14-15 SP 5353 0300

Previous finds have been recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme based at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford and the East Oxford History and Archaeology project (forthcoming). Further collection in 2014 and 2015 yielded 213 finds weighing 1.243kg. The 60 sherds of Roman pottery included mortaria body pieces, whiteware, one piece of fine decorated parchment ware, greyware and Oxford Colour Coated ware. A large tenement called Mount Pleasant on Oxford Road, which was demolished in 1931, partly occupied the site of TTA 14-15 allotments, and bordered the Roman Kiln site documented in Pastscape as Monument 338528. The possible use in manufacture of the local white marl and clay present in the geological Littlemore Member (BGS Memoir 237), and the locations of springs nearby are being investigated further, in our study of the extent of the Roman pottery industry (Young, 1977) and reported in the grey area literature as development continues in Littlemore. The finds, data and archives are held by Littlemore History Society and may be viewed on request to us at Littlemore Community Centre, Giles Road, Littlemore, Oxford OX4 4NL and detailed results entered in the Historic Environment Record. We would be very pleased to hear others' experiences and suggestions.

Many thanks to Mary Nell Pilgrim and Terry Stopps for their tireless and enthusiastic work and support on the Background Noise project.

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MOLA

Oxford, Land at Corpus Christi College, Merton Street, (SP 51615 06030)

Catherine Gibbs

An evaluation in August comprised the hand-excavation of one trench, measuring 5.4m x 1.2m x 1.5m deep, located in the Garden Quad. There was no evidence for any early medieval structures associated with Corpus Christi College or of the conjectured Saxon *burh* ditch although a sequence of dumped layers of soil and mortar were identified which are clearly mixed given the residual pottery in the lowest deposits. The earliest layers appear to date from the medieval period, perhaps the 13th century, though earlier ceramics mixed in suggest early medieval activity elsewhere. The sequence of deposits continues through to the 16th or 17th century and confirms the sequence identified in the auger



Figure 17. The end of the STGL14 dig as an HV cable is revealed at Terry Stopps' feet

Oxfordshire

holes undertaken by Oxford Archaeology. The single feature found was probably an 18th century path.

Harwell, North-South Link Road, Land off Ninth Street and Thomson Avenue, Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, (SU 47811 8701)

Helen Vernon

A watching brief in May consisted of ground stripping in the area of the proposed road to depths of between 0.5-1m. Modern brick foundations and rubble demolition deposits in the areas surrounding the foundations were sealed by a mid-grey brown silty clay topsoil and turf. No archaeological features or natural were observed.

MOLA NORTHAMPTON

Summaries for 2015 Compiled by Pat Chapman and Andy Chapman

Abingdon, Wootton Road (SU 492 988)

Olly Dindol

Magnetometer survey of land adjacent to Wootton Road detected a number of enclosures of possible Roman or earlier date. Other features, including medieval to early post-medieval ridge and furrow and a modern pipeline, were also detected.

Eynsham, Old Witney Road, Eynsham Nursery and Plant Centre (SP 4221 0979)

Paul Clements

Trial trench evaluation identified a single undated shallow ditch/plough scar. No other archaeological features or finds were seen. OXCMS2015.152

Oxford, Wolvercote, Woodstock Road (SP 4925 1025)

John Walford, Paul Clements and Kamil Orzechowski

Earth resistance surveys followed magnetometer survey (*SMA* 45 (2015), 65-66), on land within the proposed 'Northern Gateway' development site, near the Wolvercote roundabout. Remnant furrows of medieval to post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation were detected, a possible minor trackway, one anomaly which possibly relates to an unknown structure present during the Second World War, and some high resistance anomalies of unknown origin.

Trial trench evaluation confirmed the presence of furrows of medieval to post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. No earlier archaeological remains or finds were identified. OXCMS.2015.96

Sutton Courtenay, Milton Road (SU 4971 9304)

Paul Clements

A small area excavation was undertaken, following geophysical survey (*SMA* 44 (2014), 67) and trial trenching. The mitigation showed that the linear features in the trial trench evaluation were variations of the natural sands and not archaeological features. However, a series of ditches formed a field system of late Iron Age to early Roman date. A deposit of probable hearth material has been radiocarbon dated to the 11th-12th century AD. This is the same date as the pottery sherd from a layer overlying postholes possibly relating to an

undated group of features indicating a possible post-built structure. The paucity of finds may indicate an ancillary or agricultural use rather than domestic. Furrows of medieval to post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation were also recorded. OXCMS:2014.187

Upper Arncott, Arncott Hill Farm (SP 6104 1684)

Paul Clements

A trial trench evaluation identified modern ditches and demolition debris from structures that stood within the field when it was part of Central Ordnance Depot, Bicester during the Second World War. No earlier archaeological remains or finds were identified. OXCMS.2015.96

Waddesdon, Quainton Road (SP 746 171)

Adam Meadows

Magnetometer survey on land near Quainton Road identified a few anomalies of possible archaeological interest, including three which were very tentatively interpreted as kilns. Ridge and furrow of medieval to early post-medieval date was also identified.

Witney, Curbridge Road, Springfield (SP 3371 0912)

Carol Simmonds

During evaluation two shallow ditches were identified, one was probably a modern field boundary and the other associated with post-medieval field division. Truncated ridge and furrow cultivation was also present. OXCMS.2015.59

NORTH OXON ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

Edward Shawyer

This year's activities were restricted solely to extending and carrying on the excavations we started in 2014 near the centre of the Roman settlement at Swalcliffe Lea. The results of this excavation appeared to show what looked like a circular building, close to another structure just to the south of it. The first building was late Roman and looked like a round house. But this year's excavations provided more evidence and a more plausible explanation.

Roman Buildings (SP 39120 38490)

We extended the dig in several directions and the new findings changed our perception of the site. Our extension to the east first concentrated on the wall which appeared to be attached to the round house. This proved to be a transverse wall extending under the road, thus revealing that the building wasn't round but merely apsidal. The section of it joining the round wall was revealed to have been disturbed by a modern 1950s electrical pipeline which together with the earlier field boundary ditch had almost completely destroyed the wall in this area. The building stones we found were not *in situ* but had been re-deposited by the side of the ditch when it was cut. Extra evidence was provided by the shape of the spread of burnt, oxidized stones, which revealed the extent of the interior.

The floor of this structure was made of stone cobbles and traces of coursing added to the original illusion that the

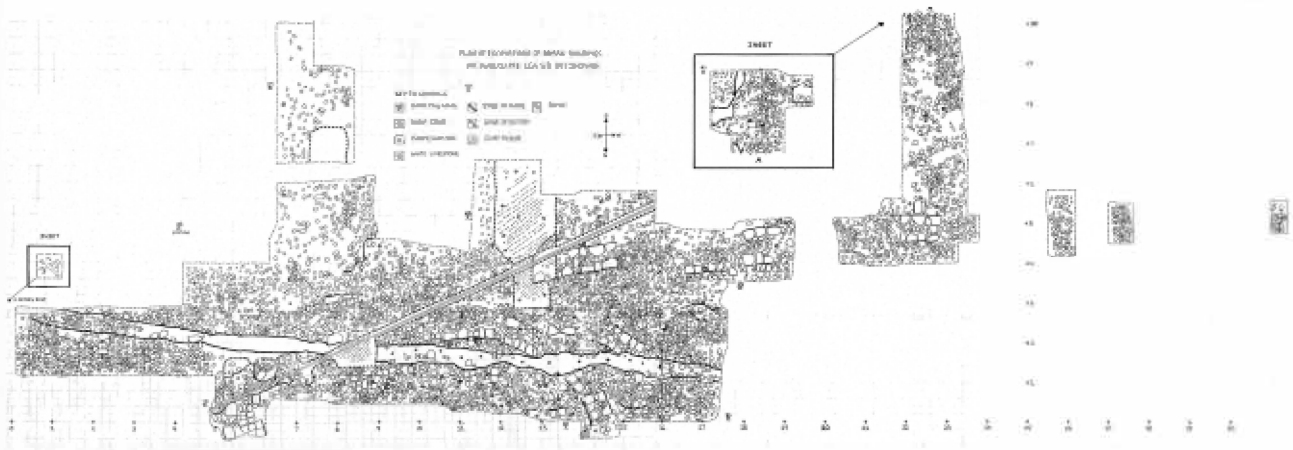


Figure 18. Plan of excavations of Roman buildings at Swalcliffe Lea.

building was round. The straight section of wall from the transverse wall to where it started to curve was 6m long and 4m of this had been destroyed by the course of the pipeline and the ditch. At the present we don't know if the wall carries on to the east to form other rooms since it runs underneath the road and the pipeline is still following it for a distance. This structure which has been designated Building A could now either belong to a bathhouse or be some kind of temple or shrine.

At the head of the apse are the remains of some stone structure which could either belong to a bathhouse or even be an altar. There is also a curving wall attached to the apse, which might be an extension of the original. The small finds did include some fine wares, fine glass vessels and traces of painted wall plaster and one large red brick tegula, all 3rd to 4th century in date.

The other wall to the south which seemed to dog-leg belonged to another structure which we designated Building B. Our extension revealed more of it and showed that the wall ran for at least 6m being about 75cm wide and then widened to 98cm for about 5m before returning to its original width. This wall protruded to the north, but was flush on its south side, which seems to indicate that its interior was to the south. Also the stone surface to the north was clearly a metalled yard with well-packed, sturdy, weather-worn stones, while the surface on the south side of the wall was made up of smaller stones, a fair number of which were fire-reddened and half the surface was just soil. There were also faint traces of a clay floor in patches near the intact stretches of wall. At the western edge of the wall there was what appears to be a small remnant of a return wall and digging southwards along its course we did find a few

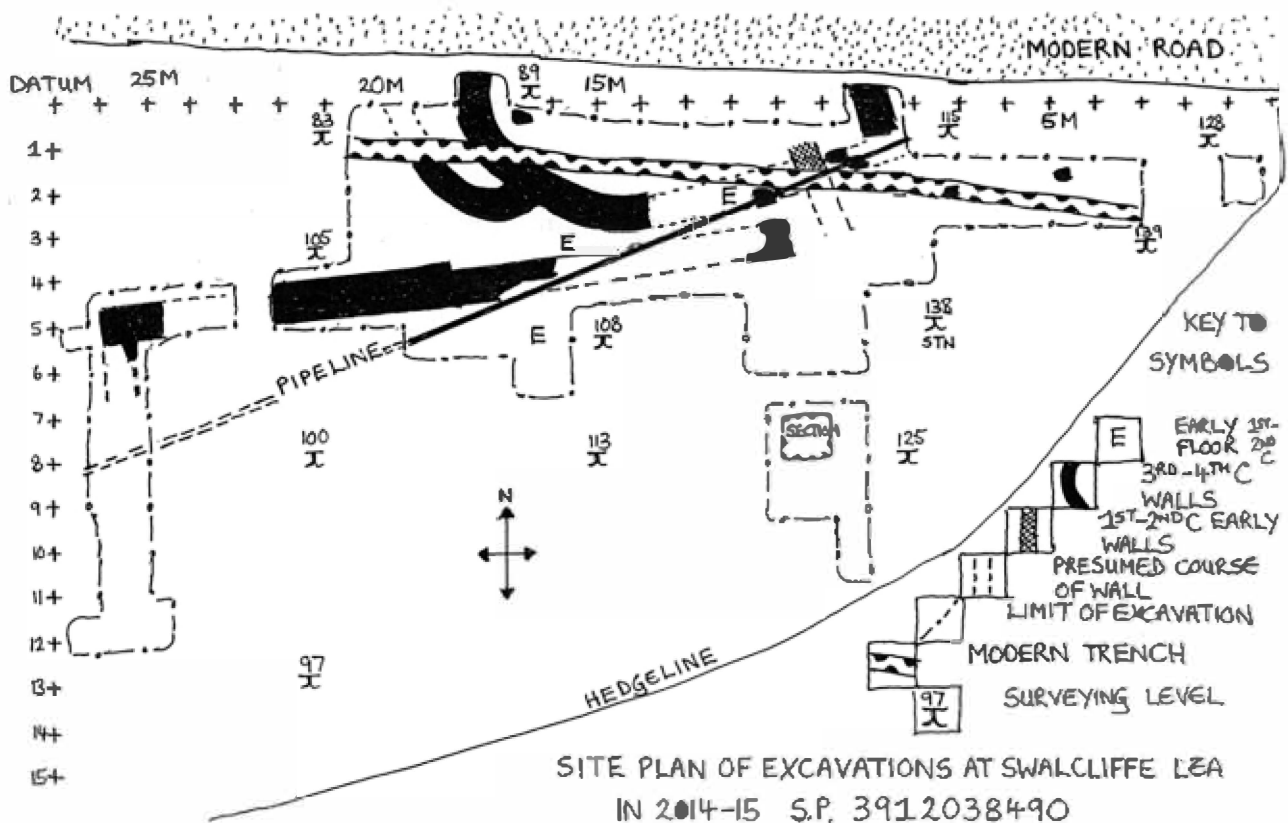


Figure 19. Site plan of excavations at Swalcliffe Lea 2014-5.

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suggestions of a continuation. The ground surface of this part of the field does reveal a slight platform and it has been noted that the stone surfaces are better preserved on the edges of it than near the centre where it is very patchy. The finds for Building B are all 3rd/4th century in date, with plenty of coarse and some fine wares, plenty of bones and the odd domestic items such as bronze needles as well as 3rd century coins.

One of the buildings we excavated in 2010-2013 on the western edge of the settlement resembles Building B in the respect that it had also a 5m section of thicker wall, which must have supported something and in that the floor was better preserved close to the walls.

This building yielded the remains of the opposing wall and traces of a cross wall, the latter of which we have also found at our present site, but so far no trace of the former.

We dug some deep sections and found an earlier structure, now designated as Building C, lying beneath both buildings A and B. This came in the form of series of burnt clay floors, one upon the other and an early wall, parallel to the cross wall of Building A. To the east of this early wall was an area of white limestone paving. The pottery retrieved all seems to be 1st-3rd century AD.

Our extension to the east of buildings A and B revealed an area of dense, packed stone similar to the yard west of building A, with an earlier stone layer just beneath it. This and the edge of the platform suggests the eastern limit of Building B, although there are suggestions that the north wall continued perhaps as a boundary wall until it met the north wall of the farmstead we excavated in 2009 with which it is in complete alignment just 10m away.

We haven't yet found any 5th century or sub-Roman phases to these buildings as we did with some of the other structures in the settlement, such as the villa site and the compound farmstead excavated in 2001-2002. We hope to continue our investigations in 2016.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH (OAS)

The Bicester to Oxford rail line improvements (East West Rail Phase 1)

Steve Lawrence

OAS was commissioned to undertake the archaeological design and mitigation works ahead of the rail line improvement between Oxford and Bicester and all associated construction impacts for Chiltern Railways and Network Rail. The works comprised a variety of building recording, evaluation, watching brief and excavation at 18 locations along the route. Two brick-built 19th century bridges crossing the line were recorded ahead of demolition and modification. Thirteen locations were the subject of evaluations resulting in the more detailed excavation of seven excavation areas. The following presents the summary results from the evaluations and excavations. The assessment and analysis phase of work is currently ongoing with publication of the excavation areas expected in 2017/18. The sites are listed here in South to North order along the rail line.

Gosford and Water Eaton Footbridge Site 7

(SP 4978 1125)

Conan Parsons

In February 2015 OAS undertook an archaeological evaluation of a strip of land on the west side of the rail line ahead of the construction of a new foot bridge crossing to the north of Peartree Hill Farm, Gosford and Water Eaton. The evaluation comprised three trenches and no archaeological finds or features were encountered.

Water Eaton, North of Water Eaton Station, Sites 9 and 10 (SP 5030 1220)

Jim Mumford and Andy Simmonds

Between 6th August and 13th September 2013 OAS undertook an archaeological evaluation of 22 trenches and a subsequent excavation. Three struck flints were the only evidence of a prehistoric presence. To the north-east a number of Roman ditches were identified during the evaluation, which possibly represent field boundaries or enclosures related to a complex of enclosures visible as cropmarks on air photos located to the east of the site. Medieval arable agriculture was represented by the remains of ridge and furrow on two different alignments. Modern field drains aligned with some of the furrows suggesting the layout of the present fields maintains an earlier pattern.

A group of rectilinear enclosures and boundaries originating in the 1st-2nd century AD were revealed by the detailed excavation area. These were defined by shallow ditches exposed in the southern part of the excavation area. At least three enclosures were identified but none of them lay entirely within the exposed area and it was consequently uncertain whether they comprised discrete enclosures or were conjoined. In either case, they had evidently been constructed as part of a single planned arrangement, since they shared a common orientation. The absence of internal features and the relatively small artefactual assemblage associated with the enclosures suggests that they were not domestic in character and are more likely to represent stock enclosures. This was modified in the later 2nd century with the construction of a trackway and a series of rectilinear enclosures aligned off this replacing the earlier arrangement.

Water Eaton Crossing, Northfield Farm, Site 11

(SP 5093 1284)

Kate Brady

In September 2013 OAS undertook an archaeological evaluation comprising 22 trenches, in which were identified two ditches of post-medieval date. No significant archaeological finds or features were encountered.

Islip, Pond 107, Site 16 (SP 5158 1352)

Kate Brady

Between the 12th and 14th of November 2013 OAS undertook an archaeological evaluation of Pond 107, Islip. The evaluation comprised six trenches identifying two ditches of post-medieval date.

Islip, Mill Lane Crossing, Site 17 (SP 5215 1396)

Kate Brady

Between the 27th and 29th of August 2013 OAS undertook an archaeological evaluation of land at Mill Lane Crossing,

Islip. The evaluation comprised 13 trenches identifying ridge and furrow and a modern feature, possibly related to the railway line. No significant archaeological finds or features were encountered.

Oddington, North of Gallos Brook, Site 20

(SP 5333 1508)

Andrew Simmonds

Between August and September 2014 OAS completed the excavation of a site previously identified as a cropmark that would be impacted upon by the widening of the rail line embankment at this location. Two phases of middle Iron Age settlement were identified at the south-western end of the trench on the south side of the existing railway line. This activity was overlain by a series of early Roman boundaries.

Oddington, East of Brookfurlong Farm, Sites 21 and 22 (SP 5365 1540)

Andrew Simmonds

In two phases in December 2013 and July 2014, OAS undertook an evaluation ahead of the construction of a replacement badger sett, access tracks and a new footbridge crossing. A total of 12 trenches were proposed, comprising six on each side of the railway line, but in the event one trench could not be excavated because a badger sett had already been constructed in its location. Three ditches were recorded in trenches at the south-western end of the evaluation area that produced small quantities of Roman pottery. They are probably field boundary ditches and it is likely that any associated settlement lies outside the evaluation area. These ditches may also be contemporary with the wider landscape evidence suggested by the sites to the north and south (Site 23 and Site 20). Evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation was identified in seven trenches. One ditch may correspond with a field boundary that is depicted on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map.

Oddington, South of Oddington Crossing, Site 23

(SP 5391 1563)

Andrew Simmonds

Between May and July 2014 OAS completed the excavation of a site previously identified as a cropmark that would be impacted upon by the widening of the rail line embankment at this location. The excavation revealed part of a possible enclosure of middle Iron Age date, overlain by linear boundary ditches of late Iron Age-early Roman date. The middle Iron Age ditch produced several fragments of a crucible demonstrating metal working.

Oddington, Oddington Crossing, Site 24 (SP 5430 1599)

Author Kate Brady

In September 2013 OAS undertook a field evaluation at the site of a new bridge crossing at the existing Oddington level crossing. No significant archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered within the evaluation. Each trench contained a plough soil sequence overlying the natural clay silt geology.

Oddington, East of Oddington Grange, Site 25 (SP 5504 1677)

Andrew Simmonds

In August 2014 OAS completed the excavation of a site previously identified as a cropmark that would be impacted upon by the widening of the rail line embankment at this location. The archaeological remains at East of Oddington Grange were restricted to the extreme north-eastern end of the site and comprised a middle Iron Age penannular gully and late Iron Age boundary ditches.

Charlton-on-Otmoor Site 26, Holts Farm crossing

(SP 5560 1720)

Andrew Simmonds

During February and May 2014 OAS undertook a field evaluation and an excavation at the site of proposed bridgeworks. A total of 30 machine-dug trenches were excavated, representing an approximate 4% sample of the site. A concentration of features dating from the late Iron Age and Roman period was recorded in trenches located on a ridge of higher ground that occupied much of the evaluation area, mostly to the east of the railway but with outlying features in two trenches 25 and 28 to the west. The features mostly comprise ditches, with a small number of pits, and are likely to represent the remains of a small farmstead similar to examples that have previously been excavated nearby at Kidlington and Bicester.

A possible rectilinear enclosure that had been identified as a low earthwork on a LIDAR survey and during a walkover survey that preceded the evaluation trenching was only clearly defined in one trench, where it was identified as a low bank. The date of the feature was not definitely established, although the eastern end was cut by a medieval plough furrow, indicating that the earthwork dated from before the medieval period, and its relationship with the Iron Age/Roman occupation is uncertain. Ridge and furrow earthworks were apparent throughout the evaluation area and furrows were recorded in many of the trenches.

Excavation at Holts Farm Crossing exposed a long sequence of activity that extended from the middle Iron Age to the late Roman period. Domestic occupation dating from the middle Iron Age was represented by two possible roundhouses. During the Roman period the site appears to have been on the periphery of a settlement and exposed a trackway and some of the associated paddocks and fields.

Wendlebury College Farm Barn, Merton Footbridge and access track, Sites 27, 28 and 29 (SP 5670 1780)

Kate Brady

Between July 2014 and June 2015 OAS undertook an archaeological evaluation of land between Merton village and the Bicester to Oxford rail line on behalf of Chiltern Railways and Network Rail. The evaluation comprised the excavation of nineteen trenches ahead of construction of an agricultural barn, a footbridge crossing of the upgraded rail line and the new access track to the barn whilst excavations took place at Merton Footbridge. Trenches 13 and 14 were located to the immediate south of Merton and targeted the projected line of the Roman road between Alchester and Dorchester-on-Thames. These trenches identified a concentration of 2nd century Romano-British remains, possibly indicating settlement. More scattered and less

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conclusive remains of late Iron Age or early Roman date were also encountered in Trenches 2 and 10. These features were small shallow pits with similarly small abraded sherds of pottery. The absence of other features in these areas may suggest that these remains are peripheral to other activities or settlement foci.

A possible medieval field boundary was recorded in Trench 15, although this association relies upon the presence of a single sherd of glazed pottery and the alignment of the ditches parallel to the ridge and furrow remains. Ridge and furrow was visible both as slight ridges surviving in some areas and furrows within most trenches and the accumulation of deep ploughsoils and possible headland deposits. The archaeological remains at Merton Footbridge dated exclusively from the 2nd and early 3rd centuries. Interpretation was hampered by the limited exposure of the features within the narrow confines of the trench, particularly in the central area, where intercutting features merged to form a broad spread of homogenous brown soil that could only be resolved when excavated.

Wendlebury and Merton, Langford Lane crossing, Site 31 (SP 5683 1982 - 5783 2032)

Paul Booth

Langford Lane was the most extensive site and snaked around the south and south-eastern sides of the Scheduled Monument of Alchester Roman town. Four separate sites (Sites 31a-d) were excavated. These can be combined conveniently into two distinct areas. Sites 31a and 31b exposed part of the road that exited the south gate of the town and extended to Dorchester-on-Thames, as well as enclosures and fields on either side. Sites 31c and 31d exposed part of the trackway associated with the parade ground and features associated with a spur road that branched off Akeman Street east of the town. A long, sinuous trench that was excavated between the two areas uncovered only undated features.

Bicester, Land North of Langford Park Farm, Site 34 (SP 58380 21480)

Cynthia Poole

Between the 24th and 25th of March 2014 OAS undertook an archaeological evaluation of land north of Langford Park Farm, Bicester. The evaluation comprised seven trenches which exposed a sequence of natural alluvial deposits. No archaeological features or finds were encountered.

Bicester Town Station, Site 35 (SP 5866 2195)

Alex Latham

On the 3rd of December 2014 OAS undertook an evaluation on land off Station Approach, Bicester. The evaluation comprised the excavation of a single trench that partly coincided with the location of the 19th century former Bicester Town train station that was demolished in the late 20th century. The evaluation revealed foundation remains of the former station. No significant archaeological features or finds were encountered.

Bicester, Gavray Drive, Site 37 (SP 5930 2257)

Kate Wheaton

Between the 10th and 12th of June 2013 OAS undertook an archaeological evaluation of land off Gavray Drive, Bicester. The evaluation comprised six trenches identifying ridge and furrow and a later field ditch. No significant archaeological features or finds were encountered.

Other OAS Oxfordshire sites:

Ambrosden, Ambrosden Court, Merton Road

(SP 6018 1911)

Vix Hughes

OAS was commissioned by Croudace Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site of a proposed housing development. A total of 13 trenches were excavated between 9th and 17th November 2015. Several phases of post-medieval field drainage were found across the site indicating that there had been sustained attempts to utilise probable damp fields. A northwest-southeast aligned stone drain was seen in two of the trenches and may have been associated with attempts to define and improve the drainage close to the marshy field. Deliberate dumping of material to raise the ground level and allow the entire western field to be utilised, appears to have occurred in the mid 20th century. The material used as infill was consistent with Victorian structures and some modern debris. It is assumed that these were demolished and imported from elsewhere, rather than any structures on site. Plough furrows, the remnants of ridge and furrow agriculture, were recorded in three of the trenches.

Bicester, Graven Hill (SP 5886 2083)

Steve Lawrence

OAS was commissioned by Graven Hill Village Development Company Ltd to undertake the evaluation of the Land Transfer Area 1 (LTA1) within the greater development boundary at Graven Hill. This comprised the excavation of 55 evaluation trenches measuring 50m by 4m plus an additional 2 trenches measuring 30m by 2m. Fieldwork took place 7th September - 20th November 2015. A variety of positive results were gained at five separate and distinct locations. These spanned the late Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods indicating the varied potential of the site. The earliest significant find was a Neolithic polished flint axe fragment. This was recovered from a subsoil deposit within the western part of the evaluation area (Trench 3) although additional artefacts or features of this date were absent. Late Iron Age activity was evidenced by a dispersed group of ditches and pits focused upon Trenches 21, 22 and 24. These remains appear to be moderately well preserved and entirely of pre-Roman conquest origin. The related activity seems to be relatively sprawling with the features spread over a 100m long area around the lower slopes of Graven Hill. Further late Iron Age ditches were recorded to the north of Circular Road within Trenches 12 and 13.

Comparatively dense Roman remains were encountered within the northern part of the LTA1 adjacent to the current Rodney House building. Trenches 39-42 each produced a number of linear ditches, three of which produced moderate-large assemblages of pottery dated mid-late 2nd century. The relative sterility of several other ditches and the

apparent phasing represented by intersections and recuts demonstrate a degree of longevity to the activity here. The ditch arrangements are suggestive of field boundaries or other small enclosures. It is possible that this activity or occupation may relate to a known building of some pretension beyond the LTA1 and development boundary to the west-northwest near to Langford Park Farm.

Further remains of likely Roman origin were investigated in the form of Akeman Street. This survives in the modern landscape as a hedge boundary aligned approximately east-west through the evaluation area. Historically the route of Akeman Street was defined by a double hedge line boundary enclosing a track. This route was investigated along its eastern extent within the evaluation boundary where the hedge lines had been removed revealing a track or road surface constructed of limestone pieces set within a shallow terrace into the hill slope within Trenches 49, 58 and 59. No dating evidence was present although the absence of modern material suggests that this was sealed by silting layers prior to the military occupation and use of the site.

Within the core of the LTA1 evaluation boundary Trenches 32 and 35 both produced evidence for medieval activity spanning the period 12th-14th century. It is unclear what the linear ditches represent in terms of activity or settlement although the presence of domestic pottery wares and a buckle do suggest that some contemporary occupation may be located within the vicinity.

Numerous remains relating to the 20th century military camp were encountered. These were almost entirely represented by the destruction and demolition debris resulting from the clearance of the site as part of the reinstatement to pasture fields. These remains are not significant although interesting pottery assemblages often depicting the date of manufacture within the war period were present. Notable assemblages were recovered from Trench 11.

Chinnor, Mill Lane (SP 7471 0105)

Ben Attfield

OAS was commissioned by A2 Dominion to undertake a trench evaluation on the site of a proposed 78-unit housing development. This took place between 2nd and 3rd March 2015. Historically the site lay within the open fields of Chinnor Manor, in the immediate hinterland of the medieval and post-medieval village. Seven trenches were excavated across the 3.5ha site, which represents a 1% sample of the area. Provision was made for a further seven trenches, in the event that the first phase trenches revealed significant archaeology, but no such remains were found. The trenches were placed evenly across the site to test the results of a previous geophysical survey, which had not detected any archaeological features. No archaeological remains were seen in the trenches, generally confirming the conclusions of the geophysical survey.

Drayton, Land South of High Street (SU 477 940)

Rebecca Peacock and Peter Vellett

OAS excavated 22 evaluation trenches for Bloor Homes on the site of a proposed residential development, of which 16 contained archaeological features. Work was carried out between 13-24 October 2014. All the identified features date from the medieval and post-medieval periods. Signs of medieval domestic occupation included a pit in Trench 8, the

fill of which contained several fragments of oven furniture from a single structure. The associated pottery dates from c 1150-1250. Occupation evidence of slightly later date includes a midden deposit from Trench 28, within the historic curtilage of No. 24 High Street, (known as Whitehorn's Farm in the 19th century). The pottery from the midden dates from c 1250-1400, and was found underlying a sequence of 18th - 19th century yard surfaces and building foundations associated with a demolished ancillary building. Possible medieval postholes and boundary ditches were also found in Trench 8. The features investigated in the fields to the south all appear to be agricultural boundaries, trackways and other features of low archaeological significance.

Fritwell village hall and George and Dragon Public House (SP 5282 2933 and SP 5283 2923)

Lisa Brown and Mike Sim

OAS was commissioned by Leywood Estates Ltd to undertake an archaeological trench evaluation of two adjacent plots of land. Archaeological traces were encountered only in Trench 4 and Trench 6, close to the village hall. Two shallow ditches on a north-south alignment were exposed in Trench 4 and three ditches on a broadly similar alignment and one on a slight curve, were found in Trench 6. An iron arrowhead of 13th - 14th century date was recovered from the lower fill of ditch 407 in Trench 4 and pottery dated to between 900 and 1300 was present in the fills of the three ditches in Trench 6, indicating that all of the ditches, which were probably field ditches or drains, were filling during the medieval period.

Grove, Monks Farm (SU 406 909)

Gerry Thacker and John Boothroyd

During October and November 2015 OAS carried out a trial trench evaluation as commissioned by Strutt and Parker LLP on behalf of Williams Grand Prix Engineering Ltd. The earliest feature uncovered was a securely dated ditch of middle Bronze Age date. Other prehistoric ditches were present within the western part of the site and dated from the middle to late Iron Age. The majority of dated features however belonged to the later Roman period, and the amount of finds recovered indicate that a small settlement, perhaps a farmstead, was present within the central part of the site. Additionally a pit and several ditches were dated to the medieval period (12th-14th century), and represent agricultural activity. Many of the features uncovered, the majority of which were ditches, remain undated. The amount of finds recovered dropped noticeably within the eastern part of the site, where a greater number of late medieval or post-medieval plough furrows were present.

Oddington, South of Oddington Crossing, Site 23 (SP 5391 1563)

Simmonds

Between May and July 2014 OAS completed the excavation of a site previously identified as a cropmark that would be impacted upon by the widening of the rail line embankment at this location. The excavation revealed part of a possible enclosure of middle Iron Age date, overlain by linear boundary ditches of late Iron Age-early Roman date. The

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middle Iron Age ditch produced several fragments of a crucible demonstrating metal working.

Oxford, New Biochemistry Building, Dorothy Hodgkin Road, Phase 2 (SP 5154 0700)

Mike Sims

Between October 2014 and January 2015 OAS undertook an archaeological watching brief during the demolition and ground preparation work. The majority of the site had been severely truncated by the construction and demolition of the buildings on the site, with any intact archaeological stratigraphy and the upper part of the underlying terrace gravel deposits having been greatly disturbed. Within a narrow band along the north and north-east edges of the site the supranatural sub-soils overlying the natural gravels of the 2nd terrace had partially survived, with the truncated base of an east-west aligned early post-medieval ditch observed and recorded. No other significant archaeology was encountered; no other archaeological remains are likely to be present on the site.

Oxford, Churchill Hospital (SP 5458 0578)

Paul Booth

Two evaluation trenches were excavated by OAS in October 2015 at the Churchill Hospital, Oxford on the site of the proposed Clinical Biomanufacturing Facility, immediately west of the location of Roman pottery kilns excavated in the early 1970s. The sequence in both trenches comprised the natural sand subsoil overlain by a brown sand deposit of uncertain date. This was cut in both trenches by a large pit containing modern building material amongst other rubbish. These two intrusions were probably parts of a single feature, the limits of which to north, south and east are unknown but was at least 12m in extent north-south by at least 7m east-west. In Trench 2 the base of this feature was *c* 1.2m below modern ground level and any earlier deposits in this area would have been completely destroyed. The fill of the feature(s) was sealed by a levelling layer of similar material beneath the current surface material. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were present and only a single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered.

Oxford, Corpus Christi College, New Library (SP 515 060)

Robin Bashford

In April 2015, OAS carried out a field evaluation at Corpus Christi College. The earliest evidence encountered were deposits that may represent trample and/or domestic refuse possibly associated with an unmetalled right of way pre-dating the late Saxon Shidyerd Street, the projected line of which runs through the site. These deposits were overlain by a layer of limestone rubble, probably the first in a series of rudimentary surfaces interspersed with thick accumulations of silty material which produced a considerable quantity of animal bone, presumably deposited by the occupiers of structures fronting on to the street. The majority of datable artefacts recovered from these layers suggest that they were deposited between the 11th and 12th centuries, with the predominance of St Neot's ware suggesting a pre-conquest date for the majority of the sequence. The uppermost surface was predominantly constructed from large limestone cobbles, possibly as early as the 14th century. It may be

contemporary with the acquisition of the lower end of Shidyerd Street by Merton College in 1321, with the materials used to construct it possibly originating from buildings that are documented as having been demolished by the College in 1317.

The deposits overlying this surface were of uncertain origin, although they are likely to be 16th century in date and may relate to the early use of the site following the foundation of Corpus Christi in 1517. A number of possible postholes which truncated the ?14th century surface, and possibly the series of deposits overlying it, may have been associated with the construction of the Canterbury Gate and eastern range of the Canterbury Quad of Christ Church College in 1778. These deposits were directly overlain by the modern bedding deposit for the existing tarmac surface.

Oxford, Cowley Conservative Club, 19 Between Towns Road (SP 544 041)

Paul Booth

OAS undertook evaluation trenching in January 2015. The site lies immediately adjacent to one of the foci of the nationally important Oxford Roman pottery industry, and the presence of possible kilns and other features within the site was suggested by an earlier geophysical survey. Three trenches were excavated, of which only Trench 2, targeted specifically on key geophysical anomalies, contained features of Roman date, principally represented by a late Roman pit which had been heavily truncated by modern features. The small pottery assemblage from this feature included a rare white ware flagon face mask. Trench 1 contained no features, while a small pit in Trench 3 was of post-medieval date. Irregular patches of stone in this area were probably a natural formation. The contents of the pit in Trench 2 are consistent with immediately local production but there was no evidence for kiln structures or related material and the evaluated area may lie towards the south-east margin of the Cowley production site.

Oxford, Exeter College, Walton Street (SP 509 066)

Robin Bashford

Between April 2014 and February 2015, OAS undertook an archaeological watching brief at the Ruskin Building at Exeter College. This revealed the banded gravel and clay deposits which are characteristic of the natural geology on the periphery of the second (Summertown-Radley) gravel terrace upon which Oxford is located. The majority of the site had been subject to heavy truncation, both from the original construction of the Ruskin College building in 1912, and from subsequent re-development of the site in the 1930s, 1960s and 1980s. However, this truncation was less severe in two areas of the site to the rear of the buildings fronting Walton Street and Worcester Place. The watching brief on these two areas revealed a *c* 4.5m wide roughly east-west aligned ditch which almost certainly corresponds with a section of the 17th century Civil War defences depicted by Bernard de Gomme on his contemporary map of the fortifications around the city. The lower fills of the ditch were waterlogged and contained organic inclusions which were indicative of fluvial deposition of sediment in the base of the ditch. This may reflect the location of this feature on the edge of the flood plain, and it may have originated as one of a series of drainage channels shown on a number of

cartographic sources pre-dating the construction of the defences in the mid 17th century. The remaining deposits encountered reflect the use of this site as a timber yard in the 19th century until the construction of Ruskin College in the early 20th century.

Oxford, New College, Longwall Street

(SP 5200 0640)

Robin Bashford

OAS was commissioned to conduct an archaeological trench evaluation at 8-14 Longwall Street, Bodicote House and the Sacher Oxfordshire. A well-preserved section of Oxford's medieval inner city wall forms the western boundary of the site and the evaluation was designed to investigate the line of the medieval city defences. No recognisable structural traces of the late Saxon burh defences were identified in any of the trenches, which are thought to underlie the medieval city walls in this section. The earliest evidence recovered is a single late Saxon sherd of St Neot's ware probably redeposited in a medieval context (*c* AD900-1100). It was found in an elongated pit or short gully in Trench 3, which butted up against the base of the inner city wall. The pit appears to be functionally related to the inner city wall, and potentially contemporary with its construction. It is interpreted as either a drain, or a scaffolding support.

The trenching was largely successful in establishing the approximate extent and survival of the outer city wall and the western edge of the city ditch within the proposed development site. This is the first time that the outer city wall has been identified on the north-eastern side of medieval Oxford. The inner face of the 0.96m thick outer masonry wall was located 7.7 - 7.8m from the outer face of the inner city wall. The date range of the associated artefacts is generally consistent with the suggested late 13th century date for the outer wall, but the scarcity of medieval artefacts from secure contexts means that the evaluation has not added significantly to the chronology of the defences. One late medieval sherd, found in the infill behind the outer city wall in Trench 2, is later than expected, but as a single sherd it could have been worked into the deposit during repair work or masonry robbing. The last vestiges of the masonry wall footing appear to have been removed by a 17th century recut of the city ditch probably the refurbishment of Oxford's defences in the 1640s, during the Civil War, (although no ditch is shown on De Gomme's contemporary plan of the defences, dated 1644).

Oxford, Oriel College (SP 5165 0612).

Robin Bashford

Between 11th-18th March 2015, OAS undertook an archaeological evaluation for Allies and Morrison on behalf of Oriel College on the site of a proposed kitchen extension. The evaluation revealed the top of the gravel terrace, which had been truncated by features probably dating to the 12th-14th century occupation of the site, and perhaps relating to medieval tenements pre-dating the construction of the medieval Front Quadrangle of the college in the mid-14th century. A number of structures were revealed which appeared to truncate the 12th-14th century deposits. The earliest of these may relate to a building fronting Merton Street, possibly part of St Martins Hall which preceded the

17th century remodelling. A second structure was revealed running parallel to the eastern boundary wall of the college along Magpie Lane. Outbuildings are shown in this area of the college on cartographic sources from the 16th century onwards - although the fact that this structure appeared to truncate a deposit which produced 17th century artefactual material would imply that it related to a later phase of construction. The third structure revealed was the foundation for an extant pillar base which dates from the 17th century re-build of the Front Quadrangle, and a series of rubble-rich deposits overlying the foundation are probably contemporary with this phase of construction. The remaining deposits and structures encountered related to modern reconfigurations of the kitchen area and former back yard to the west of Magpie Lane.

Oxford, Pembroke College Old Quad and Porter's Lodge (SP5132 0597)

Jon Gill

OAS was commissioned to carry out a programme of archaeological watching brief and historic building recording at Pembroke College, Oxford between March and May 2015. Work focused on the Old Quad and the ranges at the north-west corner of this area. The below-ground works comprised two test pits within the lawn of the quad as well as the monitoring of some drainage outlet works towards the east end of the quad. These works did not reveal any significant features.

Building recording took place in the Events Office at the west end of the north range of this quad and the Porter's Lodge to the west. The main development work here was the creation of two doorways between the Events Office and the passageway to allow the Porter's Lodge to be relocated to the east side of the passage. The work necessitated the lowering of the floor in the west half of the Events Office. The suspended joist floor was recorded prior to removal and the floor reduction was monitored. Various finds were recovered from the fill beneath the joists (clay pipes and glass fragments) whose late 17th/early 18th century date corresponded closely to that of the construction of the building.

Oxford, 107 St. Aldate's (SP 5136 0609)

Angela Warner

In March 2014, Mr Zeshan Shah commissioned OAS to undertake a programme of historic building recording and subsequent watching brief during work to repair and convert the first and second floors of 107 St Aldate's to residential accommodation. Following a hiatus in the work, the programme of recording work was completed in May 2015. Substantial research carried out by the Oxfordshire Buildings Record and BSA Heritage for previous phases of the project revealed that the current building originates in a timber and stone structure built by Thomas Smith in 1594; two stone fireplaces are extant from the original construction. The building displays numerous phases of alteration and extension as the businesses which occupied it developed and expanded and eventually the building became a late follower of the fashion for a new façade to disguise the timber-framed building behind, followed by the addition of a splayed entrance in order to display goods and services.

Oxfordshire

Oxford, 114-119 St. Aldate's and 4-5 Queen Street (SP 5132 0613)

Carl Champness

In July 2015 OAS undertook an archaeological evaluation of three test pits for CgMs Consulting. The evaluation revealed the remains of undisturbed late Saxon/early medieval horizons underneath the current basement levels. A series of pits containing domestic waste and demolition material were exposed during the excavations. The possible presence of walls and a compacted gravel surface demonstrates the potential for structural remains to also be present. An absence of clay pipes and modern material suggests that the archaeological horizons may have been sealed in the early post-medieval period.

A small assemblage of late Saxon pottery was recovered from later features, an indication that activity from this period may be represented at the site. A fragment potentially from a crucible indicates that small-scale processing of bronze or precious metals may have occurred on the site. The historical records show that several large houses occupied part of the site during this period and formed part of the Jewish quarter of Oxford. The vast majority of the features and deposits revealed during the evaluation date from the 13th -14th century. They include two potential walls, a compacted gravel surface and three rubbish pits. The pottery, animal bone and tile assemblages are predominately domestic in nature and presumably originated from the buildings with frontages on Queen Street and St Aldate's.

Rare semi-waterlogged organic remains were recovered from one of these rubbish pits, including food waste, 'cessy' material, mineralised insect remains and a leather shoe. Some of this material is likely to represent domestic rubbish, while stabling waste and/or faecal waste may also be present. The site is located within the heart of the Saxon Burh and medieval walled town of Oxford and any archaeological remains are likely to be considered highly archaeologically significant.

Oxford, St. Edmund's Hall (SP 51805 06356)

Becky Peacock

In July and August 2015, OAS carried out an intermittent Watching Brief in the Front Quad at St. Edmund's Hall, on behalf of Montgomery Architects Ltd. A geophysical survey carried out earlier the same year had identified possible structural remains. The cabling work and replacement of concrete slab paths around the quad did not provide any further evidence for these anomalies. A limestone rubble deposit, or a possible wall, was encountered on the north side of the quad; however, the works limited further investigation.

Oxford, St John's College Walls (SP 5134 0669)

Deirdre Forde

OAS was commissioned by Wright & Wright Architects LLP and St. John's College, Oxford to carry out a historic buildings investigation and recording of a section of wall within the President's Garden at St. John's College and a section of wall that borders Parks Road. Site access is being created into St John's College from Parks Road, which will necessitate the removal of a 9m section of the boundary wall on this side. The boundaries of both walls date to the 17th

century but recording revealed that both walls appear to have been altered in the 19th century.

Oxford, Tinbergen Building, South Parks Road (SP 5182 0692)

Robin Bashford

In November 2015 OAS carried out an archaeological evaluation at Tinbergen Building on South Parks Road Oxford for CPC Project Services on behalf of Oxford University Estates. One trench revealed apparently re-deposited natural strata, which were cut into by a pit containing a 17th century claypipe. The feature and deposits recorded on the site may be associated with the Civil War earthworks known to be in this general area from historic map sources; however, the exact nature of the remains was not clarified within the confines of the trenches.

Oxford, 14 Turl Street (SP 5144 0630)

Rebecca Peacock

Between 3rd and 6th March 2015, OAS undertook a watching brief on behalf of Thames Water, on emergency works being carried out to repair a broken

sewage pipe leading into the property at 14 Turl Street, Oxford. This is an area that has been

under continuous occupation since the 10th century, with sporadic evidence of a lower level of earlier occupation. The emergency works area measured 2.3m square and was excavated to a depth of between 1.5m and 2.9m. It provided an opportunity to observe the deposits immediately below the modern Turl Street and to retrieve archaeological finds. The limited area of the shuttered excavations prevented a secure stratigraphic sequence of deposits being established but allowed for the recovery of medieval and post-medieval material including clay pipe, animal bone, oyster shell and post-medieval pottery.

South Leigh, Gill Mill New Quarry

(centred SP 372 081)

Paul Booth

OAS undertook several pieces of fieldwork in connection with the early stages of development of Smith and Sons' new extension of their Gill Mill gravel quarry. The works were widely distributed across an area up to 2.2km in length from north-west to south-east. They are described in chronological order of stage of excavation (from June to December). In all cases stripping of topsoil and subsoil was monitored archaeologically and followed by sample excavation of the mapped features.

Areas 5B/5C working area, c 2.5ha (centred SP 3755 0745). Two small sub-rectangular enclosures were located in the western part of this area. An irregular ditched boundary with a total observed length of c 150m ran west-east from just east of these features before curving to the north-east. No significant features were present north of this boundary, but to the south were further irregular ditches and gullies and a small sub-oval enclosure. Dating evidence across the entire area was sparse but the pottery was entirely of middle Iron Age date.

Haul road. Centered on SP 3713 0795 a small group of undated cremation burials was encountered. A few linear gullies were also examined in this area but were similarly

undated. Without further evidence at this stage a broadly later prehistoric date is presumed but is not certain.

Area 3 (centred SP 3670 0830). An area c 70m x 60m was examined on the south-west side of the haul road. A complex sequence of boundary ditches and gullies ran northwest-southeast through this area, turning to the east at the southern margin of the area. Scattered discrete features lay to the east of this boundary, while to the west were further gullies, mostly of irregular plan but including two curvilinear features suggestive of drainage gullies associated with round houses. Artefactual material was again scarce but consistent with a middle Iron Age date.

Area 2A (centred SP 3635 0855). The western part of this area of c 5ha was occupied by relict channels of the eastern arm of the River Windrush. In the northern part of the site two penannular gullies each 16m in diameter lay close together. One of these features had two straight lengths of gully projecting one from its south side and the other to the north-west in the direction of a further gully only partly lying within the site at its northern edge. Some 90m to the east were two concentric arcs of small shallow discrete features. Other very thinly-scattered features included a short length of right-angled gully in the extreme south-east corner of the site. Finds were again minimal in quantity, but a few fragments of pottery indicate a probable Iron Age date for the penannular gullies and for one of the component features of the concentric arcs. Evidence for the fence lines and part of the bedding associated with the former Great Western Railway Witney branch line, demolished in the 1960s, was also recovered.

Area 5a (centred SP 3785 0745). Part of Area 5a, aligned east-northeast-west-southwest, was stripped for reserve use. A straight ditch running northeast-southwest across the south-west end of the area was of 2nd century date. A further poorly-preserved feature, parallel to the south-east, was undated but probably contemporary. At the south-west end of the area a substantial post-medieval ditch, aligned northwest-southeast, was associated with a group of small sub-rectangular and irregularly-shaped quarry pits.

Thame, 48A North Street (SP 7078 0600)

Robin Bashford

In April and May 2015, OAS were commissioned by J.T.W Construction on behalf of Infuse Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief for the construction of a new three storey rear extension to 48A North Street, Thame. The watching brief revealed two heavily truncated post-medieval pits cut through the natural sand, and the surviving base of a brick wall which may represent a garden wall pre-dating renovations to the property in the 1980s. No other archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the works.

OXFORDSHIRE BUILDINGS RECORD

19 Buildings were recorded in 2015. Four of these were investigated for the Victoria County History and the results will be published in Volume XVIII (Benson, Ewelme and area) due out in 2016. A further five cottages in Chalgrove - also in Ewelme Hundred - were studied under the auspices of the local history group as a contribution to the general vernacular architecture of the area. Six other private houses

were recorded to help their owners understand the dates a phases of the buildings, and a set of redundant farm buildings was investigated prior to demolition. The other three buildings were of sufficient interest and complexity to require team recording by members of OBR. These are reported below.

Blewbury, Meer's Parcel, London Road

(SU 53028 85534)

Donna Thynne

Meer's Parcel (listed Grade II) was previously a public house called The Catherine Wheel. It lies on the south side of the London Road (A417). The building is a two-storey timber-framed baffle entry house (see plan), of three bays (G2, G3, G4) with two additional half bays at either end (G1, G5), and a timber-framed building at the west end now a garage (G6). When visited the house was undergoing a complete renovation and many walls had been stripped back to the timber-framing. Recording was facilitated by Marianne Suhr and property owner Jane Buss whose help we gratefully acknowledge.

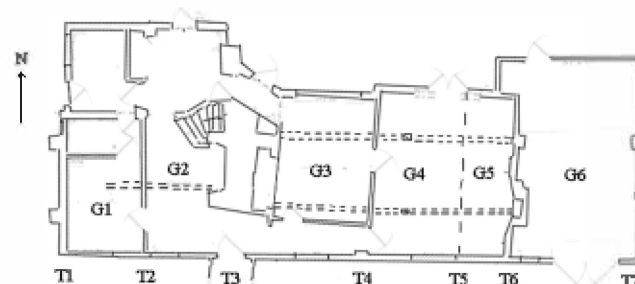


Figure 20. Meer's Parcel Ground Plan.

The most significant recordings were made of truss two and the external framing on the south elevation.

Truss Two

Truss T2 was the most intact truss especially at first floor level, it was faired-faced to the east and comprised two jowled storey posts linked by a tie-beam with straight braces from posts to the tie-beam, intact to the south, truncated for a door to the north. The principal rafters were linked by a collar supported by queen posts, these had gouge-stamped assembly marks. There was also a secondary king post nailed in place.

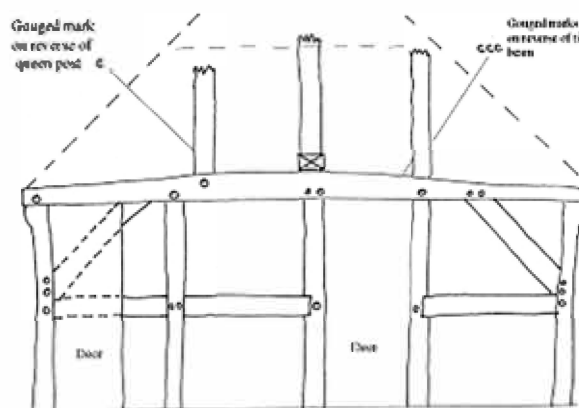


Figure 21. West face of truss T2 (not to scale).

Oxfordshire

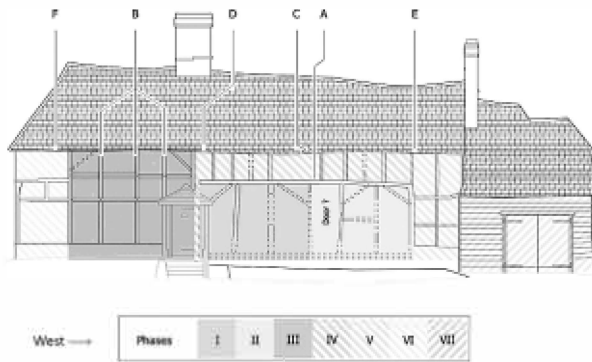


Figure 22. South elevation, showing phasing. (Tim Peacock/Heather Horner on owner drawing)

Exterior Framing South Elevation:

Much of the framing had been replaced and reused but some primary timbers remained in situ particularly on the front elevation. From the detailed analysis of features, such as overlapping and jointed wall plates and different styles of pegging (features A-F on elevation), four principal phases of construction were identified.

- Phase I (medium grey in diagram) was a c 1600 single bay, single storey dwelling with a hearth.
- Phase II (light grey), a little later, in c 1620 a single bay, single storey unheated structure was added to the west.
- Phase III (dark grey) around the middle of the 17th century a two storey stand-alone single bay framed structure was added to the east. This had its own stack and was heated on both floors. (Truss T2 formed the gable end of this building and the relatively thin scantling of the joists and the fact that they are laid vertically also implies a mid-17th century date). It is possible that at this time, phases I/II and III were separate buildings with a gable entry to phase III.
- Phase IV (medium stripe) c 1750 the roof was raised in phases I and II. The stack was raised and the floor inserted.
- Phases V and VI by c 1800 the two east-west half bays were added and by 1820 the stand alone stable to the west.

The prominence of Meer's Parcel on the London Road (then the Reading Turnpike) and at the village cross-roads probably gave rise to its use as a pub. The 17th century phases reflect a reworking of space and facilities as needs arose as the transport infrastructure improved. The mid-late 18th century alterations probably coincided with a new tenant, John Spenlove, a brewer from Abingdon. The Catherine Wheel does not appear to have enough facilities to cater as a stagecoach stop, not having any very large stabling, coach house or extensive accommodation. Possibly it was a hostelry providing lesser accommodation and facilities for villagers and foot travellers alike.

West Challow, Garlands Farm (SU 36110 89406)

Heather Horner

In August 2015, we were invited to record Garlands Farm, West Challow, Oxfordshire (formerly Berkshire), in order to understand the phasing of the building to inform planned renovations.

The farm is located towards the summit of the chalk ridge of the Chilterns, above the Vale of White Horse. The agricultural buildings were to the south, and at the time of the visit comprised a number of modern barns surrounding a small brick animal shed. Historic map evidence suggested

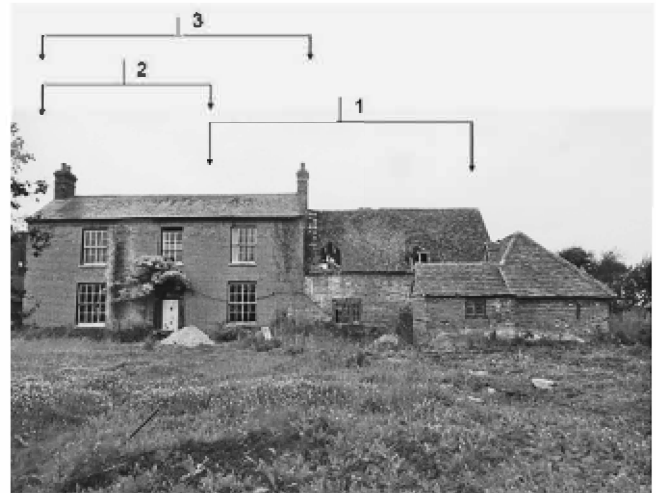


Figure 23. East elevation of Garlands farmhouse (left) with cheese room (centre) and ancillary service buildings (right).

that this shed was a relict of an earlier courtyard of farm buildings which had formerly been attached to the south end of the farmhouse and cheese room recorded here.

Detailed examination and recording of external and internal features revealed many structural alterations, simplified into three main building phases for ease of description. The earliest was the northern 'cheese room' range with a steeply-pitched roof (bracket 1 in Fig 23). It extended beyond the stack, and survived for one bay under the early 19th century shallow pitch roof of the Georgian range (3 in Fig.23).

The walls of the cheese room block are of an orange brick laid in English bond with a distinctive white mortar, standing on a stone plinth; the plinth is also visible inside the Georgian range. The southern chimney has two flues, formerly heating rooms each side of the stack. Remains of a blocked doorway in the east elevation would have opened into a small lobby in



Figure 24. Cheese shelf supports.



Figure 25. Half-brick cladding on exterior (right) of cheese room, distinctive white mortar in earlier brickwork (left).

front of the stack. Parts of a newel stair, found within the building but no longer *in situ*, may once have stood behind the stack. An inserted floor to the north of the stack is supported on a series of cross beams chopped into the brickwork; none of these are in line with the roof trusses. This upper floor retains the plastered and lime-washed walls and shelf supports for storing cheeses (Fig 24). The roof trusses, fully visible in this upper space, are a mixture of styles and dates, with evidence of re-used timbers, and effectively stand on the inserted floor, indicating rebuilding. Rafters and ridge are later replacements, with dormer windows inserted, and a roof covering of old clay tiles. At some point, the English bond walls have been clad with a half-brick thick skin (Fig 25) in Flemish bond with burnt header chequer-work and penny-pointing

There are elements of early fabric to the west, directly behind the Georgian front range (bracket 2 in Fig 23). The foundations are slight, onto natural; the ground floor has a stone wall, (mostly limestone, some clunch, soft pebbly lime mortar) with brick dressings to windows, doors and corners. The first floor walls are all brick, in an irregular bond. Two primary (splayed) window openings survive in the west elevation, suggesting a 1½ storey block. A corridor front-to-back (space G2 on plan at Fig 26) has a pair of 3-plank 4-rail doors with early strap hinges and could mark

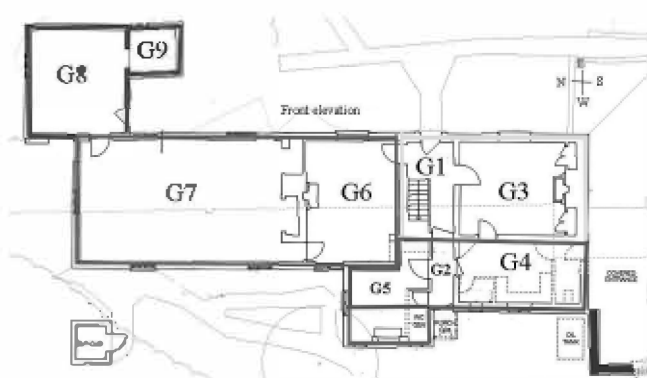


Figure 26. Plan of ground floor with suggested phasing.

the line of a through-passage. This structure may also have abutted another stone building with brick dressings, again using the distinctive white mortar, surviving as an L-shaped fragment at SW corner. This fragment may be a survival of demolished farm buildings which once stood to the south. The stone-and-brickwork style is most often 18th century in date but locally there are both 17th and 19th century examples. The Georgian block appears to have been added in the space between the (now demolished) farm buildings and the earlier ranges represented by the cheese room and the rear range. The structure is all of a smooth red brick laid in Flemish bond, with the southern gable incorporating two flues serving a parlour and bedroom above. In plan, the range consists of only the parlour and entrance hall behind a pedimented front door, with dog-leg stairs leading off the hall, the dining room having been incorporated from the earlier cheese room block (bracket 3 in Fig 23). The eastern elevation of 8 over 8 sash windows formerly with pintle shutters, and with rubbed brick flat arches, is not quite symmetrical over the parlour-hall-dining room façade, with evidence for a small porch over the blocked lobby-entrance door of the adjacent range. The softwood roof is of raking queen strut trusses supporting a single set of purlins, and continues as a cat-slide to the west to cover the rear range. The roof covering is Welsh slate. All the fixtures and fittings, including fireplaces, stick stair banisters, door furniture, etc., support a date for the re-fronting of around 1820.

The surviving ancillary buildings butting on to the north east corner have been heavily modified in 19th and 20th century, but have some fabric of stone-with-brick-dressings and the characteristic white mortar of the earliest build on site. Behind the cheese room range, a detached brick privy survives almost intact.

Garlands Farm seems to have started as a 17th century three-bay lobby-entry house, possibly open to the roof, and thus perhaps with earlier origins (G6 & G7 on plan Figure 4). In the 18th century a service range or dwelling linked the house with the farm buildings to the south (G2, G4 & G5 on plan). In early 19th century, a new range (G1 & G3 on plan) and façade was added, which included the southern bay of the earlier building and brought the rear range under the same roof. The earlier farmhouse was converted to a two-storey cheese room with an inserted floor, and gentrified with an extra skin of brickwork. Further alterations continued into 20th century, with a rear kitchen extension and machinery rooms for the cheese-making process.

Yelford Manor (SP 3598 0474)

David Clark

Yelford Manor was last reported in *SMA* in 1984 (Vol. 14 pp.76-7). This summarised a longer report available in the Oxfordshire HER (PRN 11977). It is one of the few large medieval timber-framed houses in rural west Oxfordshire. The present owners permitted us to revisit the house in advance of planned internal alterations. This report is confined to the medieval building and its subsequent development; it records and discusses features that were not recorded in 1984.

History

The manor of Yelford was held by the Hastings family from the Conquest. In the 1490s, John, son of Edward Hastings of Daylesford moved to Yelford. Later generations continued to



Figure 27. Yelford Manor west elevation.

live in Yelford Manor, but the family seat remained at Daylesford. The manor was sold in 1651 to William Lenthall, Speaker of the House of Commons. The Lenthall seat was at Burford Priory, and later in Besselsleigh. How they used Yelford seems obscure until 1727 when it was settled on William, Speaker Lenthall's great-great-grandson. Thereafter it passed to various members of the family, and finally to Edith Lenthall in 1915. Very little seems to have been done to the house during this time, apart from the addition of a rear wing in the 19th century.

Structure

The basic form of the primary phase of the building was a central three-bay hall, open to the roof and entered by means of a through passage to the north, with jettied cross-wings at either end (Fig 27). Each element was a separate timber-framed structure standing on a rubblestone plinth, with close-studding throughout. Tree-ring dating commissioned by the previous owner gave a felling date of 1499 from a timber in the hall, and from ca.1500 from a number of samples taken from the north cross-wing (Vernacular Architecture 33 p.85).

The wings were built first - the sills of both extended beyond the timber frame in anticipation of the central hall. Although there were some differences between the wings: the southern had squared jetty joists, while the north bay had rounded ends and the assembly marks were made using different tools and styles, the carpentry was similar and the external architecture gave equal status to the parlour and service

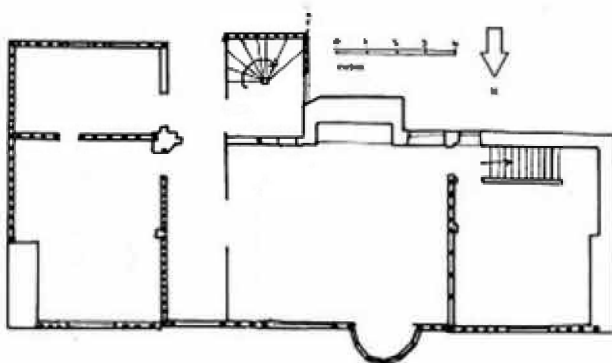


Figure 28. Yelford Manor ground floor plan.

wings, perhaps because the owner was not certain at the time of building which was going to be which. The plan is shown at Fig 28.

The hall had few visible early features – such framing as was visible at the south belonged structurally to the wing. On the west wall the posts either side of the canted bay window had a large quantity of graffiti, including 'daisy wheels' and M-like initials, probably apotropaic (evil-averting).



Figure 29. Yelford Manor north wall.

The north wall of the north wing (Fig.3) was carefully examined and found to consist of many modern or reused timbers, casting doubt on whether its stone chimneystack was primary. The ground floor room replaced the medieval service rooms - where there was a transverse beam and a plaster ceiling. At the north wall was a 'butler's pantry' from the 1950s with a wooden sink. The east wall of this room consisted of an exposed timber framed structure with a primary door-head in which there was a door with upper panels of linenfold. From the room beyond a doorway with vase stops opened to a modern covered passage and the foot of the (modern) staircase in a 17th-century tower.

There was no evidence for the original access to the upper rooms in the wings. In the north wing the room in the easternmost bay was separated from the two-bay western room by a closed primary partition. In the western room was some coloured paint in bands on the timbers, which also had signs of smoke-blackening. Some of the joists in the floor of this room had sooted sides. All the visible primary roof timbers were sooted. There were two tiers of purlins, and curved windbraces between.

In the roof of the south wing deeply chiselled assembly marks were noted. One tie-beam and the ceiling supports were modern. Above this was an earlier ceiling, supported by joists lodged over the upper tier of purlins without pegs. Evidence of a painted decoration was seen on the principal rafters between the two ceilings, suggesting that the uppermost ceiling dated from the 17th century remodelling phase. The rafters of the north roof frame had lath nails, suggesting that it was slated for a period.

The stair turret extended to attic level with a blocked primary window to the east gable, and a framed doorway led to an attic room that had at one time been plastered and ceiled.

Discussion and Conclusion

At first sight, the development history of Yelford seems straightforward: hall and cross-wings built in 1500, hall floored over, a stair turret added and stack inserted within a century. Since then key events included a fire in the 19th century which necessitated some rebuilding of the south wing, then a gradual period of decline to multi-occupancy in the early 20th century. Its two owners from 1950 to 2014

repaired and restored according to their own visions for the house and the conservation principles of their times. The 2015 investigation, however, suggested a more complex history, but one which is not easy to interpret since there are some areas where modern restoration seems to have destroyed vital evidence and where early evidence survives, features such as the timber framing and smoke-blackening in the north wing, and the arrangements above the cross-passage are puzzling.

Nevertheless, the following development history is proposed. On arriving in Yelford in the 1490s, John Hastings demolished an earlier house within a moated site and began building in 1500 with two teams of carpenters working simultaneously on the north and south wings. The north wing seems to have functioned for a time as a dwelling, with the eastern bay functioning as a full-height open area, perhaps a kitchen, while the floored western bays were a ground floor hall and chamber above. Although the 1984 report felt the wing had been fire-damaged, there was no charring and the sooting can be explained as seepage of smoke from the kitchen.

When these wings were finished, they were slated to make them waterproof while work began - perhaps the following year - on the hall and passage between them. The slates covering the roofs of the wings were removed when the hall was complete. The hall was separated from the passage by a screen, much of which survives.

A major rebuilding was carried out in the later 16th century. This involved inserting a floor in the hall, building a stone stack against the east wall, with fireplaces at each level, and the timber-framed stair turret to the east. It is significant that the last was not built at the end of the cross-passage but to one side. This meant that access directly from the hall was needed, and hence that the screen had to be moved northwards by a couple of feet. The opportunity was taken to floor over the passage and the similarity of the carpentry here with that in the turret confirms the likelihood that they are contemporary. The continuation of the staircase to an attic room may have been for storage or for a servant's accommodation.

The flooring of the former kitchen in the east bay of the north wing, and the construction of a proper kitchen fireplace - perhaps with bread oven - in the adjacent bay may also have been part of this phase, with a major re-framing of the north wall to allow for the stack. However, this is an area where the evidence has been lost, and the date of this phase must be conjectural.

Early 17th century features - which are most likely the work of John Hastings who arrived in 1610 - include the first ceilings in the hall and parlour chambers, and the decorative schemes on the exposed timbers - which would have extended over the wall infill as well. The creation of the double-height bay window at the high end of the hall, and the oriel windows (some of which no longer survive but were noted by Gilman) are also of this period. The panelling in the parlour, in particular a reeded pilaster with a carved 'capital' is typical of the period. The reference to the panelling in the 1949 auction details shows that, unlike some of the other panelling, this was not introduced by the later 20th century restorers of Yelford.

From the 18th and 19th centuries were alterations to the south wing and replacement of hall timber by stone at the south-east. A late 18th century wallpaper fragment found in a

closet was a small but important piece of evidence for the decoration of Yelford at that time. Almost nothing now survives of 19th and early 20th century alterations and additions to cater for multiple occupancy.

The main alteration in the 1950s was the enclosure of the gap between the stair turret and the east bay of the north range, remaking the staircase and landing and creating a new doorway into the north wing at first floor level. The former newel stair to the attic was also removed. While one may regret the over-restoration carried out in the 1950s, some excellent timberwork was introduced - the repair of the medieval screen and its replication at the foot of the staircase, as well as the cupboards forming the 'butler's pantry'. Additional early 17th century panelling was brought in for the stair turret, upper landing and former dining room.

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(NGR 454485, 216647)

Martin D Wilson

Archaeological monitoring was carried out during the excavation of a 120m long cable trench for a Solar Array Installation at Oddington Grange Farm, Charlton-On-Otmoor, Oxfordshire. The removal of topsoil revealed a geological stratum. There were no buried archaeological features or artefacts of archaeological significance present. The trench encountered a localised area of mid- 20th century domestic waste which was possibly an in-filled pond or hollow. OASIS ref: souterra1- 227647.

STANFORD IN THE VALE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH PROJECT

David Ashby

Grid reference: SU 342 935

Introduction

The Stanford in the Vale Archaeological Research Project is an on-going project which commenced in 2008. The project currently has three main aims:

- 1- To gain a further and greater understanding of the archaeology of Stanford in the Vale;
- 2 - To either prove or disprove the following hypothesis: Stanford in the Vale was planned as a 10 acre medieval market town which had failed by the end of the medieval period. At this point Stanford in the Vale formed into a village;
- 3 - To get the community involved in their local heritage and archaeology.

During the 2011 project season, the project expanded from looking at one field in the village, to examining the village settlement and its surrounding fields as a whole. During 2014 project season, the fourth year of the expansion of the project archaeological fieldwork comprised three main areas. These included: a ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey in the grounds of Cox's Hall; excavation of Tr16 at Ashdown House; and the excavation of nine test pits (17-23). Through

Oxfordshire

the use of these techniques, archaeological features and finds materials were identified dating from the Mesolithic to modern periods. These include the identification and location of the, now demolished, west wing of Cox's Hall through GPR, as well as multi-phased Manor House platform construction, and buildings, as demonstrated through the excavation of Trench 16. Lastly, the seven test pits excavated within gardens in the village have provided new and important insights into the underlying archaeology and heritage of the settlement from the Mesolithic to modern periods.

During the 2015 project season, a large amount of further work was carried out within the village and its surrounding fields, which will be discussed in this article. The work undertaken was: GPR; full excavation and test pitting at twelve sites in the village. This article will also discuss the work that is proposed to be carried out during the 2016 project season.

Geophysical Surveys (GPR)

Ashdown House

(SU 342 934)

The GPR survey was undertaken within the field of Ashdown House, adjacent to the Millennium Green and school playing field. The survey was carried out at 1m transects with readings being taken at 2.5cm intervals, to a depth of 5m. The survey data indicated many features within this area, including: the back-filled village pond; the remains of a possible structure adjacent to the Millennium Green, possibly relating to Manor House activities; as well as a possible continuation of the Roman boundary ditch, the corner of which was excavated in Trench 15 in 2013. These features can be seen in Fig 30, a time slice from the GPR data.

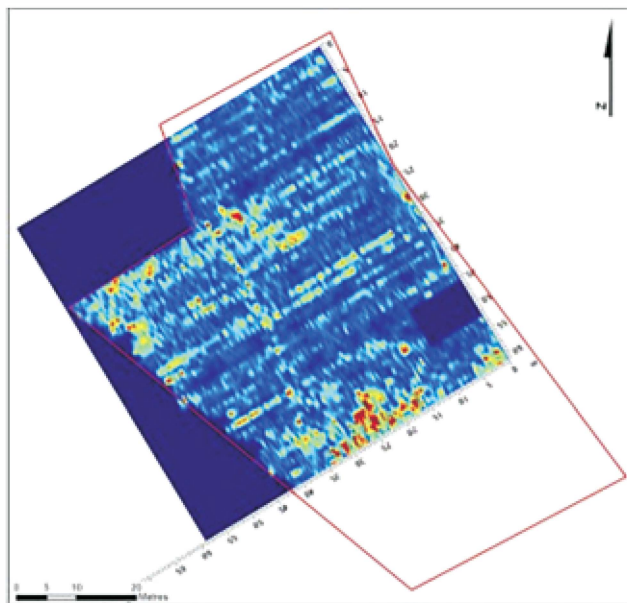


Figure 30. GPR plot, time slice 1.6m to 1.7m, indicating a series of archaeological features within the survey area.

However, this survey does not indicate the presence or extent of the structures seen at the top of Trench 15, so to date their extent is unknown. It should also be noted that the survey indicates that the features such as the village pond and Roman ditch were excavated through the underlying solid geology.

Excavations

Horsecroft Field (Trench 17 and 18)

(SU 344 937)

Trenches 17 and 18 were excavated within the field adjacent and to the north of Horsecroft lane. These trenches were excavated to examine the possibility of a medieval mill within this area, adjacent to the watercourse, and where a long stone wall could be seen within the current hedge line. Previously in 2009 Trench 11, a small trench, was excavated to examine this feature; however due to its size it was hard to indicate exact phasing of activities, therefore a larger excavation was undertaken within this area. Trenches 17 and 18 were excavated to the size and shape of: Tr17 was rectangular in shape and measured 6m wide by 9m long, and was excavated at the western end of the feature; Tr18 was rectangular in shape and measured 3m wide by 4m long, and was excavated at the eastern end of the feature.

The excavations of Trenches 17 and 18 have indicated the phasing of the possible mill structure within this area. Phase 5 is comprised of a medieval field system, including medieval ploughing, adjacent to the stone remains of the mill. This indicates that once the structure was demolished, most of it was removed and the area it covered reverted back into agricultural use. This phase also included later post medieval dumping of material onto and adjacent to the wall remains within the hedge line.

Phases 4 and 3 comprise the construction of the stone mill structure itself, of which the wall length within the hedge line is the only part remaining. Of these two phases, Phase 3 comprises the primary stone construction of a 10m long, 1m wide, double stepped substantial foundation and excavation of the adjacent mill leat. Phase 4 comprises a later, poorly built, 2m long stone extension at the eastern end of the mill structure. These two phases form the main wall of the mill structure, which are likely to have supported an undershot mill wheel which would have been located within the adjacent stream bed, and both are medieval in date. An elevation drawing of this wall can be seen in Fig 31. It is important to note that this is the only part of the structure remaining with the rest removed during the late medieval period and therefore has been preserved due to its location within the hedge line.

Phase 2 is formed of 2 post holes which were found to underlie the medieval plough soil indicated by Phase 5. These post holes are thought to either demonstrate the presence of an earlier timber mill on the site or a separate earlier timber structure prior to the mill's construction. However, the date of this earlier timber structure is currently unknown, though it may be that of an earlier mill structure

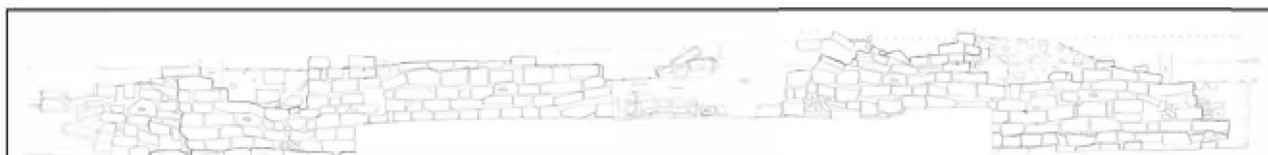


Figure 31. Elevation drawing of northern face of stone mill structure.

dating to the Saxon period and may relate to a reference in the Domesday Book of one of two mills in the village (Morris, 1979). These two post holes were excavated into the underlying geology which formed Phase 5 of the activity on the site. Lastly, it is important to note that within the finds material recovered from deposits on site a large quantity of worked flint was also recovered. This comprises flint scrapers, blades and a flint core as well as a large quantity of debitage. This flint material has been dated to the Neolithic period, and indicates a possible flint working area, adjacent to the stream in this area. One abraded fragment of Roman pottery was also recovered from these deposits, which may indicate activity of this period within the vicinity. From the archaeology within this trench it can be demonstrated that there is significant evidence for a large undershot medieval two-phase mill within this area of the settlement. The archaeology identified within the two trenches also correlates with earthworks seen within both Priors Farm and Horsecroft fields, which are thought to relate to mill workings, such as a mill pond and diversion leat. This would also correspond to the ditch, adjacent to the wall structure, being extremely deeply cut compared to the low velocity stream that it is currently located adjacent to. The archaeology, as well as that found within Trench 11 in 2009, also indicates the structure went out of use and was dismantled before the end of the medieval period, as the adjacent field was then used for medieval ploughing at this later period. The removal and demolition of this mill is thought to therefore coincide with the collapse of the town into a village at the end of the 14th century, as well as a reduction in the settlement size during this time.

Ashdown House Pond

(SU 342 934)

A watching brief was undertaken during the re-excavation and cleaning of the village pond within Ashdown House field. The watching brief demonstrated two important factors: that the pond had been partially filled with modern rubbish (which has now subsequently been removed) when it went out of use; when the pond was constructed, most likely during the medieval period, it was made using a thick layer of puddled clay which is why this area retains water, and forms the pond.

Test Pitting (test pits 24 to 35)

During the 2015 project season, twelve test pits were dug in the gardens of properties within the modern village settlement. These test pits were located, based on permission, available access and space for the test pit and spoil heap. Each test pit was 1m square and was dug in 0.10 m spits to the depth of either the natural geology or 1m, dependent on which was reached first.

The pottery remains from the test pits enable a large amount of information to be gained about the changing nature of the settlement over time, as seen in Table 1. This table indicates that all of the test pits contained post-medieval pottery apart from TP 32 which contained very little finds material, due to it only being 0.20m in depth. The pottery evidence also suggests the location of medieval activity within the settlement, with medieval pottery being recovered from all test pits apart from TP 27, TP 32, and TP 33. It should also be noted that a large quantity of medieval pottery was recovered from TP 28 (91 sherds), which was excavated adjacent to

Upper Green. The large quantity of medieval pottery recovered from this area, as well as the deep medieval stratigraphy in this test pit, indicates a continual and high-level use of the northern area settlement during this period, and therefore further demonstrates the medieval settlement spreading this far north. Saxon pottery was also recovered, from Test Pits 24, 26, 28, 29, 34, and 35 indicating Saxon settlement activity within the vicinity of the High Street, Upper Green, and as far west as the Horse and Jockey pub. Roman pottery was recovered from all test pits apart from TP 27, TP 32, and TP 33. However it should be noted that a large quantity (44 sherds) was recovered from test pit 26, which is adjacent to the High Street (19 High Street). This is significant, as to date this is the largest quantity of Roman pottery recovered from a single test pit, and as the base of the test pit was not reached, it is thought that this may relate to the location of the Roman boundary ditch, as previously excavated in Trench 15, Ashdown House. Ceramic building material dating to the Roman period has also been recovered from three test pits within the village. This includes a single tessera which was recovered from TP 34, which is important as this is the first tessera found within the village, which may indicate the presence of a mosaic floor within the vicinity.

A large quantity of flint material, both worked and debitage,

29	29	6	1	12	23
30	30	3	0	3	14
31	31	2	0	3	19
32	32	0	0	0	0
33	33	0	0	0	3
34	34	33	2	21	4
35	35	3	1	16	0

Table 1. This table shows the quantities of pottery by period recovered from each test pit to date, from Stanford in the Vale.

was also recovered from these test pits. This material dates from the Mesolithic period with a large quantity of microliths being recovered, as well as a large quantity of Neolithic flint material also being recovered from test pits across the village. This includes a single Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead which was recovered from TP 34, and also a possible Neolithic pit found at the bottom of TP 25 (18 Ock Meadow), containing Neolithic worked flint. This is important as it indicates a possible split Neolithic settlement during this period, with one possibly located at the north of Chapel Road (TP 20) and a second at TP 34 close to the River Ock. Other finds material recovered from the test pits included a large quantity of animal bone mainly composed of sheep and bird but also including cattle, pig, rabbit, fish, dog, rodent and deer. A quantity of both iron and glass slag was also recovered mostly dating to the post-medieval to modern periods, however a small fragment of glass slag was recovered from TP28 thought to date to the medieval period, and two fragments of kiln lining were recovered from TP 34 thought to be Roman in date, which may indicate industrial activities being undertaken within these areas of the settlement during this period. Metal artefacts have also been recovered from all test pits, dating to the medieval to modern periods. A large quantity of clay pipe fragments, including three fragments of decorated bowl, and dating from the 17th to 19th centuries, were recovered from TP26, 28 to 31 and 35. Small finds were also recovered from these test pits

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including: copper alloy objects, such as buttons and an aglet; iron objects such as a knife; worked bone including a fragment of medieval bone comb recovered from TP 34; and worked stone including a possible stone bead and whet stone recovered from TP 26, and both Roman in date.

Lastly, a series of features and structures were also identified within the twelve test pits. This includes a series of post-medieval features, including a small pit found at the base of TP 27, garden paths and adjacent flowerbeds found in TP 30, and a post hole found at the base of TP 31, possibly related to the structure within this area. Furthermore, two post-medieval stone cobbled surfaces were also identified, one at the base of TP 31 and a second in TP 35. Lastly, and most importantly, as discussed above, a Neolithic pit was found at the base of TP 25, 0.55 m below ground surface, dug into the natural weathered underlying Stanford formation limestone geology.

Summary of data

From the data presented above, it can be seen that the archaeology within the village is extremely important and dates from the Mesolithic to modern periods. The data collected from the 2015 project season has increased our knowledge of Stanford in the Vale's history during the Neolithic, Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval to modern periods.

The data indicates that during the Mesolithic, people were roaming the landscape, and working flint material, within the vicinity of the settlement. As people began to settle, it is likely that a split settlement began to form during the Neolithic period, with one close to Upper Green (TP20) in the north and the second close the Ock in the south (TP25), with a large quantity of Neolithic flint material also being recovered from across the settlement. Also, a large quantity of Bronze Age worked flint material was found from across the settlement indicating that people within this period were also working and settling within the vicinity of the modern village settlement.

From the 2015 data, further evidence can be seen for a Roman settlement of Stanford. This includes the possible location of structural remains including a mosaic floor, as well as other thick Roman deposits adjacent to the high Street, possibly indicating the location of the Roman boundary ditch. Roman pottery also recovered from TP 29 indicates Roman activity much further west than previously thought (west side of the A417). Saxon material was also recovered from test pitting in the village, mainly that of pottery material giving further evidence to the type, size and date of the settlement during this period.

As you move in to the medieval period, the archaeological evidence recovered increases in volume. This includes the possible location of a large medieval two phase undershot stone mill, with associated earthworks, close to the centre of the settlement and Horsecraft Lane. A large quantity of medieval pottery has also been recovered from test pitting indicating further extent of the medieval settlement during this period, including that of Upper Green where the second-largest quantity of medieval pottery from a single test pit was recovered. From the post-medieval, evidence has also been unearthed for garden features, structures relating to the Manor House including a cobbled surface and also evidence for a structure and further stone surface underlying the modern houses in Warwick Road (TP31). Lastly, from

the modern period, it can be indicated from TP 33 that there is a high likelihood that topsoil stripping occurred prior to the construction of the 1970s houses within the vicinity of Glebe Road.

Summary of project to date

Through the work undertaken on the project since 2008, large quantities of archaeological remains, dating from the Mesolithic period to the modern day, have been unearthed. These include Mesolithic and Bronze Age flints from around the village, recovered from both test pitting and trenching work, as well as the two Neolithic features identified in TP 20 and TP 25 which may indicate a split settlement (with one in the north and one in the south) during this period, however this also indicates the earliest settlement activity underlying the village. Further evidence for Neolithic activity can also be seen from the volume of worked flint material from this date also recovered from trenching and test pitting throughout the village. However, to date little evidence has been found for an Iron Age settlement at Stanford, apart from part of a possible ditch enclosure passing through Upper Green.

The data also shows the possibility of larger Roman, Saxon, and medieval settlements than has previously been thought, with large medieval stone buildings being excavated within the grounds of Prior's Farm (Ashby, 2011), Ashdown House, Cox's Hall and Horsecroft field, and identified in areas where geophysical work has been undertaken. This includes the 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, multiple phasing of the Church, including the identification of stone foundations for the Saxon and 12th C church, and a large two phase stone medieval mill in the field adjacent to Horsecroft Lane. Furthermore, the project has also demonstrated that the settlement of Stanford in the Vale has shifted over time: the Roman settlement being located further south than the centre of the present settlement with the High Street running through its centre and evidence for Roman activity to the west of the A417. The Saxon settlement located more towards the centre and north of the current settlement, stretching up to Upper Green, and surrounding both the church and Manor House, and the medieval settlement spreading more than 600 metres further south than at present. Due to the medieval settlement being nearly twice the size of the modern settlement of Stanford in the Vale, and due to the quantity of craft and industrial activities being undertaken within the settlement at this time, the evidence indicates a high likelihood that the settlement was a market town during this period. Also, evidence has been identified for the post-medieval settlement, including structures within the brick works on Bow Road, as well as evidence for structures associated with Shellingford airfield. However, even though a great deal of information has been identified using the techniques utilised during the 2015 season, further work is needed to better understand the way in which the settlement changed through time, including that of the possible location of both the Neolithic and Iron Age settlements, and also to better understand the reasons why the medieval settlement of Stanford in the Vale shrank from a town into a village during the late medieval period.

Aims of 2016 Excavations

During the 2016 project season, four main types of archaeological work will be undertaken.

Firstly, geophysical surveys will continue on 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 extensive GPR surveys of Upper, Church and Millennium Greens.

Secondly, further full excavations will be undertaken in areas of archaeological interest identified through the geophysical survey results. This will include further excavations in Ashdown House fields to identify and date underlying archaeological remains.

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

Lastly, detailed building recording of historic structures in the village will commence. This includes a full and detailed laser scan survey of both the interior and exterior of St Denys Church, as well as the use of standard building recording techniques to examine other properties in the village.

Acknowledgments

I would like to acknowledge the following people and organisations that have helped me during the 2016 project season. Special thanks go to all the land owners 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 field work and post-excavation on the project, including Dave Grant, Dr Katie Tucker, Briony Lalor, Nathalie Barrett, Giles Carey, Nick Watson, Dominic McAtomey and Mike Brace. Lastly, thanks should also be given to my colleagues, the students and staff of the Department of Archaeology at the University of Winchester, as without their help it would not be possible to undertake the project.

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THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Banbury, land adjacent to Dukes Meadow Drive (SP 4378 4264)

Daniel Bray, James McNicoll-Norbury

Three phases of work were carried out prior to a large residential development. Magnetometer survey identified several magnetic anomalies that may represent buried cut features of archaeological origin including a range of linear and curvilinear anomalies possibly indicating the presence of two phases of occupation: a field system and group of ring ditches. Levelled ridge and furrow was also evident. Evaluation trenching confirmed the presence of several linear features, most of which corresponded with geophysical anomalies, along with possible pits. Most of these features contained no dating evidence, but one ditch contained a sherd of Iron Age pottery. Features corresponding with two circular geophysical anomalies were identified but one was undated and the other unexpectedly contained finds of post-medieval date. The subsequent excavation is reported *below*.

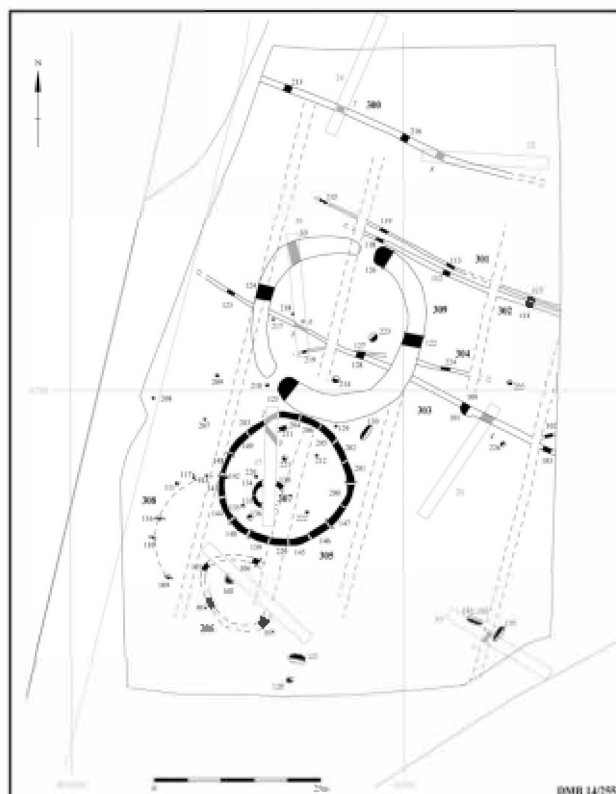


Figure 32. Banbury, land adjacent to Dukes Meadow Drive.

Benson, Land at Littleworth Road (SU 6120 9200)

Kyle Beaverstock

A magnetometer survey was undertaken across those areas of the site of a potential residential development, which had not been subject to previous trenching. Several magnetic anomalies were identified but the majority of these appeared to be geological in origin with only a small number possibly relating to archaeological deposits. Evaluation trenching over the same area will follow.



Plate 1. Banbury, land adjacent to Dukes Meadow Drive.



Plate 2. Banbury, land adjacent to Dukes Meadow Drive.



Plate 3. Banbury, land adjacent to Dukes Meadow Drive.

Benson, Brookside, Brook Street (SU 6262 9214)

Andrew Munding

A single ditch of late Roman date, which yielded pottery and animal bone, was discovered in a recording action on the footprint of a new house. No other archaeological features or finds were recorded in a strip for a garage.

Bicester, St Edburg's Church (SP 5831 2227)

Andrew Munding, James McNicoll-Norbury

Watching briefs on various small works around the church and in the churchyard continue to reveal aspects of previous use of the graveyard. Ten partial articulated graves and skeletons, of possible medieval and more certain post-medieval date, and disarticulated bones, were recorded within a pipe trench. Several brick-lined crypts are no earlier

than the 18th century. A large quantity of disarticulated human bone and some medieval and post-medieval pottery was also recorded. The other component of the fieldwork took place within the church when three test pits were dug. One of the test pits identified a small patch of surviving mortared bedding for a previous floor and another location uncovered an interment probably of 18th century date. A small collection of medieval and post-medieval floor tiles were recovered from the test pits.

Charlbury, Hopkins Yard, Market Street

(SU 6207 1950)

Andrew Munding

Footings trenches for a new house were observed. No archaeological deposits were encountered.

Chilton, Land at Upper Farm Road (SU 4840 8575)

Daniel Bray, James McNicoll-Norbury

Geophysical survey and evaluation trenching in advance of determination of an application for a residential development revealed various linear features and a pit. Most of the features were undated but a pair of parallel gullies would appear to mark a trackway of Bronze Age date. Large areas of the site had been disturbed.

Chinnor, Sports and Social Club, Station Road

(SP 7542 0110)

Andrew Munding, Daniel Strachan

Observations were made during excavation of the footings for a new community centre in Chinnor. No archaeological deposits were observed and no finds of interest were recovered.

Chinnor, 61 Oakley Road (SP 7500 0042)

Andrew Munding

No deposits or finds of archaeological interest were observed in a watching brief on footings for a new house.

Cholsey, 7 Kentwood Close (SU 5859 8613)

Andy Taylor, Daniel Bray, Andrew Munding

No finds or features of archaeological interest were revealed in a watching brief on construction of a new house.

Cholsey, 11 Ilges Lane (SU 5887 8662)

Andrew Munding and David Sanchez

No deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were observed in a watching brief on the digging of foundation trenches for a new house.

Culham, land adjacent to Kerrera, High Street

(SU 5082 9507)

Andrew Munding

Nothing of archaeological interest was revealed in evaluation trenches in advance of erection of a new house.

Didcot, Land at New Road (SU 5327 8924)

Daniel Bray and James McNicoll-Norbury

Evaluation in advance of an application for consent for a housing development revealed that the majority of the site contains few or no archaeological deposits. However, a

dense concentration of deposits was revealed at the eastern end of the site. The majority of these features represent middle to late Iron Age and Roman occupation but a small number of features of Late Neolithic and earlier Iron Age date indicate activity in these periods also. A single sherd of Saxon pottery was also noted.

Dorchester-on-Thames, The Thatched Cottage, 4 High Street (SU 5792 9415)

Andrew Mordin

No deposits of archaeological interest were observed in a watching brief on construction of a new flood defence, but two gravestones (one possibly 17th or 18th century) and other stone, probably previously used in a footpath, were recovered from topsoil.

Dorchester-on-Thames, 25 Bridge End (SU 5768 9377)

Andy Taylor

Two truncated pieces of human femur from different individuals were recovered from a gully or grave, of probable Saxon date, during evaluation prior to the construction of a new house and an extension to an existing property. Subsequent recording action revealed nothing more.

Drayton, 5 Gravel Lane (SU 4781 9426)

Daniel Strachan

A watching brief on construction of a new house revealed a horse skeleton associated with two sherds of post-medieval pottery and a single sherd of modern flower pot.

East Hanney, Land south of Summertown (SU 4145 92470)

Andy Taylor

Evaluation trenching in advance of determination of an application for a residential development revealed an extensive spread of Roman occupation and landscape deposits across the site. It is considered that the features revealed represent several clusters of inhabited areas, surrounded by paddocks and enclosures, not obviously in a well ordered layout. The majority of these features belong to the Roman period, and this tentatively suggests an extensive site rather than a long-lived one. A number of poorly preserved inhumation burials were also found, from various locations around the site with no clustering to suggest a formal cemetery. No trace of the expected Roman road, either as flanking ditches nor metalled surfaces, was found. A small amount of earlier prehistoric pottery points to very slight activity on the site in the Bronze Age.

A number of medieval pits and furrows were recorded along with a number of post-medieval features comprising stone field drains, wells and ditches were also noted along with a trackway previously identified on aerial photographs.

Emmington, land adjacent to Keepers Cottage (SP 7420 0275)

James McNicoll-Norbury

Two evaluation trenches excavated in advance of construction of a new house revealed much modern

truncation but also a single pit containing 20 sherds of medieval pottery.

Enstone, Land east of The Drive (SP 3774 2467)

Lizzi Lewins, David Platt

In advance of a residential development, two phases of fieldwork were carried out. A few magnetic anomalies were recorded during the geophysical (magnetometer) survey, some of which may have represented buried archaeological features, but none were revealed in the subsequent trenching.

Henley-on-Thames, Harpsden Wood House, Harpsden Wood (SU 7569 8048)

Susan Porter

A watching brief on excavation of foundations around the north-facing facade of the eastern wing of the existing building revealed nothing of archaeological interest.

Hinton Waldrist, Glebe Farm, Priors Lane (SU3795 9891)

David Platt

Archaeological deposits were identified in all six trenches of an evaluation in advance of a residential development, though finds (pottery and animal bone) were few. Four features were probably Iron Age and a ditch was possibly medieval. The other features were undated. The foundations of a cottage in the south-west corner of the site correspond with a 17th century cruck-framed cottage shown on 19th century maps.

Milcombe, Oak Farm, Bloxham Road (SP 4082 3468)

Daniel Strachan

A modest quantity of probable archaeological features were recorded in evaluation trenches prior to an application for permission for residential development. The features observed include ditches, gullies and pits, but only two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered. It is unclear how these features relate to one another or to the medieval site previously excavated nearby (see Platt, D and Tabor, R, 2014, *Medieval Settlement at Oak Farm, Milcombe, Banbury, Oxfordshire: Excavation in 2012*. TVAS Occasional Paper 7, Reading).

North Leigh, Harcourt Cottage, Church Road (SP 3861 1341)

Genni Elliott

No deposits or finds of archaeological significance were observed in a watching brief on a house extension.

North Moreton, All Saints Church (SU 5621 8957)

Susan Porter

During a watching brief on the excavation of a pipe trench to the west of the church, remains of six or seven human burials (already previously disturbed) were recorded and returned to the church for reburial. A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered.

Oxfordshire

Sonning Common, Lea Meadow, Peppard Road (SU 7120 7962)

Kyle Beaverstock, James McNicoll-Norbury

In advance of an application for planning permission for a residential development, magnetometer survey recorded a range of magnetic anomalies, most likely caused by modern services and fencing although there were a small number which may represent buried archaeological features. Subsequent trenching revealed no features or finds of interest.

Sonning Common, 55 Kennylands Road (SU 7085 7965)

Danielle Milbank

No deposits of archaeological interest or finds were recovered in evaluation of land for a small residential development.

Souldern, Beech House, High Street (SP 5210 3158)

Daniel Bray

Evaluation trenching in advance of construction of a new house and garage led to the recording of a modern ditch and two ditches of unknown date, with the only finds being a small animal bone assemblage.

Souldern, The Hermitage, High Street (SP 5208 3150)

Andrew Munding

A shallow pit containing two sherds of medieval pottery was uncovered during area stripping for a new garage.

Stanford-in-the-Vale, Sheards Lane, 11 Lane End (SU 3447 9321)

Daniel Strachan

Only a modern ditch was revealed in a watching brief on construction of a new house.

Sutton Courtenay, 1 Abbey Cottages (SU 5032 9400)

Andrew Munding, Andy Taylor

No deposits or finds of archaeological interest were observed in a watching brief on footings for a house extension, garage and drain.

Thame, Priest End Allotments, adjacent to St Mary's Churchyard, Priest End (SP 7032 0628)

David Platt

The evaluation, in advance of determining an application for permission to extend the churchyard, demonstrated occupation deposits of late Saxon and early medieval date. The fieldwork seems to have recorded a component of Thame that is likely to have been in existence before the later planned town. Thirty-six sherds of medieval pottery and five of Roman pottery (from a single vessel) along with a small amount of bone, were recovered.

Upper Heyford, Camp Road (SP 5194 2583)

Daniel Bray, James McNicoll-Norbury

Prior to an application for planning consent for a residential development, a magnetometer survey and trial trenching were carried out. The survey revealed a series of magnetic

anomalies which might represent buried archaeological features although no specific monument types could be recognised. No archaeological finds or deposits were identified in the evaluation trenches.

Wallingford, Lupton Road (SU 5990 8889)

Genni Elliott, James McNicoll-Norbury, Andrew Munding and Susan Porter

No deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were observed in a watching brief on groundworks for an industrial development.

Wallingford, 54 High Street (SU 6052 8951)

Kyle Beaverstock

A watching brief on a house extension revealed that the works did not reach the archaeologically relevant level.

Wallingford, Glebe House, Reading Road (SU 6068 8892)

Andrew Munding

A watching brief on groundworks for landscaping and minor alterations to the house revealed eight human burials in land that would have once been close to the site of the now lost St Lucian's church. Most of the articulated remains were preserved *in situ* and a moderate quantity of disarticulated remains were retained. There was no dating evidence but St Lucian's was in use from the 10th to 14th centuries and one of a dozen burials previously recorded at the site had produced a late Saxon radiocarbon date (Elliot, G, *SMA* 45, 79).

Wantage, The Woolpack, Church Street

Genni Elliott

The complex of buildings now known as The Woolpack was recorded prior to an application for consent for conversion. The building is in fact several original structures with many modifications and extensions in at least six and probably eight phases ranging from the 16th century to 1990.

Wantage, Wantage Tennis Club, Foliat Drive (SU 4033 8817)

Tim Dawson

Evaluation trenching in advance of residential development recorded two ditches but no finds.

Warborough, 10 Henfield View (SU 5969 9371)

James McNicoll-Norbury

A single undated linear feature identified in the base of a footing trench for a house extension during a watching brief was preserved *in situ* as no further work was due to take place at that depth.

TVAS Publication of potential interest to SMA readers:

Pine, J and Preston, S, 2015, *An Iron Age roundhouse and Roman Villa at Chilton Fields, Oxfordshire*, TVAS Monograph 21, Reading

WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY

Bicester A41 Park and Ride (SP 57065 21160)

S Fairhead

Wessex Archaeology undertook an archaeological strip, map and record excavation and watching brief on a 2.1ha parcel of land in advance of the proposed construction of a park and ride facility at Bicester. Features of Romano-British date were recorded, including cremation graves and cremation-related features. Ditches and gullies associated with drainage and agricultural activity were also found. Some features may potentially be earlier than Romano-British in date.

Chipping Norton, Aldi Store, Banbury Road

(SP 31880 27585)

R Krakoicz

Wessex Archaeology undertook a watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a new store on land at Banbury Road, Chipping Norton. No archaeological features were identified during the watching brief, but a very small assemblage of residual Romano-British and medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil. The presence of these finds could indicate activity of these periods in the vicinity of the site, or they may be derived from the manuring of fields or perhaps soil that has been brought to the site more recently. A moderate quantity of late 19th early/mid 20th century glass bottles was also recovered, many of which were produced for local beverage companies. These finds are derived from an adjacent quarry's use as a refuse dump prior to the 1950s.

Church View Barn, Denchworth, Wantage

(SU 38094 91754)

J McKinley

Wessex Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief at Church View Barn, Denchworth, during the diversion of the electricity supply to the property. The new cable route passed close to the 12th century church of St. James and its cemetery. Evidence suggestive of the presence of a former water-source was revealed towards the north end of the village green, with the adjacent road deliberately raised to avoid flooding. The watching brief revealed no evidence for human remains either *in situ* or redeposited.

Harwell, Grove Road

(SU 48900 89700)

S Thompson.

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Taylor Wimpey Oxfordshire to undertake a trial trench evaluation on 8.56ha of land, north of Grove Road, Harwell. This evaluation followed a programme of excavation to the south which revealed an extensive Iron Age and Romano-British settlement. At the southern edge of this site, and at the closest point to the earlier works, a single Romano-British ditch was identified. This ditch was aligned perpendicular to contemporary features previously excavated. A further three undated ditches are also potentially part of the same Romano-British field system. Ridge and furrow indicative of medieval or post-medieval agriculture was recorded.

Marcham, Land at Hyde Copse (SP 71047 05005)

P Orczewski

Wessex Archaeology conducted an archaeological evaluation on land at Hyde Copse, Marcham ahead of proposed residential development. The evaluation was targeted

on geophysical anomalies but did not identify any evidence for significant archaeological features, deposits or artefacts. Most geophysical anomalies comprised post-medieval ceramic/stone drains.

Oxford, Harris Manchester College, 24 Holywell Street (SP 51738 06550)

B. Davis

Wessex Archaeology carried out a Level 3 Historic Building record at 24 Holywell Street, Oxford prior to demolition. Part of a Grade II Listed stone wall was affected and the project fell within the curtilage of a Grade II listed 17th -century building.

The building was probably built in the first half of the 19th-century as a modest dwelling, replacing earlier structures shown on late 18th century maps. A softwood timber frame was constructed with a brick east elevation built directly on top of an existing stone boundary wall. Originally the building had a single open ground floor room heated by a single chimney. A large window in the north wall provided natural light. It was two storeys high with a small narrow staircase positioned at the rear which gave access to two first floor rooms. The higher status first floor north room still retained many original decorative features, while the south room was more modest, possibly suggesting use as a servant's room. The building became part of Harris Manchester College in the late 19th century and was divided into separate student rooms. The ground floor was divided into two spaces and a toilet and shower room formed at the south end in the mid-20th century.

The boundary wall pre-dated the building and may be at least of 17th century date. The earliest phase of this boundary wall was constructed in coursed stone blocks with a weathered coping and had a blocked opening at its south end. The north end was constructed from a mixture of rubble stone facing and red brick.

Oxford, Waitrose, 110–120 Botley Road

(SP 49770 06270) P Orczewski

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology ahead of redevelopment as a Waitrose store. No archaeological features or deposits were identified except for modern concrete and brick foundation walls associated with 1930s buildings demolished prior to the construction of the existing commercial development.

Thame, Land West of Thame Park Road

(SP 71047 05005) M Dinwiddy

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to conduct trial trench evaluation on 6.81ha of land west of Thame Park Road, Thame. The evaluation identified very few features; all of which related to the site's history as a brickworks during the late 19th and early 20th century. These features appeared in two clusters along the southern boundary of the site, with the easternmost group having been backfilled with 20th century rubbish.

Oxfordshire GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY DORCHESTER-ON-THAMES, 2007.

William Wintle and Wendy Morrison

Introduction

The Discovering Dorchester-on-Thames Project is an archaeological research project involving the local Dorchester community, Oxford Archaeology and the University of Oxford (Booth et al. 2012). The project's first excavation, undertaken in the Minchin Recreation Ground in 2007 (Booth 2008; Morrison 2009, 29), was preceded by a geophysical survey (Wintle 2007). This report provides a summary of the 2007 geophysical survey.

The Geophysical Survey

The Minchin Recreation Ground lies in the north of Dorchester-on-Thames, outside the walled Roman town. It is a reasonably large area of open land which has not been disturbed by recent house building or quarrying and is close to known archaeological cropmarks and finds. Possibly the earliest reference to archaeological features in the recreation ground was Cozens who wrote "Before the recreation ground was laid out rectangular lines were clearly traceable in the Manor Farm field indicating the position of ancient buildings ..." (1898, 78). It is more likely these lines represent ditches than buildings. Cropmarks were first reported in the recreation ground by Crawford (1927, 472-473) and are shown on Allen's (1938, Figure 20) plot of cropmarks. Surprisingly, these cropmarks are not shown by Benson and Miles (1974, 67, Map 36) but are present in English Heritage's Thames Valley Mapping Programme of the 1990s.

The location of the 2007 excavation was selected before the geophysical survey took place, based on a Google Earth image of the recreation ground which showed a range of linear, rectangular and circular features which were greener than surrounding areas. It was assumed these green features represented cuts into the natural subsoil which have later filled with topsoil and other material. The area selected for excavation lay in the south-east of the recreation ground where a rectangular feature and a circular feature were visible. Also within the rectangular feature was a small area of green suggesting a large pit. An important attraction of this location was that it lay outside the cricket playing area.

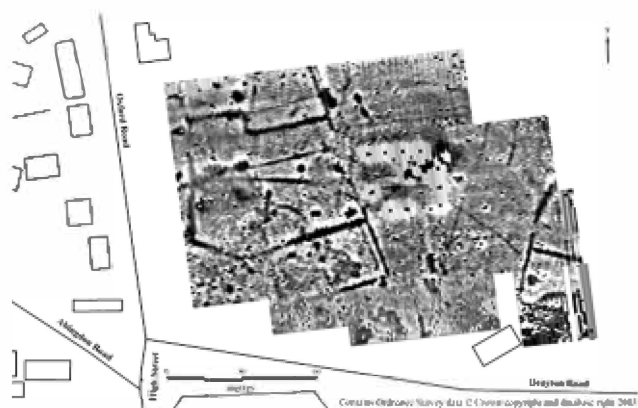


Figure 33. Geophysical Survey at the Minchin Recreation Ground 2007



Figure 34. Interpretation of the Geophysical Survey at the Minchin Recreation Ground 2007.

The primary objective of the magnetometer survey was to confirm the location and extent of features visible on the Google Earth image and aerial photographs. Geophysical survey can often add more detail, particularly with regard to smaller features. However, the recreation ground contains a number of obstacles to such a survey. In the east, the tennis courts and childrens' play area are surrounded by tall metal fences, and the basketball court in the south-east has tall metal basketball posts. Near the northern fence, sections of which contain steel wires, is a metal football goalpost, and there are underground metal connections to assist in watering the central cricket square. In addition, some ground disturbance is likely to have occurred when the pavilion and adjacent shed were constructed.

The survey covered as much of the recreation ground as possible and was not limited to the area of the planned excavation. It took place over two days using a Bartington Instrument's GRAD601 gradiometer with a single magnetometer tube. The processed results are displayed in Fig 33 as a grey-scale image where positive magnetic anomalies are shown in darker grey (or black), and negative anomalies in lighter grey (or white). Positive magnetic anomalies frequently correspond to cuts in the subsoil which have later filled with topsoil such as ditches or foundation trenches. The geophysical survey detected a range of positive magnetic anomalies whose position and shape closely corresponded to features visible on the Google Earth image. In the west are a series of approximately rectangular enclosures while visible in the south-east are the rectangular enclosure, pit and part of the ring ditch of the planned excavation.

It can also be seen from Fig 33 that the construction and maintenance of the cricket square in the centre of the recreation ground is a major magnetic anomaly in its own right and obscures any underlying and nearby archaeological features. Also present within the cricket square is a short length of metal pipe supplying water to a tap in the centre of the square.

Discussion

Neither aerial photographs nor geophysical survey can provide direct dating of the features detected. Instead, such features are most usually dated by analogy with similar features whose date is known. Ultimately, firm dating evidence needs to be supplied by excavation.

Fig 34 shows some of the probable archaeological features within the recreation ground together with dating information from the 2007 excavation. Figs 33 and 34 suggest there is a set of features in the western part of the recreation ground which are aligned on a north-north-west axis, and a further set of features in the east, roughly aligned on a north-north-east axis. The cricket square may obscure any linkages between these two sets of features. It is not possible to say whether all these features are contemporary, or, if they are sequential, in which order they developed.

The 2007 excavation was in the south-east of the recreation ground. Unfortunately this was the most difficult area for magnetic survey due to the proximity of the tennis courts, childrens' play area, basketball court, pavilion and shed. Figure 2 shows the northern, western and southern sides of a rectangular feature whose sides are approximately twenty metres in length. Within this rectangle is a small, approximately circular positive anomaly. The southern boundary of the rectangle cuts, or is cut by, a circular feature of approximate diameter thirty metres, inside which the basketball court is located. The excavation located part of the circular feature which was interpreted as the ditch of a Bronze Age barrow. The small circular anomaly was identified as a waterhole within a ditched rectangular enclosure. The rectangular enclosure and waterhole are assumed to be contemporary and Booth (2008, 61) has suggested a late Roman date, probably fourth century AD.

It is probable that the features in the western part of the recreation ground fronted onto the Roman road leading northwards from Dorchester (Booth *et al.* 2012, 2, Figure 2) and represent small enclosures and paddocks. Their alignment is slightly more westerly than the modern road. These may be the rectangular lines described by Cozens (1898). Parts of the eastern ditch of these enclosures were detected by Crawford (1927, 473) as feature K and the enclosures may have continued northwards to connect with a similarly aligned ditch (Crawford's feature G-H). Although not excavated, and not directly linked to the nearby late Roman enclosure and waterhole, a Roman date for these features seems likely. They appear similar, although less well defined, to the settlement features detected by Roger Ainslie (2011) on the road leading south-east from Dorchester-on-Thames.

Conclusions

The geophysical survey within Minchin Recreation Ground has detected archaeological features and their extent, relationship, and location more accurately than was possible from the aerial photographic evidence and the Google Earth image. The earliest feature is a probable Bronze Age ring ditch in the south-east. In the west a series of enclosures or small fields lie to the east of the Roman road which leads north from Dorchester. There is perhaps less evidence of occupation than on the Roman road south-east of Dorchester.

Survey Technique

The surveys were undertaken using a Bartington Instrument's GRAD601 gradiometer with a single magnetometer tube and set to a scale of 100nT with a sensitivity of 0.1nT. Grids were laid out in 30 metre squares and were walked in a clockwise "zigzag" pattern. Traverses were one metre apart with readings taken four times a metre.

The results have been processed by ArcheoSurveyor and are displayed in Fig 33 as a block shaded image using a grey-scale.

Acknowledgements

We are very grateful to Mr Chris Hill of the Dorchester Parish Council for his help in co-ordinating this work and in obtaining permission from the Parish Council and the Cricket Club for the geophysical survey.

For their assistance with the geophysical survey we are grateful to Margaret Andrews Knight Boyer, John Hawes, Karen Selway-Richards and Lyn Simmonds. The survey was undertaken using a Bartington GRAD 601 magnetometer generously loaned to Oxford University Department for Continuing Education by Bartington Instruments. The results have been processed by the ArcheoSurveyor program developed by David Wilbourn of dwconsulting BV.

The Ordnance Survey data used in the figures is the freely available OS Open Map - Local.

The Discovering Dorchester-on-Thames Project is directed by Professor Chris Gosden and Professor Helena Hamerow of the Institute of Archaeology, University of Oxford, and Dr Gill Hey and Mr Paul Booth of Oxford Archaeology. Dr Wendy Morrison was formerly the Assistant Director.

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY IN DORCHESTER-ON-THAMES, 2008.

William Wintle, David Griffiths and Gill Hey.

Introduction

The Discovering Dorchester-on-Thames Project is an archaeological research project involving the local Dorchester community, Oxford Archaeology and the University of Oxford (Booth *et al.* 2012). The project's third excavation, undertaken at Deacon's Field to the north of Dorchester, investigated a Neolithic cursus and a Bronze Age ring ditch (Hey 2012; 2013). The excavation took place as a result of a geophysical survey performed in 2008 by MSc students in Applied Landscape Archaeology from Oxford University's Department for Continuing Education. This report provides a summary of the geophysical survey.

The Geophysical Survey

The cursus at Dorchester-on-Thames was first reported by Crawford (1927, 471, Plates I and II) as parallel cropmarks visible on aerial photographs taken by the RAF and which extended over half a mile. These parallel ditches were also visible in aerial photographs taken by Major Allen (Allen 1938, 169-170, Plate XVI) who noted "Their extension to the north-west is covered by a grass field and as grass does not readily produce crop-marks no signs of them can be seen in that direction." (Allen 1938, 170). This grass field is Deacon's Field. The full extent of the cursus is mapped by Benson and Miles (1974, 67, Map 36) apart from its north-western terminus in or beyond Deacon's Field. The cropmarks of two parallel ditches are shown in Deacon's Field in English Heritage's Thames Valley Mapping Programme of the 1990s but it is unclear if this is based on

Oxfordshire

aerial photographic evidence or as an extrapolation of the visible cropmarks to the south-east.

At some time after the 1930s the grass field was divided into two, with the smaller, western part used by Thames Water as a sewage treatment plant which has subsequently been demolished. The larger, eastern part of the original Deacon's Field is used on Sundays as a site for a car boot sale and is maintained as grass and was available for survey in 2008. This eastern area was selected by Gill Hey as the most likely site to contain a surviving segment of the Dorchester cursus, much of which has been destroyed by gravel extraction and the construction of the Dorchester bypass.

Fig 35 is a map of the modern Deacon's Field and road alignment at the Berinsfield Roundabout. A 120m baseline was laid out parallel to the fence separating the former water treatment plant from the car boot sale field and seven 30m grids were surveyed with a Bartington Instrument's GRAD601 gradiometer. Two positive magnetic linear anomalies were detected and interpreted as ditches. The northern of these two ditches was believed to be the northern cursus ditch and the other was interpreted as a feature within the cursus. The southern cursus ditch was not detected. Traces of ridge and furrow running from the south-west to the north-east are also present. Additionally, a small ring ditch was visible, apparently centred on the northern cursus ditch. As it lay across the boundary of two survey grids, a new grid was laid out with the ring ditch at its centre and resurveyed, as shown in Fig 36.

The cursus appears to continue westwards into the area previously occupied by the Thames Water treatment plant. As cropmarks have not been observed in the arable field further west, it appears likely that the north-western terminus of the cursus lies under the demolished treatment plant.

Discussion

Neither aerial photographs nor geophysical survey can provide direct dating of the features detected. Instead, such features are most usually dated by analogy with similar features whose date is known. Ultimately, firm dating evidence needs to be supplied by excavation.

The cursus ditch was excavated in 2010, 2011 and 2012 (Booth *et al.* 2012, 5-9). Despite a lack of dating evidence, its similarity in form to a feature excavated further south in advance of gravel extraction confirms it as the northern cursus ditch (Hey 2012, 52). The excavation in 2012 located a short section of the southern ditch, 45m from the northern

ditch (Hey 2013, 61) and outside the area investigated by the geophysical survey. The ditch visible in Fig 35 to the south of the cursus ditch was felt to be later, probably Roman (Hey 2013, 61).

Excavation also demonstrated the ring ditch post-dated the cursus ditch and was of two phases. Initially built in segments with an entrance to the north-west it was later modified into a continuous circuit. Hey (2012, 52) suggests this was to enable a mound to be built over a grave located in the middle of the ring ditch which contained a crouched burial and an early Beaker pot.

Conclusions

The Upper Thames Valley contains a range of important and extensive Neolithic monument complexes. Adjacent to the river Thames between Abingdon and Wallingford are three cursus monuments: Benson, Dorchester-on-Thames (Atkinson *et al.* 1951, Whittle *et al.* 1992) and Drayton (Barclay *et al.* 2003). Most cursuses, including Dorchester-on-Thames, are accompanied by other Neolithic and Bronze Age funerary monuments such as long barrows, enclosures, henges and round barrows.

Much of the Dorchester-on-Thames cursus and its associated monuments were destroyed by gravel extraction in the 1940s and the construction of a bypass in the 1980s. The geophysical survey at Deacon's Field has revealed a surviving element of the cursus and a ring ditch. Additionally, by providing accurate location information the survey enabled a targeted and important research and training excavation to take place.

Hey has suggested that the north-western terminus of the cursus lies under the adjacent demolished Thames Water treatment plant. As the western boundary of the treatment plant is marked by a small stream flowing towards the nearby river Thames, this would fit a pattern of cursus terminals lying near to a river or stream (Barclay *et al.* 2003, 29).

Survey Technique

The surveys were undertaken using a Bartington Instrument's GRAD601 gradiometer with a single magnetometer tube and set to a scale of 100nT with a sensitivity of 0.1nT. Grids were laid out in 30m squares and were walked in a clockwise "zigzag" pattern. Traverses were one metre apart with readings taken four times a metre. The results have been processed by ArcheoSurveyor and are displayed in figures 1 and 2 as a block shaded image using a



Figure 35. The Cursus Ditch in Deacon's Field (June 2008).

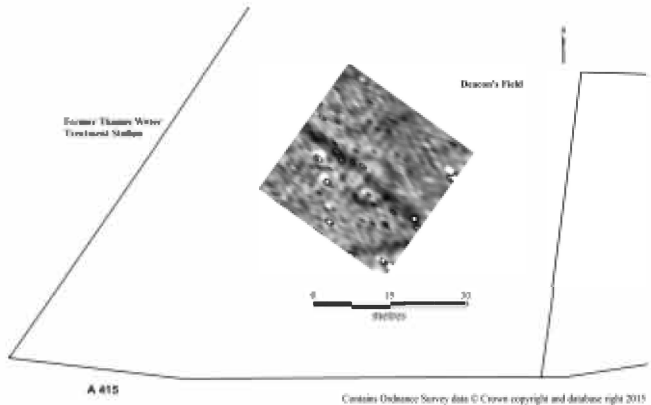


Figure 36. The Ring Ditch on the Cursus (June 2008).

grey-scale. The location of the grids was subsequently recorded with a Leica survey grade GPS.

Acknowledgements

The 2008 Field Survey week in Dorchester-on-Thames was directed by Dr David Griffiths on behalf of the Department for Continuing Education and Dr Gill Hey for the Discovering Dorchester-on-Thames Project and Oxford Archaeology. The Discovering Dorchester-on-Thames Project is directed by Professor Chris Gosden and Professor Helena Hamerow of the Institute of Archaeology, University of Oxford, and Dr Gill Hey and Mr Paul Booth of Oxford Archaeology.

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The Ordnance Survey data used in the figures is the freely available OS Open Map - Local.

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