



SOUTH MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY

47
2017



CBA SOUTH MIDLANDS GROUP
archaeologyuk.org/cbasm

SOUTH MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY

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

NUMBER 47, 2017

CONTENTS

	Page
Editorial	ii
Obituary: Barry Horne	iii
Portable Antiquities Scheme in South Midlands	1
Conferences in 2016	5
Bedfordshire	6
Buckinghamshire	22
Northamptonshire	33
Oxfordshire	53
Notes for Contributors	85

It should be noted that the reports in this volume refer, in the main, to work carried out in 2016.

EDITOR: Nick Crank
c/o Milton Keynes Council
Conservation & Archaeology
Civic Offices
1 Saxon Gate East
Milton Keynes
MK9 3EJ

CHAIRMAN: Steve Lawrence
c/o Oxford Archaeology
Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford
OX2 0ES

HON SEC: David Ingham
1a Stamford Lane
Warmington
Peterborough
Northamptonshire
PE8 6TW

TREASURER: Helen Parslow
c/o Albion Archaeology
St. Marys Church
St. Marys Street
Bedford
MK42 0AS

Typeset by 4word Ltd, Page & Print Production
ISSN 0960-7552

EDITORIAL

Welcome to volume 47.

Firstly I'd like to pay tribute to my predecessor in this role, Barry Horne, whose tireless work over the past 28 years helped shape South Midlands Archaeology into today's well-respected regional journal. I'm sure I speak on behalf of the whole committee when I say that Barry's vitality and input into the South Midlands Group will be greatly missed. His obituary is below.

Once again thanks are due to MOLA Northampton for sponsoring the front and back covers. With this issue we have made the transition to full colour and contributors are strongly encouraged to bear this in mind when compiling submissions for future volumes.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who sent in reports and ask that they, and anyone else, send in articles for SMA 48. Copy date is 31st March 2018. Please refer to Notes for Contributors at the end of this volume.

Nick Crank
Editor

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

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)

Scanned copies of Bedfordshire Archaeology / Bedfordshire Archaeological and several of the Bedfordshire Archaeology monographs

SMA - Notes for Contributors

Front cover –
MOLA staff sampling a medieval pottery midden deposit along the route of the A5M1 road scheme, Chalton Bedfordshire

Back cover –
Flint assemblage from a Neolithic pit at Reading Road, Cholsey, Oxfordshire

Barry Horne

24th November 1949 to 1st July 2017



Barry John Horne died peacefully after a long illness on 1st July 2017 at the age of 67.

Those who knew him personally will remember his struggle after the effects of contracting polio when he was just 7 years old. Despite his physical disabilities, he led a very full life and devoted much of his spare time to archaeology, which was his passion.

He was one of those amateur archaeologists who left a mark through the organisations he belonged to, the offices he held, and most importantly his fieldwork and publications. He played a central role in several groups and societies in Bedfordshire and beyond over many years, including the Manshead Archaeological Society of Dunstable, the Dunstable Local History Society, and the Leighton Buzzard and District Archaeological and Historical Society, which he Chaired for its first five years from 2006.

Barry joined the CBA South Midlands (then CBA Group 9) committee in 1978, typesetting the South Midlands Archaeology journal since 1989 and editing it since 1995, only standing down last year due to ill health.

His interests extended beyond archaeology, including meteorology and astronomy, and despite his disabilities Barry travelled the world to witness eclipses of the sun. Before his early retirement due to ill health he worked for the Open University, where he became an expert in computer programming.

Barry's strong personality enabled him to live a very full and, within the constraints of his disabilities, a very active life. He will be greatly missed.

Bernard Jones
July 2017

THE PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME IN THE SOUTH MIDLANDS, 2016

by ANNI BYARD, with contributions from JULIE CASSIDY, ELLIE COX, ARWEN JAMES, ROS TYRRELL and JULIAN WATTERS

Once again 2016 was a busy year for the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS), with 83,650 individual artefacts recorded in 61,956 records across England and Wales. The number of Treasure cases continues to increase year-on-year, with 1121 cases reported (1078 from England, 40 from Wales and 3 from Northern Ireland – Scotland has a different system). Across the four South Midlands counties 7348 individual objects were recorded on to the PAS database (a 37% increase on 2015), however this total includes two Roman coin hoards from Oxfordshire containing 2082 coins. A total of 71 cases of potential treasure were reported across the four counties. By period the finds recorded break down as the following:

	Beds	Bucks	Northants	Oxon	Total
Palaeolithic	0	0	4	0	4
Mesolithic	0	2	4	10	16
Neolithic	1	5	7	42	55
Bronze Age	0	6	2	53	61
Iron Age	9	18	9	63	99
Roman	171	560	369	3605	4705
Early-medieval	23	39	16	94	172
Medieval	95	356	120	461	1032
Post-medieval	63	352	109	611	1135
Modern	2	2	6	10	20
Unknown	5	22	4	18	49
Total	369	1362	650	4967	7348

The PAS selectively records post- AD 1700 objects to those that are unusual or tell a local story or that fall within the remit of the Treasure Act (pre-AD 1716). More information on the Treasure Act is available on the PAS webpage (www.finds.org.uk/treasure). Below are some of the highlights from each county recorded in 2016, while many more can be found on the PAS website. The records are available to view by using the advanced search facility on the PAS database (www.finds.org.uk/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 (i.e. NARC-C70281).

The report takes on a different format this year, simply illustrating some of the ‘finds of note’ recorded from each county.

Bedfordshire

Total objects = 369; Treasure cases: = 7

A silver unit of the Trinovantes, in the name of Tasciovanus, ‘Eagle Griffin’ type, dating to 25 BC–AD 10. Obverse: Eagle standing left, head right, TASC to right. Reverse: Griffin right, ring-pellet before, trefoil of pellets below. ABC



Figure 1: Iron Age silver coin from Hockliffe (BH-9B1BAA)

All images – Albion Archaeology(BERK-B58B17)

no. 2646. This is a rare coin with only four other examples recorded by the PAS, all from the South Midlands counties. 13mm diameter.



Figure 2: Gold Roman solidus of Valens from Bolnhurst and Keysoe (NARC-C70281)

This late Roman gold solidus of Valens (AD 364–375), struck at Arles in AD 365, is preserved in exceptional condition. Depicting the emperor standing and holding a labrum with a Chi-Rho (an early Christian symbol), and a victory on a globe, the reverse inscription RESTITVTOR REI PVBLICAE (‘Restorer of the Republic’). 21mm diameter.

Recently more gold Roman coins are being offered for recording – this is likely to be due to a combination of the outreach work FLOs do with metal detectorists and a better knowledge of the rules of The Treasure Act 1996, which does not currently include single gold Roman coins – meaning that the coins are returned to the finders.



Figure 3: Medieval half groat of Edward III from Stagsden (SUSS-3C5C7C)

Portable Antiquities Scheme

Medieval silver half groat of Edward III, probably dating from AD 1351–1352; Pre-treaty Series C (Fourth Coinage). Initial mark: Cross 1. Tower mint of London. Lombardic M, Closed C and E, Roman N reversely barred, wedge-tailed R. Annulet stops. The legend for this coin is unusual, with several letters appearing reversed. (+ EDWARDVS REX ANGL F(etrograde) F(regular) FRAN[...]). Reverse is slightly double-struck. 23.6mm diameter.

Buckinghamshire

Total objects = 1362; Treasure cases: = 19



Figure 4: Early medieval strap end from Buckingham (BUC-ECB33B)

A complete silver strap-end of late Anglo-Saxon date with surviving niello inlay, now in four pieces. The strap-end is broadly rectangular in plan and tapers slightly towards both ends. One end is split and terminates in two rounded lobes, each of which is pierced for attachment and contain the remains of rivets. The other end terminates in a stylised animal head with a blunt snout and incised features. Its nostrils and eyes are not clear to see, but its ears are represented as two circles with triangles in their centre. Above this, on the main body of the strap-end, is a rectangular panel containing interlacing zoomorphic decoration in the Trewiddle-style. This strap-end fits well into Thomas' (2003) Class A, Type 1 strap-ends, of which numerous examples are now recorded on the Portable Antiquities Database. It is the most common type of strap-end, and has been dated broadly to the ninth



Figure 5: Medieval Papal bulla from Buckingham (BUC-CB15D4)

century. 32.9mm long. *The age and precious metal content of this item qualify it as treasure under the stipulations of the Treasure Act 1996.*

A complete medieval lead papal bulla of Pope Gregory IX dating to AD 1227–41. The obverse depicts St Paul and St Peter, with the inscription SPA SPE above. (SPA = Sanctus Paulus, SPE = Sanctus Petrus). The Reverse is inscribed with GRE// GORIVS. // PP.VIII., enclosed in a pellet border. There is an omega symbol above the 'PP', which is an abbreviation of *pastor pastorum* – meaning shepherd of the shepherds. The papal bulla has been pierced at the centre of the lower part of the bull for attachment or suspension



Figure 6: Late medieval quadrant from Chetwode (BERK-C673DD)

from a chord. Papal bullae were used as seals on official papal documents sent out from Rome. 35mm diameter.

A copper alloy horary (unequal hour) quadrant dating from c. AD 1200–1400. The quadrant is flat and wedge-shaped in plan with a curved bottom edge. The upper face is incised with lines and numbers to aid in the reading of time and for measuring distances. Dr John Davis of the British Sundial Society kindly supplied the following information: “The numerals in the centre are 4–8–12–12–8–4 and are arranged along the edges of a shadow-square. The numbers around the periphery are [15], 30, 45, 60, 75, [90], although not all are easy to read. They indicate the height (altitude) of the sun in degrees and use the medieval form of the numerals. Dr Davis comments in the British Sundial Society Bulletin that simple quadrants might have been owned by scholars, wealthy merchants or senior churchmen, and were probably



Figure 7: Roman period assemblage from Brigstock (NARC-AADF95)

relatively common but are today almost unknown (Davis 2015). 51mm maximum width.

Northamptonshire

Total objects = 650; Treasure cases: = 15

An assemblage of 112 items, including 54 coins of mostly fourth century date, and 54 sherds of pottery were discovered in a confined area on cultivated land in the parish of Brigstock. The coins include those issued under the Houses of Constantine and Valentinian (c. AD 307–378), while the pottery sherds represent nine different wares, including Nene Valley Wares (AD 100–350) and grey and coarse wares of general Roman date. A medieval iron arrowhead found with the assemblage is unrelated.

coiled right with an inner beaded crescent and annulet pellet, cross and right-angle line within. The lower coin is a base silver sceat of Series E, Variety A depicting a quilled crescent coiled right with three lines within. The third coin is obscured by the upper and lower coins. The coins probably date to the mid-8th century AD, but precise dating within the sceatta series remains the subject of academic debate. The edge of the third coin, sandwiched between the other two, appears to be relatively base, and therefore probably late within the series, possibly even postdating AD 750. These coins are being considered under the Treasure Act 1996.



Figure 8: Fused early-medieval coins from Raunds (NARC-7E5766)



Figure 9: Medieval gold coin of Edward III (NARC-DDB81E) from Long Buckby

A hoard of three secondary sceattas, c. AD 720–750, probably minted in Frisia were discovered fused together. The reverse of the upper and lower coins are the only visible surfaces. The upper coin is a silver sceat of Series E variety depicting a quilled crescent with triangular head,

A medieval gold half noble of Edward III (1327–1377), Treaty series (1363–9; North 1239), mint: London. The obverse depicts the King standing, facing in ship with sword and shield with the inscription: EDWARD DEI G REX

Portable Antiquities Scheme

ANGL D HIB ZAQT around the edge. The reverse depicts an 'E' in the centre of the Royal Cross with alternating crowns and lions in angles of a tressure. Inscription: DOMINE NE IN FVRORE TVO ARGVAS ME (Lord rebuke me not in thy fury). 27mm diameter.

Oxfordshire

Total objects = 4967; Treasure cases: = 30



Figure 10: Roman gold finger ring from Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor (BERK-B279D7)

A complete gold finger ring with intact intaglio dating from the third century AD. Henig's (1978) Type VIII. The finger ring is keeled in profile with a square-section to the lower half of the hoop. The upper half of the hoop, forming the shoulders of the ring, is triangular in plan with a raised central panel formed of an incised chevron that extends from the bezel to where the shoulder meets the hoop. The upper shoulders have a scrolled design on each outer edge. The bezel is raised above the shoulders in an oval cell, again of gold, which contains the (probable) cabochon intaglio. The intaglio depicts a female, probably Fortuna (Goddess of fortune and the personification of luck) (Martin Henig, pers. comm.) standing facing left. The intaglio measures 10.4 x 9.54 mm. Similar finger rings have been reported through the Treasure Act, including 2014 T297 from Warwickshire and 2009 T636 from North Yorkshire (both very similar in form that that recorded herein). Declared Treasure in early 2017; Oxfordshire Museums Service hopes to acquire. External diameter of hoop 19.9mm.

This copper-alloy Roman radiate of Allectus, dating to the period AD c. 293–296, is only the second example of its type recorded. The obverse reads IMP C ALLECTVS P F I AVG,



Figure 11: Roman radiate of Allectus from Mixbury (BERK-A3CE44)

and depicts the emperor radiate, draped and cuirassed. The reverse shows Abundantia standing emptying a cornucopiae (corn measure) with the legend ABVND AVG. The mintmark is S – P // C for the British C Mint, the location of which is unknown. The other example of this coin is in the British Museum. 23.3mm diameter.

A complete cast copper alloy staff or sceptre terminal



Figure 12: Medieval staff terminal from Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor (BERK-2B1D3E)

of late Early-medieval or medieval date. The terminal is circular in plan and rectangular in cross section. Both sides are decorated with openwork broadly reminiscent of an eight-pointed star. There are multiple pellets in relief all over the star and around the edges of either side with a larger pellet in the centre. The terminal has a short integrally cast sub-rectangular socket with a raised moulded collar. There are two opposing broadly triangular-shaped holes either side of the socket; these decorative elements probably doubled as securing points. 53.3mm high.

Several similar objects are noted on the PAS database, with good parallels in terms of form but differing in decorative style (see for example LIN-D03FB1, BH-F48C72, NMS-F28FF6, BUC-69D596 and SOMDOR-AF3CC7). The closest parallel is WMID-83FFC0 which exhibits a 10-pointed star, and KENT-2AF383, which depicts an animal. These objects were initially identified as sword pommels in the London Museum catalogue (LMMC: fig. 2 no. 2), however, recent research has demonstrated their probable ecclesiastical usage as terminals to short staffs (Bailey, 1994: 171–175). This suggests a date range in the 11th or 12th centuries AD.

A complete but worn and dished copper alloy medieval



Figure 13: Medieval jetton from Fyfield and Tubney (BERK-B58B17)

Flemish jetton, dating to the 15th century. The obverse inscription appears to read PIERAR DVRAR ENNELIER, which is not listed in Mitchiner (1998:216) in this exact form;

Pierar Durar (the moneyer), may have come from Leiden in what is now the Netherlands (*ibid.*) and this last word may allude to that, however another jetton in Mitchiner (*ibid* no. 623), reads DE PIERAR ANELIER and is attributed to the moneyer Pierar Anelier. It is possible that the jetton displays an amalgamation of the two issuers' names.

The finds featured above are but a few of thousands recorded across the four counties in 2016. For many, many more finds and for information on the PAS visit the website www.finds.org.uk/database.

Bedfordshire: Philippa Walton philippa.walton@stalbands.gov.uk

Buckinghamshire: Arwen James ajames@buckscounty.museum.org

Northamptonshire: Ellie Cox elcox@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Oxfordshire: Anni Byard anni.byard@oxfordshire.gov.uk

All images © Portable Antiquities Scheme, reproduced here under the Creative Commons Licence CC BY 2.0.

References:

- Bailey, S., 1994. Two Copper Alloy Cross-Staff heads from Warwickshire. *Medieval Archaeology* 38, 171–175.
- Cottam, E., de Jersey, P., Rudd, C. & Sills, J., 2010. *Ancient British Coinage*. Chris Rudd, Norfolk.
- Dunning Davis, J., 'The Chetwode Quadrant – a medieval unequal-hour quadrant', *British Sundial Society Bulletin*, 27(ii), pp. 2–6 (June 2015).
- Henig, M. 1978. *A Corpus of Roman Engraved Gemstones from the British Isles* (B.A.R. 8) Oxford
- Mitchiner, M., 1988. *Medalets and Tokens: The Medieval Period and Nuremberg*,
- Thomas, G., 2003. *Late Anglo-Saxon and Viking-Age Strap-ends 750–1100: Part 1*. Finds Research Group Datasheet 32
- Ward-Perkins, J.B., 1940. *London Museum Medieval Catalogue*, Anglia Publishing

CONFERENCES IN 2016

SPRING CONFERENCE

Saxon Archaeology of the South Midlands

Saturday 2nd April 2016

Ripon College, Cuddesdon, Oxford, OX44 9EX

10:30am Welcome

10:40am Ben Ford: Senior Project Manager, Oxford Archaeology

Saxon Oxford – an overview, with highlights from recent discoveries

11:15am Pieta Greaves: Staffordshire Hoard Conservation Coordinator, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

The Staffordshire Hoard: Uncovering the lost art of the Anglo-Saxon craftsmen

1:30pm John Blair: Professor of Medieval History and Archaeology, University of Oxford

Planned Anglo-Saxon Landscapes of the South Midlands

2:15pm David Ingham: Project Officer, Albion Archaeology

Stratton – the Saxon Origins of a Bedfordshire Village

3:00pm Tea and coffee

3:30pm Bernard Jones: Leighton Buzzard and District Archaeological and Historical Society

An early Saxon burial site at Hockliffe, Bedfordshire

4:00pm Bob Zeepvat: Principal Archaeologist, Bancroft Heritage Services

Wulfher's People: The Excavation of an Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Wolverton, Milton Keynes

AUTUMN CONFERENCE AND AGM

Roman Small Towns of the South Midlands

Sunday 23rd October 2016

Hartwell Community Centre, School Lane, Hartwell, Northamptonshire, NN7 2HL

10:30am Welcome

10:40am Steve Young: University of Northampton

Bannaventa: locality, landscape and settlement

11:30am Stephen Upex: Institute of Continuing Education, University of Cambridge

Durobrivae (Water Newton): recent thinking on its landscape setting and importance

1:30pm CBA South Midlands AGM

1:45pm Barry Horne: Editor, *South Midlands Archaeology*

Durocobrivis (Dunstable): a town on the move

2:00pm Ian Meadows: Specialist Archaeological Advisor to the Chester Farm Project

Irchester: a small town of the middling sort

3:00pm Tea and coffee

3:30pm Sarah Cobain: Post-excavation Manager, Cotswold Archaeology

An Insight into Life in the Roman town of Lactodurum (Towcester)

4:05pm Paul Booth: Senior Project Manager, Oxford Archaeology

Recent work at Dorchester on Thames

ARCHAEOLOGY IN BEDFORD BOROUGH 2016–17

Vanessa Clarke, Senior Archaeological Officer & Geoff Saunders, Archaeological Officer, Historic Environment Planning Services, Bedford Borough Council

Fieldwork Projects

There have been several development-related archaeological fieldwork projects undertaken in the Bedford Borough Council area in 2016–17. In contrast to 2015–2016 when there was a prehistoric bias, we have focussed this year on the reporting of Anglo-Saxon and Medieval remains discovered recently.

Some of the highlights include an archaeological excavation by Albion Archaeology in the Anglo-Saxon and Medieval heart of Bedford (more of this from Albion Archaeology in their article) which produced some exciting and tangible finds, notably, personal domestic objects that appear to have been lost by their original owners. A roadside ditch yielded a Saxon or Anglo-Scandinavian pig-fibula dress pin (bone) with a perforated head (Fig.1), from a medieval hearth – a copper-alloy grave letter ‘M’ (Fig.3), and from a quarry pit – a Late Medieval or Early Post-Medieval antler tuning peg (Fig.2).

In the same year, Oxford Archaeology East identified medieval settlement remains along the route of a



Fig.1: Dress Pin



Fig.2 Tuning Peg



Fig.3: Grave Letter

All images – Albion Archaeology

Reinforcement Water Main at ‘Biddenham Loop’, Great Denham (Fig.4).

The earliest phases of activity were represented by a single posthole of possible prehistoric date and a small group of truncated Late Saxon pits. Overlying these were the remains of at least three medieval buildings on a north-east to south-west alignment, the earliest of which was of timber construction (Building 1). This building had been replaced by a more substantial rectangular building (Building 2) with stone foundations. Internal features included an area of paved floor, a partition wall and a hearth, while a cobbled pathway led from a doorway on the northern side of the building. To the south of this was another smaller building also with stone foundations but with no surviving internal features, while to the northeast was a separate kitchen containing at least three ovens, one of which produced a single silver coin dated to c. 1278–1280 AD. Boundary ditches lay to the north

of the kitchen. Some of the stone foundations (especially of Building 3 to the south) had been comprehensively robbed and demolition deposits containing Late Saxon to Late medieval pottery sealed the building remains.

This group of buildings and associated features represent the continuation of Late Saxon and Medieval settlement remains revealed beneath the Bedford Western Bypass and around the Bury, extending to the east. The presence of buildings with stone foundations and a detached kitchen possibly forming part of a courtyard range suggests this settlement may have been of some status, perhaps associated with one of Kempston's three documented manors.

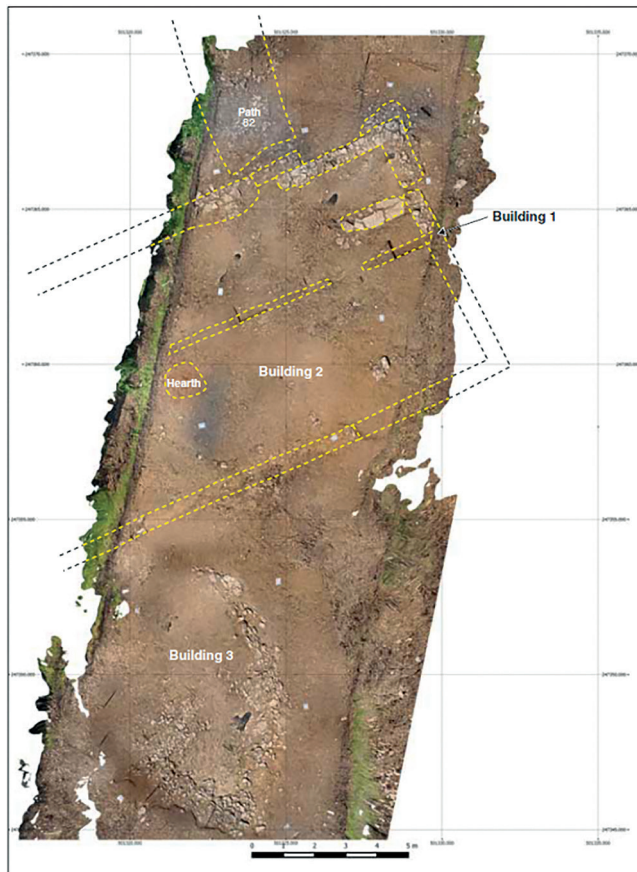


Fig. 4 Plans of medieval buildings 1 & 2 (Oxford Archaeology East)

Historic Environment Record (HER)

In February 2017, work was completed on Phase 1 of the National Mapping Programme Survey of Bedford Borough, 'NMP Project' for short. We reported on the project's commencement last year. To recap, it covers 675 square kilometres (89% of the borough) and is now halfway through its life. It is being undertaken by aerial archaeology specialists, Skylarkaeology, in conjunction with Bedford Borough Council and is mapping all archaeological cropmarks, soilmarks and earthworks from historic and current aerial photography and Environment Agency LIDAR data.

Prior to the project, only limited plotting of archaeological cropmarks in the borough had been undertaken and so the project is already enhancing considerably the archaeological evidence base within the Bedford Borough Historic Environment Record, helping better inform future conservation and management strategies, and lessening the risk of losing nationally significant landscapes and

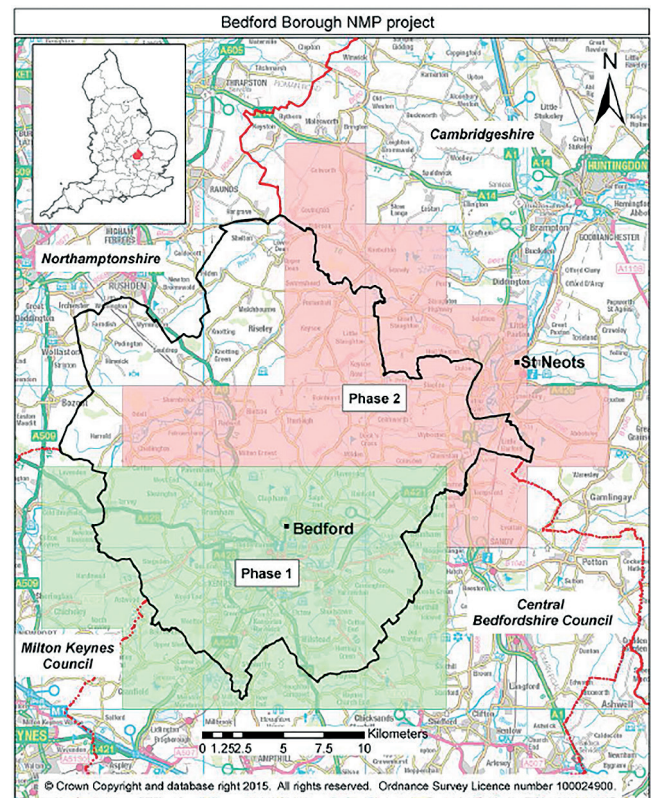


Fig.5: The Two Phases of the NMP Project (Skylarkaeology)

heritage assets from housing development, sand and gravel extraction along the River Ouse, other land use changes, and agricultural ploughing.

The first phase of the project has prioritised areas where development pressure is greatest and where other threat factors are high, principally in the southern half of the borough. It has identified hundreds of new sites or added additional information to existing ones (Fig.6) including Iron Age and Roman settlements (Fig.7) through to World War 1 practice trenches (Fig.8). This information can be broken down into and displayed by different periods/areas. It will be available soon from the Bedford Borough Historic Environment Record on request and in accordance with licence conditions.

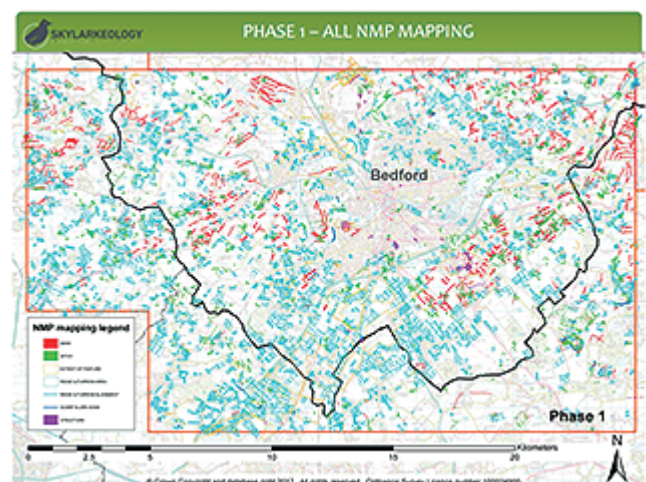


Fig.6: Phase 1 NMP Mapping (Skylarkaeology & Historic England)

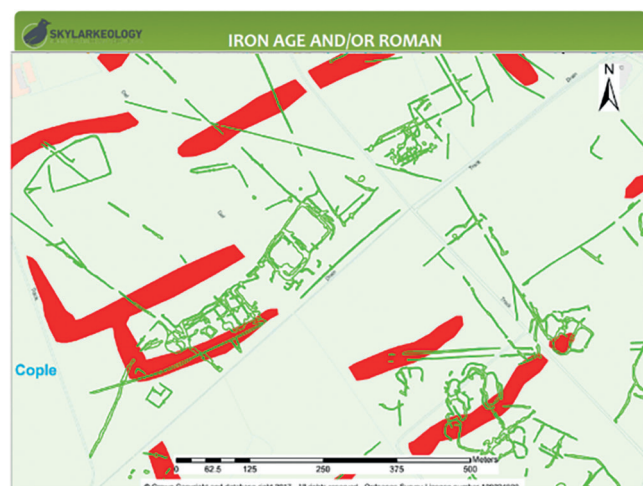


Fig.7: Phase 1 NMP Mapping of Iron Age and Roman features around Cople (Skylarkeology & Historic England)



Fig.8: Phase 1 NMP Mapping of First World War features (Skylarkeology & Historic England)

Community Archaeology

Excavations at Manton Lane undertaken as part of the 'Bedford Roman Villa Project' (<https://www.bedfordromanvilla.co.uk/>) continued last year with a larger excavation area near the original wall discovered in 2010 close to the western site boundary. The works exposed the building remains to a fuller extent and provided clear evidence that the natural steep slope of the hillside has been terraced to create level ground for the structure. Perhaps the most exciting element of the newly exposed archaeology was a large section of apparently collapsed wall preserved within the terrace.

Work on post-excavation analysis is continuing and it is understood that consideration is being given to undertaking further work near the site.

Further investigations at the medieval moated site of Castle Close, Sharnbrook were also undertaken last year by the Sharnbrook Local History Group (<http://slhg.org.uk/>). A small trial excavation on the outside of scheduled monument revealed evidence of a cobbled area thought to possibly represent part of a yard surface considered likely to be contemporary with the activity in the scheduled monument. Similarly, additional areas may be investigated at the site in the coming year.

Finally, excavations continued last year at Willington Dovecote and Stables, three test pits were opened and initial results indicated Tudor wall foundations had been identified in all three. These events are organised by members of the local community and the Willington Local History Group and the excavations are supervised by archaeologists from the National Trust and Albion Archaeology. Further excavations are planned as part of the Festival of Archaeology on the weekend of 15th and 16th July 2017.

Monument Management

The Historic Environment Team has been working in partnership with Historic England to agree funding for and conservation repairs and maintenance to the precinct walls of the Scheduled Monument of medieval Newnham Priory, Barker's Lane, Bedford. Whilst the priory remains are largely sealed beneath Aspects Leisure Centre Car Park and leisure buildings including the main church, cloistral ranges, monastic cemetery, workshops and kitchens, upstanding sections of the precinct and later Tudor Mansion House garden walls also survive. These now require repair and maintenance, especially after the impact of Storm Doris.

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.

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Arlesey, Land West of High Street (Parcel 1) (TL 1913 3685)

JEREMY OETGEN and BENJAMIN CARROLL

Fieldwork comprised four trial trenches, in all of which archaeological features (ditches, gullies and pits) were identified. Most were undated, but there was sufficient evidence to suggest limited medieval activity within the site. Later features included post-medieval / modern ditches, pits and postholes.

OASIS ID: albionar1-250681 Accession no.: BEDFM 2016.28

Arlesey, Land West of High Street (Parcel 9) (TL 1910 3620)

JEREMY OETGEN and BENJAMIN CARROLL

Archaeological features (ditches, gullies, pits and postholes) were identified in 10 of 12 trial trenches. Most were undated but cut from below the subsoil. Later features comprised: medieval boundary or drainage ditches; remains of ridge and furrow; post-medieval quarry pits and ditches; modern ditches and postholes. The geophysical survey undertaken as part of the evaluation provided limited additional information on the layout of former quarries within the site.

OASIS ID: albionar1-250680 Accession no.: BEDFM 2016.29

Bedford, Land at Lodge Hill, Clapham Road (TL 0390 5129)

MARCIN KOZIMINSKI and ROBERT WARDILL

Ten trial trenches revealed two parallel ditches, truncated by another ditch; there was a single posthole between the ditches. None of the excavated features produced any environmental or dating evidence. Medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow earthworks in the southern part of the site were identified, including one furrow containing post-medieval brick fragments.

OASIS ID: albionar1-235421 Accession no.: BEDFM 2016.03

Bedford, 13 St John's Street (TL 0511 4931)

DAVID INGHAM, JEREMY OETGEN and IAN TURNER

Following demolition of the Clarence Hotel and before the site was redeveloped for residential purposes, Albion Archaeology carried out an open-area excavation in September and October 2015, followed by a watching brief in May and July 2016.

The excavation produced evidence for activity dating from the late Saxon / Saxo-Norman period through to modern times. The earliest activity related primarily to quarrying, although the presence of a possible latrine pit suggests the presence of a dwelling nearby. A similar pit dating from the early Middle Ages was recorded next to it; this may have been associated with the structures and domestic activity suggested by the presence of post-holes and small pits adjacent to a substantial roadside ditch lining St John's Street.

Further quarrying was carried out in the late medieval / early post-medieval period, while the creation of two ditches – one perpendicular to St John's Street, the other roughly parallel with it – suggests reorganisation of the land. There

was little evidence of post-medieval land use other than two post-medieval pits, which were dug through a layer that formed over the medieval quarry pits. Several features could not be closely dated, however, and some of these are likely to relate to this period; they included a hearth, and three post-holes that may have formed a structure over it.

Another pit was dug and further layers of soil amassed in the early modern period, before a much greater accumulation of soil was added to a depth of *c.* 1m. The remains of the predominantly 19th-century Clarence Hotel and its associated features cut through this accumulation.

The watching brief identified a few features, mostly large pits, to the west of the excavation area, but their character was poorly defined within the confines of the construction trenches.

Two thirds of the pottery from the excavation was late Saxon / Saxo-Norman, mostly St Neots type ware, but the majority of this occurred residually. The excavation also produced 14.3kg of ceramic roof tiles and some fragments of stone roof tile, but these came mostly from late medieval / post-medieval quarry pits, and none can be directly associated with identified structures. The other artefacts that were recovered relate primarily to domestic activity, but form only a small assemblage – however, there were some notable finds, including an iron stylus, a bone dress pin, a copper-alloy book clasp, an antler tuning peg and a copper-alloy letter 'M' (see Archaeology in Bedford Borough, above). Insufficient animal bone was recovered to determine the significance of any patterns observed, but the assemblage is broadly consistent with contemporary ones from other sites in Bedford.

No further analysis or publication of the results is proposed.

OASIS ID: albionar1-220834. Accession no.: BEDFM: 2015.60

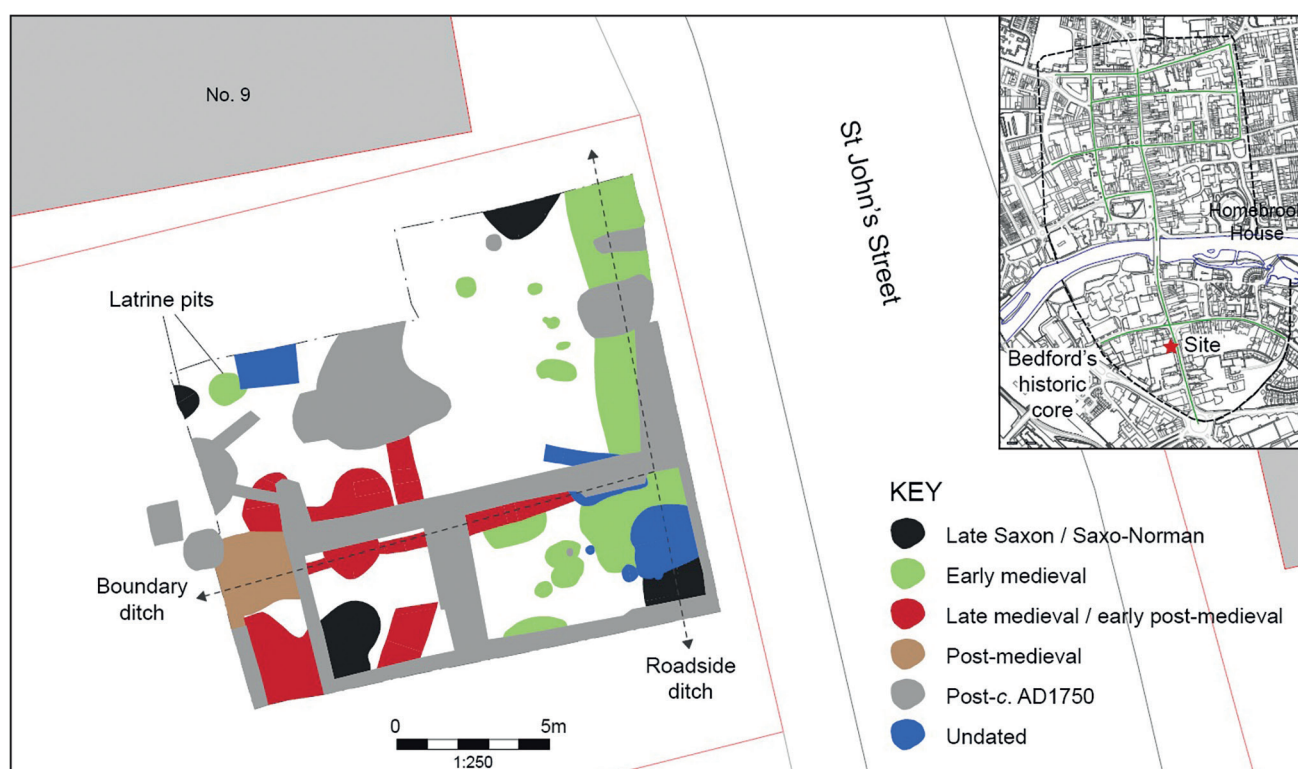


Figure 9: All-features plan

Bedfordshire

Land north of Biddenham (Bedford) (TL 025 505)

MIKE LUKE and CHRISTIANE MECKSEPER

An intermittent watching brief was maintained during construction on a housing development to the north of Bromham Road, Biddenham (adjacent to the investigations previously reported on in SMA (Luke et al. 2015)). The results are mixed but some add to previous evidence for the Neolithic to medieval periods in the area.

Neolithic/early Bronze Age

A dozen small pits were identified, including a cluster of five. Although undated, they are similar to early prehistoric examples found during the main investigations, c. 0.7m in diameter and 0.5m deep, and are likely to be contemporary.

Middle Bronze Age/Iron Age

Two shallow ditches were identified, one extending for 90m. Although no dating evidence was recovered, they were on different alignments to the Roman ditches, medieval furrows and post-medieval field boundaries within the adjacent investigations. They may, therefore, be contemporary with the previously identified middle Bronze Age and/or Iron Age ditches in the vicinity.

Late Iron Age/Roman

Construction of a new school revealed a substantial Roman site that had not been identified by the evaluation (Foundations Archaeology 2013). A ditched enclosure system covered 0.4ha and extended beyond the development area. Other than ditches the commonest features were pits, many of which were probably dug to quarry clay. The finds assemblage included Roman pottery (5kg), Roman brick and tile, fired clay, animal bone (6kg), and metal artefacts (including a brooch, seven coins, and two buckles/spurs).

Medieval

Furrows were mapped in several areas.

OASIS ID: albionar1-189025 Accession no.: BEDFM 2014.55

References

Luke, M., Meckseper, C. and Carroll, B. 2015 'Biddenham- land north of Biddenham', CBA South Midlands Archaeology 45, 7-9
Foundations Archaeology, 2013 Land at Biddenham, Bedfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation (Unpubl. rep. 906)

Clapham, Ursula Taylor Academy, High Street (TL 0339 5239)

KATHY PILKINTON and ROBERT WARDILL

A single trial trench revealed layers associated with car park construction directly above natural clay deposits. The small amount of ground outside the limit of the existing car park retained topsoil and a subsoil that appeared largely undisturbed. However, no archaeological remains were uncovered.

OASISID:albionar1-255706,albionar1-277247 Accession no.: BEDFM 2016.43

Clophill, 1A High Street (TL 8239 7732)

MARCIN KOZIMINSKI and ROBERT WARDILL

One trial trench revealed a small number of archaeological remains, predominantly of modern date. Two pits were cut

through the layers of overburden and contained modern refuse material; they represent recent backyard activity associated with the existing property, which dates to the 19th century.

OASIS ID: albionar1-260456 Accession no.: BEDFM 2016.65

Clophill, 118B High Street (TL 0916 3813)

SLAWOMIR UTRATA and ROBERT WARDILL

Four of eight trial trenches contained several pits and ditches associated with medieval settlement in the north part of the site. To the south of the settlement boundary was lower, boggy ground where thick alluvial deposits indicated previous flooding. The absence of features suggests this area was used as fields/meadows in the medieval period and beyond.

OASIS ID: albionar1-265841 Accession no.: BEDFM 2016.76

Clophill, Land adjacent to The Green Man PH (TL 0819 3771)

BEN BARKER and ROBERT WARDILL

Two trial trenches revealed the remains of a probable ditched boundary that is likely to date to the medieval period. No associated evidence for occupation, industrial or agricultural activity was identified and there was no evidence for truncation that might have had an impact on feature survival.

OASIS ID: albionar1-255613 Accession no.: BEDFM 2016.42

Eastcotts, The Paddock, Bell Lane, Cotton End (TL 0860 4535)

IAN TURNER

Three trial trenches revealed only 19th/20th-century features and layers – four ditches, a concrete and a brick foundation, a pit, a posthole, and a layer. The ditches are interpreted as modern boundary/drainage ditches associated with Cotton End village. The foundations are interpreted as the remains of the 20th-century glass houses known to have been present on the site.

OASIS ID: albionar1-250690 Accession no.: BEDFM 2016.30

Eaton Bray, 1 Church Lane (SP 7089 0673)

MARCIN KOZIMINSKI and ROBERT WARDILL

Two trial trenches revealed several archaeological features, the majority of which can be dated to the late post-medieval and early modern periods either directly by recovered artefacts or comparability of characteristics.

OASIS ID: albionar1-256039 Accession no.: BEDFM 2016.211

Eaton Bray, The Old Police Station, 25 High Street (SP 9721 2070)

SLAWOMIR UTRATA and GARY EDMONDSON

The removal of the footings of a former police station and the excavation of the footings for new dwellings was monitored. Despite extensive disturbance associated with

the construction and subsequent demolition of the former buildings, the investigation revealed elements of the old soil profile together with an undated ditch and an extensive layer of possible plough soil.

OASIS ID: albionar1-260103

Great Barford, New Road Nurseries, New Road
(TL 1358 5241)

BEN BARKER and GARY EDMONDSON

Seven trial trenches revealed archaeological features, including pits and postholes as well as sequential ditches, dating to the Roman period. The Roman pottery assemblage ranges from the 1st to late 2nd centuries. It includes both local and regional wares. A single, heavily abraded sherd of possibly early Iron Age pottery was recovered from one of the ditches in the south-east corner of the site, suggesting contemporary activity in the vicinity.

OASIS ID: albionar1-239090 Accession no.: BEDFM 2016.06

Houghton Regis, Former Co-op Site, High Street
(TL 0193 2389)

SLAWOMIR UTRATA and ROBERT WARDILL

Six trial trenches revealed part of an early medieval pit in the north half of the site; it had been truncated by modern construction activity. To the south were six poorly preserved postholes and a ditch; they produced no dating evidence. The ditch correlates with the boundary of an agricultural plot shown on the 1st edition 25-inch OS map of 1881. Several late post-medieval and modern features, including a cellar, were identified close to the High Street frontage.

OASIS ID: albionar1-241519

Hulcote, Land at Church House (SP 9449 3879)

KATHY PILKINTON and ROBERT WARDILL

Trial trenching identified evidence of activity dating from the early-middle Iron Age and the post-medieval / modern periods. The most significant features comprised a series of 12 medium-sized to large Iron Age ditches.

OASIS ID: albionar1-253643 Accession no.: BEDFM 2016.39

Ickwell, 24 The Green (TL 5178 5515)

VICTORIA HAINSWORTH and CHRISTIANE MECKSEPER

Two trial trenches did not reveal any archaeological remains.

OASIS ID: albionar1-238798 Accession no.: BEDFM 2016.05

Kempston Rural, 'Stonestrow', Church End
(TL 0151 4790)

IAN TURNER

Observation of the digging of foundation trenches revealed no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts. A dark, alluvial layer (up to 1.9m thick) suggests that this area was wet, boggy ground in antiquity. This probably accounts for the fact that the nearby Church End Roman settlement did not extend into the site.

OASIS ID: albionar1-256987 Accession no.: BEDFM 2016.46

Leighton Buzzard, Leighton Middle School Extension
(SP 9179 2494)

MARCIN KOZIMINSKI and ROBERT WARDILL

Two trial trenches revealed a landscaping/levelling deposit, possibly associated with the construction of lawn tennis courts. A large millstone fragment datable to the late medieval / post-medieval period, recovered from a pit, is believed to be residual. Two ditches that joined at right angles probably represent an undated enclosure.

OASIS ID: albionar1-230393

Lidlington, Land at Greensand Ridge (SP 9895 3876)

KATHY PILKINTON and ROBERT WARDILL

Two of four trial trenches revealed archaeological features – two shallow ditches that both contained post-medieval / modern period material. They are likely to be associated with the most recent phase of development in the area and are of negligible archaeological interest.

OASIS ID: albionar1-259430 Accession no.: BEDFM 2016.60

Lower Stondon, Mount Pleasant Golf Club (TL 1605 3526)

CHRISTIANE MECKSEPER

A WWII pillbox was recorded before the commencement of development works, as a precaution against accidental damage and to provide a baseline for future conservation management. The structure was solid and protected by an earthen mound. The interior was well-preserved with no erosion of the brickwork, which appeared as new and preserved wartime stencilled writing. Externally the bricks were more eroded, with spalling, the loss of single bricks within the coursing near the concrete ceiling, and collapse of part of the entrance blast wall. In places the mortar stands proud of the soft, eroded brickwork.

OASIS ID: albionar1-268397 Accession no.: LUTNM: 2015/344

Moggerhanger, Land adjacent to The Guinea Public House (TL 141 493)

KATHY PILKINTON, MIKE LUKE and CHRISTIANE MECKSEPER

In April and May 2016 open-area excavation took place on a c. 0.6ha residential site at the junction of the A603 Bedford Road and Blunham Road, adjacent to The Guinea PH.

The work revealed boundary ditches, enclosures, hearths, pits and postholes, two small roundhouses and a post-built structure, quarry pits and a pond. A total of 43kg of mainly Iron Age and Roman pottery and 84kg of animal bone were retrieved, as well as fragments of rotary quern, suggesting that the site was part of a rural farmstead. Ferrous slag and hammerscale in some of the features may suggest industrial activity nearby.

Initial dating suggests activity from the early-middle Iron Age through to the 3rd/4th century AD, with a general pattern of settlement shift from north to south over time. However, the settlement clearly continued beyond the limits of the development area.

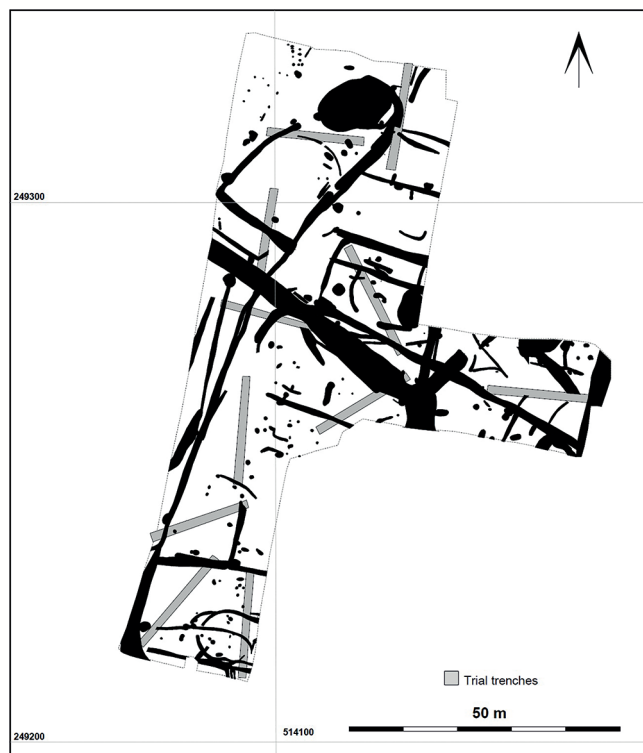


Figure 10: All-features plan

A NE-SW aligned rectangular enclosure at the north end of the site originated in the early-middle Iron Age. Internal features included the partial remains of a roundhouse and two horse burials. A rectangular post-built structure was located at the north-west end of the site.

A prominent NW-SE aligned ditch (over 1.2m deep) defined an enclosure that extended beyond the western limit of the site. It had been re-cut at least three times, suggesting prolonged use as a boundary from the late Iron Age into the Roman period. A series of smaller ditches and pits to the north were broadly contemporary. To the south of the boundary, smaller ditches, gullies and postholes (possibly internal features of the enclosure) also produced late Iron Age/early Roman pottery.

Roman activity was concentrated largely in the area directly adjacent to the A603 at the south end of the site. It comprised rectangular enclosures, a further possible roundhouse, pits and postholes. Artefacts from this area included an intact 'toilet set', a silver coin and several copper alloy coins dating from the 1st to the 4th centuries.

Early medieval activity consisted of several pits adjacent to Blunham Road, possibly associated with clay extraction.

OASIS ID: albionar1-244035 Accession no: BEDFM: 2016.14.

Northill, The Moathouse, Sand Lane (TL 1512 4652)

MARCIN KOZIMINSKI and ROBERT WARDILL

Trial trenching identified part of a possible sub-oval, post-medieval pond. It was located immediately to the east of, but separated by a narrow gap from, a medieval fishpond with which it may have been associated. Across the southern part of the excavated area a single, undated ditch was identified. The presence of the ditch indicates former human activity within the site, albeit at some distance from any settlement focus.

OASIS ID: albionar1-247778 Accession no.: BEDFM 2016.20

Potton, 7 Chapel Street (TL 221 491)

MARCIN KOZIMINSKI and ROBERT WARDILL

One trial trench was excavated within the footprint of a proposed new building. Two sherds of pottery dating to the 12th–13th century were found in the subsoil. No archaeological features or deposits were present.

OASIS ID: albionar1-249437 Accession no.: BEDFM 2016.26

Riseley, Hill View Farm (TL 0431 6282)

IAIN LESLIE

Observation of groundworks revealed a pit that was late medieval or later in date. The absence of similar features elsewhere within the site suggests that the pit represents an isolated feature.

OASIS ID: albionar1-243549 Accession no.: BEDFM 2016.13

Shefford, Land off Campton Road (TL 1360 3868)

MIKE LUKE and BENJAMIN CARROLL

In late 2015 and early 2016 Albion Archaeology carried out an archaeological investigation in advance of residential development. A late Iron Age / Roman settlement was known to exist in the vicinity, comprising a series of rectangular ditched enclosures with several buildings including an aisled structure with heated rooms. An associated cemetery was found during 19th-century quarrying; although its location is uncertain, it was thought to be close to the site.

The investigations revealed limited evidence of late Iron Age / Roman features, comprising a water pit and boundary ditches. No burials survived within the excavation area. If any had been present, they would probably have been destroyed by extensive post-medieval quarrying in the north of the site. Given the small number of features, a relatively large assemblage of late Iron Age / Roman finds, mainly pottery, was recovered. Most derived from the water pit, suggesting it was used for rubbish disposal after it had gone out of use. A small assemblage of abraded early Iron Age pottery was also recovered from the investigations, hinting that a settlement of this period was in the vicinity (Luke et al 2010, 323).

OASIS ID: albionar1-230684 Accession no: BEDFM: 2014.04.

References

Luke, M, Preece, T, Wells, J. 2010. "A Romano British aisled building associated settlement south of Ampthill Road, Shefford." *Bedfordshire Archaeology*, 26, 269–346.

Shillington, Land east of Hillfoot Road (TL 1257 3415)

IAN TURNER and JEREMY OETGEN

Nine of eleven trial trenches contained archaeological features of agricultural origin – fourteen furrows and a ditch. The features produced late medieval / post-medieval roof tile and some Roman and early medieval pottery (considered to be residual). The ditch is interpreted as the boundary of

an enclosed field. A large, irregular pit within the field was undated.

OASIS ID: albionar1-230038

Willington, Willington Lower School (TL 1116 5008)

ROBERT WARDILL

Monitoring of groundworks revealed a dark layer, interpreted as either the un-surfaced yard to the school, which was built in 1868, or topsoil predating the school. The location and alignment of an undated ditch was at odds with the alignment of the road and other modern boundaries, suggesting that it predates the school.

OASIS ID: albionar1-228875 Accession no.: BEDFM 2015.81

PUBLICATION

Newnham: A Roman bath house and estate centre east of Bedford: East Anglian Archaeology Monograph 158

DAVID INGHAM, JEREMY OETGEN and ANNA SLOWIKOWSKI

The Roman settlement site at Newnham was excavated in advance of gravel quarrying between 1972 and 1975, under the direction of Angela Simco. Unexpectedly found to contain the remains of substantial Roman buildings, including a range with a hypocaust heating system, the site was interpreted as one of a very small number of supposed Roman villas known from Bedfordshire. It also produced intriguing evidence of Saxon occupation. The site has now been totally quarried away, but the results of the excavation were never fully analysed or published and the site archive was accessioned to Bedford Museum in 2000.

Analysis and publication has been made possible with a grant from the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF), via English Heritage and DEFRA, to make the results of investigation of this regionally important site available to archaeologists and the public. The publication restores a degree of significance to an important archaeological site that, for many years, has only 'existed' as a blob on the Bedford HER and an un-synthesised excavation archive deposited in the museum vaults.

The analysis has demonstrated with reasonable certainty that the settlement at Newnham was not a 'villa' in any meaningful sense. Although in later phases it possessed some important elements of a higher-status site – particularly in comparison with contemporary sites in the area – it lacked the full set of attributes. It is better interpreted as a high-status farmstead, possibly a focal point within a large estate.

The site began its life as a settlement based on agriculture and this remained the core activity throughout the phases. Other than a few fragments of early Iron Age pottery, no evidence of early prehistoric activity was recognised, with settlement on the site beginning in earnest in the late Iron Age/early Roman transitional period. A review of crop-mark evidence has concluded that a group of linear boundaries and an enclosure to the west of the excavation trenches may have been prehistoric, but none of the crop-marks is conclusively indicative of pre-Roman activity.

A relatively large timber building was constructed in the 1st century AD, which was either joined or replaced shortly afterwards by another timber building that had stone foundation and indications of high status, if not necessarily

great affluence. Small-scale industry was carried out within an agricultural setting, with evidence of metalworking and pottery manufacture in the vicinity. The settlement was at its peak in the mid-Roman period when a bath-house was built, and it has been suggested that this part of the site became less involved with the basic functions of agriculture or domestic activity.

Decline came at the end of the Roman period, with the bath house apparently the focus of large-scale butchery. There is no structural evidence to suggest that settlement carried on into the Saxon period, but the presence of a moderate quantity of Saxon pottery indicates that the settlement was not simply abandoned at the end of the Roman period. The pottery seems to indicate that by the time occupation on the castle site at Bedford was being established in the early Middle Saxon period, occupation at Newnham had ceased.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING SERVICES

Cotton End, The Bell Public House, Wood Lane (TL 08531 45336)

An archaeological standing building survey of an outbuilding associated with The Bell Public House carried out in advance of the proposed demolition of the building. The building is a late 19th century agricultural building associated with The Bell Public House. There was originally an earlier building on a similar footprint, of which there is now no physical evidence. The building was originally part of a range of agricultural buildings indicating that as well as operating as a public house The Bell was also a small farm, almost certainly pastoral. The building has been declared un-safe, therefore no detailed internal examination was possible.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS

Bedford, The Ship Inn, St Cuthbert's Street (TL 05312 49914)

BARLOW, G

In March 2016 Archaeological Solutions carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation at the Ship Inn ahead of a proposed planning application to erect a rear extension. The trial pits excavated revealed a pit tentatively dated to the Late Saxon period (c. 10th – 12th century) by a single sherd of St Neots ware. Also present was a modern brick structure, modern service trenches and made ground. A second residual St Neots sherd was also recovered. There was no evidence of the anticipated back yard activities within the trenches. A possible buried garden soil of post-medieval or modern date was present with finds including fragments of clay pipe.

Blunham, Land East of John Donne Lower School (TL 1540 5130)

BLAGG-NEWMCOMBE, M. & BESCOBY, D.

In September 2016, Archaeological Solutions carried out a magnetic gradiometer survey within a 1.4 hectare site. The geophysical survey identified three magnetic anomalies which could have been of archaeological origin. These consisted of two parallel ditch-like features, which may flank the position of a former track or droveway, and a third

Bedfordshire

possible ditch of similar size running into the first pair of features from the south east.

Great Barford, Oakfield, 126 High Street (TL 5132 2515)

WALKER, J.

In September 2016 Archaeological Solutions carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation ahead of planning permission to demolish an existing detached dwelling and outbuildings, and erect three detached houses with garaging. The evaluation revealed three Late Pre-Roman Iron Age ditches whose alignment corresponds to ditches recorded by aerial photography to the north of the site, which are interpreted as possible enclosures and structures. A pit also contained Late Pre-Roman Iron Age pottery, and in total 71 sherds (1.120kg) were recovered from the four features, all of which were 'Belgic' grog tempered ware. Associated finds comprise animal bone, sparse iron fragments and charred plant remains. The latter suggest that the features are on the periphery of a settlement as opposed to being located within one. A gully containing two post-medieval sherds and peg tile was also excavated.

Haynes, Land at 52 Northwood End Road (TL 1034 4174)

BLAGG-NEWCORBE, M.

In September 2016 Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation in compliance with a condition attached to planning approval to build a new detached dwelling. The evaluation revealed an undated pit. There was no evidence for significant ground disturbance, and therefore had archaeological remains been present they would likely have been preserved.

Bolnhurst, Mavourn Farm, Thurleigh Road (TL 0709 5764)

MONAHAN, V.

In September 2016 Archaeological Solutions carried out a trial trench evaluation ahead of a planning proposal to build a new grain store. The evaluation trenches revealed five features, all linear ditches. One ditch contained two small residual sherds of Roman pottery, this ditch was cut by a second ditch which contained post-medieval CBM, as did a third ditch. The remaining two ditches contained no finds.

BEDFORD NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION

Willington Dovecote and Stables (TL106499)

ANDREW JOHNSON

Introduction and Background

At the Willington National Trust site only the scheduled two-storey Stables building and a rectangular Dovecote survived commercial re-development in the 19th and 20th centuries. Supplanting an early medieval moated-complex, these elegant structures and others, including a 'Great Barn' and a new manor house, were built for Sir John Gostwick, an acolyte of Thomas Cromwell, in the mid-16th century. They were in turn adapted as features of a working farmyard in 18th century parkland then owned by the Duke of Bedford

and recorded in a plan drawn by its surveyor Thomas Gostelow in 1779.

This ongoing archaeological project, which began in 2013 (SMA 44,17–18; SMA 46, 20–23) aims to find evidence of the size, location, and function of the demolished buildings. It resumed in 2016 with geophysical surveys and test-pitting.

Community Geophysics Weekend – April 2016

Dr Kris Lockyear of University College London led a geophysical survey of the site at the end of April at the request of the National Trust (NT). The survey was carried out by eight volunteers from the Community Archaeology Geophysics Group (CAGG) trained and working under his supervision using a 4-pole magnetometry cart, and a ground-penetrating radar set. Several Willington volunteers gained some useful practical experience, and NT visitors were treated to lively explanations of the survey throughout the weekend.

The site was surveyed in seven 40m × 40m grids. In addition, as something of an experiment and requiring a section 42 Licence from Historic England, surveys were conducted of the brick floor within the stables and the earth floor of one chamber of the dovecote. Dr Lockyear posted the results on his blog (<https://hertsgeosurvey.wordpress.com>).

The magnetometry equipment offers >0.5m accuracy and can be used to reveal features such as ditches, trackways, and pits. It was hoped it would reveal early features of the site, preceding its Tudor reconstruction. However, the site's agricultural history meant that large amounts of ferrous material and brick in the soil partially obscured the archaeology. A large pond in the north-east of the site had been backfilled with agricultural and mechanical debris in the 1960s and shows as a feature, as do metal drain covers (Fig. 11). Elsewhere, however, the results were less revealing.



Figure 11: Magnetometry results with main features showing in the survey (Hertsgeosurvey)

The GPR equipment offers similar accuracy measuring the return times of VHF pulses reflected from solid structures under the ground. Analysis of the return times can be calibrated by measuring them from features such as pipes at a known depth. Figure 12 shows the results for return times of 16–20 nanoseconds, which Dr Lockyear calculated as representing a depth around 0.36m i.e. Just below the subsoil. The stronger returns seem to match the locations of buildings on the Gostelow plan and weaker returns define the open areas on the plan.



Figure 12: GPR timeslice at 16-20 ns (Hertsgeosurvey)

CBA Festival of Archaeology Weekend – July 2016

Test-pits were dug over the weekend of 16th/17th July. As in previous years, youngsters from Bedford's Saturday Archaeology Workshops (SAW) had been invited to participate in the excavation and recording (Fig. 13), along with people from community groups in the Willington area. The work was supervised and mentored by staff from Albion Archaeology, the Higgins Museum, and Angus Wainwright (NT Archaeologist, Eastern Region).



Figure 13: SAW young people in action (Julie Scherrer)

The geophysical survey had not produced the hoped-for targeting information, so it was decided to use the Gostelow estate plan as a guide (Fig. 14). On that plan, a large structure later known as the Great Barn is shown to lie immediately south-west of the Dovecote; the barn in the



Figure 14: Overlay of 1779 survey onto aerial view of site

19th century. Two 1m x 2m test-pits (5 and 6) were sunk to look for the structure's foundations allowing a 5m margin from the Dovecote to protect its foundations. Positions were marked using offsets from the surviving buildings, giving an accuracy of c. 0.5m. A five-metre margin from the Dovecote would allow protection of the foundations of the Scheduled Ancient Monument itself. Positions were marked using measuring tape offsets from features on the surviving buildings, a procedure which would allow only an accuracy of 0.5 m.

In the event, Test-pitting progressed so quickly on the first morning that there was time during the weekend to open Test-pit 7. All the test-pits found linear stone or gravel-bedding remains that may possibly be the footings of the Great Barn.

Excavations

Photographs of the test-pits are shown in figures 15–17. Figure 18 gives a location map, showing the position and orientation of the test-pits in relation to the Gostelow plan. Test-pit 5 revealed a linear compacted stony-gravel surface 0.8m wide and 0.6m below the turf. It was aligned with a linear feature 0.35m below the turf at the base of test-pit 6 that comprised slabs of fossiliferous limestone (0.1m thick and 0.7–0.8m wide) and was laid upon a 1.0m wide mortared gravel surface. Parallel with this, at the base of test-pit 7 was a broken-stone and gravel surface 0.45m below the



Figure 15: Test-pit 5



Figure 16: Test-pit 6



Figure 17: Test-pit 7

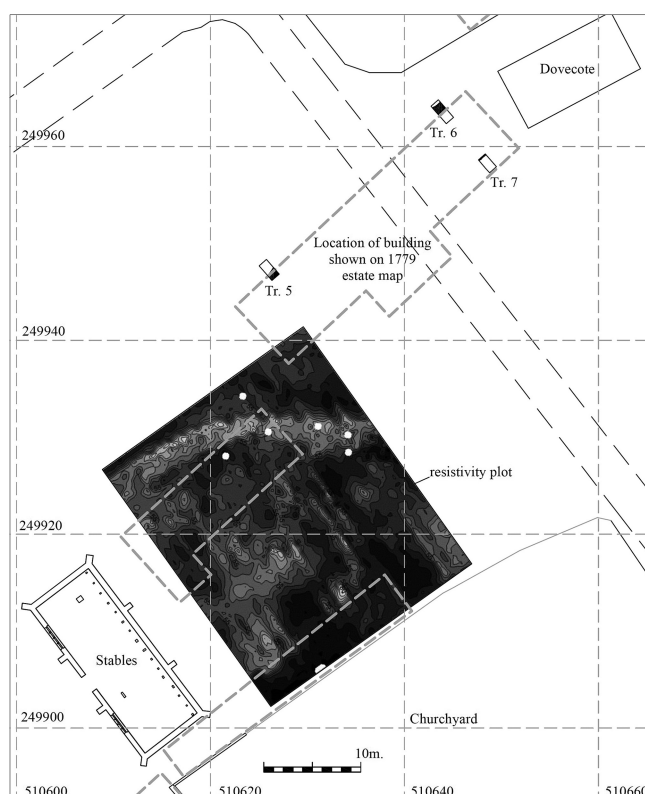


Figure 18: Location Plot of July 2016 Excavations and Resistivity Survey (Albion Archaeology and Geomatrix Earth Science)

turf; only part of this surface was exposed. These were all at similar heights above OD.

All the material from the test-pits was sieved and the finds washed and retained for analysis. The predominant finds in all three test-pits were fragments of 13-15mm (0.5in) thick peg-tile – in quantities of around 1kg/m³ from test-pit 5 and two or three times that quantity from test-pits 6 & 7. Test-pit 5 had quantities of fragmented land drains, flower pot, slate, clinker, strips of metal work, and 100 fragments of 3mm thick glass (as used in modern greenhouses). This area was the site of a market garden business after World War II, before the surviving buildings west of the stables were converted into domestic accommodation, the peripheral roadway was constructed, and service pipes were laid across

the site. Test-pit 7 had quantities of material from a metallised surface, where the NT visitors' parking area had previously been located. Here and in Test-pit 6 a few glazed sherds of thicker (20mm) possible roof-tile were found.

An intriguing solid copper-alloy trinket (Fig. 19) was recovered from test-pit 5. It has yet to be identified but may be the T-bar from a pocket watch chain.

As with the earlier four test-pits west of the stables, few sherds from domestic pottery were found (generally 5–10/m³), and owing to the degree of ground disturbance (including the action of moles) examples from medieval or earlier pottery were mixed with those from Victorian or later household china. Similar scatterings of iron objects (10–20/m³) to those found west of the stables were found, but there were smaller quantities (5–10/m³) of animal bone. A more significant difference however relates to brick and worked stone. Exact comparison is difficult as many pieces the earlier pits were discarded before analysis, but the 1–2 kg/m³ of brick from test-pits west of the dovecote compare with the 5–10 kg/m³ saved from the test-pits west of the stables. Less than 1 kg/m³ of worked stone was recovered from test-pit 5 and none from test-pits 6 & 7 compared with 1–10 kg/m³ saved from the test-pits west of the stables. The material recovered from west of the dovecote was broken-up into fragments 50-100mm in size compared with pieces of 100-200mm in size from the test-pits west of the stables.



Figure 19: Copper alloy trinket (Albion Archaeology)

Discussion and Future Work

The possible discovery of the foundations from the long-demolished Great Barn, suggests that further investigations would be worthwhile. The archaeological officer for the NT's Eastern Region recommended a similar test-pit search east of the Stables for remains of the other buildings shown on the Gostelow plan, rather than a larger-scale exposure of further foundations from the marked location of the Great Barn.

Alongside the July 2016 excavations, a resistivity survey at 0.5m resolution over a 20m x 25m section was conducted by the SAW youngsters under the supervision of Matthew Guy from Geomatrix Earth Science Ltd. These results will be useful in plotting the best location of new test-pits. A further weekend excavation to coincide with the CBA's Festival of Archaeology has been planned for 15th/16th July 2017.

A further geophysical survey (using resistivity equipment and pseudo-section techniques) is being considered for later in the year to assess the likelihood that foundations of the 'Great Barn' remain elsewhere along its indicated perimeter. A recalibration of the earlier GPR data to sample time-slices at the known depth of the discovered archaeology would also be worthwhile. The results of the GPR survey of the

stables and dovecote floors once available may also reveal important aspects of the earlier history of those buildings.

Acknowledgements

We continue to be enormously grateful to the National Trust and its volunteers for hosting the events for the past 4 years and greatly enjoyed the hospitality that they and the St Lawrence church group provided. It was also generous of Dr Kris Lockyear and the 8 volunteers from CAGG to give their time and expertise.

Thanks are also due to the staff of the National Trust, Albion Archaeology, Geomatrix Earth Science, and the Higgins Museum for their time, advice, and encouragement given to participants, young and old. Finally, continuing gratitude is due to the landowners, Mr and Mrs Richard Godber, for their kindness in allowing access to the area, and their forbearance in view of the long recovery time of the ground.

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 Helen Parslow and Mark Phillips (Albion Archaeology) for readily sharing their knowledge, surveying skills and digital mapping expertise.

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Cranfield, Land at Gossard's Green (SP 9607 4334)

MARTA PERLINSKA

CFA Archaeology Ltd carried out an evaluation on a proposed development site on land at Gossard's Green, Cranfield in June and July 2016. Iron Age and Roman settlements are known near the site, along with medieval moated sites. Seventeen trenches were excavated revealing one linear feature, possibly the end of a headland from ridge and furrow cultivation. No other archaeological remains were discovered.

Potton, Land north of Sandy Road (TL 2122 4930)

ANTONI NOWAK

An evaluation was undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd in November and December 2016 in advance of a proposed new housing development on land north of Sandy Road, Potton. The evaluation consisted of twelve trenches and there were no archaeological remains despite the proximity of the historic settlement of Potton.

Salford, Salford Manor Tennis Court (SP 9364 3907)

TAMLIN BARTON

CFA Archaeology Ltd carried out a heritage statement and archaeological earthwork survey on the proposed site of a new hard surface tennis court at Salford Manor, Salford. The proposed court is located on grassed lawns east of Salford Manor which is an 18th century re-build of an earlier Manor House. The lawns comprise a series of platforms to the east of the Manor and a natural slope down to a former medieval fishpond. The survey identified three platforms: the first was a small rectangular area located directly east of the manor house which appears to be either a construction platform for the existing manor or possibly the remains of a

platform for the earlier 16th century manor. East of this was a grassed rectangular terrace of unknown date with parallel drainage channels. The proposed tennis court is to be located on this terrace. Verbal information indicated that this had been the site of a former lawn tennis court and this area was formerly a field and only included in the garden after 1955, possibly in the 1960s or 1970s. Directly south of the manor was a flat grassed terrace likely to have been created during construction of the 18th century house. A former field boundary ditch was identified in between the house platform and the grassed rectangular terrace.

HERITAGE NETWORK

Bromham, St Owen's Church (TL 0135 5126)

GREG JONES

An archaeological watching brief was carried out in 2016 in relation to an extension to the north side and the regrading of access to the south porch of St. Owen's Church, Bromham. The present stage of works involved monitoring of the groundworks for a graded disabled access through the south porch, and the excavation of an adjacent soakaway. The works revealed the foundations for the south porch, consisting of limestone and flint rubble below coursed limestone. Outside the porch, the works revealed a considerable depth of cemetery soil above natural sand. No graves, or other significant features or deposits, were encountered. A large quantity of disarticulated human bone fragments was recovered during the groundworks and handed to the vicar for reburial.

Caddington, All Saints Church (TL 06381 19855)

MARK SYCAMORE

As part of the faculty requirements for the building of a screened kitchenette and toilet with a meeting room above in the north-west corner of the north aisle of All Saints' Church, Caddington, Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake a watching brief on the groundworks. The groundworks programme included internal and external works. The internal works involved the excavation of 3 pad foundations (test-pits 1–3) following the removal of pews within the footprint of the new construction; the external works involved the excavation of a drainage trench to connect the new construction in the north-west corner of the church to existing services on Collings Wells Close to the north-west of the church. All three test-pits revealed the same stratigraphy, comprising a mixed rubble and stone make up layer for the existing floor surface, over 0.6m deep. The drainage trench was c. 28m in length with a width of 0.5m and depth of 0.4m. The stratigraphy in the trench was uniform, consisting of black soft silty clay topsoil overlying a yellowish brown soft, sandy clay subsoil. At the north-west corner of the site the drainage trench cut through a bank defining the edge of the churchyard, which consisted of disturbed topsoil and a redeposited natural containing modern material. Several fragments of disarticulated human bone were recovered during the excavation of test-pit 3. The remains were handed to the vicar for reburial. No significant archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed during the watching brief.

Bedfordshire

Dunstable, 18 Friary Field (TL 01940 21615)

GREG JONES

In response to a planning condition on the construction of a rear extension at 18 Friary Field, Dunstable, Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring of the groundworks. The study area is located on the on the eastern side of Friary Field, which lies on the western side of Dunstable, to the south-west of High Street South and to the north-east of Bull Pond Lane. Archaeological excavations in the 1920s and in the 1960s recorded monastic buildings associated with Dunstable's Dominican Friary near the site, but the exact location of the recorded features and deposits cannot now be established. Monitoring of the development groundworks revealed a garden soil overlying a disturbed layer, which sat directly on the natural chalk. A pit cut was exposed in the eastern corner of the foundation trenches. This feature was filled with the same material as the disturbed layer suggesting either that it was of recent origin, or that it had been previously investigated and backfilled. No other features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance were observed during this project.

Eaton Bray, 41 Moor End (SP 97603 20062)

GREG JONES

In response to a planning condition on the construction of a detached garage at 41, Moor End, Eaton Bray, Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring of the groundworks. The study area is located within Moor End, one of the early hamlets of Eaton Bray, on the eastern side of the road called Moor End. Monitoring of the development groundworks revealed a stratigraphic sequence of topsoil above a layer of subsoil, which sat directly on the natural clay with made ground present in the northern foundation trench only. The brick and concrete foundations of a 20th century wall were exposed in the southern foundation trench. No features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance were observed during this project.

Greenfield, 74 Mill Lane (TL 0533 3534)

MARK SYCAMORE

In advance of the redevelopment of land at 74 Mill Lane, Greenfield, Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation. The present investigation consisted of four test pits, focused on the footprints of the proposed new buildings. No features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance were observed during this project.

Houghton Regis, All Saints' Church (TL 0184 2396)

DANIEL PHILLIPS

As part of the faculty requirements for the repair and rebuilding of part of the western churchyard wall at All Saints' Church, Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake a watching brief on the groundworks. To make the wall safe, four sections of the wall, totalling 19m in length, were removed by hand. The subsequent works involved cutting back the soil behind the wall, the excavation of new footings and the rebuilding of the wall. A few fragments of disarticulated human bone were

recovered but no burials were revealed. The bone fragments were handed to the vicar for reburial. The excavation of the new footings followed the line of the foundations for the original wall, which had previously been cut into the natural clay.

Pulloxhill, Land adjacent to 'The Willows'

(TL 0650 3425)

MARK SYCAMORE

Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake an archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching on the site of a proposed new development on land adjacent to The Willows, Flitton Road, Pulloxhill. Two trenches were excavated across the site. One trench was located on the western side of site, to investigate the footprint of the access road, whilst the second trench was on the eastern part of the site, in the middle of the footprint for the proposed building. One possible feature was excavated in Trench 2 but is likely to be a natural feature. No finds were recovered. No other archaeological features or finds were encountered.

Sandy, Sandy Heath Quarry, Potton Road (TL 200 494)

GREG JONES

The present works form part of an ongoing series of archaeological investigations at Sandy Heath Quarry, undertaken to investigate cropmarks noted on aerial photographs that were thought to indicate late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement on the site. The present project involved the monitoring of a top and subsoil strip in two separate fields to the south-west of the existing quarry workings, prior to the extension of quarrying into these areas. Natural banding of sand and shale was observed, which is consistent with the findings from previous work on the site. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted during this work.

Whipsnade, Church of St Mary Magdalene

(TL 0116 1795)

DANIEL PHILLIPS and GREG JONES

Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation on the groundworks for the construction of an extension to the Church of St Mary Magdalene, Whipsnade. The recorded stratigraphy was consistent across the site, comprising dark grey topsoil above pale brown subsoil. The underlying natural clay was encountered close to the church, at a depth of 0.5m below the present ground level, but was not encountered elsewhere on the site. Apart from a single articulated skeleton, revealed during the excavation of Soakaway 2, and fragments of disarticulated human bone, no archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during the groundworks on the present site. Examination of the skeleton suggested that the individual was a male, aged between 20 and 40. All human bone was handed to the vicar for reburial in the churchyard. Evidence for the partial survival of the rubble core to the wall of the medieval church was encountered in two places during the project. It was exposed during the creation of a new opening at the western end of the south wall. Here the wall stood to approximately 1.3m in height above the present ground level on the southern side. The early wall was also encountered further to the east of the new opening,

at approximately 0.50m below ground level, in a footings trench for the new extension

ICKNIELD ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Cotton End, Wood Lane (TL 0853 4534)

GERWYN RICHARDS and DAVID FELL

An historic building survey was undertaken of an outbuilding at The Bell public house in Cotton End. The building is a late 19th century agricultural building occupying the site of an earlier structure. The building was originally part of a range of agricultural buildings indicating that as well as operating as a public house The Bell was also a small farm, almost certainly pastoral. The building has recently been re-clad in modern weatherboard, leaving little of historical significance visible.

Linslade, The Bedford Arms (SP 9149 2508)

DAVID FELL

An evaluation of the grounds of the former Bedford Arms public house in Linslade, Central Bedfordshire. The site is adjacent to the Grand Union Canal (originally the Grand Junction) which opened in 1799 and a wharf, known as Whichello's Wharf was constructed immediately east of the site. Four trial trenches were excavated and several 19th and 20th century features were observed, probably relating to the development of the Bedford Arms public house.

Sharnbrook, land opposite 81 Mill Lane (TL 0093 5915)

DAVID FELL

Following completion of an initial evaluation an excavation was undertaken on land opposite 81 Mill Lane. The earliest evidence comprised residual prehistoric flints but during the late Iron Age period a substantial ditch was dug across the site. It enclosed an 'arc' shaped area extending beyond the south edge of the site and may have formed part of an enclosure. No trace of buildings or other structures were present but a substantial assemblage of pottery and animal bone was present within the ditch. The site appears to have been reorganized during the Roman period, when a second ditch, aligned from north to south, was dug in the west part of the site. This was irregular in shape and became deeper and wider towards the south. The base of the ditch, in the south part of the site, was waterlogged a group of partially articulated human bones were present at the top of the ditch. The ditch may have been for drainage of natural rainwater but the presence of several small pits, some of which contained deposits of charcoal indicates the presence of settlement and light industrial activity may have been taking place. A trackway, surfaced with cobbles, was laid out to the north of these pits. Aligned east to west, it extended only as far as the ditch but it continued into the field to the west of the site. There is no evidence for the Saxon activity but during the later medieval period a further ditch was cut across the central part of the site. Like its Roman predecessor, this was aligned from north to south but it was much narrower and shallower and may have been a minor drainage or boundary ditch. A halfpenny of King Henry III (1216–1272) was found at the top of this ditch.

Toddington, 6 Market Square (TL 0091 2892)

JONATHAN HUNN

An excavation took place of land to the rear of 6 Market Square, Toddington, Central Bedfordshire. The work was required prior to the re-development of the site for housing. The site lay on the periphery of the medieval settlement at Toddington but the only activity revealed was mid-20th century rubbish pits.

MOLA NORTHAMPTON

A5-M1 Link Road, Central Bedfordshire

(between SP 9959 2435 and TL 0383 2587)

CHRIS JONES, IAN FISHER, JONATHAN ELSTON, JAMES FAIRCLOUGH, GEMMA HEWITT, ADAM MEADOWS, OLIVER DINDOL, PAUL CLEMENTS, CHRIS CHINNOCK and ADAM REID

Archaeological features and deposits were excavated along the route of the A5-M1 Link Road, Central Bedfordshire. Mitigation techniques included general and targeted archaeological watching briefs, detailed open area excavations, topographic surveys and historic building recording where archaeological remains and historic assets would be affected by the development. A total of 18 main work areas were accorded individual archival site codes for archaeological mitigation. Archaeological sites and finds ranged in period from late Neolithic to post-medieval including; a late Neolithic stone axe from Thorn Road, pit alignments at Thorn Road and Grove Farm, late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pit groups near Long Meadow Farm and Chalton Cross Farm, a middle Iron Age farmstead of the 5th-2nd centuries BC at Thorn Road, Romano-British settlement and a funerary enclosure at Long Meadow Farm, an urned cremation cemetery at Luton Road, Anglo-Saxon artefacts including pottery, loom weights and a decorated bone comb also at Luton Road, Anglo-Saxon inhumation burials at Long Meadow Farm, Saxo-Norman occupation to the north of Thorn Spring moated site, medieval occupation at Luton Road and post-medieval landscape features along the road corridor. OASIS 248696



Figure 20: Aerial photograph of the A5-M1 road corridor, looking east from Watling Street

Bedfordshire

Bedford, RAF Cardington, Development Phase 3 (TL 079 472)

SAM EGAN

A single ditch, which contained a small flint flake and a small abraded sherd of Bronze Age/Iron Age pottery, was recorded during the evaluation of 29 excavated trenches. OASIS 280710

Biggleswade, Golf Driving Range (TL 18090 45010)

PAUL CLEMENTS

A watching brief and small area excavation was undertaken during groundworks at Biggleswade golf course driving range. The works revealed two parallel ditches which contained a single sherd of medieval pottery dated to the 12th-13th century. OASIS 239658

Biggleswade, Potton Road (TL 196 457)

ADAM REID

Fourteen trenches were excavated prior to the submission of a planning application for residential development at the site. A single ditch contained post-medieval pottery and tile, and there were three undated linear features and an undated pit. OASIS 248292

Chalton and Houghton Regis Overbridges at M1, Junction 11a, A5-M1 Link Road (TL 03722610 and TL 03822588)

YVONNE WOLFRAMM-MURRAY

Building recording was undertaken on two overbridges along the M1 prior to their demolition. These bridges were the original structures from the 1958-9 construction of the motorway. They have undergone a few changes that include the addition of metal grills, crash barriers and pavements. Some maintenance to the bridges comprised patches to their concrete structure. OASIS 243389

Great Barford, Bedford Road (SP 512721 252082)

CHRISTOPHER JONES

Thirteen trenches were excavated to target ridge and furrow identified in the geophysical data (Meadows 2015) and apparent blank areas. No archaeological features were encountered apart from the undated furrows. OASIS 280712

Harrold, 44 High Street (SP 95305 56863)

YVONNE WOLFRAMM-MURRAY

A programme of archaeological observation was carried out during groundworks that comprised the reduction of ground level and the excavation of foundation trenches for an extension to an existing building. There was a single residual sherd of early/middle Saxon pottery. Six pits and a possible well, which was not fully excavated, were dated to the 12th to 14th centuries. Further pits dating to the 18th to 20th centuries were uncovered. OASIS 255391

Keysoe, Church of St Mary the Virgin (TL 07389 62490)

TIM SHARMAN and YVONNE WOLFRAMM-MURRAY

In advance of groundworks associated with the installation of a new single storey extension and associated services, the existing church doorway and the area surrounding it were photographically recorded and a measured drawing was

produced. Four carved marks around the door were noted. During the observation of groundworks, within this area, a small amount of disarticulated human remains and a possible layer of medieval or post-medieval demolition material were recorded. OASIS 244283

Milton Ernest, Twinwood Airfield (TL 03329 54290)

GEMMA HEWITT

Archaeological monitoring of works associated with the construction of a single wind turbine and associated works was carried out. Two parallel ditches and six pits/postholes were present, all of which were undated. OASIS 257558

Northhill, Bedford Road (TL 1475 4665)

ADAM MEADOWS

A magnetometer survey over a c. 0.5ha area detected only a few minor features of uncertain archaeological interest. During the survey, a small rectangular earthwork was also recorded, but this seems likely to be of recent date. OASIS 257850

Potton, Land west of Biggleswade Road (TL 219 487)

GRAHAM ARKLEY

A magnetometer survey of c. 5ha detected a rectilinear set of boundary ditches, which both predates and is distinct to the modern field layout. The survey also mapped suspected modern service trenches and field drains. OASIS 248292

Sharnbrook, 23 Lodge Road, Hampstead

(SP 98908 59591)

TIM SHARMAN

Observations during groundworks recorded no pre-modern archaeological features. OASIS 257860

Shefford, Bridge Farm (TL 1473 3835)

JONATHAN ELSTON and ADAM REID

Archaeological excavations uncovered the remains of an Iron Age settlement comprising three successive enclosures dating to the early Middle, Middle to Late and the late pre-Roman Iron Age. Probable stock enclosures, route ways, a probable four-post structure, pits and other features were also found. A moderate quantity of artefacts and ecofacts



Figure 21: Shefford, Bridge Farm, Iron Age bowl with fingertip decorated rim (Scale 10mm)

and evidence of small scale metalworking were uncovered. Two inhumation burials aligned east to west were found outside one of the enclosures and may date to the Anglo-Saxon period. OASIS 266617

Wootton, Land at Marston Vale (TL 010 438)

TIM SHARMAN

During a watching brief on 30 geotechnical test pits, one undated linear feature, possibly a ditch, was observed. OASIS 271579

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY EAST

Topplers Hill to Kings Reach Water Pipeline (TL 20534 43634 to TL 21146 40987)

LOUISE BUSH

A trial trench evaluation was undertaken along the route of a proposed water pipeline between Topplers Hill and Stratton, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire. Apart from a single sherd of middle Iron Age pottery recovered from the subsoil, the earliest remains identified comprise a late Iron Age ditch aligned north-west to south-east at Topplers Hill, with more extensive late Iron Age settlement remains being revealed in trenches to the south and east of Stratton Business Park. The latter included ditches, gullies, pits, a cobbled surface and an extensive area of either quarrying or intercutting pits that may represent a continuation of activity found during previous fieldwork in the immediate environs. Post-medieval and modern agricultural remains in the form of ridge and furrow were also identified.

Carlton, Felmersham to Carlton Water Main Replacement (SP 9953 5767 to SP 9562 5570)

ROBIN WEBB

An archaeological evaluation took place along the route of an Anglian Water main replacement scheme between Felmersham and Carlton, Bedfordshire. Limited archaeological remains were found at the Felmersham end of the pipeline, where two Roman ditches and a single medieval ditch were uncovered. The Carlton end of the pipeline was more productive, with a series of post-medieval boundaries running either parallel or perpendicular to the current field boundaries, and representing enclosure of the land and enlargement of fields in the 18th and 19th centuries. Trenches to the north of the SAM at Chellington revealed medieval features, including possible clay pits as well as ditches representing the continuation of activity associated with the DMV. To the north-east of these was a large enclosure ditch containing 12th-14th century pottery, beyond which evidence of ridge and furrow was revealed further to the north-east.

Biddenham, Biddenham Loop Reinforcement Water Main (TL 01320 47363)

NICHOLAS COX

An excavation was carried out on part of the route of the Biddenham Loop Phase 2a Reinforcement Water Main. The excavation revealed significant medieval remains, including part of a timber structure on a north-east to south-west alignment that was replaced by a rectangular building with stone foundations and an internal hearth, on

the same alignment. A second, smaller building with stone foundations lay on the same axis to the south and a probable detached kitchen containing several ovens was positioned to the north-east. Both stone buildings showed evidence of robbing, with rubble deposits relating to their demolition extending over the footprint of the more southerly example. Pottery and other finds indicate that the buildings were occupied during the 12th to 14th centuries and abandoned by the 15th century.

Biggleswade, Stratton Farm (TL 20534 43643 to TL 21146 40987)

KATHRYN NICHOLLS

An evaluation was undertaken on behalf of Anglian Water along a proposed pipeline route from Stratton Farm to Newspring Farm, Biggleswade. Ditches on various alignments were revealed some of which may have been Iron Age in origin (based on the presence of a few sherds of pottery), although the majority may have dated to the post-medieval period. Following the evaluation, five open areas were excavated along the proposed pipeline route. These areas revealed large ditches, pits, beam slots, a cobbled surface and a cremation, most of which date to the late Iron Age and early Roman periods. Large amounts of pottery were recovered from these settlement features, alongside animal bone and fired clay.

SOUTERRAIN

Bryants Close Nos. 1 and 4, High Street, Upper Dean (TL 048 678)

MARTIN D WILSON & MERCEDES PLANAS

Between March and July 2016, Souterrain carried out a tiered archaeological investigation at two proposed house plots in the historic core of Upper Dean. The plots, c. 35 m apart, are located on the southwest corner formed by a junction of the village's main road (High Street) and a side road (Shay Lane).

Evaluation

Trial trenching took place in March 2016, at which time a wide embankment earthwork was observed on the roadside perimeter of each plot. Two of the evaluation trenches encountered make-up layers of the embankment on the northern perimeter of the site, which were putatively dated by pottery to the medieval period. The make-up layers sealed a 12th / 13th century ditch. Elsewhere there was a sparse distribution of features (gullies, pits, a cobbled track-way and a ditch) broadly dated to the medieval period. OASIS ref.: – souterrai1-248298.

Earthwork Survey

In April 2016, a 3-D archaeological topographical survey was undertaken of the earthwork in Plot 2 (Fig. 22). At High Street the embankment stands c. 1 m above road level, its crest being c. 2.5 m wide and its overall width, c. 6 m. The outer face at High Street is 30° to 45°, while the inner is more gently inclined at 5° to 10°. With a natural fall of slope along Shay Lane the height of the embankment steadily increases, to c. 2 m over 50 m, its outer incline increasing to c. 60°. The crest of the embankment is generally 3.5 m wide, while the overall width is 8 m to 9 m. OASIS ID – souterrai1-262765.

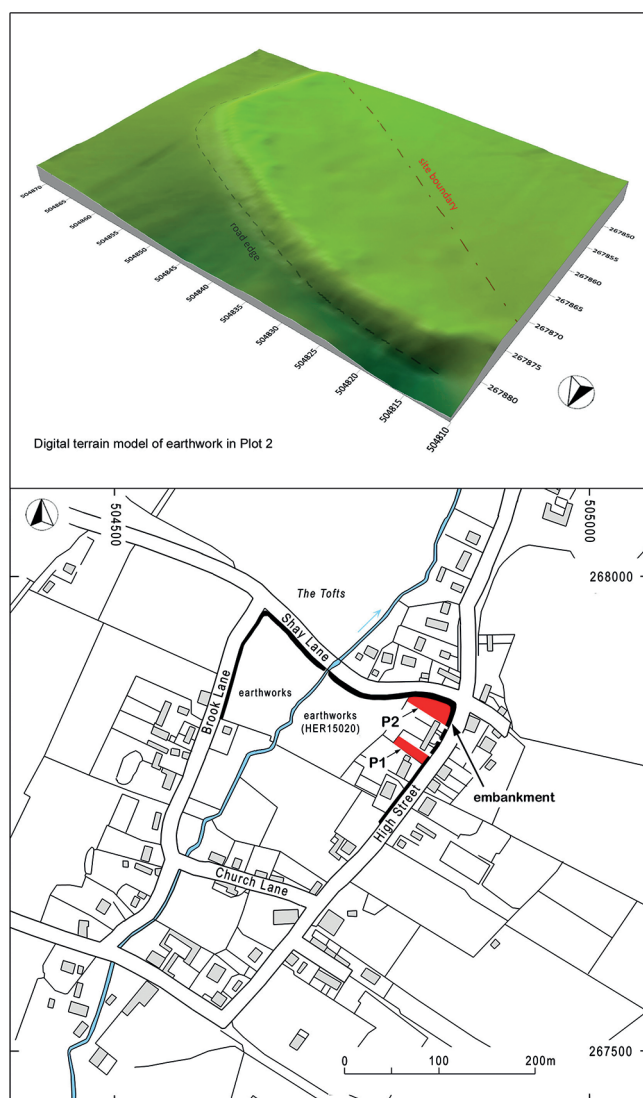


Figure 22: Earthwork survey in Plot 2

Watching Brief

A specific objective of the subsequent investigation (a watching brief) was to confirm the date and physical attributes of the earthwork. Two sections cut through it for site access, enabled detail examination and the recovery of finds and soil samples. The pottery assemblage, together with plant macrofossils congruent with the medieval period,

suggests that the embankment was constructed at some time in the 12th /13th century. Two phases were identified, the first phase with a revetment trench cut into the inner side. A length of carbonised oak heartwood, possibly part of a former structure, lay at the interface of phases, also lying in the revetment trench. Residual evidence was found pertaining to domestic activity or occupation at the site during the early to middle Anglo-Saxon period (5th to 11th century). OASIS ref.: souterrain-262764.

The Earthwork

The purpose of the earthwork is uncertain. Its course (Fig. 22,) was traced, as far as possible, by perambulation. It runs north-westwards along Shay Lane (c. 235 m), where it is present on either side a small brook (a tributary of the River Ivel), turning south-westwards along Brook Lane, before fading mid-way along the lane (c. 122 m). It thus encloses two pasture fields, one on either side of the brook, which contain linear earthworks that have been vaguely interpreted as some mode of medieval water management, including a large rectilinear earthwork (HER 15020). The embankment was also followed south-westwards along High Street, towards the parish church, for c. 150 m. One hypothesis is that the earthwork represents part of a boundary of a magnate enclosure, a little-known type of early medieval monument, comprised of an extensive ditch and or bank enveloping church and manor house and certain demesne grounds. There are three known Bedfordshire villages where possible examples of such a monument exist: Melchbourne, 3.3 km SW (c.f. Shotliff, 1998); Shelton, 2 km NW; and Meppershall, c. 16 km SE of Bedford (Edgeworth 2007, 10). A related hypothesis is that the earthworks form a part of a medieval water management system, comprised of dams and fish (and eel) ponds on either side of the brook.

To date, the discoveries represent the most significant body of evidence of its kind found at Upper Dean.

References

- Edgeworth M 2007. 'Anglo-Saxon' and Medieval Bedfordshire c. 400–1550', 10, in Oake M, et al, *Bedfordshire Archaeology, Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy*, Bedfordshire Archaeology, Monograph 9
- Shotliff D 1998. Melchbourne, Hillands End House (SP02756537) *South Midlands Archaeology* 28, 10

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Aston Clinton, Land adjacent to Bury Farm
(SP 877 125)

IAIN LESLIE, MIKE LUKE and ADAM WILLIAMS

Between November and December 2016 Albion Archaeology undertook open-area excavation in advance of residential development at Brook Farm, Aston Clinton. The investigations uncovered evidence of Saxon, medieval and post-medieval activity.

The medieval activity was characterised by rectangular ditched enclosures with occasional pits and other ditches, mostly confined to the southern portion of the site. Furrows

indicated that part of the site was open fields during this period.

A relatively small amount of domestic refuse was recovered (c. 1.5kg pottery and c. 2.6kg animal bone), suggesting that the enclosures were on the periphery of a settlement situated beyond the limits of the development area. The metalwork assemblage included two coins, a buckle and shoeing nails; it suggests that the enclosures and associated activity were in use between the 11th and 15th centuries.

Also present was evidence for post-medieval field systems, remnants of which survived in the landscape as hedgerows or linear hollows. Some of the medieval boundaries remained in use into the post-medieval period



Figure 1: All-features plan

and beyond – as late as 1814 when they were recorded on the enclosure award map.

Many of the ditches (both medieval and post-medieval) drained down towards the brook (the south-west limit of the development area). Here, former channels evidenced the brook's changing course over time. In one instance a meander had been cut-off as the stream was straightened by natural action or human intervention. Finds from this area included a 6th-century copper brooch, a middle/late Saxon clay loom weight and a shale (or jet-like material) finger ring. No cut features of Saxon date were present within the development area but these artefacts indicate that there probably was a contemporary settlement in the vicinity.

OASIS ID: albionar1- 264601

Atwood, Barn, Main Road (SP 9537 4734)

MARK PHILLIPS

Recording of an old barn and attached single-storey building was undertaken. Apart from some more modern alterations, the buildings date from the 18th or early 19th century. The barn would have been built as a threshing barn with the two end bays used for storage. The north range was a stable or other animal housing. The buildings represent the remains of a typical post-medieval farmstead with buildings arranged around a yard. Historical maps show the farmstead as an irregular group of buildings. It was probably developed in a piecemeal fashion, contrasting with the more regular pattern of planned farms promoted by the agricultural improvement movement from the 18th century.

OASIS ID: albionar1-238868 Accession no.: AYBCM: 2016.46

Little Chalfont, Stony Lane (TQ 0030 9810)

RICHARD GREGSON and JACKIE WELLS

Eleven trial trenches were opened in two phases, revealing a low density of features with a minor concentration of undated features in the west part of the site – two ditches and two gulleys on roughly perpendicular alignments. One of two pits in this area contained charred material including grain. To the east, a pit produced three abraded sherds of late Bronze Age / early Iron Age pottery; given its abraded condition, the pottery cannot be used to date the feature with certainty. The part of the site also contained sparse, undated features, including two ditch terminals and two linear features, interpreted as medieval or later furrows.

OASIS ID: albionar1-240720 Accession no.: AYBCM: 2016.09

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING SERVICES

High Wycombe, The former Kitchener Works, Kitchener Road (SU 85573 93116)

An archaeological standing building survey of the former Kitchener Works, Kitchener Road, High Wycombe was carried out in advance of the proposed demolition of the buildings and re-development of the site for residential use. The Kitchener Works are a good example of one of the early 20th century furniture factories that were once a common feature of High Wycombe. The buildings are exclusively 20th century in date built soon after the site became part of the borough in 1901. The earlier buildings are traditionally built, almost vernacular in style and appear almost 19th century in date. The factory changed hands on several occasions, including once because of bankruptcy. It is possible that the site was ill-suited to large scale manufacture. The limited space finally forced the final chair maker to vacate the premises in 2014.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS

Aylesbury, St Louis Catholic Primary School, Harris Court (SP 8285 1423)

POZORSKI, Z.

Between September and December 2016 Archaeological Solutions carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at St Louis Catholic Primary School in compliance with a planning condition for its development. An earlier Desk-based Assessment showed the site was located within an area of archaeological potential with two prehistoric burials, a Late Bronze Age metalwork hoard and a Roman coin hoard all found in the vicinity. Several undated features and a medieval windmill were also recorded in proximity to the school. In the event however, the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.

Marlow, 79–81 and 81A High Street (SU 8505 8636)

POZORSKI, Z.

In June 2016 Archaeological Solutions carried out an archaeological evaluation in relation to planning permission for the demolition of buildings to the rear and the erection

Buckinghamshire

of 3 new dwellings, the conversion of existing floors to apartments, and the addition of an extension. The site was on the High Street and within the historic medieval and post-medieval core of Marlow. Therefore the site had potential for evidence of medieval and post-medieval occupation, particularly ‘backyard activity’ to the rear of the properties. In the event the evaluation revealed the remains of a post-medieval pit or ditch, and modern brick walls and a basement.

ARCHAEOLOGY IN MARLOW

Warren Wood (SU 8715 8972)

MARTIN FOWKES

Between March and October, Archaeology in Marlow continued its investigation of the double bank and ditch enclosures to understand the structures and activity within the inner enclosure, and to find dating evidence. Three test pits were excavated which yielded large quantities of medieval roof tile and flint rubble. The flint rubble probably came from wall footings but it was not possible to determine wall positions. All the test pits contained medieval pottery (probably 12-14th century) and one pit also contained some late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery, but this was not associated with any distinctive feature. A further trench was excavated across the inner enclosure bank and ditch to try and date this earthwork construction, but very little dating evidence has been found. This phase of the investigation is due to be completed in 2017. Reports on this site from previous years can be found in Records of Buckinghamshire volumes 53 and 55.

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Castlethorpe, The Maltings (SP 80025 44214)

STEVE TAMBURELLO

An evaluation was undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd on land south of the Maltings in Castlethorpe, Milton Keynes during June 2016. A previous intervention found an Iron Age and Roman settlement immediately to the north of the site. Five trenches were excavated. Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from the fills of a pit and ditch at the south-west end of the site. The features and recovered pottery suggest a possible continuation of the Iron Age and Romano-British settlement found to the north.

Weston Turville, New Road (SP 85691 11344)

TAMLIN BARTON, ANTONI NOWAK

CFA Archaeology Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation on a proposed housing development on land next to New Road at the north end of Weston Turville in March 2016. Four trenches were excavated. No archaeological features were identified during the work except Medieval ridge and furrow, which was upstanding on the south-east half of the Site, forming part of a former Medieval field systems surrounding Weston Turville.

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Aston Clinton, Land at Stratford Close

(SP 87075 12119)

DAN STANSBIE

Excavation revealed a Middle Bronze Age ditch likely to have enclosed part of a settlement. Following abandonment of this settlement, the site was the location of a rectilinear field system. Although Early or Middle Iron Age pottery was retrieved from this field system, it is possible that it originated in the Late Bronze Age and was maintained regularly. Settlement was re-established during the Middle Iron Age when a small sub-circular ditched enclosure, pits and postholes were laid out. After the abandonment of this settlement, the area was ploughed from the medieval period to the present day.

Aston Clinton, Park Farm, Church Lane (SP 8779 1199)

JAKE STREATFIELD-JAMES

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified two ditches likely to be the remains of medieval plot boundaries aligned on Church Lane. Two abraded sherds of residual Roman pottery were retrieved from the ditches but no Roman features were present.

Aylesbury, Land at Isis Close (SP 48155 21117)

TONY BROWN

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a single undated ditch.

Buckingham, 29–30 West Street (SP 6955 3395)

LUCY LAWRENCE and PETER DAVENPORT

Historic building recording by Cotswold Archaeology of the Grade II* Listed structure revealed that it had originated as a single pile 16th-century stone-built house. The building underwent numerous alterations, and was split into two properties in the early 19th century.

Buckingham, Land East of Buckingham

(SP 70818 34508)

TIMOTHY LEWIS

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology revealed two pits and a ditch dating to the 2nd–3rd centuries AD. Evidence for medieval ridge and furrow was also present.

Milton Keynes, Walton Manor, Brickhill Street

(SP 8892 3646)

JAMES COYNE

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recorded no archaeological remains.

Winslow, Land at Buckingham Road (SP 7639 2850)

ANDREW WHELAN

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified extant medieval ridge and furrow earthworks and a post-medieval pond.

HERITAGE NETWORK

Stoke Mandeville, Land to r/o 13–51 Eskdale Road & 47–63 Station Road (SP 83695 10841)

GREG JONES

To investigate the archaeological potential of a proposed residential development on land to the r/o 13–51 Eskdale Road & 47–63 Station Road, Stoke Mandeville, the Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake field evaluation of the site by trial trenching. Ten 15m long trenches were excavated. No features, deposits or finds of archaeological significance were encountered.

ICKNIELD ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

High Wycombe, Kitchener's Works (SU 8557 9312)

DAVID FELL

An historic building survey was undertaken of the former Kitchener chair manufacturing works. The buildings are exclusively 20th century in date in a traditional style and were built soon after the site became part of the borough in 1901. The first occupant was William Styles Ellis. The nature of Ellis's business is not known but chair manufacturing began on the site in 1922 when the factory was taken over by Burch and Alpe. By the mid-1930s the business was being run by Morris, White and Boreham Ltd who went into receivership in 1935. The factory was offered for sale on 26th March 1935 when the factory comprised an office block, a separate two storey block and an engine room. The works were later taken over by a company named Tyzacks and, in 1983, by Stewart Linford. The buildings latterly accommodated the Wycombe Living Chair Museum.

Little Brickhill, Sunnyside House (SP 9085 3250)

GERWYN RICHARDS and DAVID FELL

Historic building recording was undertaken at Sunnyside, Little Brickhill. The house is a complex, multiphase building and there is cartographic evidence of a building on the site from the 18th century. The historic building recording has revealed several features which may suggest an earlier date, potentially mid-17th century. There is clear evidence that the building was originally timber framed and was probably re-fronted in the late 18th or early 19th century. It is possible that further framing remains, concealed by the newer front. The building has been extended to the rear and the largely un-weathered rear frame and brickwork, which are visible internally on the first floor, suggests this may have occurred early in the building's lifetime.

Middle Claydon, Claydon House (SP 7196 2532 to SP 71852585)

JONATHAN HUNN

A watching brief was maintained during the excavation of a trench for an electricity cable within the grounds and park of Claydon House. Three post-medieval wall foundations were present near the house. Two 18th century culverts were also present but the land across the park was largely undisturbed.

Singleborough, Ivy Cottage (SP 7672 3205)

DAVID FELL

A watching brief was maintained during the construction of an extension at Ivy Cottage, Singleborough. The area is within an area of potential medieval occupation and new extension was built on the site of an earlier extension to the building. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were observed.

Winslow, Tinkers Corner (SP 767 273)

DAVID FELL

An evaluation was undertaken on land adjacent to Tinker's Corner, Winslow, on the periphery of the medieval settlement. Eleven trial trenches were excavated but no significant archaeological features or artefacts were present.

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

Chinnor, Batt Hall, Sprigs Holly Lane (SU 7657 9835)

GAVIN DAVIS

John Moore Heritage Services carried an archaeological watching brief on 29th September and 3rd October 2016 during the removal of the floors and foundations of the former Batt Hall building. The floors at the north-west end of the house were wooden and the foundations were of shallow brick, only a brick or two deep into the natural clay with flints. Deeper concrete foundations were only present at the rear north-east face of the house and the south-eastern wing. The stratigraphy after the removal of the demolition was straight onto the natural with a few areas of surviving subsoil, 0.3m or less in thickness and identified towards the south-east end of the building. Towards the north-west, a very large, concrete capped storm water chamber was identified. This was brick built and the concrete cap had a small square opening which measured 0.5m by 0.5m in area. No other archaeological features or finds were recovered from the excavation.

Hillesden, All Saints Church (SP 68570 28755)

PAUL MURRAY

John Moore Heritage Services were appointed to record and exhume three inhumations revealed during the excavation of service and soakaway trenches at All Saints' Church, Hillesden, Buckinghamshire. In addition, the foundations of the churches west tower, graveyard soils and three probable graves (unexcavated as below impact) were recorded.

The three exhumed inhumations were re-interred under the supervision of the Revd Rosamund Roberts below the floor of the church's west tower.

Ludgershall, Kiln House, Duck Lane (SP 66408 17781)

ANDREJ ČELOVSKÝ

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological field evaluation at Kiln House, Duck Lane, Ludgershall. Two test pits were excavated. No archaeological features related to medieval pottery and production site were encountered during the evaluation. The finds recovered from individual deposits were mainly late 20th century in date. Occasional residual fragments of late medieval pottery and tile confirmed medieval activity within the site as previously found.

Buckinghamshire

Newton Longville, land to the rear of St Anne's Grange, Drayton Road (SP84900 31320)

ANDREJ ČELOVSKÝ with contributions from PAUL BLINKHORN and SIMONA DENIS

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological field evaluation on land to the rear of St Anne's Grange, Drayton Road in Newton Longville. The aims of evaluation in particular were to record any medieval and/or post-medieval village settlement elements. The fieldwork comprised a scheme for the mechanical and limited hand excavation of three trial trenches across the site with a total length of 65 m. No features related to medieval or post-medieval period were encountered during the evaluation. A single residual late medieval pottery sherd and several fragments of pottery dated to 16th – 18th century were recovered from the upper part of a natural deposit within Trench 2. Within Trench 1 were six postholes which were part of fence shown on 1881 OS map 1:2500. At the north-northeast end of Trench 1 was recorded a levelling layer containing building demolition rubble presumably related to the demolition of an outbuilding in late 1960s, which was standing to the west of the Trench 1, shown on OS maps dated from 1881 to 1968. A further deposit recorded within Trench 1 was related to garden activities. Trench 3 was blank. (Oasis ID- johnmoor1-244366)

CONSERVATION & ARCHAEOLOGY IN MILTON KEYNES 2016

Nick Crank, Senior Archaeological Officer
Conservation and Archaeology Team
Milton Keynes Council

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

The Conservation & Archaeology Team received 1022 planning consultations during 2016, 516 of which were for the Senior Archaeological Officer. The team were also consulted on draft Neighbourhood Plans for Olney and Stony Stratford in addition to drafting the heritage chapter and policies for the emerging Local Plan – Plan:MK.

FIELDWORK

Twenty four development-related fieldwork projects were undertaken in Milton Keynes borough in 2016. Projects comprised:

5 historic building records; 9 trial trench evaluations, 1 geophysical survey; 2 excavations and 7 watching briefs.

BUILDING CONSERVATION

In January, two sculptures: Octo (1978–79) by Wendy Taylor (Fig. 2); and 2MS Series No.1 by Bernard Schottlander (1970) were listed at Grade II as a consequence of the Historic England project 'Post-War Public Art: Sculpture (1945–1985)'. It is also worth noting that Octo was listed after a request for a review of the decision to not list the adjacent and contemporary Norfolk and Ashton House. Conversely, in April a Certificate of Immunity (COI) was issued for the now largely vacant Food Centre (1986) in Central Milton Keynes. This should grant it protection from designation until 2021.



Figure 2: Octo (1978–79) by Wendy Taylor, Norfolk House in background

The contract for the 2 year project to review the borough's 27 conservation areas was put out to tender in December 2016 and awarded to consultants Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure UK Ltd.

Preparation of the documents for Phase 1 of the New Town Local Heritage Register was also commenced by our appointed consultants Alan Baxter Ltd. It is expected that consultation on the draft Statement of Significance and Selection Criteria will be carried out in summer 2017.

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

In March the Historic England sponsored revisit of the 2011 HER Audit was completed and an HER Action Plan for 2016 – 2019 produced and adopted. The plan includes a number of targets and activities including the drafting or revision of a number of policies and enhancement to incorporate key elements of post-1967 New Town heritage.

OUTREACH

The Senior Archaeological Officer gave talks on recent archaeological discoveries in Milton Keynes to The

Two Villages Archive Trust and the Magiovinium Metal Detectorist Club.

The 10th annual Milton Keynes Archaeology Day was another successful and well-attended event attracting 500 people of all ages from Milton Keynes and beyond to enjoy the various talks, displays and activities on offer. The talks in the Events Space attracted a total of 180 people and gave insights into Saxon Wolverton, Medieval Oxford, and the now internationally renowned well-preserved 3000 year old fenland settlement of Must Farm. Many more stopped to examine the displays from local societies and metal detectorists. 2017's event will probably be held on Saturday 11th November.

MOLA

Marlow, Marlow Flood Alleviation Scheme, Pergola Glen Lion (SU 85763 86035)

HELEN VERNON

A watching brief in October on a single long trench in preparation for a concrete foundation for a flood defence wall revealed no archaeological finds or features.

Taplow, Taplow Station (SU 91548 81313)

AZIZUL KARIM

A Historic England Level 4 Building Survey was conducted in May on the 19th century Footbridge at Taplow Station to determine the significance of the structure and to mitigate against any possible harm to it during future site works. The current station was opened on 1 September 1872 and was probably designed by GWR architect J. E. Danks. The footbridge was constructed in 1884, during the expansion of the station to accommodate the doubling of the tracks, as suggested by the GWR emblem and date inscribed in the panels of four spandrels of the footbridge, and has been subjected to many alterations since. It is a single construction, c. 39 meters in length configured in 3 spans including staircases at either end to connect all four platforms of the station. It is one of several footbridges built by the GWR in the late 19th century using iron lattice work along the walkways; decorative spandrels and roofs with valancing and wooden staircases. A rare high-level signal box was fixed onto the footbridge on the central section.

MOLA NORTHAMPTON

Aston Clinton, Chapel Drive (SP 8805 1255)

ADAM MEADOWS and SAM EGAN

A detailed magnetometer survey identified a 19th-century field boundary and a modern pipeline. Subsequently, 13 trial trenches were excavated recording nine ditches. These probably represent field boundaries or drainage ditches from a medieval to post-medieval field system. One sherd of Roman pottery and one sherd of post-medieval pottery were recovered, along with a medieval iron spur. OASIS 253496 and OASIS 253379

Aylesbury Woodlands (SP 860 315)

CAROL SIMMONDS

Archaeological trial trenching largely targeted anomalies detected in an earlier geophysical survey which identified six potential areas of archaeological interest. A total of 146 trenches were excavated, with archaeological remains, comprising ditches, pits and furrows, present in 106 of the trenches. The trial trenching confirmed the results of the geophysical survey with regards to the presence of Roman enclosures (Site B), a Bronze Age pit and Roman enclosures (Site C), a Roman settlement (Site D) and an Iron Age enclosure (Site F). The land has been under cultivation from at least the medieval period. OASIS 271539



Figure 3: Aerial view of Aylesbury Woodlands trial trenches, looking west



Figure 4: Roman coin recovered during the Aylesbury Woodlands trial trenching

Buckingham, Hunter Street (SP 69334 33521)

SUSAN PORTER

A probable substantial boundary ditch of the 11th to 12th centuries, and several medieval build-up deposits were observed and recorded at the southern end of the site during a trial trench evaluation. OASIS 265707

Buckingham, West Street, Nursery Bungalow (SP 69280 33987)

PAUL CLEMENTS

Successive layers of alluvium, areas of made ground, and modern disturbance were found. The latter two were probably due to building relating to the former nursery. OASIS 269575

Buckinghamshire

Calverton, Fountaine Land, Passenham Quarry (SP 7800 3880)

SUSAN PORTER

Seven trenches out of 22 excavated contained features but only two were datable. These comprised a pit of late Neolithic date containing sherds from at least three Grooved ware vessels, worked flint and carbonised hazelnut remains. A ditch produced pottery of probable Roman date. Several irregular undated linear ditches and an irregular undated pit were also present. OASIS 268761

Cholesbury, Cholesbury Lane, The Old Manor House (SP92990 07100)

TIM SHARMAN

A modern brick-built septic tank, with associated structures was identified during groundworks. OASIS 255118

Granborough, 4 Marston Road (SP 7675 2497)

GEMMA HEWITT

Post-medieval and modern make-up layers were cut by two pits and a ditch. These features were then sealed by modern make-up layers. OASIS 257521

Haddenham, Land at Dollicott (SP 739 091)

PAUL CLEMENTS

The evaluation of four trenches on land at Dollicott identified one undated ditch. OASIS 259678

High Wycombe, Hughenden Manor (SU 8599 9505)

GRAHAM ARKLEY

The magnetometer survey of c. 2.3ha of land survey detected two modern service pipes, with no evidence of features of archaeological interest. OASIS 269129

Little Brickhill, Eaton Leys (SP 888 329)

SAM EGAN

Twenty-two trenches targeted geophysical anomalies. A single early-middle Roman cremation, located less than 200m to the south of the Scheduled Monument of the Roman town of *Magiovinium*, was the only feature uncovered in the northern part of the evaluation. One kilometre to the south of Magiovinium, a further seven trenches were targeted over geophysical anomalies. A settlement was located in the far south-western corner of the proposed development area where most of the features and artefacts were recovered and the geophysical anomalies suggest enclosures. The site seems to start in the early Roman period and continued into at least the mid-3rd century. To the east, one trench produced three early Roman features including a curvilinear ditch. A moderate quantity of pottery, mostly locally made jars, was recovered from these features. OASIS 264501

North Marston, 10 Church Street (SP 77678 22593)

PAUL CLEMENTS

An archaeological trial trench evaluation identified 18th-20th century shallow ditch and gully. OASIS 250408

Padbury, Winslow Road (SP 7246 3058)

ADAM REID

The evaluation on the land prior to the proposed development of the site comprised seven trenches. Four parallel gullies were identified, two of which contained sherds of late Iron Age/Romano-British pottery. A single posthole and shallow pit or gully terminal, both of uncertain date, were also identified. Earthworks of the medieval ridge and furrow field system survived across the site. OASIS 242263



Figure 5: Late Neolithic Grooved ware pottery from Passenham Quarry, Calverton

Stoke Goldington, 19 High Street (SP 8381 4854)

ADAM REID

Two trenches were excavated during the evaluation one post-medieval pit was identified. OASIS 239854

Wavendon, Milton Keynes, Eagle Farm Primary School (SP 92715 38140)

CHRISTOPHER JONES

Two trial trenches, located on the north side of the site contained late Iron Age and early Roman features. The remaining five trenches only found furrows and land drains. OASIS 274373

Winslow, Furze Lane (SP 7643 2810)

ADAM REID

The evaluation comprised 15 trenches excavated prior to the proposed development. One undated drainage gully was identified. OASIS 24226

NATIONAL TRUST

Bradenham, Roman Bloomery (SU821978)

GARY MARSHALL

Members of the Princes Risborough Countryside Group assisted the National Trust with the excavation in 2015 of a well-preserved iron-smelting furnace on the Bradenham estate dating from the mid-1st century AD. The site lies

within the middle of an arable field and was discovered after fieldwalking by the group recovered large amounts of iron slag. A magnetometer survey detected a very distinct magnetic cluster, and on subsequent excavation this turned out to be the surviving clay-lined shaft of the furnace. This was set within a distinct oval-shaped pit cut in the underlying clay-with-flint measuring 2.7m in length and 2.4m in width. The furnace was set into the north end of this pit and consisted of a clay-lined shaft showing several distinct zones of burning. Indeed, the clay lining appeared to have been renewed on at least one occasion, thus slightly reducing the internal diameter of the shaft. The shaft measured 0.62m in depth and had a diameter of 0.18m at the mouth, but assuming a very slight bell-shape so that at the widest point it measured 0.31m in width. The south-facing front wall had evidently been broken open to remove the iron bloom, thereby removing any evidence for the tapping arch to remove molten slag. Nevertheless, the base of the shaft still retained part so the last charge and a shallow scope cut into the base of the oval pit outside of the furnace still retained a large quantity of tap slag. Charcoal recovered from the excavations was submitted for radio-carbon dating returned a date of 18cal BC to 130 cal AD. This is one of only a handful of such furnaces to have been excavated in the Chilterns and certainly seems to have been the best preserved to date. Questions remain about the source of iron; this may have been brought from some considerable distance. The reason for its location at Bradenham is that there was probably a plentiful supply of wood for charcoal-burning with which to fuel the furnace.

Stowe Gardens, Lower River (SP678372)

GARY MARSHALL

As part of its continuing restoration of the 18th century gardens at Stowe the National Trust undertook excavations in 2015 to investigate evidence for the landscaping at the upper end of the so-called 'Lower Water'. The Lower Water is in fact a narrow, northerly extension of the Octagon Lake occupying the central section of the gardens. It is separated from an adjacent sheet of water (The Worthies River) by a narrow causeway carrying a footpath across the outfall culvert from the Worthies River. The excavations were designed to investigate the downstream face of this culvert and to examine surviving rockwork immediately below the face of the culvert. They were ably assisted by members of the Active Archaeology Group affiliated with Bucks. Archaeological Society. Two key objectives were attained, firstly the removal of scrub and loose soil on the culvert face, thereby exposing the drystone walling forming the lowest part of the face of the culvert. Several blocks of stone coated with shells and lime mortar lying in the bed of the stream were identified as forming part of a rusticated rock arch over the upper part of the culvert face. The second objective was to explore the rockwork lining the bed of the stream below the culvert mouth. Though badly eroded the rockwork can be seen to form a retaining wall on one side of the stream, whilst in the stream bed itself several lines of stone crossing the width of the stream appear to have been set to form slight ripples in the flow of water entering the Lower River. This is surprisingly one of the few areas of Stowe Gardens not captured by plans or artist's engravings, making it difficult to date the excavated evidence with any certainty. The decorative scheme is believed to date from the first half

of the 19th century, and possibly the 1830s, when several similar schemes of fake rockwork around water features were implemented in the gardens.

Stowe Gardens, Western Garden (SP 672 369)

GARY MARSHALL

The area of the gardens between the north-west corner of the Eleven Acre Lake and Boycott Pavilion is generally referred to as the Wilderness, since, in the 18th century, it consisted of an area of dense planting cut through with a series of serpentine paths. A main axial path extended from Queen Caroline's Monument to the east Boycott Pavilion. A series of trial trenches excavated in 2015 successfully located the gravel surface of this axial path, comprising distinct bright orange sandy flint gravel. Excavations undertaken by the National Trust's archaeologist were also undertaken to try and locate the site of a statue group known as the Roman Wrestlers. Usually the statues at Stowe were placed on substantial stone foundations laid in lime mortar and they were nearly always left in-situ when the statues were removed or relocated. Unfortunately, in this case, no such evidence was found, although the extent of the excavations was somewhat limited by trying to work around existing tree roots. The excavations did, however, encounter a stone-built drain, suggesting the area of the Wilderness suffered from waterlogging, as indeed it does now. They also encountered a rectangular spread of gravel extending either side of the main axial path. It is thought that this may have formed a gravel setting for the missing statue. The axial path was reinstated by the National Trust in 2016 and plans are in place to reinstate a copy of the Wrestlers group within the centre of the rectangular gravel spread.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH

Aylesbury, Broughton Crossing (SP 8360 2145)

VIX HUGHES

Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned to undertake a programme of strip, map and sample (SMS) excavation work between July and September 2015. A watching brief also occurred between 4th January and 2nd February 2016. The features on the site fall within four periods of occupation: pre-Roman, Roman, post-Roman – Saxon and medieval to post-medieval. The provisional phasing clearly demonstrates that the Roman period features present a moderately complex series of events. Occupation may have been variable but continuous from the late Iron Age through to the Saxon periods but with the main focus of activity within the Roman era, concentrated from the late 1st to late 2nd centuries. Over 50 Roman ditches formed the boundaries of fields and may have served to divide the landscape up into functionally distinct zones. The artefactual material was focused along the northern part of the site, suggesting a higher concentration of activity in that direction. These remains may have been disturbed by the construction of the railway line in 1839. Plough furrows, the remnants of ridge and furrow agriculture, were recorded in both the SMS and the watching brief. These may have been strip fields associated with the known medieval settlements of Bierton and Broughton. A small number of pits contained medieval artefacts and indicate possible small-scale quarrying or extraction but no evidence of medieval or later settlement

Buckinghamshire

was recorded on the site. The 19th century OS mapping for the area showed that there were ponds and these may have resulted from infilled quarrying. Quarrying features of variable sizes were found within the site. The quarrying was of post-medieval date. Evidence was found for agricultural activity of post-medieval date across the site in the form of field drainage indicating that there have been sustained attempts to utilise what are likely to be damp fields.

Beaconsfield, 38–58 London End (SU 9470 9000)

CARL CHAMPNESS

In April 2016 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation as part of a proposed redevelopment of the site for new residential and commercial properties. The site is located within the conservation area of the historical town and to the rear of properties along the high street, with the potential to contain medieval and post-medieval remains. The evaluation consisted of five trenches and these revealed a general sequence of late post-medieval to Victorian top soils sealed underneath modern make-up deposits and surfaces. A few modern pits were identified to the west of the area as well as a service trench in the east that truncated these deposits, but otherwise the natural sequence was undisturbed. The evaluation did not identify any archaeological remains or any significant truncation of the sequence.

Clifton Hampden, Bridge End Cottage (SU 5464 9550)

ALISON DE TURBERVILLE

Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned to carry out the recording of a small internal stair at Bridge End Cottage prior to its replacement during construction works. The cottage is 17th/18th century grade II listed building with possible 16th century fabric. It is a one and a half storey building with thatched roof and later extensions. The cottage sits on the north side of the River Thames close to the 1867 bridge designed by George Gilbert Scott. The stair was clearly a 19th century replacement of an earlier stair that was probably in the same location as the current stair; no evidence of earlier stairs was found during the survey. It is a simple straight flight with winder design and shows signs of use and ongoing repairs. The doorway on the ground floor is a simple plank door also dating to the 19th/early 20th century.

Greatmoor, Calvert Pit (SP 6952 2279)

DAN SYKES

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned to complete a programme of archaeological investigation prior to an extension of a former clay extraction quarry. The fieldwork comprised two elements: a strip, map and sample excavation (Area B) and a trial trench evaluation (Area C). The fieldwork took place in August 2016. The strip, map and sample excavation of Area B uncovered an area of approximately 1ha and revealed an arrangement of shallow linear ditches with one part appearing to define a small enclosure. However, despite extensive excavation of the ditch fills, no artefactual evidence was encountered to suggest an ancient origin for these features or a more conclusive enclosure arrangement. In contrast, only occasional modern artefacts were recovered suggesting a 19th-20th century origin with these ditches mostly appearing to converge upon the existing deeper drainage ditch aligned N-S across the site. Therefore,

it is likely that these reflect historical land drainage rather than more ancient, settlement-related activities. No archaeological features or deposits of significance were encountered within the evaluation of Area C.

Great Horwood, School End Farm (SP 7695 3124)

ANGELA WARNER

Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned to carry out historic building recording on a barn in the curtilage of Grade II Listed School End Farmhouse ahead of demolition, followed by an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of the foundations of a replacement building to the north east of the barn. According to the map evidence, the barn was constructed between 1842 and 1880. It may have been constructed re-using the elm tie-beams from a building of half its width, or it was possibly doubled in width before 1880 and a brick wall constructed along the centre of the building to support the beams. At some point in the early to mid-20th century it received a new roof, and the slates, which may have already been in at least their second phase of use, were refitted. Throughout the run of the available maps of 1842 onwards, no buildings are shown on the piece of land on which the replacement building is to be constructed. During the watching brief on the excavation of the foundation trenches, an undated posthole was found along with a pit filled with early 20th-century domestic rubbish. It was also observed that a building referred to in the planning permission documents as being related to Second World War activities was likely to be the remains of a greenhouse.

Hanslope, Long Street (SU 5990 8800)

MARK DODD

Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation between 11th and 12th October 2016. A total of 6 trenches were excavated, each 25m long and 2m wide. No significant archaeological activity was identified and no artefacts were recovered during the trenching.

Medmenham, Danesfield House Hotel (SU 8168 8439)

JOHN BOOTHROYD

During April 2016 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a trial trench evaluation at Danesfield House Hotel. Limited archaeological remains were uncovered during the works. Apart from a single prehistoric pit all features could be associated with late 19th century landscaping and garden activity or the RAF base established on the site in the early to mid-20th century.

Stony Stratford Community Church, Milton Keynes (SP 7883 4028)

GERRY THACKER and LAUREN MCINTYRE

In June 2016 Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook a watching brief on the excavation of new service trenches on the south-eastern side of the Stony Stratford Community Church. The watching brief revealed a tiled surface of probable 18th century date which was post-dated by several brick-built shaft graves of 19th century date, the upper parts of which were recorded and removed. Two earth-cut graves were also identified and recorded. Wall footings associated with the later phases of modifications to the church building were also identified.

Taplow, Cliveden (SU91396 85525)

JONATHAN GILL

Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by the National Trust to undertake a small archaeological watching brief investigation to monitor the digging of a cable trench (called the SSP Trench) in the grounds to the north-east of the house. The trench extended through the eastern part of the overflow car park as well as alongside the Grand Avenue to the north of the house. In some sections the cable was fixed to the wall and thus these areas were not monitored. The trench in the overflow car park passed through an area where a tree-lined avenue is shown on a plan from 1749 but no clear evidence of this avenue was found. From laying the historic map over a modern one it appears that the trench may have been just to the east of the main avenue which would have had a hard surface in the early and mid-18th century. This would have been the type of surface feature which would leave little archaeological evidence. Historic maps suggest that the area which now comprises the overflow car park may have had a temporary use during the First World War. A distinct smaller area was laid out with simple tracks probably during the Second World War and this area later became the National Trust's overflow car park. The current investigation has uncovered evidence of various 20th-century alterations and it is likely that they relate more to the Second World War phase than the First World War. The evidence includes modern make-up layers beneath the main exit road and in the section of trench immediately to the south of it.

SOUTERRAIN**Broughton, Milton Keynes, 2 & 3 Brooklands Farm Cottages (SP 9045 4036)**

MARTIN D WILSON and MERCEDES PLANAS

A Level III historic building record was made of two late Victorian farming estate cottages prior to their demolition. The building was located to the northeast of the village of Broughton. It comprised a pair of semi-detached, gable-fronted, two-storey dwellings, constructed in orange-red brick, with stone dressings to window and door openings, and roofed in Welsh blue-grey slate. The building was erected in 1872 by gentleman farmer Roger William Giffard Tyringham, to house agricultural families who worked on his Broughton Estate. Beneath each gable was a dedicatory stone in the form of shield, two of which bore the initials 'RWGT', the other two with the date of construction. Each house contained original wooden fixtures, such as balustrade staircases, doors and window casements. Of the two houses, No. 3 preserved more of its original character. Comparable estate houses exist in Broughton village. The report provides a descriptive and illustrative account of observations, with photograph, scale elevations and plans, and places the building into its local and broader historical context. (Milton Keynes HER No. EMK1288; OASIS ref: souterra1- 26625)

Lavendon, 8 Olney Road (SP 9163 5355)

MARTIN D WILSON

A watching brief was undertaken during groundwork for the restoration and conversion of a derelict 19th century house,

formerly a late Victorian village store and post office. The work followed on from a Historic Building Record made in 2015 (Wilson, 2016, 28), in which it was surmised, from documentary evidence, that the building was already in existence prior to 1856. Foundation trenches for a new rear extension located two wells. The earliest was stone-built and probably belonged to the original house, while the other, a brick-built, is thought to have been constructed in the late 19th / early 20th century. The opportunity was taken to re-investigate the house structure after the stripping of plaster and part removal of floors. All the internal brick walls contained bond wood, a building technique which had widely ceased by the mid-1840s. Comparison with map evidence of 1801 which shows a house occupying more or less the same footprint suggests that the building could be late Georgian in origin. A small number of medieval pottery sherds were recovered from 19th century floor make-up deposits inside the house, possibly derived from an earlier tenement at the site. Additionally, a wall safe was opened (discovered during building recording in 2015), revealing the birth certificate (1915) and marriage certificate (1939) of a former owner/occupant. (Milton Keynes HER No. EMK1282; OASIS ref: souterra1- 255905)

Reference

Wilson, M.D. 2016, 'Lavendon 8 Olney Road', *South Midlands Archaeology*, vol. 46, 28

WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY**Chalfont St. Peter, Holy Cross Convent School, The Grange (SU 99880 90610)**

L. McCAIG

Wessex Archaeology excavated 10 evaluation trenches, which revealed three undated ditches, each on a different alignment. Previous phases of work identified Neolithic and Bronze Age archaeology, but no dating evidence was recovered during this work. Large quantities of un-stratified worked flint were recovered, although these were not closely datable. A single fragment of prehistoric pottery was recovered from a modern context.

Denham, New Denham Quarry (TQ 04470 84720)

M. STEWART

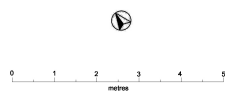
Wessex Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation on 10 ha of land ahead of a planning application to extend the present extraction area and to create an outdoor activities centre. Eight of the nine excavated trenches produced no archaeological remains. The remaining trench revealed a palaeo-channel associated with worked flint of probable Mesolithic date. It is unclear whether the flints represent *in situ* knapping debris, but their condition suggests little disturbance, and one of the deposits from which flint was recovered may be a former ground surface. No features or deposits of Bronze Age, Iron Age or Romano-British date were uncovered, despite known potential in the local area. The only other datable artefacts were small quantities of post-medieval finds from the topsoil, probably resulting from manuring of fields.



No.3

GROUND FLOOR PLAN

No.2



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



FRONT ELEVATION
(SW FACING)



SIDE ELEVATION
(SE FACING)



REAR ELEVATION
(NE FACING)



SIDE ELEVATION
(NW FACING)



BROOKLANDS FARM COTTAGES, BROUGHTON, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, OCT.2016. © Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd

Figure 6: Brooklands Farm Cottages

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Earls Barton, Land adjacent to Mallard Close (SP 853 647)

MIKE LUKE, BEN BARKER and BEN CARROLL

From April to September 2016 open-area excavation took place in advance of residential development on the outskirts of Earls Barton. The investigations were focussed on a Bronze Age ring-ditch and an Iron Age/Roman settlement that lay c. 250m to the east. The investigations have been the subject of a preliminary report (Albion 2016) and post-excavation work is underway.

Early Bronze Age ring-ditch

Evaluation located a ring-ditch towards the centre of the proposed development. It was defined by a substantial circular ditch, c. 2.6m wide and 1m deep, with a diameter of c. 24m. Four cremation burials survived; one central, two within the ditch fills and one just outside the ditch.

The Iron Age and Roman settlement

Discovery

The existence of Roman settlement in this area was first recorded in 1976 during observation of the construction of a major water main. Immediately east of the present development area an archaeological excavation was undertaken in 2001, demonstrating the existence of an Iron Age and Roman settlement (Chapman and Atkins 2005).

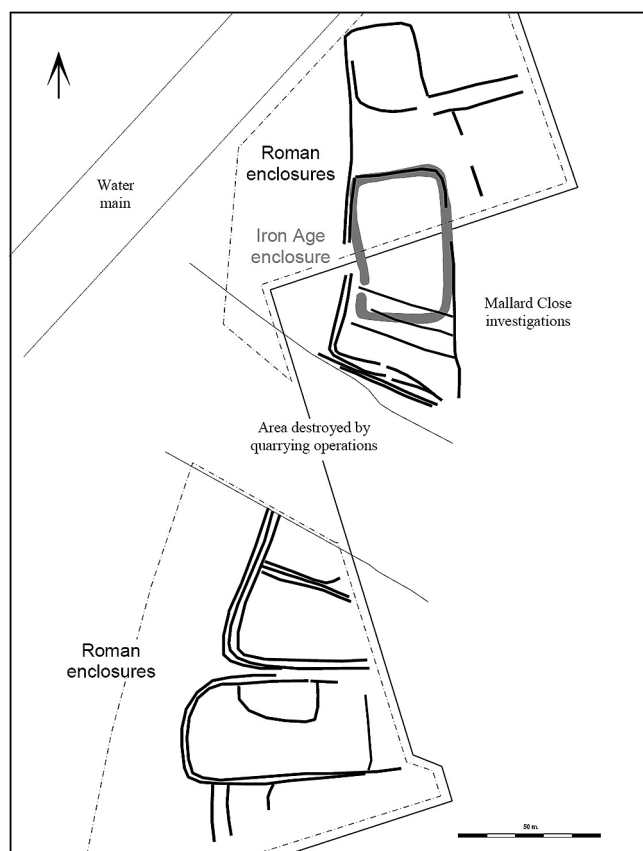


Figure 1: Simplified plan of the Iron Age and Roman enclosures

However, the presence of an extensive settlement was not fully appreciated until 2014 when evaluation of the site (geophysical survey and trenching) was undertaken as part of the planning application process for the current development. The evaluation demonstrated that part of the settlement had already been destroyed by the water main and quarrying operations.

Origins and development

The settlement originated as a single sub-rectangular enclosure in the middle Iron Age. It contained a range of pits but no buildings were positively identified. The enclosure was surrounded by a very large ditch, c. 3.3 wide and 1.8m deep. It may have been dug for defensive purposes or partly as a status symbol. Similar enclosures (also with deep ditches) have been found on the north side of the River Nene and are often referred to as “Wootton Hill” type enclosures. The Earls Barton enclosure continued in use until the mid-1st century AD when it was encompassed within a more complex system of enclosures. The Roman settlement continued to be occupied right up until the end of the 4th century. Dispersed sherds of early Saxon pottery in the tops of Roman ditches are the only evidence for subsequent settlement on the site.

Extent and layout

The Roman settlement probably covered c. 3ha (including those parts beyond the development area). It comprised a series of adjacent sub-rectangular enclosures; given their form in plan, they can be described as a “ladder” system. It is not as regular as others seen on contemporary settlements in the county, e.g. Higham Road, Burton Latimer (Luke and Phillips 2012) – this is probably because it was initially laid out around an Iron Age enclosure. At c. 1m wide and 0.8m deep most of the ditches defining the enclosures were smaller than the Iron Age enclosure ditch.



Figure 2: Ditches within the settlement under investigation
Figure 3: One of the areas of pitched stones

Buildings

Evidence from the 2001 investigations suggested that part of the settlement was defined by a stone wall and might have contained a high-status building(s). Within the recent

Northamptonshire

investigations several areas of stones were identified. The majority showed no obvious patterning but in a few cases the stones had been deliberately placed and probably formed pitched foundations (Fig. 3). However, it is likely that most of the buildings within the settlement were timber-framed.



Figure 3: One of the areas of pitched stones

Drying ovens

Two Roman drying ovens were found and a third is known from the 2001 investigations. They were all the common T-shaped form (Fig. 4). The sides of one were mainly of limestone; while the other was dug into the ironstone bedrock and, therefore, did not need to be lined.



Figure 4: One of the two drying ovens with all fills removed

Pottery assemblage

The Iron Age assemblage is entirely local in character, broadly comprising hand-made, shell-tempered middle Iron Age wares and later Iron Age grog-tempered wares, some of the latter in the 'Belgic' tradition. The Roman assemblage is dominated by locally manufactured coarsewares (principally grey wares and white wares), supplemented by products from the Nene Valley kilns. Continental imports comprise Samian ware from Gaul and two sherds from Spanish amphorae. A standard range of utilitarian products is represented.

Other artefacts

Metal finds include nineteen copper alloy coins (mainly of late 3rd-century date), eight brooches (most of 1st-century date), a toilet knife, two iron buckles, seven nails, a possible riveted strap and an L-shaped staple or hinge pivot. In addition, two lead alloy weights were found. Stone items comprise a flint knife, a whetstone, three possible architectural fragments and a possible mixing palette. Smaller examples of the latter, with dished surfaces and bevelled edges, are thought to have been used for preparing cosmetics; the example from the investigations is larger and less refined. Unusually, no querns were found. (OASIS albionar1-189455)

References

- Albion 2016 Preliminary report on the investigation of an Iron Age and Roman settlement at Earls Barton, Northamptonshire (Unpub. report 2016/144) Chapman, A. and Atkins, R., 2005 'Iron Age and Roman settlement at Mallard Close, Earls Barton', Northamptonshire Archaeology 32, 23–56
Luke, M. and Phillips, M. 2012 'Burton Latimer, Higham Road', CBA South Midlands Archaeology 42, 23–5

Irthlingborough, Land to Rear of 22 High Street (SP 9466 7074)

IAN TURNER and ROBERT WARDILL

Trial trenching revealed two post-medieval / modern ditches. The features may represent the backyard boundaries of properties fronting onto the High Street or alternatively drainage ditches. (OASIS ID: albionar1-246827; Accession no.: ENN108296)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING SERVICES

Long Buckby, 10–12 Harbidges Lane (SP 62450 67627)

An archaeological standing building survey of outbuildings, formerly part of 10–12 Harbidges Lane, Long Buckby was carried out in advance of the demolition of the buildings. The recorded buildings occupy the same footprint as buildings shown on 18th and 19th century mapping. However, there is no evidence to confirm the date of the buildings. There are limited remains of an earlier building in the west facing elevation of building A as well as 19th century bricks in building B. The buildings are of very limited historical and architectural interest, but do reflect mid-20th century rebuilding of historic buildings by the landowner.

Norton, 55 Daventry Road (SP 60133 63757)

An archaeological standing building survey of No. 55 Daventry Road, Norton, was carried out in advance of the proposed conversion of the building to residential use. No. 55 Daventry Road is an extremely interesting building reflecting both the rise of nonconformist chapels and small-scale industry in rural Northamptonshire in the 19th century. Evidence indicates that the Chapel was converted from an existing building, probably a domestic cottage. The Chapel has remained largely intact since its closure in the mid-1970s, losing only its pews and pulpit. Documentary evidence held by the Luck Family suggests the Chapel building is 18th century in date.

The wheelwright's workshop is an interesting building, purpose-built as a wheelwright's in the mid-19th century, it incorporates a tyre oven and well. The first Methodist Society in Northamptonshire was established in Norton in 1788, it is possible that the Society used this building, then a domestic cottage, as a meeting house. It is possible to assume a link between the wheelwright's family, the Colliers, who occupied the site for generations and the Chapel, it possible that the Colliers may have played an important part in establishing Methodism in the village.

Weedon, Weedon Lodge Farm, Everdon Road
(SP 61143 57448)

An archaeological standing building survey of Weedon Lodge Farm (Outbuildings Only), Everdon Road, Weedon, Northamptonshire carried out in advance of the proposed conversion of the buildings to residential use. Weedon Lodge Farm is an interesting range of buildings dating to the mid-19th century. The complex is a single-phase build, potentially following a model farm plan, containing cart sheds, shelter sheds, milking parlour, pig sty and a forge. The size of the cart shed and granary suggests an affluent and successful farm, which is reflected in the quality and finishing of the buildings.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS

Warmington, Elton 2 (TL 07096 91909)
BAKER, M, BESCOBY, D, SUMMERS, J.

In February 2016, Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out a magnetic gradiometer survey at Elton, Warmington in support of a planning application. The survey identified a complex network of natural channels relating to previous courses and activity of the River Nene, which bounds the site on all sides. Also present were numerous large discrete features which are likely to represent tree root hollows, although an archaeological origin cannot be ruled out.

Welford, Land at West End (SP 638 798)
POZORSKI, Z.

In May 2016 Archaeological Solutions carried out an archaeological evaluation in relation to a planning permission for the construction of four dwellings following demolition of agricultural buildings. The evaluation revealed no archaeological features or finds, and contained only 20th century made ground overlying the natural clay.

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Abthorpe, Handley Park (SP 6707 4605)
RALPH BROWN

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology, associated with an earlier evaluation also by Cotswold Archaeology, identified three ditches. Although technically undated, these may have been associated with Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age and Roman remains identified during the evaluation.

Barby, Adnitt Road Gospel Hall and Lea Road
Christian Centre (SP 76934 61448)

HANNAH SHAW

Historic building recording by Cotswold Archaeology identified that the Gospel Hall and Christian Centre, constructed in 1898 and 1936 respectively, largely retain their original form and fabric.

Barby, Barby Reservoir (SP 5262 7046)

JONATHAN HART

An excavation and watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology recovered residual Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age worked flints. The main findings were of a hilltop settlement which originated during the Early Iron Age. During the Middle Iron Age, adjoining enclosures were laid out containing roundhouses, pits, sub-enclosures and yards. The material culture recovered from these remains suggests that the occupants were supported by a predominantly pastoral economy supplemented by limited arable production and small-scale iron and copper-alloy working.

Caldecote, Uplands Farm Tiffeld Road (SP 6869 5104)
SAM DIXON and RALPH BROWN

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology identified no archaeological remains.

Creton, College Farm (SP 7046 7195)

DR GARY CAMPION

Historic building recording by Cotswold Archaeology of a single-storey brick cow house identified that it was not a notable building architecturally but that it represented a local example of the drive towards High Farming during the mid-Victorian period.

Northampton, Land West of Northampton
(SP 7045 6271)

JAMES COYNE

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified extensive Iron Age activity centred either side of Dallington Brook. A preceding geophysical survey and crop mark evidence indicated the presence of numerous enclosures, several of which were encountered during the evaluation alongside trackways and a ditched field system. Evidence of medieval furrows and several undated but possibly post-medieval or early modern ditches were also recorded.

Pattishall, Holy Cross Church (SP 6712 5430)

JAKE STREATFIELD-JAMES

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology recorded several late 18th to 19th-century graves. Radiocarbon dating of a disused oak door inside the church confirmed that it is not medieval as previously suggested but dates no earlier than the mid-16th century.

Yelvertoft, DIRFT III, Land East of Watling Street
(SP 5648 7540)

JAMES COYNE

An excavation by Cotswold Archaeology revealed a late prehistoric pit alignment and several ditches. In addition, Roman field enclosures interspersed with waterholes were

Northamptonshire

also found, along with the remains of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. In the post-medieval period, enclosed fields and trackways were established.

HERITAGE NETWORK

Kings Sutton, Astrop Grange (SP 5045 3632)

DAVID HILLELSON & HELEN ASHWORTH

Stage 1: Historic Building Record

In connection with planning consent for the demolition and replacement of Astrop Grange Heritage Network was commissioned to create a record of the building. The house appears to date to the 18th century, a time when the Astrop spa was growing in popularity. The observed evidence suggests that the earliest building was a two-storey double pile vernacular house, built of coursed limestone. During its life, the building has been remodelled on several occasions and smaller scale improvements and alterations can also be isolated. The first major change is marked by the creation of usable living space in the attics probably in the early 19th century. The second saw the extension of the building to the north and the creation of a link to the former bakehouse to the east, together with a general reordering of the interior, in the later 19th century. The most recent changes have been associated with the conversion of the building for use as a residential care home in the latter half of the 20th century, and the creation of seven self-contained flats and warden's accommodation.

Stage 2: Monitoring of the demolition

Based on the observations made in the building record, Northamptonshire County Council's Archaeological Advisory Team requested a watching brief be maintained on the demolition programme. The demolition process offered only limited access to the building. Roof coverings were removed by hand and inspection was made possible using a telescopic platform. Thereafter, the building was dismantled using a mechanical grab, and the debris sorted at ground level. Five visits were made to the site during the demolition and extensive photographs were taken of the exposed structure and salvaged materials. Two features recorded during the demolition programme at Astrop Grange, may serve to push the origins of the building to an earlier date than previously suggested. Firstly the substantial roof structure to the main block, which survived to a significant degree, and included both in-line butt purlins and butt rafters, is likely to define a date range between 1565 and 1640. The roof construction facilitates the use of the attic as living space, and indicates that the cross-roof, linking the eastern and western attics and previously thought to have been part of a later remodelling, formed part of the original design. Secondly, a closely dated fireback, found in the blocked fireplace of one of the principal, front-facing, ground-floor rooms, is also significant. While it may not be in its original location, it is a political artefact and is likely to have been installed in the earlier part of its date range. It strongly supports the suggestion that the main block was in existence by the second half of the 17th century. The monitoring of the demolition programme has confirmed that Astrop Grange was remodelled and extended on several occasions during its life. Even in its earliest form, however, its construction appears to have included salvaged

materials, some of its principal floor joists were cambered tie-beams re-used from an earlier structure.

IAN SODEN HERITAGE SERVICES

Adstone, Adstone Grange (formerly Manor Farm) (SP 5949 5124)

Level 2 Building Recording was undertaken on two ranges of farm buildings before alteration. Two conjoined barns, probably of post-1720 date, have been added to a former 17th-century domestic service range, which was deliberately detached from its farmhouse of 1656 to create a farmyard access. Subsequent alterations to the ranges have probably reflected a variety of uses to which they have been put. The current plan-layout has been fully in place since before 1810.

Barby, Onley Grounds Farm (SP 5079 7064)

A total of 100m of 1.8m-wide trenches were dug within the footprint of a proposed equestrian building. They showed that there is unlikely to be any medieval or earlier archaeology on the site. The site lies just beyond the edge of the Scheduled Monument of Onley Deserted Medieval Village.

Blisworth, Blisworth House (SP 7258 5336)

Level 2 Building Recording was carried out on a small outbuilding or annex at Blisworth House prior to alterations. Built in stone and brick, it was constructed after 1831, and subsequently altered and repaired. It has enjoyed probable uses for gardening and equitation, but its original purpose is unclear. There are no certain original fixtures or fittings. Braunston, Bragborough Hall, North Bungalow (SP56006675) Level 1/2 Building recording was directed at a row of former stables to be incorporated into a rebuild of North Bungalow. It was found that a simple pre-1885 open-fronted cart hovel at was successively closed in and then divided up to become stables. It became redundant sometime during the 20th century.

Canons Ashby, Canons Ashby House (SP 578 507)

Works in accordance with SMC for National Trust. Observation of foundation-digging within the gardens of Canons Ashby House for new glasshouses exposed no stratified archaeology. A single residual architectural fragment probably derives from the nearby Augustinian Priory site.

Croughton, Croughton House stables (SP 5470 3355)

Level 2/3 Building Recording was carried out ahead of conversion to domestic accommodation. The well-preserved Edwardian stables formerly served Croughton House which lies immediately to the east.

Everdon, Highfields Farm (SP 5790 5880)

Level 2 archaeological building recording recorded a post-enclosure brick field barn possibly of the 18th century, with a group of later brick and ironstone additions, much altered and repaired. There were no historic fixtures or fittings. An apotropaic or 'witch'-mark was noted but is probably a reused stone.



Figure 5: Former stables at Croughton House

Everdon, Snorscomb Mill (SP 5970 5660)

Observations on ground-reduction to the south of the mill and miller's house at Snorscomb revealed only late nineteenth-century deposits relating to the mill in its final form. There was no evidence of either the mill race or any other built features which can be related to the mill noted by county historian John Bridges in c. 1720, unless the overshot mill in its final plan-form does date that far back. The tithe map of 1816 probably shows the Mill mentioned by Bridges, and the basic plan-form is unlikely to have changed appreciably. The work has thrown no light on the idea of a medieval mill in Snorscomb.

Geoffrey Starmer's 1972 (SMA 8) assertion of a late conversion from breast-shot to over-shot has not been borne out. In fact the evidence of clean, natural, undisturbed clay geology suggests that the current mill-race in no way represents a conversion or alteration of that sort but was an over-shot arrangement from the outset. The repositioned date-stone which dates the original shell of the miller's-house buildings to 1821 may indicate the rebuilding of an earlier house known at least as early as Bridges.

Everdon, The Plough PH (SP 596 574)

Level 2 archaeological building recording showed that a small two-storey stone outbuilding at The Plough Inn, Everdon, was formerly a stable and coach house with hayloft above. Adjacent stand later brick probable former pigsties or privies. The main outbuilding appears to predate c. 1815 and has always served either the Plough Inn, or the farmhouse which preceded it.

Irchester, 153 Bradshaws Way (SP 9198 6548)

A small plot of land, formerly part of the garden of 91 Wollaston Road, accessed from Bradshaw Way, was the focus of trial-trenching exercise ahead of proposed development for a single house. No archaeological remains were present and the trenching showed only signs of modern garden cultivation.

Kelmarsh, Kelmarsh Hall (SP 7363 7960)

Excavation and building recording at this Grade I Listed country house accompanies the conversion of former service buildings to public interpretation uses and the conservation and presentation of the main house basements to the public, funded by HLF. Remains of buildings of the earlier Kelmarsh Hall have been found, along with discrete Iron Age remains. Work continues into 2017.

Kings Sutton, land behind 24 Whittall Street (SP 4999 3628)

Three archaeological trial trenches found no evidence that the site of a proposed new dwelling was ever the site of archaeological occupation or activity, other than gardening.

Little Harrowden, 42 High Street, gardens of the former 'Ten O'Clock' Public House (SP 8706 7155)

Following evaluation, excavations in December 2015–January 2016 uncovered the core of Little Harrowden Manor House, one of two former medieval manors in the village. The hall with central hearth and screens passage, chamber block, intact base of a garderobe chute and a link-building were all excavated ahead of development for new housing. The remains dated to the 12th- to 13th-centuries and provided insights into the environment and eating of the last staff of the lords of the manor c. 1300 or soon after. The chamber block was briefly re-used as a stable or livestock shed in the 16th- to 17th-centuries, evidently still standing at that time and given new internal drainage. The north dais-end of the hall was quarried away in the 18th century.

Northampton, Delapre Abbey (Electricity main; SP 75490 59218 (W) to SP 75815 59192 (E))

Observations and metal-detecting on a new electricity main supplying Delapre Abbey have found remains related to nearby 2nd-3rd century AD Roman occupation, but provided scant information on the 1460 Battlefield of Northampton.

Northampton, Delapre Abbey (Gas main; SP 75514 59216 (W) to SP 75847 59232 (E))

Observations and metal-detecting on a new gas main supplying Delapre Abbey found less remains of any period than the foregoing nearby electricity main further south which was dug during February-March 2016. This was largely due to a carefully designed approved strategy to minimise disturbance. No remains were present which shed light on the 1460 Battlefield of Northampton.

Northampton, Delapre Abbey (Principal works; SP 7595 5908)

A third year of intermittent fieldwork (2016) accompanied the conversion of this former medieval Cluniac nunnery and

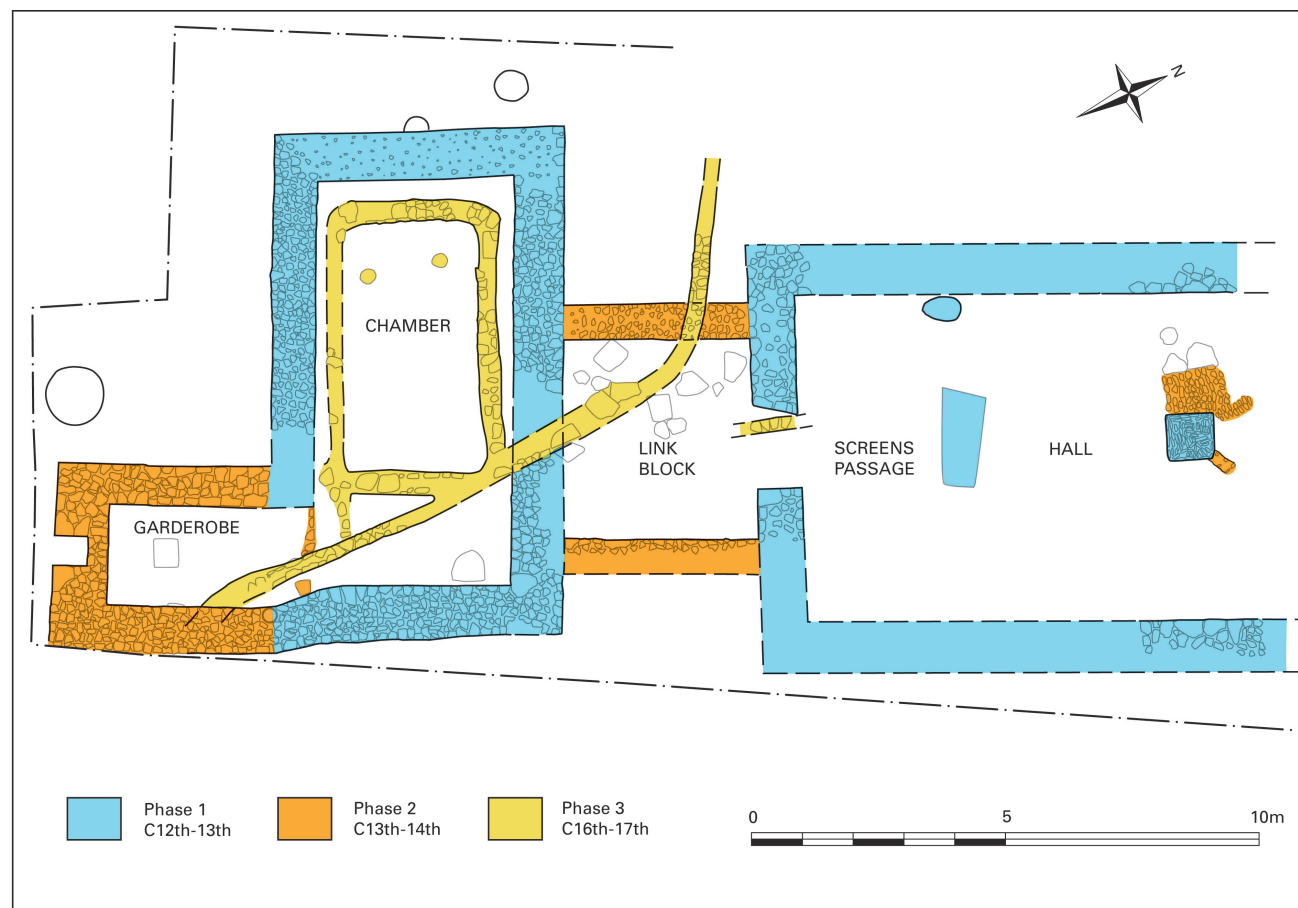


Figure 6: Little Harrowden: The 12th-14th century manor house as excavated and phased (Andy Isham)

Grade II* post-suppression country house to an HLF-funded modern visitor centre for the Registered Northampton Battlefield of 1460, within which it lies. There continued building recording and excavation of medieval monastic deposits and post-medieval buildings ahead of groundworks following extensive fieldwork in 2015 and a range of evaluations in 2014. At time of writing (Feb 2017) further works are still planned before the centre is due to open in summer 2017, whereupon a full planning report will be completed. Discoveries in 2016 included a disturbed 2nd-3rd century Roman cremation very close to the medieval nunnery, but which yielded a range of imported pottery vessels and a glass phial.

Northampton, St Crispin's (SP 7150 6105)

Archaeological evaluation (190m of trenches) on the site of a new community centre for the St Crispin's Area of Northampton found no evidence of pre-modern occupation, but rather one half of the site had been previously stripped and used for dumping of materials, before remediation, while the other had been substantially reduced in height before being flattened out. The site was previously open grassland.

Norton, former Norton Hall Kennels (SP 6090 6380)

Level 1 building recording took place on a former meat larder which once served the now demolished Norton Hall, probably to supply the hounds housed there with food.

Probably of mid-later 19th-century date and now part of Pant Yr Owen Farm, Daventry Road, Norton, the present record accompanied a change of use of the room to a farm office.

Raunds, 26 Rotton Row (SP 9995 7327)

Observation of groundworks to reduce the ground level in preparation for the construction of a below ground garage revealed that the area was a long-lived garden, with remains of Victorian/modern cultivation, modern service trenches, a former garden wall and backfill behind a roadside retaining wall. There was no earlier archaeology present.

Thorpe Mandeville, St John Baptist churchyard extension (SP 5320 4498)

A total of 30m of evaluation trenches showed that an area of c. 350 sq. m north-west of St John the Baptist Church, Thorpe Mandeville, and being adopted for an extension to the existing churchyard, contains no significant archaeology.

Wellingborough, 32 Gold Street: the former 'Fox and Hounds' Public House (SP 88898 68411)

Level 2 Building Recording was directed at this Grade II Listed building. This 18th-century house became the home of a successful beer-retailer between 1894 and 1898, and eventually, by 1940, had become a pub, the Fox and Hounds. Little remains but the basic fabric of the early house.

West Haddon, White House Farm (SP 6435 7355)

Level 2 building recording detailed a mostly 19th-century farmyard of several phases, with origins as early as the 17th century. There were few fixtures or fittings, but a clear sequence of alteration and adaptation could be discerned as the farm responded to changing needs of animal husbandry and growing crop yields.

Whitfield, Manor House Farm (SP 608 395)

A Heritage Asset Survey of a group of five agricultural buildings was carried out prior to conversion to domestic property. Only the barn predates 1797, while the rest are late 19th-century structures. None had received a great deal of alteration.

ICKNIELD ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**Rothersthorpe, Berry Close (SP 7156 5679)**

DAVID FELL

A watching brief was maintained during the construction of an extension at 11 Berry Close, Rothersthorpe. The site lies immediately north of a poorly dated earthwork known as 'The Berry'. The construction of footing trenches was monitored but no significant archaeological remains were present.

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES**Alderton, The Nook, Church Lane (SP 73977 46981)**

PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief. The excavation for the foundations and the ground reduction for the planned new single storey extension of the existing building did not reveal any archaeological evidence.

Clipston, 1 Kelmarsh Road (SP 71474 81447)

STEPHANIE N. DUENSING

An archaeological watching brief was conducted for the potential for archaeological remains land adjacent to 1 Kelmarsh Road, Clipston. No remains of significance were recorded.

MOLA NORTHAMPTON**Alderton, Land at Manor Farm (SP 73276 47131)**

KAMIL ORZECZOWSKI, IAN FISHER and SUSAN PORTER

An archaeological Strip, Map and Sample investigation was carried out in advance of proposed development on a c. 3.6ha area. No archaeological finds or features were recorded except ridge and furrow. No archaeological finds or features were recorded during the Strip, Map and Sample investigation of a gas pipe line. OASIS 255915 and OASIS 256008

Barton Seagrave, 2 Polwell Lane (SP 8857 7686)

ADAM REID

Two test pits were excavated on the site of a proposed new dwelling, which coincides with the southern moat of 'Barton

Seagrave Castle', a Scheduled Monument. A sequence of deposits were recorded that may relate to the build-up of material in the southern moat. OASIS 252043

Benefield, Land at Harley Way (TL 00608 87903)

ANTHONY MAULL and EDMUND TAYLOR

Excavation at Benefield revealed an area of late Iron Age and Roman settlement dated to the 1st-2nd century AD. Three large ditched enclosures were constructed in two phases, as well as numerous quarry pits, other pits, postholes, a trackway and a limestone surface. At least one T-shaped corn-drying oven [5101] (Fig 1) was located within an enclosure, and there was evidence for secondary iron smelting and other industrial activity. There was also some later activity in the 4th century AD. A second area comprised parts of four plots that would have lain at the eastern end of the deserted medieval hamlet of Churchfield. Initial boundary ditches were constructed in the later 12th century. Two plots contained partially surviving building ranges in limestone dated to the 13th to mid-14th centuries. A further plot was inserted between the other two in the second half of the 14th century, and this contained a single building. The site was abandoned by the end of the 14th century. The pottery assemblage is dominated by local Lyveden/Stanton wares. OASIS 242170



Figure 7: Corn drying oven at Benefield Roman settlement

Bugbrooke, Land at Ace Lane (SP 67713 57264)

BEN KIDD

Excavation identified four main periods of activity. A pit alignment was uncovered which was likely to be of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date. In the high medieval and late medieval periods activity comprised pits and a few ditches. Post-medieval occupation consisted of two cellars, two stone-lined wells and a stone-built drain. Several undated features were also identified and included three pits, two postholes and two ditches. OASIS 268136

Chacombe, Land at Jeff's Farm (SP 5063 4387)

JAMES FAIRCLOUGH

No features of archaeological interest were observed during an archaeological trial trench evaluation. OASIS 280711

Northamptonshire

Clipston, 1 Kelmarsh Road (SP 71516 81412)

TIM SHARMAN

A modern layer and brick footings were identified by a watching brief during construction work on land to the rear of the property. OASIS 234903

Corby, Deene Park, Deene Hall (SP 949 927)

TIM SHARMAN and ADAM MEADOWS

An archaeological observation, investigation, recording and analysis was carried out during excavations of service trenches on land at Deene Park, Corby, Northamptonshire. Several walls were uncovered relating to 19th century buildings. OASIS 243982

Corby, Former Kingswood School (SP 861 874)

PAUL CLEMENTS

An initial phase of archaeological trial trench evaluation identified an Iron Age ditch with associated pottery and animal bone. A modern ditch was also present. OASIS 266089

Daventry, Apex Park (SP 55476 64346)

SIMON MARKUS

Excavations identified activity dating from the prehistoric to early medieval period. A middle Bronze Age segmented circular enclosure was subsequently recut as an almost complete ring. An early Iron Age pit alignment was offset from an earlier polygonal enclosure. Two early to middle Iron Age ring ditches were associated with a series of shelters and four-post structures. A rectilinear enclosure was located between these earlier non-domestic activity zones. In the north of the site a single possible Anglo-Saxon sunken-featured building was found. OASIS 248226

Daventry, Land north-east of (SP 590 640)

ADAM MEADOWS and GRAHAM ARKLEY

The geophysical survey of circa 180ha mapped widespread Iron Age and Roman remains, including pit alignments, linear ditches, enclosures and a trackway, which together formed part of the northern hinterland of the nearby hillfort at Borough Hill. Other remains including medieval ridge and furrow, a post-medieval farmstead and post-medieval brick kilns. OASIS 267629

Daventry, Land at the Knoll, Long March Industrial Estate (SP 57939 61506)

BEN KIDD

Nine trenches were excavated across the site prior to the proposed development. A total of nine early post-medieval furrows were identified. OASIS 253539

Denford, Hill House (SP 9935 7664)

BEN KIDD

The excavation area uncovered intermittent activity dating from the Iron Age to the modern periods, as well as several undated features. Of the dated features, two ditches and two pits were identified as belonging to the Iron Age and Roman periods. Activity re-started in the 12th century and comprised a single pit and short segment of ditch. A well, waste pit and a further ditch dated to the 15th century. These

medieval features were presumably within a back-plot fronting either Peg's Lane or Chapel Lane. OASIS 258980

Earls Barton, Spinney Quarry (Breedon) (SP 850 622)

BEN KIDD

Seventy-three trenches were excavated, with archaeological features present in thirty of the trenches. Six trenches produced features from which Roman pottery was recovered, suggesting dispersed Roman activity. A single cremation is also likely to be Roman in date. Two post-medieval to modern ditches were also identified along with a brick-lined culvert which ran across the development area. Most of the features identified were undated, mostly comprising linear ditches as well as by a small number of pits. OASIS 260213

Earls Barton, Land west of Station Road (SP 8532 6288)

PAUL CLEMENTS

Furrows of medieval to post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation were identified during an archaeological trial trench evaluation. OASIS 280715

Anglian Water Services pipeline, Empingham, Rutland to Hannington, Northamptonshire (SK947081 to SP826712)

SIMON CARLYLE, JASON CLARKE and ANDY CHAPMAN

Between January 2008 and July 2009, Northamptonshire Archaeology, now part of MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology), carried out a series of excavations along the route of a new water pipeline being constructed by Anglian Water Services as part of a major project to increase the supply of water to new homes and businesses in the south-east Midlands region. Nineteen sites were investigated, dating primarily to the Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods.

The monograph describing these excavations has recently been published through Archaeopress Archaeology, and is the first of a series of volumes covering excavations carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology. It is available online at: <http://www.archaeopress.com/>.

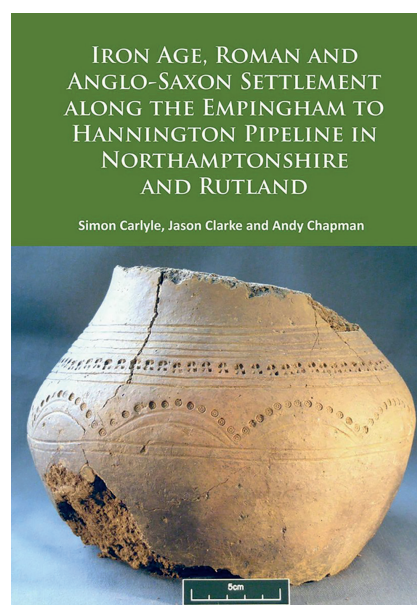


Figure 8: Cover of the published monograph for the Empingham to Hannington pipeline

Flore, Land north of the High Street (SP 64667 60453)

ADAM REID

An area of 0.6ha underwent an archaeological Strip, Map and Record exercise and found a pit and post-medieval surface. Ridge and furrow cultivation was also uncovered. OASIS 255748

Flore, Church of England Primary School

(SP 64232 60020)

SUSAN PORTER

A substantial boundary ditch of medieval date was recorded during a watching brief on an east-west alignment along with a narrow drain gully and clinker pit of suspected post-medieval date. OASIS 1262597

Greatworth, Brackley Road, Floyds Farm

(SP 55267 42288)

TIM SHARMAN

A stone-lined field drain of medieval or post-medieval date, a posthole, floor layers of post-medieval date and a possible former pond of uncertain date were identified during a watching brief during groundworks. This work followed a scheme of historic building recording of a possible late 18th-century pigsty and late 19th-century barn and cowshed. OASIS 265929

Great Houghton, Church of St Mary (SP 79199 58936)

YVONNE WOLFRAMM-MURRAY

Developments took place between the tower and the west end of the nave in addition to, and the installation of a drain in the churchyard. During excavation of foundation trenches 14th-century stained glass and pottery sherds were recovered within a levelling layer. Disarticulated and articulated human remains were also encountered. OASIS 241401

Greatworth, Land at Westthorp (SP 55063 42772)

JAMES WEST

Five ditches and a pit/ditch were identified in the south-east corner of the development area during a trial trench evaluation. A small assemblage of medieval pottery and animal bone suggests that the activity was at the edge of settlements. OASIS 280716

Grendon, 39–45 Main Road (SP 87948 60595)

YVONNE WOLFRAMM-MURRAY

No archaeological features were found, although a Saxo-Norman pottery sherd was recovered from the topsoil. OASIS 243977

Gretton, The Yews, 24 High Street (SP 90005 94414)

YVONNE WOLFRAMM-MURRAY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks within the Grade II listed 17th century to 19th-century house. Excavation took place under and an undated possible foundation cut for the building was found. OASIS 265276

Hardingstone, Hardingstone Academy extension

(SP 24579 40565)

PAUL CLEMENTS

Archaeological trial trench evaluation identified a single modern pit associated with the construction of the school. OASIS 249363

Harrington, Manor House (SP 773 802)

IAN FISHER

The observation during electrical improvement works comprised the removal of electrical poles and pylons and the excavation of cable trenches. The work was carried out in and around a Scheduled Monument and Conservation Area. The applied methodology ensured minimal ground disturbance. No archaeological features or finds were found. OASIS 260555

Irthlingborough, Addington Road (SP 950 709)

ADAM MEADOWS, CHRIS CHINNOCK and PAUL CLEMENTS

A magnetometer survey of c. 1.5ha of land detected a ditched enclosure and other archaeological features of indeterminate date, and medieval to early post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. Seven trial trenches were excavated. The principal archaeological remains included medieval ditches and pits, stone walls and demolition deposits dating to the 12th to 14th centuries. The stone walls present in three trenches may be part of buildings from that period. The animal bone suggested light industry had occurred on the site, possibly including the processing of animal skins and hides. Soil sampling identified excellent survival of environmental remains. The presence of rivet wheat provides another early occurrence of a cereal thought to be a post-Conquest introduction, and the abundance of small legumes may indicate that the local land was being improved by a regime of rotational cropping. The samples have the potential to significantly add to the existing data for agricultural production and domestic usage of cereals within this area of Northamptonshire during the medieval period. OASIS 256646 and OASIS 262431

Irthlingborough, Wellingborough East flood relief works (SP 915 677)

GRAHAM ARKLEY and ADAM MEADOWS

A magnetometer survey of c. 15ha of land detected extensive Iron Age and Roman occupation remains located to either side of a Roman road. Most of the remains comprised settlement enclosures and field boundaries, but at least one stone building was also present. The survey also mapped traces of medieval to early post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. OASIS 262789

Kettering, Land at Gipsy Lane (SP 85116 79292)

JAMES WEST

An archaeological geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation was carried out on land at Gipsy Lane. The evaluation identified no archaeological features pre-dating furrows. Features identified in the geophysical survey were, upon excavation, deemed to be of geological origin and not of archaeological significance. OASIS 264962

Northamptonshire

Kettering, Land at Symmetry Park (SP 8818 7522)

BEN KIDD

Following desk-based assessment (Walker 2014) and geophysical survey (Walford 2015), fifty-four trenches were excavated, with archaeological features present in six of the trenches. Two trenches in the north-west corner of the site produced five ditches in total, with pottery from one dating to the late Iron Age/early Roman periods. Three probable post-medieval field boundary ditches and one drainage ditch were also identified. OASIS 265743

Kings Cliffe, Kings Cliffe Primary School (TL 0063 9756)

CHRIS JONES

One medieval ditch and three shallow undated ditches were identified during a trial trench evaluation. OASIS 241599

Kislingbury, Land south of Hill Farm (SP 70016 56946)

KAMIL ORZECOWSKI

A previous geophysical survey identified linear features (Dawson 2015). Subsequently four trenches within a trench excavation found undated features. These linear ditches seemed to relate to hedged field boundaries depicted on 19th-century Ordnance Survey maps. OASIS 247558

Little Brington, Rose Tree Cottage (SP 66017 63731)

CHRISTOPHER JONES

A single post-medieval linear ditch was recorded on the north side of the development area, which appears to be the continuation of the ditch found in an earlier evaluation (Kidd 2015). OASIS 243989

Little Houghton, 23 Bedford Road (SP 80256 59580)

DAVID J LEIGH

A strip, map and sample investigation was undertaken in advance of groundworks for the construction of a new dwelling. Three ditches were recorded, and these dated between the Iron Age and 3rd century AD. A copper alloy spoon, whilst stylistically of 14th century date, was also recovered amongst late Iron Age/Romano-British pottery. A Victorian rubbish pit was recorded cutting one of the ditches, with further evidence of Victorian rubbish disposal at the north of the investigation area. OASIS 267879

Little Irchester, Land east of London Road (SP 904 659)

CHRIS JONES

An evaluation comprised eighteen trenches that were excavated to target anomalies identified in the geophysical data and apparent blank areas. No archaeological features were encountered. OASIS 253387

Northampton, Brackmills, Caswell Road (SP 77264 58150)

BEN KIDD

Seven trenches were excavated across the site prior to proposed development. One undated ditch was identified. OASIS 243422

Northampton, Dallington Gateway, Harlestone Road (SP 71500 63350)

CHRIS CHINNOCK and MO MULDOWNY

Between August and October an archaeological excavation was carried out on land at Dallington Gateway, Harlestone Road, Northampton. The earliest feature was a posthole or small pit dated to the late Neolithic by a small Grooved Ware assemblage. A scatter of worked flint, largely residual in later features including within a pit alignment, and these broadly span the early Neolithic to early Bronze Age. Near to the excavation was a causewayed enclosure and this important monument may have acted as a focal point for activity extending up to 1.1km away from it. Double posthole lines forming an avenue 3m wide and at least 60m long were undated, but a Neolithic to early Bronze Age date seems most likely. Fragments of a system of shallow and narrow linear ditches may be remnants of a mid to late Bronze Age field system. Parts of a rectangular double-ditch enclosure and an adjacent circular enclosure were both undated. A 193m length of a pit alignment was examined with every pit investigated. Although many pits had heavily eroded upper edges, indicating that they had slowly silted, the sharply squared bases suggest that originally the alignment had comprised only rectangular pits. In some places the closely-spaced pits became interlinked through erosion. A small pottery assemblage from the secondary fills of the pits suggested a date around the transition of the early to middle Iron Age, perhaps the mid-5th to mid-4th centuries BC. OASIS 237527



Figure 9: Looking along the pit alignment at Northampton, Dallington Gateway

Northampton, Delapre Park (SP 756 592)

ADAM MEADOWS

A magnetometer survey of c. 0.4ha detected two probable ditches of unknown date, medieval ridge and furrow cultivation and modern services. OASIS 267081

Northampton, Kingsthorpe, Land at the former Middle School (SP 74860 64000)

BEN KIDD and GEMMA HEWITT

Eight trial trenches were excavated. A shallow pit dating to the middle Iron Age, a post-medieval field ditch and three undated possible ditches were identified. Elsewhere the work has shown extensive recent disturbance related to the construction and use of the school. A subsequent watching brief recorded a further two truncated pits dating to the middle Iron Age. Further extensive recent disturbance related to the present school was found. OASIS 251861 and OASIS 258862

Northampton, Marefair, Castle House (SP 74972 60432)

JONATHAN ELSTON

Five test pits were excavated with three positioned within the footprint of the former building. The remaining two were in a courtyard area to the north with the aim of identifying the extent of the modern truncation and if any archaeological deposit survived on the site. Only truncation of the natural substratum was observed within the footprint of the former building, however the courtyard test pits revealed a medieval wall, pits, garden soils and a 19th-century building beneath up to 3.0m of overburden. OASIS 255947

Oundle, Mill Road, Anchor Brewery (TL 03740 87900)

AMIR BASSIR

Historic building recording ahead of a proposed scheme of renovation and conversion encompassed the brewery, associated stables and outbuildings as well as the maltings, oast house, blacksmith's workshop and cart shed. No.99 South Road, a late-18th century cottage which formerly served as the brewery office was also recorded. The brewery was founded in 1854 and most of the recorded buildings are of this date. Also recovered were remains of earlier, stone-built structures which related to former late-18th century buildings which had been mostly demolished ahead of the construction of the brewery. The brewery buildings had



Figure 10: The Anchor Brewery, showing a hoist in the ground floor loading bay

been largely cleared of brewing equipment; however, the supporting timbers for mash tuns and water tanks survived including a well-built timber hoist remained at ground floor. A brick kiln with metal platform and kiln tile drying floor above remained within the oast house. Other surviving features included a blacksmith's forge, the brewery's copper underworks, a water pump, elevated dovecote and stable fittings. OASIS 246569



Figure 11: The Anchor Brewery, showing the fire bars within the kiln

Orton, Main Street, Bay House Farm (SP 803 792)

BEN KIDD

A watching brief revealed that the development area had previously been stripped of topsoil and subsoil prior to the construction of the existing farm buildings. No archaeological remains were present. OASIS 263222

Overstone, Overstone Primary School (SP 8042 6638)

CHRIS JONES

An archaeological evaluation was carried out prior to the proposed development of the site. Three trenches were excavated and no archaeological features were encountered. OASIS 251618

Paulerspury, Grays Close (SP 7250 4565)

BEN KIDD

Mitigation work on land at Grays Close revealed activity primarily dating to the 12th to mid -13th centuries. This comprised a series of boundary ditches, pits and postholes of medieval closes extending back from Grays Close. This was followed by a short abandonment, with the land use changed to agriculture as a probable cultivation layer was found. In the mid-14th century the land appears to have been turned to pasture. A later and separate ridge and furrow system was in evidence as extant earthworks were recorded across the site. OASIS 244626

Puxley, Puxley Farm (SP 75146 42340)

AMIR BASSIR

A programme of historic building recording was carried out on agricultural buildings comprising a barn, stock barn, stables and modern sheds. The listed farmhouse dated to the late 18th century and it is likely that the main central barn is contemporary with this period. In the mid to late 19th

Northamptonshire

century the farm complex was expanded with the addition of stock barns, stables and a covered yard. The buildings suffered to fire damage in the late 20th century, following which the northern range and covered yard were replaced with a modern portal framed grain shed. OASIS 250672

Raunds, Darsdale Farm (SP 9934 7195)

SIMON MARKUS, ADAM REID and JIM BURKE

Archaeological mitigation work prior to the proposed development of the site comprised excavation of five areas totalling 3ha. In the western area there was a late Iron Age to early Roman rectilinear enclosure, boundary ditch and field system. Evidence for craft activities includes triangular loom weights from a hearth. In the north-eastern part of the development area, there were the postholes of a timber hall and other probable timber structures, which have been radiocarbon dated to the middle Saxon period (mid-late 7th to 8th centuries AD). Settlement may have shifted c. 100m to the north-east, where remains were examined in the Raunds Area Survey (Parry 2006). It is likely that this settlement was the precursor of the present Thorpe End. A coke-filled pit probably derived from the nearby Darsdale Brick kiln was also found. OASIS 260343



Figure 12: Roman triangular loom weights with pairs of corner perforations from Raunds, Darsdale Farm



Figure 13: Oven at Raunds, Darsdale Farm, with a loom weight within the fill

Raunds, Warth Park Phase 3 (NGR SP 98438 72612)

ADAM REID

Excavation of 53 geotechnical test pits was observed. No archaeological features were present in any of the pits. OASIS 263258

Riddlesden House, Hinton in the Hedges (SP 55967 36698)

DAVID J LEIGH

A pit alignment of probable prehistoric date was uncovered during a strip, map and recording action. Six pits, set on a north-east to south-west alignment, were recorded along with a series of four ditches, all but one of which, were set on a predominantly north-west to south-east alignment. A single sherd of medieval pottery dating from between mid-11th to 14th centuries, along with a quantity of animal bone was recovered from one of the ditches. OASIS 259708

Road, Bailey Brooks Lane (SP 75444 52064)

PAUL CLEMENTS

An archaeological trial trench evaluation identified that the northern part of the site has been heavily truncated by groundworks for the former ex-servicemen's Club. The car park area to the south was undisturbed, but contained no archaeological features. OASIS 246366

Rothwell, Land at Harrington Road (SP 80795 80559)

GEMMA HEWITT

An evaluation revealed two small ditches and a posthole. One of the ditches contained a single abraded Roman pottery sherd. OASIS 257654

Stanwick, Land at West Street (SP 974 715)

JONATHAN ELSTON

A programme of archaeological earthwork survey and trial trenching was carried out. Three distinct phases of activity at the site were identified, the earliest comprised undated ditches and pits which may be prehistoric or Roman in date.



Figure 14: Trial trench at Stanwick, showing medieval stone wall

Medieval occupation, probably commencing in the 11th century, comprised the foundations of stone walls (probable buildings) and remnants of associated surfaces. Some of the buildings, particularly in the north-western corner were superseded by later stone structures, which were recorded on early historic maps into the post-medieval period. Elsewhere the medieval remains were often sealed by later build up deposits including banks. Post-medieval occupation continued until the early 19th century after which buildings were demolished. The relict earthworks related to later medieval and post-medieval occupation and disturbance.

Sulgrave, Helmdon Road, Bentley's Farm Bungalow
(SP 55831 45209)

GEMMA HEWITT

A watching brief revealed remnant medieval ridge and furrow within the site together with features associated with the former farmyard and buildings. OASIS 252129

Upper Boddington, Stoneleigh Farm (SP 48234 53428)

AMIR BASSIR

Historic building recording was undertaken on a barn associated and within the curtilage of the grade II listed Stoneleigh Farm. The barn dates to the early to mid-18th century and was possibly originally a smaller building which was extended by 1759. The building was re-roofed in the mid to late 19th century and extensions were built to the east and west. The barn was converted to house cattle in the mid-20th century and has undergone a series of small scale alterations and repair work. OASIS 261546

Watford, Long Buckby Road, Two Hides Farm
(SP 6073 6871)

TIM SHARMAN and PAUL CLEMENTS

The watching brief identified remnant furrows of medieval to post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. OASIS 255040

Weedon, Pine Reach, Church Street (SP 63293 59165)

DAVID J LEIGH

Two sherds of Romano-British pottery were collected from the topsoil prior and during the construction of a new dwelling. However, no features were present. OASIS 238711

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY EAST

Burton Latimer, Cranford Business Park
(SP 9008 7592)

NICK GILMOUR and LASZLO LICHTENSTEIN

Archaeological excavations were carried out on land adjacent to the A14 near Burton Latimer in advance of the development of a new business park. The work revealed Bronze Age, Iron Age and extensive early Roman archaeology. A large ring-ditch was excavated, which contained few finds, but is likely to represent a late Neolithic or early Bronze Age monument. Close to this was a small group of cremations, which contained Beaker pottery. In the same area was a rectangular enclosure of middle Iron Age date, which may represent a shrine. Several further areas of middle Iron Age activity, including settlement and probable metal working, were also revealed. Extensive early Roman activity was identified,

comprising several ditched enclosures probably related to agriculture. In addition, one part of this site contained a few Roman corn driers, along with stone-lined tanks and several wells. Archaeobotanical evidence suggests that this complex of features was associated with brewing.

Burton Latimer, East Kettering Balancing Pond

(SP 9001 7719)

LASZLO LICHTENSTEIN

Archaeological excavations were carried out in advance of the construction of balancing ponds and associated infrastructure as part of the wider East Kettering development. Extensive Roman remains were revealed, with potentially the most significant being a large area dedicated to crop processing, with features including stone- and clay-lined tanks and two corn driers. Charred plant remains from this area include germinated Spelt along with large quantities of sprouts from germinated grains, indicative of largescale brewing.

Burton Latimer, Land south of Jacques Road

(SP 9055 7716 to SP 9022 7737)

NICK COX

Excavation undertaken along part of the route of the Anglian Water Kettering Sewerage Routing pipeline revealed a variety of Roman features. A small enclosure ditch was encountered in the north-west part of the site. To the east of this, a pair of parallel north-to-south aligned ditches were found, along with an earlier stone-lined drain and two further ditches aligned east to west that may have been associated. In the centre of the excavation area was a square stone-lined cistern or tank, with a stone-lined drain leading out of its north-west side and continuing downhill to the north-west. The cistern was backfilled with stone rubble and a later robber trench was cut into the top of this. Two east-to-west aligned burials were located south of the cistern, however, only the legs survived in both cases and no grave goods were recovered from either burial. To the south of the graves were the remains of a cobbled trackway, running on an east-to-west alignment, downhill. A fragment of quern stone and several struck flint flakes were recovered from the cobbles. The trackway overlay an earlier north-to-south aligned ditch running along the eastern edge of the excavation area.

Irchester, Chester Farm (SP 91893 66848)

LOUISE BUSH

Two Roman stone lined wells were excavated as part of a larger excavation undertaken by volunteers for Northants County Council. The first well measured 0.7m wide and 3.75m deep, and contained seven fills. An abundance of pottery and animal bone was recovered from all fills, including four complete vessels. The waterlogged deposits contained the remnants of preserved wooden sticks and twigs, along with environmental remains. The second well measured 0.7m wide and 3.35m deep, with five fills. Vast quantities of animal bone were recovered from the fills, with generally low levels of pottery. A small number of metalwork finds were also recovered, including a bronze needle. As with the first well, the waterlogged deposits contained a large amount of preserved wooden sticks and twigs, while the basal fill also contained part of a probable wooden bucket.

Northamptonshire

Wellingborough, All Hallows Church

(TL 489126 267938)

CHRIS THATCHER

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at All Hallows Church, Wellingborough during the excavation of a trench to locate and repair a broken sewer pipe within the graveyard to the west of the church. Numerous pieces of disarticulated human skeletal remains were recovered during these works. No *in situ* remains were found and all the recovered bone had been subject to significant post-depositional disturbance. The remains were collected by the archaeologist on site and, at the direction of the vicar, re-buried within the trench.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH

Northampton, Dallington Grange (SP 7268 6331)

MARK DODD

Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation of targeted areas between 25th April and 2nd June 2016. The evaluation trenches specifically targeted two defined sites: Site 1, a zone around the perimeter of a Neolithic causewayed enclosure along with selected interior features, and Site 2, the periphery and selected features within a known Iron Age settlement.

The causewayed enclosure ditches were encountered within two of the four trenches excavated across the circuit and these were well preserved. No pottery or bone was present and finds were generally very sparse from the ditch fills. The central penannular ditch feature is also well preserved but no additional evidence to further the interpretation of this as a henge was revealed. Several small pits contained charred deposits including good assemblages of plant remains, including some emmer wheat. Although no one feature produced any significant artefact assemblage in association with the causewayed enclosure or pits, the combined flint assemblage from all features and deposits was notable for the relatively high concentration of flint cores and tools and in some of the tool forms found in the early Neolithic. A pit alignment was also investigated south of the causewayed enclosure and found to be present throughout much of the Iron Age settlement area. Dating evidence was limited, but possibly early Iron Age in origin.

Evaluation of Site 2 largely confirmed the presence of the features identified by the cropmark and geophysical survey plots. A combination of large enclosures and slighter ditch boundaries was recorded along with occasional pits and a single juvenile cremation that contained at least two individuals. Dating evidence was relatively sparse but spanned the Iron Age and into the early Roman period. The features appeared to be well preserved and good assemblages of charred plant remains were present within several of the features.

SOUTERRAIN

Bozeat, Fish Alley, High Street (SP 9058 5903)

MARTIN D WILSON

Archaeological excavation took place in advance of groundwork for a new house on the northeast side of Fish

Alley; an area of 120 sq. m. A large, medieval pit, possibly a stone quarry, was exposed in the southern corner of the site and excavated to a depth of c. 1 m, though remained un-bottomed. There were two fills, each containing domestic waste. The lowermost fill was dated by pottery to the 11th / 12th century, the other to the 12th/ 13th century. A gully leading to the pit had also been in-filled in the 12th/ 13th century. A quantity of burnt cereal grain and seeds and a small number of cultivated legumes were recovered from features, enhancing knowledge of Bozeat's medieval agrarian economy. All the features were sealed by soil layer of 13th/ 14th century date. A large, undated stone quarry occupied the north and eastern part of the site. It had been backfilled in the mid-19th century. OASIS ref.: souterrai-219569.

Cogenhoe, Penn's Orchard, Station Road

(SP 8292 6083)

MARTIN D WILSON

Seven 30 m evaluation trenches were excavated in a former orchard (0.9 ha) on the northeast side of the village. Archaeological features were exposed in four of the trenches. They comprised three gullies, a ditch and an arrangement of eleven post-holes, the latter considered to be the site of an early medieval building. A diagnostic sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery was found in one of the post-holes. The overall assemblage of carbonised cereal grains and other plant macrofossils recovered from the post-holes and three other linear features are congruent with the Anglo-Saxon period or later. OASIS ref: souterrai-215419.



Figure 15: Anglo-Saxon structure, Penn's Orchard, Station Road, Cogenhoe

Earls Barton, 78 High Street (SP 854 639)

Archaeological investigation and recording was carried out intermittently, between November 2015 and March 2016, during groundwork preparation for five new houses on a 0.2 hectare site. There were no features, deposits or artefacts present of archaeological significance. A factory had occupied half of the site from c. 1960 until c. 2010, the construction of which had severely truncated the ground. HER No. ENN108137; OASIS ref: souterra1- 251308.

Helmdon, Astwell Park Farm, Astwell Road (SP 620 437)

MARTIN D WILSON

An area of 376 sq. m was soil-stripped under archaeological control during ground preparation for a new stable block and yard at Astwell Park Farm. The site lay on the projected southeast/ northwest course of a medieval deer park boundary, understood to be comprised of a ditch and a bank. There was no evidence of the deer park boundary. Neither were there any features or artefacts earlier than 19th century date. It is surmised that the deer park boundary lies either beneath or beyond the farm boundary to the north. Brick footings of a range 19th century farm outbuildings were recorded. HER No. ENN 108520; OASIS ref.:270204.

Irthlingborough, 25 Station Road (SP 9491 7086)

MARTIN D WILSON

Groundworks for four new dwellings was archaeologically monitored near the centre of Irthlingborough. Between the late 19th century and late 20th century the site was occupied by leather-dressing factory buildings, the construction of which had severely truncated the ground. A brick-built structure exposed in a foundation trench was probably the stand for a heavy machine used in the Victorian leather-dressing factory. HER No. ENN108137; souterra1- 268808.

Irthlingborough, Featherstonehaugh & Co. Ltd, 51 Victoria Street (SP 9422 7042)

MARTIN D WILSON

A comprehensive study was undertaken of Featherstonehaugh & Co. Ltd, a family-run leather dressing factory which operated in Victoria Street, Irthlingborough from 1908 until the late 20th century. The building itself was demolished in 2013 with an outstanding planning condition for a historic building record. The report draws information from a diverse range of primary sources, including an interview with last company director of the Featherstonehaugh family. It provides a biographical and genealogical record of the factory's proprietors, linked to a succession of leather manufacturing companies who used the site. Two branches of the Featherstonehaugh family, who were amongst the town's principal patrons, ran the factory for the greater part of the 20th century. The family's progression as fellmongers and leather manufacturers is plotted over the course of 150 years. The report includes a reconstruction drawing of the front elevation of the main factory building, from photographic and cartographic sources. A broad account is given of where the leather dressing processes were located within the factory, and the main phases of the factory's development are identified. After the report, a collection of company archives (inventories of factory machinery with its location in the factory, plans of the building, and

the Company's Articles of Incorporation) were acquired by Souterrain and donated to Northamptonshire Archives. OASIS ref.: souterra1- 207230.

Wellingborough, Working Mens Club, Cannon Street (SP 8939 6808)

MARTIN D WILSON

5 evaluation trenches were excavated in a garden close to the centre of Wellingborough, where the Urban Assessment had identified the potential for medieval to post-medieval occupation. Surprisingly, the entire site comprised made-up ground to a depth of over 4 m. It was quite likely the site of a small ironstone quarry. Artefacts and cartographic evidence suggested it was in-filled at some time between 1900 and 1915. There was no evidence of medieval to post-medieval occupation or activity at the site. OASIS ref.: souterra1-207594.

Winwick, Winwick Grange, Flint Hill (SP 619 742)

MARTIN D WILSON

Archaeological monitoring and investigation was carried out during the preparation of ground for a large agricultural grain store (1360 sq. m) alongside the scheduled site of Winwick medieval settlement (SM 1418336). Only an ephemeral, shallow linear hollow was present. There were no buried soil horizons and no artefacts present. The site did not exhibit any obvious signs of truncation. HER No. ENN108402; OASIS ref.:262846

Wollaston, Land to the Rear of 47 Hinwick Road (SP 9083 6261)

MARTIN D WILSON

An area of 180 sq. m was soil stripped under archaeological control during ground preparation for a new house in the historic core of the village. The site was deemed to have high potential to contain early medieval to medieval remains due to the proximity of settlement discoveries made in 1998–2002, c. 80m to the south (Feast Field Close; HER ENN20099) and a possible early medieval interment c. 25 m to the northwest (HER 5548/0/1). There were no buried soil horizons, artefacts or archaeological features present; and no obvious signs of ground truncation. HER No. ENN108323; OASIS ref.: souterra1-258921.

**UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES (ULAS)****Ashton, Green Farmhouse (TL 05712 88224)**

RICHARD HAYMAN

ULAS undertook a Level 2 building record of the farmhouse and attached cart-shed at Green Farm, Ashton in January 2016 in advance of the conversion of the cart house and link into domestic accommodation along with alterations to the interior of the farmhouse. Green Farmhouse is a Grade-II listed building located within Ashton Conservation Area. The archaeological survey, combined with cartographic evidence, established that the house was built in the eighteenth century and then extended and refurbished in the second half of the nineteenth century, mainly after the Ashton Estate became the property of Lionel Rothschild in 1860. Development of the house can be determined with

Northamptonshire

reasonable confidence by reference to the building itself and to historic maps. The farmstead predates enclosure of the parish in the early nineteenth century as it is shown on an 1810 enclosure map of Ashton, at which time it belonged to the estate of William Walcot. The house was built probably in the eighteenth century, evidence for which is the offset entrance, indicating vernacular internal planning, and the steep roof with attic storey. The 1810 map is detailed enough to indicate that the house consisted of a long range with projection at the rear, probably the lean-to that is still extant. By 1884, the date for the first edition of the county series of Ordnance Survey maps, the house had been extended. This map shows the addition of a porch to the east wall and the bay windows to the east and south walls. The presence of the bay window in the south wall indicates that the extant bay at the south end was built before 1884 but almost certainly after the Rothschild family acquired it in 1860. The cart shed and the link were added between 1860 and 1884, but the cart shed is clearly the earlier of the two as the link brickwork abuts it. The use of red brick and Welsh slate roofs is different to the other outbuildings at Green Farm. The farmhouse and its attached cart shed were among the few historic buildings in Ashton that were retained in their existing form when William Huckvale designed a model village there for Charles Rothschild c. 1900. It is built using traditional regional materials – the limestone rubble walls with roofs of Collyweston slates, which are used even on the later phases of the house built at the end of the nineteenth century.

Braybrooke, Church Close (SP 44103 92017)

ROGER KIPLING

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken between November 2015 and February 2016 by ULAS on land at Church Close, Braybrooke to record any archaeological remains present in mitigation of a residential development. Braybrooke is described as a shifted settlement in the county Historic Environment Record (HER), and it is thought that part of the village was moved to make way for the castle which is now a Scheduled Monument. An archaeological evaluation undertaken in 2015 identified some linear features and several finds of prehistoric, Roman and Saxon date. Ridge and furrow was also detected in the field. Considering these results, further investigations were required. However, the 2016 archaeological programme revealed no clear indications of archaeological evidence, apart from a single ditch, measuring a minimum of 7m in length, which produced no finds and therefore it is of unknown date or function.

Braybrooke, Eckland Lodge Farm, Desborough Road (SK 7632 0098)

ROGER KIPLING

An archaeological field evaluation was undertaken in March 2016 by ULAS on land at Eckland Lodge Farm. The archaeological investigation revealed limited evidence for medieval cultivation practice in the form of several plough furrows in addition to a single undated pit or post-hole. The site archive will be deposited with Northamptonshire County Council under the accession number ENN 108278.

Brixworth, Merry Tom Lane (SP 734 680)

RICHARD HUXLEY

Planning permission has been granted for a new dwelling at The Old Barn on Merry Tom Lane, Brixworth. An archaeological field evaluation was undertaken in relation to the proposed development. The results of the evaluation show no remains of archaeological interest present within the trenches.

Brixworth, The Old Barn, Merry Tom Lane (SP 744 694)

ANDREW HYAM

A historic building survey (Level 2) was undertaken by ULAS at The Old Barn, Merry Tom Lane, Brixworth on the 15th of January 2016. The survey studied an isolated field barn after permission was granted for its conversion. The Old Barn lies in an area of open fields away from any conservation areas and it appears to have undergone relatively few physical changes in its lifetime. The Old Barn seems to have been built as a separate unit before having other buildings added to its north and north-west corner prior to the publication of the 1884 Ordnance Survey map. The style of the roof structure with its bolted components points towards a mid to later 19th century construction date with the 1860s or 1870s being likely. Other buildings were added to the complex during the early 20th century before being swept away at some time after 1964. Modern buildings in the form of the present barn on the south side of the Old Barn and the two structures to the south-west seem likely to be from the later 20th century. There is some evidence of other now-demolished farm buildings which were attached to the barn in the late 19th and early 20th century. It is not entirely clear if the building was constructed as a single storey structure or if it had a first floor. There is no evidence of any joist holes and the splayed sill and jambs of the first-floor opening suggests a large window. However, without a first floor this would make an unusually tall cattle shed. It is possible therefore that there was a free-standing timber mezzanine floor built within the south end of the building that has left no trace. The four first floor windows are modern openings but may replace earlier slit vents of smaller windows. The modern slate roof covering is probably a replacement for an earlier pan-tile roof which is commonly seen in the region. Overall the Old Barn represents an interesting example of the later 19th and early 20th century farming techniques in this part of the region. Modernisation and changes in farming practices have now rendered this, and many similar buildings, redundant for its original purpose.

Chipping Warden, Arbury Banks (SP 49450 48467)

NATHAN FLAVELL

An archaeological investigation was carried out on land at Arbury Banks, Chipping Warden by ULAS between the 25th and 27th January 2016. The work was undertaken in advance of the proposed re-development of the site to provide a record of the archaeological remains on the site, given its proximity to the Iron Age hillfort of Arbury Camp (HER 15), to mitigate any possible damage. Two areas were soil stripped for foundation trenches, totalling 364.74 square metres. This revealed evidence of post-medieval activity in the form of two furrows, unsurprisingly given the

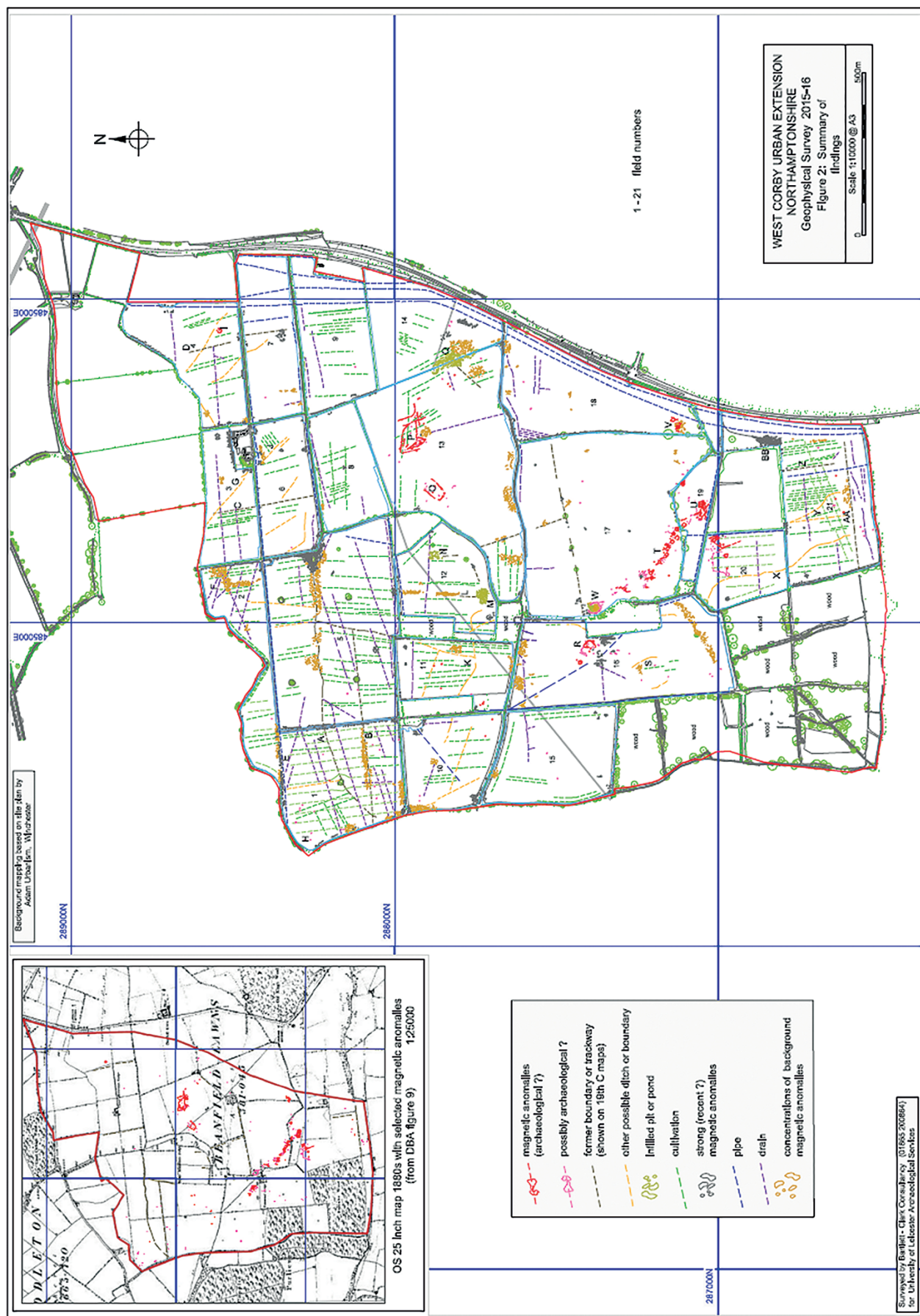


Figure 16: Geophysical Survey Results

Northamptonshire

already recorded presence of ridge and furrow field systems in the area (HER 8433/0/6).

Corby, West Corby Urban Extension (SP 850 880)

A.D.H. BARTLETT

A geophysical survey was undertaken in November as part of the evaluation of a large proposed development site to the west of Corby. The nature of the soils at the site provide favourable conditions for the detection of archaeological features by means of magnetometer surveying, and several clearly defined archaeological features were observed, including settlement remains of probably late prehistoric or Romano-British date extending in a linear pattern from the centre of the evaluation area towards the south-east. There may be other more isolated archaeological features elsewhere, but findings from much of the remainder of the site are limited to former field boundaries, land drains and cultivation effects.

The main finding of unambiguous archaeological relevance is the extended sequence of (probably Iron Age or Romano-British) settlement remains extending between Fields 16 and 20 in the southern half of the survey area. These findings may be associated with traces of a field system (as indicated by linear features S, X, Y, and perhaps other linear features elsewhere), but some of the ditch-like features may also in part be natural. There appears to be a possible isolated archaeological feature at I in Field 4, but it is unclear whether the disturbances at O and P in field 13, and W in Field 17 are wholly or partially of archaeological origin. The linear features at O could indicate traces of a ditched enclosure, but some of the magnetic anomalies at P could relate to land drains, and those at W could include a former pond.

The clarity of the response to the archaeological findings in Fields 16–20 suggests it is unlikely that any additional comparable concentrations of archaeological features are present elsewhere within the survey area.

Corby, West Corby Urban Expansion (SP 850 890)

JOHN THOMAS

Archaeological trial trench evaluation of Phase 1 and part of Phase 4 of the proposed West Corby Urban Expansion was carried out over five neighbouring fields by ULAS in August and September 2016 following the harvest. The work was concentrated in the south-eastern quarter of the application area. The proposed development area falls within the boundaries of Rockingham Forest, an area that has been the focus of historic landscape characterisation since the 1960s but which has had relatively little archaeological

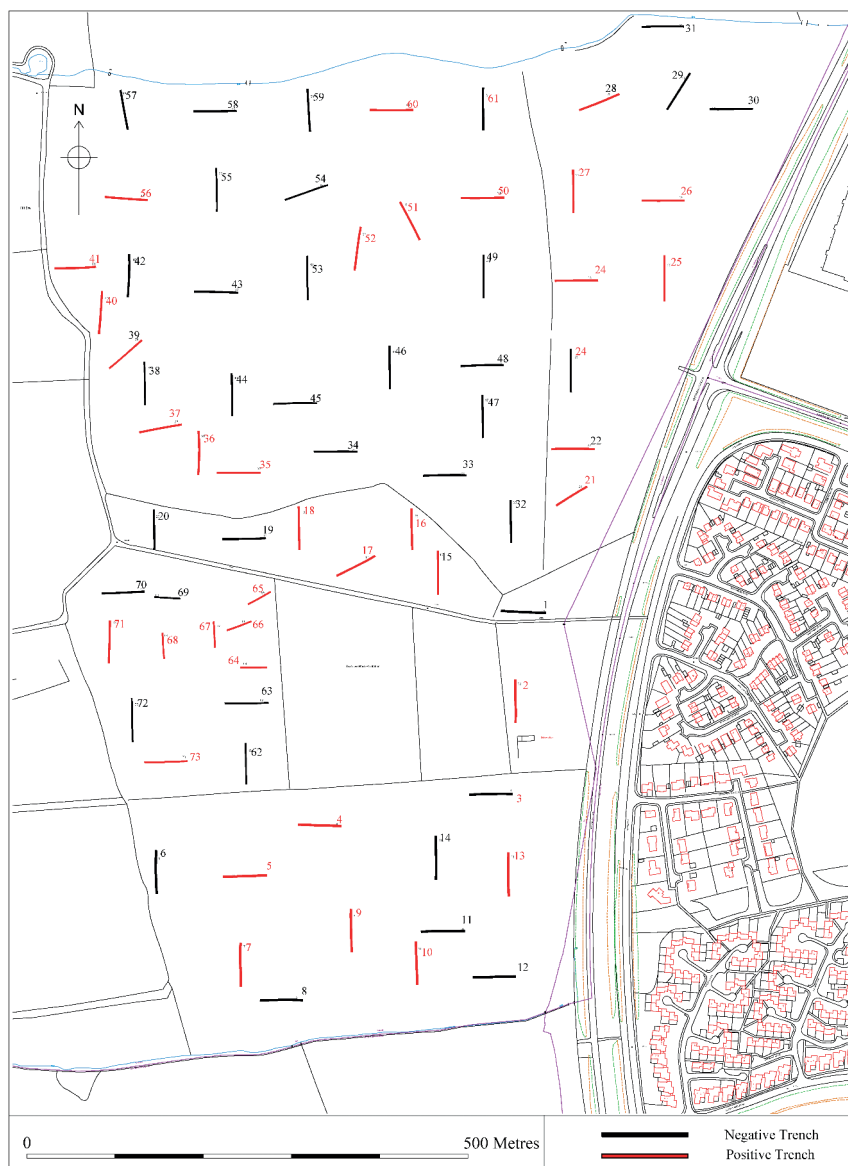


Figure 17: West Corby evaluation trenches

investigation. Geophysical survey of the development area was undertaken between December 2015 and February 2016 (See above). The results indicated that archaeological remains survived extensively across the area. 73 trial trenches (Fig. 17) were located to evaluate archaeological anomalies identified during a previous geophysical survey and to sample the surrounding areas where no anomalies had been identified. The geophysical survey results had indicated that archaeological remains survived extensively across the area.

Within the fields targeted by the Phase 1 Evaluation was an extended and complex linear spread of roundhouses, enclosures and associated features indicative of Iron Age or Roman settlement located on the western side of the field known as 'The Wood'. Similar features extended into Fields 59 and 61 and a smaller cluster of roundhouses and other features were in 'Kitts Lawn' indicating other areas of settlement. Away from the main core of settlement remains several large-scale linear features crossed the southern part of the area, running through Fields 61 and 62. The earliest evidence for human activity across the evaluation area came from a small collection of worked flints that were residual in later archaeological features. Of note was a 'long blade'



Figure 18: Intercutting Roundhouse Gullies

of Upper Palaeolithic character which represents rare evidence for this period from the county. The rest of the lithics assemblage consisted of scrapers and waste flakes of Bronze Age date, although no features of this period were encountered in the trenches. Most of the archaeological evidence related to Iron Age activity, as reflected in the geophysical survey results. Iron Age remains were recorded in all the fields evaluated during this phase of the project, indicating widespread use of the landscape during this period. Several core areas of Iron Age occupation were located, which largely reflected the areas highlighted in the geophysical survey, however additional areas of activity were also discovered in the apparently 'blank' areas. The main area of Iron Age settlement consisted of a linear spread of roundhouses and other features occupying a large area in 'The Wood' and Field 59. Two further *foci* of activity were identified Field 61 and 'Kitts Lawn'. Sample excavation of these features indicated that the archaeological remains were well preserved and contain a range of artefactual and environmental evidence. Excavation also revealed that the Iron Age settlement remains were more complex than had been anticipated from the geophysical survey results, with several overlapping phases of occupation represented.

Activity in the areas between the settlement foci consisted of land allotment boundaries, possible isolated roundhouses and burnt pits/hearths all of which were common across the evaluation area although not all were identified through the geophysical survey. The Iron Age remains has the potential to add important information on later prehistoric occupation of a large part of the Northamptonshire landscape that has seen little previous work on similar remains. Evidence for medieval activity in the former Rockingham Forest deer park was located on the western edge of the evaluation area in 'The Wood'. These remains had been identified as a large circular enclosure by the geophysical survey. Excavation revealed well-preserved structural remains within a ditched enclosure that have been identified as belonging to a building known as 'West Lodge' that is shown on a map of the area dating to 1580. 'West Lodge' is likely to have been the residence of a forest warden, responsible for maintaining the deer and their habitat. A distinctive finds assemblage included a range of different pottery types, glass wine bottles, metalwork, building demolition debris and animal bones (mostly representing deer) indicating the range of information that has survived at the site. The archaeology of 'West Lodge'

has great potential to provide information on later medieval land-use and management within Rockingham Forest and on the lifestyle and status of the forest wardens. No other examples of lodges or related buildings have been excavated to date in Northamptonshire and as such this represents a unique opportunity to gather archaeological information relating to these important areas of the medieval landscape.

Desborough, Desborough Grange (SP 784 840)

THOMAS RICHARDSON (Stratascan)

A detailed gradiometer survey was conducted over approximately 6.5 hectares prior to residential development. The survey did not identify any anomalies of probable archaeological origin. Two weak linear anomalies may relate to archaeological ditches; however, they could equally relate to post-medieval field boundaries or ploughing. The detection of post-medieval ridge and furrow suggests that the area has a recent agricultural past. The remaining anomalies were modern in origin.

Kettering, The Convent of Our Lady (SP 858 780)

ROGER KIPLING

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken in April 2016 by ULAS on land at Hall Lane, Kettering. The archaeological field evaluation, consisted of a programme of trial trenching totalling an area of 540m², equivalent of nine 30mx1.6m trenches, produced no archaeological evidence, apart from limited evidence for medieval cultivation in the form of three possible plough furrows observed in two trenches. The site archive will be deposited with Northamptonshire County Council under the accession number ENN108317.

Kilsby, Daventry Road (SP 563 707)

ROGER KIPLING

An archaeological excavation was undertaken ahead of residential development between July and September 2016 by ULAS at Daventry Road, Kilsby. Preliminary earthwork and geophysical surveys and evaluation had provided indications of the survival of medieval village properties running back from the Daventry Road frontage. The excavation revealed evidence for an initial phase of predominately agricultural 11th century activity prior to the establishment and occupation of one, or possibly two, properties during the 12th century on the southern edge of the village fronting Daventry Road. The plots were occupied by probable cob-built structures with stone footings constructed on earth and rubble platforms. A lengthy sequence of ditches ranging from the 12th to 17th centuries flanking the southern side of the plot appeared to demarcate the southern edge of the village, to the south of which a complex of ditches likely representing garden plots, closes and stock enclosures drained into a seasonal brook or slade. The site appears to have been abandoned in the 14th century.

The site archive will be deposited with Northamptonshire County Council under the accession number ENN 108382.

Marston Trussell, Pebble Hall, Theddingworth Road (SP 660 843)

JAMES HARVEY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ULAS on land at Pebble Hall, Theddingworth Road, Marston Trussell

Northamptonshire

between the 5th and 6th of October 2016. Eight trenches were excavated within an agricultural yard and a further trench excavated within an adjacent field. No archaeological features or deposits were exposed during the evaluation although a mid to late Neolithic oblique arrowhead was recovered from a residual context. Traces of medieval ridge and furrow were recorded on the site that forming the continuation of an open field system recorded previously through aerial photography and Lidar survey.

Moulton, The White Lion Inn, 1 High Street (SP 78433 66262)

ANDREW HYAM

A Level 2 historic building survey was undertaken by ULAS on the 7th of June 2016 at the former White Lion Inn. The survey studied the now disused unlisted public house which has planning permission to convert it into two domestic dwellings. The earliest available map which shows the site with any clarity is the Ordnance Survey hand drawn map of 1813 of Moulton held by the British Library, which shows High Street and some buildings located where the present White Lion buildings are. Unfortunately the use of the buildings is not identified. The First Edition Ordnance Survey map published in 1884 shows a pair of long buildings running along High Street in the same location as the present buildings on site and a range of buildings forming a partially enclosed a possible small farm yard. The revised map, published in 1885, shows the western part of the building as being the White Lion. The next editions of the Ordnance Survey maps show the same details and building layout as the 1884/5 editions with later maps (i.e. 1964 and 1977) showing additions and alterations.

The buildings forming the White Lion Inn at Moulton are an interesting group of structures which seem likely to have an agricultural origin. In its present form the buildings consist of two distinct halves: the eastern and western halves. The eastern portion has large ironstone quoins at each corner and was first constructed as a two-storey cart or carriage shed facing into a roughly rectangular open yard surrounded by buildings on the south, west and north sides. The cart or carriage shed had two wide brick-built arches leading into the main part of the ground floor of the building. The size of the cart shed seems to be too large to be associated with a small village pub and so is more likely to be part of a farm. The roof structure of this building is typical of a mid to late 19th century agricultural or at least rural roof. The use of the large ironstone quoins at each corner does however represent a degree of care and expenditure in the construction of the building. When the whole range was converted into a larger pub after 1938, the entire frontage of the White Lion Inn appears to have been rebuilt in a matching style to create a uniform façade with matching windows and door details with the modification obscuring earlier arrangements of these features. Overall the White Lion Inn shows the transition of the building from a small public house with a small village centre farm to the side and rear. The decline of village-based farms and the enlargement of the pub along with the creation of a car park is typical of a similar pattern in many villages throughout the region. The more recent decline and closure of public houses is also typical of more recent social trends.

Pitsford, Bunkers Hill Farm (SP 76109 66613)

SUE HENDERSON

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by ULAS during groundworks associated with the construction of a bird of prey breeding centre at Bunkers Hill Farm, Pitsford. During observation of the trenching, no archaeological features were identified.

Rushden, land to the west of Rushden Lakes, **Northampton Road** (SP 9362 6785)

ANDREW HYAM

Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording was undertaken by ULAS on land to the west of Rushden Lakes on the 6th of April 2016. The fieldwork was intended to provide a record of any archaeological remains that may be impacted on from geotechnical test pits undertaken to inform any future potential development of the area. Six geotechnical pits measuring 3m x 0.6m were excavated as part of the initial ground investigation work. Undisturbed natural substratum was observed in all trenches and no archaeological features or deposits were present. Much of the topsoil and subsoil or overburden layers appeared to have been disturbed or imported. This action may have occurred because of the construction and use of the now derelict building. Similarly, the small structure seen on the 1938 OS map may have caused some disturbance. It can therefore be reasonably concluded that this site is likely to contain few, if any, archaeological deposits. The report will be archived under temporary accession number NH_RUSHLK2014 which includes earlier archaeological evaluation work associated with other areas of the Rushden Lakes development site.

Weston by Welland, Land at Barn Farm (SP 769 913)

ADAM CLAPTON

An archaeological strip, plan and sample excavation was carried out by ULAS in advance of the development of the site for a new agricultural building between the 3rd and 5th of February 2016. The site is located on a prominent hill, at approximately 112m AOD and currently serves as pasture land for Barn Farm. The proposed development area lies within a previously identified Roman military marching camp (HER7052/1/1) identified from a cropmark. The characteristic form of the cropmark combined with the excavated previously evidence of a large 'V' shaped ditch and the apparent absence of other associated archaeological activity would appear to indicate evidence for a Roman military marching camp. An area of 0.84 hectares was investigated revealing only four infilled plough furrows running east-west across the site, a consequence of agricultural work from the medieval period onwards, and no significant archaeological features were observed.

STEANE PARK ENVIRONS **GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS**

WILLIAM WINTLE and WENDY MORRISON

Introduction

In 1976 a copper-alloy head was found in a field near Brackley. The head was reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme in 2009 and was subsequently purchased by the Ashmolean

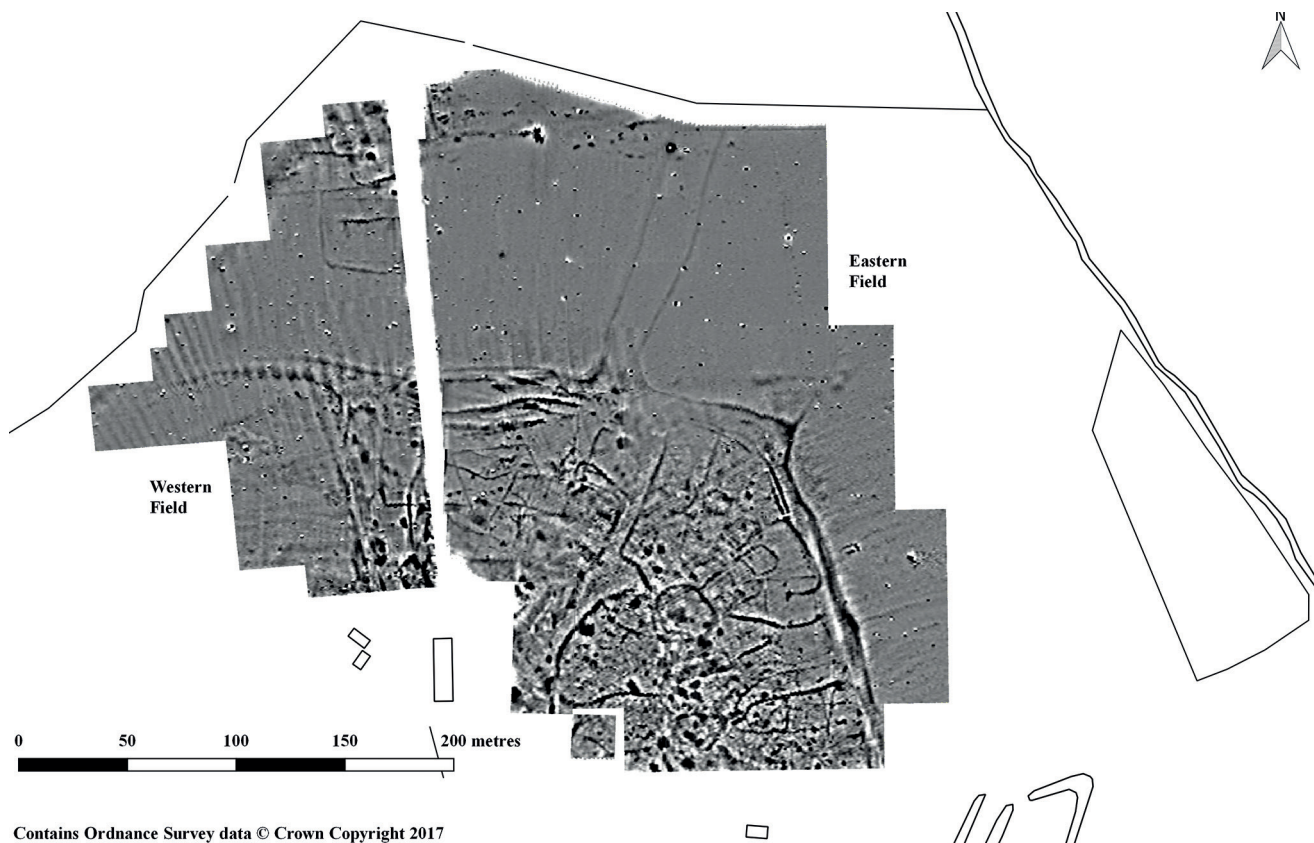


Figure 19: The Geophysical Survey Results

Museum (Walker 2014; Worrell 2010). To provide an archaeological context for the find, geophysical surveys were performed in September 2012 and March 2013 which revealed a small, previously unknown, Romano-British settlement (Wintle *et al.* 2015). To supplement excavations in April and August 2013, August 2015 (Morrison 2016) and August 2016, further geophysical surveys were undertaken in March 2015, August 2015 and August 2016. This report provides a brief account of all the geophysical surveys.

The Geophysical Surveys

The primary objective of the 2012 survey was to see whether an archaeological context existed for the find of the copper-alloy head. If such a context existed this might suggest the head was still close to its position of use in the Roman period rather than a stray find. The discovery of an apparent Romano-British settlement was followed up by further work in March 2013 to locate the northern limit of the settlement and to suggest possible sites for excavation. The principal objective of the surveys in 2015 and 2016 was to locate the full extent of the settlement.

The results of the geophysical surveys in two fields are illustrated in figure 19. Ridge-and-furrow is still present in the western field and is clearly shown on the geophysical survey. The settlement only extends a short distance into this field and hence its western limit has been determined. In the north of this field is a small enclosure but its relationship with the settlement is unclear. In the eastern field two ditches, possibly defining a trackway, led north from the settlement to the field boundary. The northern and eastern boundaries of the settlement appear defined by one or more ditches. A farm track runs to the south of the eastern field and this and other modern landscape modifications make it impossible to determine the southern limit of the settlement.

Discussion

The original surveys of 2012 and 2013 located a previously unrecorded Romano-British settlement and provided an archaeological context for the copper-alloy head found there. It was suggested (Wintle *et al.* 2015, 57) that the settlement was of more than one phase. The more recent surveys have revealed the full extent of archaeological activity and the excavations have confirmed this activity is of multiple phases, beginning in the Iron Age and continuing into the Roman period. Further excavation is required to construct a full chronology of the settlement and to determine any ritual or religious role it may have performed.

Survey Technique

The surveys were undertaken using a Bartington Instruments 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 as block shaded images using a grey-scale.

Acknowledgements

The authors are very grateful to Lady Connell for permission to conduct these geophysical surveys, and to the following people who assisted with the surveys: Kate Allison, Anni Byard, Derek Chambers, Sue Goodale, John Hawes, Paula Levick, Neal Mason, Adam McBride, Leigh Mellor, Mark Munday, Steve Nicholson and Kevin Sloan.

References

Morrison W 2016; Steane Park Environment. *SMA* 46, 46–51.

Oxfordshire

Walker S 2014; Emperors and Deities in south-east Britain. A Copper-Alloy Head of Marcus Aurelius from Steane, near Brackley (Northants). *Britannia*, 45, 223–242.

Wintle W, Hawes J and Walker S 2015; Geophysical Survey at Steane, Brackley. *SMA* 45, 56–57.

Worrell S 2010; Roman Britain in 2009 II: Finds reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme. *Britannia*, 41, 409–439.

OXFORDSHIRE

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Bicester, Land north-east of Skimmingdish Lane (SP 6004 2372)

KATHY PILKINTON and BEN BARKER

Trial trenching took place between June and July 2016 and comprised 86 trenches. Most of the revealed features were in the south corner of the site and were modern in date. The ditches are likely to represent divisions or drainage associated with former allotments shown on early edition OS maps. Modern ditches to the north are also likely to be associated with drainage. Pits revealed in the trenches proved to be modern. Irregular silt-filled pits cut into limestone in some trenches are most likely the product of post-medieval or modern quarrying. OASIS ID: albionar1-251581
Accession no.: OXCMS: 2016.90

AOC ARCHAEOLOGY

Didcot, Great Western Sewer (SU 51049 91077)

HELEN MACQUARRIE

A watching brief was conducted in May 2016 along the proposed route of a new sewer- located in an area near to known prehistoric and Roman archaeological remains. During excavation natural clay, overlain by subsoil, was encountered, however no archaeological finds or features were identified on site. OASIS ID: aocarcha1-253096

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS

Chinnor, Siarey's Yard, Station Road (SP 7557 0069)

POZORSKI, Z.

Between January and March 2016 Archaeological Solutions carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission, for the construction of 12 sheltered flats and 10 dwellings. The site lies within the historic core of the settlement at Chinnor which is located between the prehistoric and later route ways of the Upper and Lower Icknield Way. Evidence of Roman and Saxon settlements and burial activity are known from the area and a medieval church is situated nearby. The site therefore had a potential for archaeological remains ranging in date from prehistoric to medieval period, but in the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.

BLEWBURY LOCAL HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY GROUPS

Blewbury Big Dig – 5th Interim Report (SU 5224 8407)

LINDSEY BEDFORD and DAVE CARLESS

Introduction and Background

In 2016 for the first time our research moved out of the village itself and onto the downs. We surveyed a large rectangular cropmark on Churn Hill lying within the Blewbury Bronze Age barrow cluster and less than 3 km from the Roman temple site at Lowbury Hill.

The cropmarks (Fig. 1) are well known and suggest a double ditch enclosure with features within and further extensive linear features and round barrows outside. As part of the National Mapping Programme, in the Lambourn Downs report (2002) English Heritage digitised these features (Fig. 2) and identified them as a possible Roman temple. Others have suggested it could be an Iron Age Viereckschanze. The site has not previously been investigated.

A grid of 20m squares was established over the double enclosure and a range of techniques including, geophysical



Figure 1: Aerial photo of cropmarks (Figure 24)

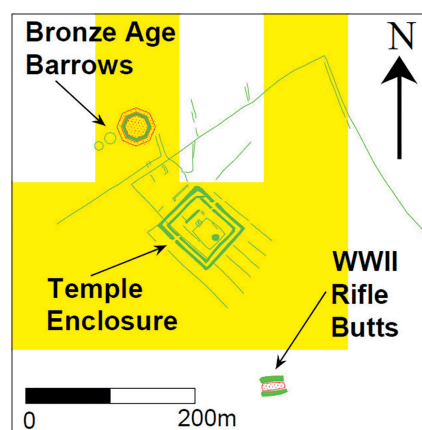


Figure 2: Plot of cropmarks

surveys (magnetometer and resistivity), auger survey, metal detecting survey, field walking and environmental sampling were used.

Geophysical surveys

The results (Figs. 3 and 4), though clearly confirming the location of features and adding more detail, are difficult to interpret because of the presence of modern ploughing and tractor tracks almost exactly parallel to one axis of the rectangular enclosure. Orthogonal lines suggest either further ditches or possibly the remains of structures within. Of particular interest is the dark circular feature which is also visible on the crop mark images.

Auger Survey and Environmental Sampling

Two short transects across features were augered at 1m intervals. The plough soil on the site was typically 200 to

300mm deep above natural chalk. The first transect was across the south western double ditch. Both ditches were approximately 4m wide and 1.1m deep.

The second transect was across the dark circular feature. This was 10m diameter and broadly conical to a soil depth of 1.8m above the chalk. At the centre was a deep void to natural chalk at 6.8m depth. Beyond the soil layer (approx. 2m) there was little resistance on the auger, which could be pushed down. This appears to be an unfilled shaft of perhaps 1 to 2m diameter.

It was noted from the auger that a layer of soil approximately 100 to 200mm thick at the bottom of the conical section (circa 1.6m deep) was a darker colour than that above. It was thought that this might be the remains of a wooden capping and so samples were collected and subsequently examined. Possible interpretations of this shaft are discussed further below.

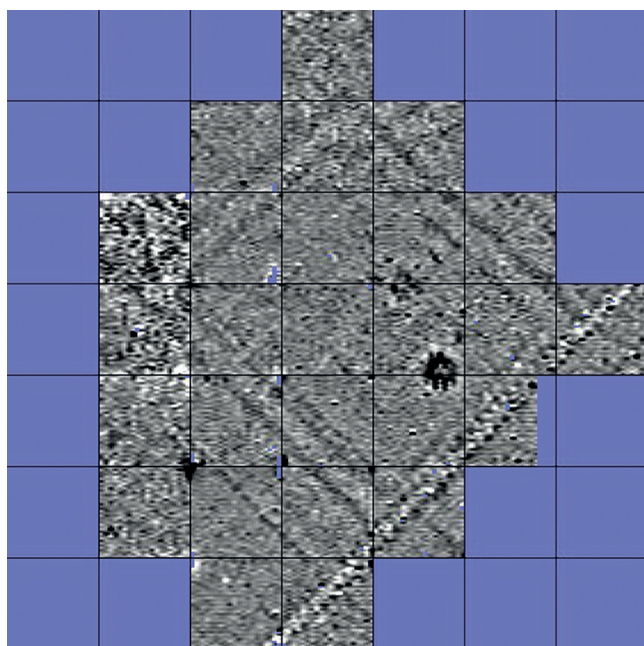


Figure 3: Magnetometer plot

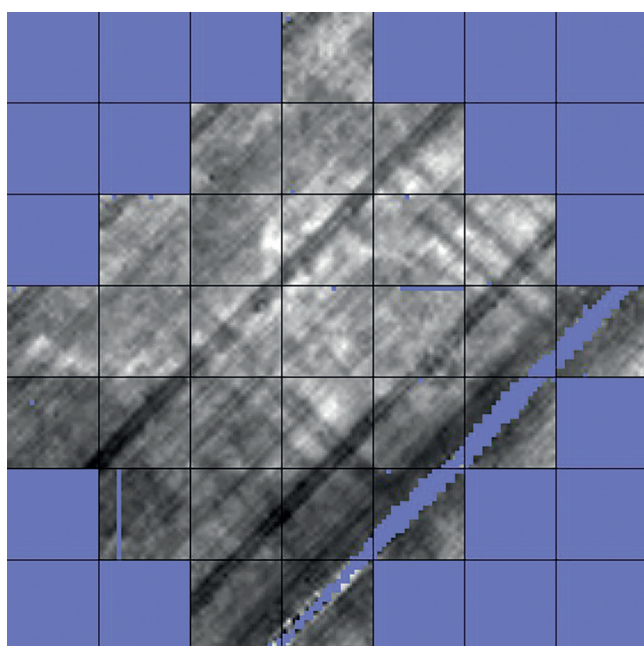


Figure 4: Resistivity plot

Metal Detecting Survey

As there were crops growing to a height of 200 to 300mm in the field, detectors could not be used close to the surface. Nevertheless, 112 metal items were found. These were almost all consistent with military use of Churn Hill as a rifle range for many decades of the 19th and 20th centuries. These included 81 cupro-nickel rifle bullets, 9 lead bullets, 5 musket balls and a military button (82nd Regiment of Foot (Prince of Wales Volunteers) 1793 – 1881). No metal objects relating to earlier occupation were found.

Field Walking

Because of the crops in the field, walking was confined to the tractor tracks (approx. 2m wide), and these were compressed and therefore not ideal. Two tracks pass through the rectangular enclosure and one just outside. The survey on one of these was extended to the field boundaries (total length 1.1km) to see if there was any variation in the concentration of finds in the enclosure area. A total of 63 ceramic sherds were collected, mostly of unremarkable redware but including a few glazed pieces. None could be identified as Roman or prehistoric. In addition, two pieces of glass, one of possible slag, one of worked flint and five pyrites nodules were found. There seemed to be a greater concentration of ceramic material around the enclosure site but this may relate to modern military usage. Unfortunately none of the material found provided any useful dating evidence.

Interpretation

The double ditched enclosure resembles a large Roman temple ambulatory but there are no indications of any masonry remains within it. Faint anomalies in the geophysics may suggest slightly more ephemeral structures existed. There do appear to be possible entrances on the NE and SW sides, not quite in line and which cut through both ditches. Several other ditch intersections indicate several phases of construction.

The clearest geophysical anomaly in the enclosure is the circular feature (shaft) centrally located towards the SE edge. Several theories have been examined as to the possible nature and function of the circular shaft. It has been postulated that it could be a well but this notion has been discounted as to reach the water table in this location the shaft would need to be significantly deeper. Several extant wells in the vicinity,

Oxfordshire

and lower in the landscape, have a typical depth of around 60m to reach the water table.

Chalk quarrying via a shaft (dene hole) has also been discounted as there is an abundance of chalk on and near the surface so mining for it seems unnecessary. These are mainly found in Kent and Essex with examples at Bexley, Gravesend and Thurrock.

A natural swallow hole was also considered as these do occur in chalk landscapes. This does remain a possibility and may have been recognised as something extraordinary appearing in the already established ritual landscape. Extraordinary enough conceivably, to enclose and rever as a portal to the underworld and be used as a 'ritual shaft'.

Shafts associated with religious sites have been excavated such as at Wilsford in Wiltshire (Ashbee et al 1989) and Keston in Kent (Piercy Fox 1967). The Wilsford shaft has the same weathering cone as suspected at Blewbury where the original opening has weathered and widened, funnelling down to a narrower main shaft. It was originally thought that a lens of organic material the auger went through at c. 1.6m in Blewbury might have been the remains of a wooden capping with voids beneath. Initial analysis however, by Cathie Barnett (Reading University) show it to be a mixed organic sample including fragments of waterlogged wood, molluscan and fine herbaceous matter with a sandy matrix and not a decayed timber capping but perhaps a buried soil or turf layer. If the shaft did have a seal this may have decomposed and dropped into the fill leaving a compact soil layer over a void.

Other ritual shafts have yielded stratified deposits including pottery, refuse and numerous skeletal remains, some of which may be accidental occurrences but others are more ritualistic such as the 20 dogs in the shaft at Springhead in Kent (Andrews et al 2011).

No ritual shafts are known in this part of the country and the only way to find out the true nature of what we have in Blewbury is to do a comprehensive excavation of this exciting and potentially important site.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to the landowners: Beeswax Farming Ltd. The programme is jointly undertaken with SOAG (South Oxfordshire Archaeology Group). Thanks to Cathie Barnett for the environmental analysis and Andy Moore for aerial photography.

References

- Andrews, P., Edward Biddulph, E., Hardy, A. and Brown, R. 2011. *Settling the Ebbsfleet Valley: Sites v. 1: CTRL Excavations at Springhead and Northfleet, Kent: The Late Iron Age, Roman, Saxon, and Medieval Landscape*. Oxford Wessex Archaeology
- Ashbee, P., Bell, M., and Proudfoot, E. 1989. English Heritage Archaeological Report no 11. *Wilsford Shaft: excavations 1960–2*. Swindon, English Heritage.
- Piercy Fox, N. 1967. *Archaeologia Cantiana* Vol. 82 *The Ritual Shaft at Warbank, Keston*. Kent Archaeological Society
- Small, F. 2002. *The Lambourn Downs: A Report for the National Mapping Programme*. Aerial Survey Report Series AER/13/2002

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Bicester, Land east of Wretchwick Farm
(SP 60200 20650)

TAMLIN BARTON and MARTA PERLINSKA

CFA Archaeology Ltd carried out an evaluation on a proposed development on land east of Wretchwick Farm to the south-east of Bicester in April 2016. The Site comprised three pasture fields along the north-east side of Akeman Street, the former route of the Roman Road now under the A41. Two rectilinear Roman ditch systems were revealed in the south-east and north-west fields separated by an area largely devoid of archaeological features. The two ditch systems are strung out along the north-east side of Akeman Street and may have been drainage for field systems associated with two different settlements along the Road. A single C-shaped Iron Age enclosure ditch was identified in the south-east field, possibly representing a stock enclosure.

Wallingford, 1 The Chilterns, Reading Road
(SU 6065 8899)

ANTONI NOWAK

CFA Archaeology Ltd carried out a watching brief on a proposed extension, garage and water main at The Chilterns, Wallingford. The Chilterns lies south of the southern gate to the Saxon burh and later medieval Borough of Wallingford. The Hospital and free chapel of St John lay just south of the gate. No archaeological remains were revealed and the Site appears to have been landscaped during the post-medieval period.

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Adderbury, Land North of Milton Road (SP 4645 3509)
ANDREW WHELAN

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology confirmed the results of a previous geophysical survey and identified numerous undated features. Probably the earliest of these were two ring ditches and an associated pit which could feasibly date to the prehistoric or Roman periods. Other undated remains included two parallel trackway ditches and a hollow-way.

Benson, Fifield Manor (SU 6308 9215)
RAY KENNEDY and OLIVER GOOD

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recorded a single Saxon ditch. The presence of an isolated Saxon ditch was sufficient only to infer the proximity of contemporary field systems.

Bicester, Land at Bicester Gateway (SP 5731 2114)
JAKE STREATFIELD-JAMES

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified remains associated with a small Roman roadside settlement dating to the late 2nd–3rd centuries AD. The earliest features encountered were two ditches containing 1st–2nd-century AD pottery. These were overlain by a substantial made ground layer which raised the ground level above the seasonal floodplain of the River Ray prior to the construction of a road in the mid-2nd century. Evidence for the settlement included floor surfaces and a possible corn drier or kiln.

Charlbury, Fawler Road (SP 36231 17927)
CHARLOTTE HAINES and RAY HOLT

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology identified two probable Iron Age pits which may have been associated

with Grim's Ditch, a possible territorial boundary thought to date to the later Iron Age. Three post-medieval agricultural ditches were also recorded.

Charlbury, Rushy Bank (SP 35091 19407)

PETER BUSBY

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a ditch containing pottery of 11th to 13th-century date. Limited evidence of medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation was also present.

Chinnor, Leverkus House, Church Lane (SP 7553 0088)

ANDREW WHELAN

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology identified no archaeological remains.

Crowmarsh Gifford, Land at Newnham Manor
(SU 61980 88840)

JOE WHELAN

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified a possible prehistoric pit. Part of *The Reading Way*, a 17th-century road with probable medieval origins, was uncovered, as were several post-medieval pits and field boundary ditches.

Henley-Upon-Thames, Highlands Farm (SU 7424 8133)

PETER DAVENPORT and ADAM HOWARD

Historic building recording by Cotswold Archaeology of a former barn identified that the building originated in the 18th century and has undergone extensive alterations. A concurrent evaluation retrieved numerous flints.

Kirtlington, Jersey Cottages (SP 5012 2024)

PETER BOYER

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology revealed pits dating to the 18th–19th centuries.

Marcham, Land at Packhorse Lane (SU 4566 9662)

TONY BROWN

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology retrieved residual Late Iron Age or Early Roman pottery sherds from late medieval or post-medieval irrigation ditches associated with a probable former orchard. Pits and postholes associated with the former orchard were also recorded.

Oxford, Land to the rear of 30 Holywell Street
(SP 5169 0654)

MICHAEL JOYCE

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology recorded post-medieval garden soils. These had been truncated by pits and a limestone wall, the latter of which correlates with the location of an 18th-century outbuilding.

Stanford in the Vale, Penstones Farm (SU 3456 9340)

SIÂN REYNISH

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified medieval remains including postholes, pits and a ditch. These were associated with 11th–14th-century pottery and probably relate to agricultural activity. A late medieval or post-medieval quarry pit was also present.

Temple Cowley, Temple Cowley Swimming Pool

(SP 54415 04374)

SAM WILSON

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology revealed a Roman ditch containing pottery dating to the 1st–2nd centuries AD and several post-medieval boundary ditches.

Thame, Land to the East of Thame Park Road

(SP 71525 04819)

RAY KENNEDY and ADAM HOWARD

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recorded the remains of post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation.

Uffington, Land off Fawler Road (SU 3101 8932)

JEREMY CLUTTERBUCK

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology recorded two post-medieval field boundary ditches and an undated hollow-way.

Wantage, Land at Stockham Farm (SU 3926 8870)

JOE WHELAN and OLIVER GOOD

An evaluation and excavation by Cotswold Archaeology identified possible Late Iron Age/Roman drainage ditches which appeared to be leading into an area subjected to seasonal waterlogging. Roman field boundary ditches were also present and medieval plough furrows were recorded across the site.

Wantage, Manor Road Pumping Station

(SU 39710 87394)

PETER BUSBY

A watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology recovered two residual flints. Several medieval and post-medieval quarry pits were also identified.

IAN SODEN HERITAGE SERVICES

Claydon, Top Lock (SP 465 504)

A group of red brick buildings located alongside Claydon Top Lock, by the Oxford Canal, were the subject of a heritage asset survey in preparation for their upgrading. The buildings lie on the canal half a mile east of the village and were constructed to serve the canal when first built, containing stabling and a forge for barge horses and boat repairs.

Great Bourton, Crockwell Farm (SP 45536 45685)

The farmyard attached to the Grade II-Listed Crockwell Farmhouse, Great Bourton, was derelict and some was already ruinous. The farmyard was the subject of a heritage asset survey to accompany plans for its redevelopment.

Horton-cum-Studley, Merriemakers (SP 59730 12387)

A heritage asset survey undertaken on this Grade II Listed cottage prior to alterations. The cottage has its beginnings in either the pre-Dissolution or post-Reformation period, but can be traced back in a very full series of original documents and historic maps, to at least 1641. It contains considerable elements of every century since then, and has undergone much physical alteration and rebuilding, including

Oxfordshire

considerable (probably accidental) damage, despite most of its life being the property of only two successive families, the Crokes and the Hendersons both of Studley Priory.

ICKNIELD ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Britwell Salome, The Thatched Cottage (SU 6705 9329)
DAVID FELL

A watching brief was maintained during the construction of an extension at Thatched Cottage, Britwell Salome. The site lay within an area of possible medieval occupation, in the historic parish of Brightwell Prior, but no significant archaeological remains were observed.

Chalgrove, 17 Chapel Lane (SU 6381 9702)
DAVID FELL

A watching brief was maintained prior to the construction of a new house at 17 Chapel Lane, Chalgrove. The site is within the medieval village of Chalgrove but no significant archaeological features were present.

Charlbury, Long Meadow (SP 3569 1938)
DAVID FELL

A watching brief was maintained prior to the construction of a new house at Long Meadow, Charlbury. The site is within the historic core of Charlbury but the site had been subject to terracing had been extensively truncated, the probably during the construction of the existing building house on the site during the mid-20th century. No significant archaeological remains were present.

Cholsey, land to the rear of 6 and 8, Honey Lane
(SU 5874 8648)
DAVID FELL

A watching brief was maintained prior to the construction of a new house. Archaeological remains of the Iron Age and Roman periods are known in the area but the area had been severely disturbed and no significant archaeological features were observed.

Nuffield, Holy Trinity Church (SU 6679 8733)
DAVID FELL

A watching brief was maintained during soil stripping in a plot of land south of Holy Trinity Church, Nuffield, in advance of the laying of a new car park surface. The site is in the medieval core of the village, adjacent to the church and its burial ground and may have been occupied by a tithe barn. No human remains or archaeological features associated with the burial ground were observed but the buried lower courses of a 19th or 20th century building, shown on historic maps, were present. The impact of the development on the burial ground is assessed as low and the remains of the building are preserved in-situ beneath the car park surface.

Wheatfield, Wheatfield House (SU 6875 9974)
DAVID FELL

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken prior to development works at Wheat field House and the construction of a ha-ha to the south. The medieval settlement

of Wheatfield lies to the west of the site and Wheatfield House and was constructed as the parish rectory during the 18th century. No significant archaeological features were observed.

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

Abingdon, 148 Ock Street (SU 49143 96935)
STEVE LEECH

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief on land at the rear of 148 Ock Street, Abingdon. The foundation trench cut through a 1m thick garden soil, dated to the Post-Medieval period, and was devoid of any archaeological features. (Oasis ID- johnmoor1-273830)

Abingdon, Old Gaol (SU 4979 9694 (site 1); SU 4979 9689 (site 2))
STEPHEN YEATES

Two sites at the Old Gaol, Abingdon, were excavated in 2010, and an initial report was produced that suggested the site was part of an urban Roman landscape. Analysis of the small finds and a reconsideration of the stratigraphy of the site has led to the belief that the site is far more complicated and far more significant than had previously been suggested. Analysis of some of the small finds led to the conclusion that many of these objects such as box fittings, bent needles, spearheads, and copper plate – as well as others – would probably originate from a Roman period religious site. Most significantly amongst the small finds was a small statuette of a water bird, examined by Professor Henig at Oxford University. He determined that this bird, a possible goose, was of a probable 2nd century date and subsequently was the earliest representation of a water bird with an S-shaped neck in the British Isles.

Analysis of the stratigraphy of this site suggested that in the early to middle Iron Age there were several features (predominantly ditches and post holes) that were indicative of activity on the site from about 800 BC. A date for one of the hearths is indicative of a date of about 500 BC. In the late Iron Age it is evident that a horseshoe shaped feature was cut, which was recut several times up to about AD 60–70. This horseshoe shaped feature had a central standing post. The feature is comparable to others most notably that lie underneath the circular shrines at Marcham/Frilford (Bradford and Goodchild 1939, 1–70; Kemash, Gosden et al. 2010, 93–125) and Wanborough in Surrey (Williams 2007, 149–265).

In about AD 60–70, a square building was constructed on the site which was located on a slope and over the horseshoe shaped features. Parts of three walls – the east, south and west walls – were identified in the post excavation analysis of the site records, and the construction of the south wall was dated by pottery. In about AD 150, the original temple was removed and located slightly to the south. The reason for this is not known but it could be due to the settling of walls into Late Iron Age features. The new structure was probably about 11m square, although, this cannot be categorically confirmed as the south wall of this structure lay outside the area of excavation. During the Roman period it is apparent that several gravel surfaces were laid, probably some seven in all, which produced an accumulation depth of stratigraphy 0.7m deep. It is possibly due to this persistent resurfacing

that the stone structure of about AD 150 was rebuilt at some time between AD 250–330.

The antiquarian Akerman (Frank 1865, 201–6; Winter Jones 1865, 143–54) observed activities to the north of this excavation site in which he identified a Roman building, and at that time stated that it was the location of a Roman temple overlooking a crossing of the Thames. If indeed this is correct it is apparent there is a double temple complex, which parallels Marcham/Frilford and Wanborough.

There is some activity associated with the early medieval period, which predate the cutting of the medieval burgrave plots that were originally created about 1042 AD, and which is dated by textual sources. The pottery evidence would concur with this development. In the late medieval period there was pitting across the area, some of which may have been associated with the robbing of the Roman period religious complex. There was evidence of post-medieval and later structures and pitting across the site. (Oasis ID- johnmoor1-48882)

References

- Bradford, J S P and Goodchild, R G 1939 Excavations at Frilford, Berkshire, 1937–8, *Oxoniensia* 4, 1–70
- Frank, A W 1865 Thursday December 21st 1865, Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries (2nd series) III, 201–6
- Kemash, Z, Gosden, C and Locke, G 2010 Continuity and religious practices in Roman Britain: the case of the rural religious complex at Marcham-Frilford, *Britannia* 41, 93–125
- Williams, D 2007 Green Lane, Wanborough: excavations at the Roman religious site 1999, *Surrey Archaeological Collections* 93, 149–265
- Winter Jones, J 1865 Thursday June 15th 1865, Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries (2nd series) III, 143–54

Abingdon, St Helen & St Katharine, Faringdon Road (SU 4881 9772)

EDWIN PEARSON

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at St Helen & St Katharine, Faringdon Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 1BE. The watching brief was conducted during the removal of tarmac, hardcore and concrete footings of the car park. This was relatively shallow, only around 0.5m below the current ground level in places. The excavation revealed the extent of a tarmac surface on top of a rubble hard core above a disturbed layer of sandy clay rich natural and silty subsoil. No archaeological features were identified. (Oasis ID- johnmoor1-237847)

Appleton, The Croft (SU 5263 9369)

EDWIN PEARSON

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at land part of The Croft, Barnards Close, Appleton, Abingdon. Groundworks consisted of the excavation for the footings of a new 5-bed dwelling and garage. A total of six pits were found. Five were of medieval date and one, containing an antler, was likely early prehistoric. Medieval pottery and considerable late – post medieval material was recovered from disturbed topsoil. (Oasis ID- johnmoor1-237867)

Aston Upthorpe, The Old Stable, Thorpe Farmhouse (SU 5590 8615)

STEVE LEECH

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on land variously called The Old Stable or Cow Shed, that is located in the curtilage of Thorpe Farmhouse which is located in the village or hamlet of Aston Upthorpe (NGR SU 55900 86150). An area 9.5m wide × 17m was excavated to the natural chalk surface located over the former position of the Old Stable. Cut into the chalk were three un-dated features, a single posthole and one or possibly two linear boundary features. (Oasis ID- johnmoor1-273887)

Benson, Churchfield Lane (SU 613 917)

GAVIN DAVIS

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological evaluation at Churchfield Road, Benson, Oxfordshire. In Trench 1, shallow and wide features were identified on an ENE-WSW orientation and these were identified as possibly agricultural in origin. Those that yielded finds were dated to the post medieval or modern period. One steep sided ditch orientated ENE-WNW contained post-medieval finds within the fill as well as a piece of well-preserved Anglo-Saxon pottery. Several pits were identified at the north end of the site most of which were undated apart from one which contained a post-medieval nail within its fill. In Trench 2 several features were identified on the same ENE-WSW orientation and these were also considered to be agricultural. A single ditch was identified in Trench 2 but no finds were recovered from the fill. (Oasis ID- johnmoor1-237907)

Benson, Land to the rear of Blacklands Road and Brook Street (SU 6222 9208)

TOM ROSE-JONES

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation on land to the rear of Blacklands Road and Brook Street, Benson. Nine trenches, between 20m and 5m in length were excavated. 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. (Oasis ID- johnmoor1-247406)

Bicester, Bicester Community Hospital, Kings End (SP 579 223)

STEVE LEECH

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at the former site of Bicester Community Hospital. The northern extent of the site was heavily disturbed by the remains of the former hospital and no archaeological features were observed. Within the southern extent of the site two undated ditches and two undated pits were observed. (Oasis ID- johnmoor1-262144)

Burford, Warwick Hall, Church Lane (SP 2531 1235)

TOM ROSE-JONES, ANDREJ CELOVSKY and STEVE LEECH

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at Warwick Hall, Burford. Work was monitored intermittently between January 2015 and February 2016. Groundwork consisted of a reduction in

Oxfordshire

ground level associated with the construction of a new build extension to Warwick Hall. Excavations revealed two pits and one linear ditch dating to the early medieval period, four un-dated pits, four pits three stone built foundation walls and a stone lined well all dating to the Post-medieval period. These were overlain by various made ground layers. (Oasis ID- johnmoor1-256306)

Charlbury, Little Lees (SP 3629 1910)

EDWIN PEARSON

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at Little Lees on the eastern side of Charlbury. The five trenches excavated were devoid of any archaeological features. (Oasis ID- johnmoor1-273912)

Crowmarsh Gifford, Clacks Farm, Clacks Lane

(SU 63797 89820)

STEVE LEECH

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation within the farmyard of Clack's Farm, Clack's Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford. The evaluation consisted of two trenches; Trench 1 contained a small prehistoric pit cut into a tree bole and Trench 2 was devoid of any archaeological features. (Oasis ID- johnmoor1-247383)

Culham, Land adjacent to 27 High Street

(SU 5055 9502)

STEVE LEECH

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation in the garden of 27 High Street, Culham. Trench 1 contained five pits and four possible pits, six postholes and one gully and Trench 2 contained a ditch. These were mostly dated to around the 11th Century AD, and possibly relate to a medieval post-built building and its land such as a toft. (Oasis ID- johnmoor1-273920)

Culham, Land adjacent to 27 High Street, Culham

(SU 5055 9502)

STEVE LEECH

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief in the garden of 27 High Street, Culham. The excavation of the foundation trenches for the new dwelling revealed two pits and two linear ditches that were all undated as no finds were recovered. However, an 11th – 12th century date was established for the surrounding features in the previous evaluation. The pits represent a continuation of the features relating to a medieval toft settlement during the 11th century onwards. Ditch 11 could also serve as a land division to the east of the toft. (Oasis ID- johnmoor1-273929)

Cuxham, The Old rectory (SU 6643 9524)

PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE and STEVE LEECH

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at The Old Rectory, Cuxham. The excavated area, comprising the footprint of a pool house and a swimming pool with surrounding patio, did not reveal any archaeological features. A single sherd of Brill/Boarstall ware pottery indicated nearby activity during the medieval period. (Oasis ID- johnmoor1-273934)

Dorchester-on-Thames, 4 Monks Close

(SU 58005 94326)

PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE, with contributions by SIMONA DENIS and JANE TIMBY

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at 4 Monks Close, Dorchester-on-Thames. The topsoil contained Roman pottery sherds, three late Roman coins and fragments of animal bone. A fragment of pottery was also recovered from the fill of a linear ditch. Two fragments were also recovered from the lower layer cut by this ditch. (Oasis ID- johnmoor1-261857)

Dorchester-on-Thames, 6 Martins Lane

(SU 57765 94522)

PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at 6 Martins Lane, Dorchester-on-Thames. Trenches for a new porch, sewer and soakaway did not contain any archaeological evidence except for a few Roman and medieval potsherds in the topsoil. The proposed garage will not impact any archaeological horizon due to arboriculture constraints. (Oasis ID- johnmoor1-273944)

Dorchester-on-Thames, 8 Malthouse Lane

(SU 57715 94258)

STEPHEN YEATES with contributions from JANE TIMBY, PAUL BLINKHORN, and SIMONA DENIS

In early 2015 an archaeological evaluation took place, which identified the top of some Roman features that were attributed a 4th century date. This led to a watching brief and excavation approach requested for the site during the development ground work. The watching brief was to take place while in the later upper soil horizon, and excavation techniques to be carried out when Roman layers or significant archaeological features and deposits were encountered.

Dorchester-on-Thames is the location of a Roman vicus (town), which was established alongside Dyke Hills, a late Iron Age fortification located to the south of the town. The status of Roman settlements was determined by charters and by size, so a discussion on whether this was the location of a 'small town' or 'small settlement' is probably irrelevant. Investigations have shown that the settlement was surrounded by a bank and ditch that marked the edge of urban space in the 1st century AD, and that the settlement was walled in the 2nd century AD. Cemeteries associated with the 1st and 2nd century of Dorchester are less easy to identify.

The construction of the wall in the 2nd century AD led to the reorganisation of the settlement; a temple associated with the Emperor is known to have existed as implied by a relief, and one can presume also that there was a courtyard building that would have acted as the town hall. Such buildings are often called mansion or villa depending on what is recognised of the site, but they turn up in so many Roman town descriptions that they must represent an official structure. The Roman cemeteries associated with later Roman Dorchester are more readily recognised.

In the 7th century AD Dorchester-on-Thames was chosen as the location for the cathedral of the West Saxons. The reason for this choice is unknown. This event implies an association with the territory of the earlier Atrebat, besides other factors. By the 8th century Dorchester had

been incorporated into Mercia, and in the 11th century was recognised as being part of Oxfordshire.

The current archaeological work identified some five phases of activity. The initial phase covered the 4th century layers that were identified in three locations on the site. There was not the ability to explore the Roman deposits that were deeper than this. One of the features may have been part of a beam slot. A layer accumulated over these deposits and set in the top of this there were two post settings, which were late 4th century or 5th century features. A dark soil horizon accumulated above these features, most material in this layer was Roman in date but there was one 16th century sherd that may have been intrusive. Over this there were further accumulation layers dated to the 19th and 20th centuries respectfully.

The site has thus produced features that appears to be structural and are associated with the 4th and 5th centuries, and thus represent late Roman period occupation or sub-Roman in date. (Oasis ID- johnmoor1-273958)

East Hagbourne, Sadlers Orchard, 9 Church Close (SU 525 882)

BRENT CULSHAW

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at Sadlers Orchard, 9 Church Close, East Hagbourne. The works monitored were within an 18m x 18m and a 6.5m x 6.5m area and consisted of 0.6m wide foundation trenches for a new house and garage. No archaeologically significant deposits were identified. (Oasis ID- johnmoor1-273981)

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

GAVIN DAVIS

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at Half Acre, Main Street, East Hanney, Oxfordshire. The watching brief was conducted during the removal of the concrete platform to the demolished building and the removal of the concrete footings. The footings were very shallow, only around 0.6m below the current ground level in places. The excavation revealed a deep dark brown topsoil of sandy loam which was deposited above a layer of mid bluish grey, sandy clay loam. 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. (Oasis ID- johnmoor1-247392)

Eynsham, Beech Court Care Home, Newland Street (SP 4350 0959)

TOM ROSE-JONES and STEVE LEECH

John Moore Heritage Services carried out a watching brief at Beech Court Care Home, Eynsham. The groundwork consisted of demolition, extension and new build. During the watching brief a series of features and deposits were encountered; the first phase of activity comprised several linear ditches of Mid-Roman date. A series of features related to post-medieval occupation were also recorded. (Oasis ID- johnmoor1-274001)

Eynsham, The Shrubbery, 26 High Street (SP 4344 0922)

TOM ROSE JONES and STEVE LEECH

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief on the south side of High Street, Eynsham in the grounds of the Shrubbery, 26 High Street. Foundation trenches for a new property and an attached terrace, a soakaway trench and two service trenches were monitored. Three archaeological features were revealed; one Roman ditch and one un-dated ditch and a pit were present in the foundation trench. The service trenches cut through previously disturbed ground. (Oasis ID- johnmoor1-261988)

Faringdon, Park Road (SU 291 945)

STEVE LEECH

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation on land situated on the southwestern side of Park Road, Faringdon. The evaluation only needed to excavate fifteen of the proposed possible thirty trenches. Only three of the fifteen trenches excavated contained any archaeological features. Trench 59 contained a linear ditch 59/04 that was orientated north / south and was un-dated. It is possible that the ditch represents an earlier course of the present field boundary situated a short distance to the west. Trench 61 contained a single sub-oval feature that was un-dated and due to the uneven nature of the base is considered to be a tree-hole. A further three small un-dated tree-holes were present in Trench 74. (Oasis ID- johnmoor1-274013)

Frilford, North Side of Ford Lane (SU 4446 9723)

GAVIN DAVIS

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at Ford House, Ford Lane, Frilford. The base for the orangery had already been installed before the planning conditions had been received and no archaeological watching brief was undertaken in this area during excavations. The driveway down to the pool/gym room had already been excavated ahead of any archaeological observance, and stone had been laid on part of the drive. The excavations of foundations within the ruins of a limestone rubble built barn revealed the foundations to that building and the fragmentary remains of a brick floor towards the north of the building. The demolition of the cottage, removal of foundations, and the subsequent excavations related to the new build on the plot were advanced without an archaeological presence on the site and the presence or absence of archaeology, revealed or removed, remains unknown. (Oasis ID- johnmoor1-245350)

Garsington, Land adjacent to St Mary's Church, Southend (SP 5809 0199)

GAVIN DAVIS with contributions by JANE TIMBY and SIMONA DENIS

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation on land adjacent to, and south of, the parish Church of St Mary, Southend, Garsington. The excavations revealed 10, possibly 11, ditches across the site with a minimum number of ditches equalling 8. Two pits were also identified and a negative feature which may also have been a pit was found. Dateable pottery was recovered from 10 contexts, and 6 of these were related to five ditches. Most of these ditches contained 6th and 7th century pottery and one ditch

Oxfordshire

contained residual Roman pottery. Another ditch contained a fragment of red slipped mortarium, which may date this ditch to the 4th century. It is possible though that the continuation of this ditch may be the same as a section of ditch further to the NW which contained pottery of 6th or 7th century date. A piece of 12th to 14th century pottery was recovered from one ditch which may date this feature and related ditches towards the SW corner of the site to the later medieval period. It is however possible that this fragment was infiltrated or poorly stratified. No underground features were identified that related to the possible medieval hollow-way indicated on LIDAR imagery and it is possible that this linear feature and another identified relate to the still in use public footpaths that run E-W and N-S across the site. (Oasis ID- johnmoor1-247370)

Harwell, Land north of Didcot Road (SU 497 895)

GAVIN DAVIS, SIMONA DENIS and JOHN MOORE

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological evaluation on land north of Didcot Road, Harwell. The evaluation followed a geophysical survey that had identified a complex of enclosure ditches. Parts of this enclosure had been identified during the evaluation and other ditches and features that had not been identified by the geophysics were also identified. The evaluation recorded 19 ditches and 1 possible ditch terminus. Of the ditches found between 6 and 8 of these aligned with the enclosures identified by the geophysical survey. The evaluation also identified a cluster of possible graves, which included 1 grave and 2 possible grave cuts. These were recovered within the south area of the enclosure and were associated with an area identified by the geophysical survey as an area of possible settlement activity. A further possible grave cut was identified approximately 86m to the NE of this grave cluster. Three pits were identified during the evaluation, although one of these may be a grave and a further one may be a ditch terminus. Two post-holes were identified in the SW of the enclosure in an area identified by geophysics as an area of settlement activity. A buried soil horizon containing Roman material and overlying three ditches was also identified in the SW area of the enclosure. (Oasis ID- johnmoor1-274028)

Lewknor, Lewknor Reservoir, The Knapp, Field Farm, Hill Road (SU 7166 9712)

KIRSTY BONE

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at Lewknor Reservoir, The Knapp, Field Farm, Lewknor. A service trench 150m in length and 0.3m wide and 1m deep connecting Lewknor Reservoir to utilities located on Hill Road contained archaeological evidence for three ditch-like features. The only finds recovered was a small sherd of pot and a flint fragment; both were unstratified. (Oasis ID- johnmoor1-274031)

Long Hanborough, land on south side of Witney Road (SP 412 140)

PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE and STEVE LEECH with contributions by EMILY EDWARDS, PAUL BLINKHORN and SIMONA DENIS

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at land south of Witney Road, Long Hanborough, following a desk-based assessment by Thames Valley Archaeological

Services and a geophysical survey by Stratascan. Most of the 31 excavated trenches contained nothing but furrows. Archaeological remains were sporadic and concentrated on the western part of the site. The only dated features were three prehistoric pits, one containing some early Iron Age potsherds and another with body sherds from several middle Iron Age vessels. It comprises also a series of 6 undated ditches or gullies, as well as another undated pit and a possible posthole. An intrusive medieval potsherd was collected from one of the features. (Oasis ID- johnmoor1-272212)

Moulsford, Underhill (SU 58988 83590)

STEVE LEECH

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation to the rear of the north and east sides of Underhill, Moulsford. The evaluation consisted of one 15m trench that contained one modern ditch and no evidence of any service trenches within the trench. (Oasis ID- johnmoor1-274033)

Oxford, 333 Banbury Road (SP 6947 0884)

STEVE LEECH

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the first stage of an evaluation at 333 Banbury Road, Oxford. Trench 1 was devoid of any archaeological features and consisted of modern disturbed / made ground overlying the Oxford clay. (Oasis ID- johnmoor1-262778)

Oxford, 92–94 High Street (SP 5165 0619)

PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE & SIMONA DENIS

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at 92–94 High Street, Oxford. Three trial pits were manually dug. Two were located inside the former stables on Magpie Lane, and revealed the foundations of the east wall of the stables, a post-medieval brick floor and pits. The third trial pit was located outside the building, and revealed three walls beneath the car park surface that are shown on a 19th century OS map. (Oasis ID- johnmoor1-259118)

Oxford, 46 Hythe Bridge Street (SP 50806 06350)

ANDREJ ČELOVSKÝ and DAVID GILBERT with contributions by PAUL BLINKHORN and SIMONA DENIS

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at 46 Hythe Bridge Street in Oxford. The aims of investigations were to preserve by record any archaeological remains which would be impacted upon by the development; to record any archaeological remains relating to medieval and post-medieval activity.

The only possible hard standing associated with a quayside was an area of sandy gravel (133) found in the central and northeast portion of the north part of the basement. This was found above the land reclamation/raising of the ground level deposits (see below).

The earliest phase was represented by alluvial deposit (134). Above this were deposits considered to represent land reclamation or raising of the ground level for the river crossing. Finds recovered from these deposits were dated to the period from 14th to mid-16th century and presumably mostly relate to activity where this material originated. Some of the finds may be contemporary with the land reclamation/raising of the ground level. The dating of the finds suggests that this happened on this site during the mid-16th century.

The next phase was represented by deposit (104) and its associated deposits. The finds recovered from these deposits were broadly dated to period from the late 15th to early 17th century. This deposit seems to represent made ground which was presumably formed during the period from the late 16th to early 17th century.

The last phase began with construction of present three-storey building in the second half of 19th century, with continued development of site and changes of its use up to present day.

Oxford, Land to the rear of Staverton Road and 115 Banbury Road (SP 45087 20822)

STEVE LEECH

This document represents an investigation of the potential for archaeological remains at land to the rear of Staverton Road and at 115 Banbury Road. The evaluation consisted of the excavation of four trenches, three of which were devoid of any archaeological features with one trench containing two possible pits / natural features and one east – west linear ditch, all un-dated. (Oasis ID- Johnmoor1-243967)

Oxford, 96 Walton Street (SP 506 072)

STEVE LEECH

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation within a cellar at 96 Walton Street, Oxford. 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 infilled pit and stop subsistence of the foundations. (Oasis ID- Johnmoor1-244183)

Sandford on Thames, St Andrew's Church, Church Road (SP 53391 01766)

GAVIN DAVIS

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief in the churchyard of St Andrew's Church. The work was carried out during the excavation of a cable trench for a new ground-source heating system. The excavations produced a small number of disarticulated human bone fragments and some animal bone from the topsoil. No other finds or features were identified. A buried soil horizon near to the tower which contained frequent inclusions of limestone chipping may relate to the construction of the church tower in the 19th century. Deposits of made up ground in the eastern foundation trench may derive from the construction of the adjacent village hall and it is possible that earthworks relating to deserted medieval village may have been buried by these deposits.

Shilton, Westerfield (SP 27110 09720)

STEPHEN YEATES, with contributions from JANE TIMBY, CLAIRE INGRAM, SIMONA DENIS, DAVID GILBERT, MARTIN HENIG, ANDREJ ČELOVSKÝ, and MARK WOODLEY

This report covers a watching brief and subsequent excavation of an Iron Age and Roman site at Westerfield, Shilton, in the Oxfordshire Cotswolds. The site probably originated in the 3rd century BC and had several subsequent phases, with significant identifiable developments in the 2nd-1st centuries BC (phase 2) and AD 96–98 (phase 5). The

site appears to contain a series of closely set shrines (three in phase 2) that were set on a bluff of the lee slope of the Cotswolds. The shrines appear to contain some interesting features that have not been properly recognised at other religious sites of the Iron Age and Roman periods or only in limited capacities. Perhaps the two most significant factors at the site are the designs of the buildings and the orientation of the structures.

The earliest recognised structures plans of any significant are those of phase 2 of the 2nd-1st century BC in which it is possible to recognise a rectangular building with a possible porch, and a square appendage on the front that appears to have contained a setting for a fire. This appears to be unique at this early date in the British Isles, where only square or rectangular structures have previously been recognised. The other is the small circular shrine to the south of the main shrine, which is one of the earliest recognisable circular shrines in the British Isles. Research has shown that the development of circular shrines in the Classical World started in 4th century Greece and was then exported to other locations.

The second most significant aspect of the phase 1 and 2 shrines and the phase 4 and 5 shrines is the orientation, and most significantly the alterations in this alignment. It is suggested that the Iron Age shrine was orientated to align with the moon rise of the major southern standstill, which occurs at about 140-141° from north. This being the case it is one of the first Iron Age shrine sites to appear to have a specific heavenly orientation. The alignment of the 1st century Roman shrines of phases 4 and 5 appear to have a complete reorganization and the alignment of the site appears to be associated with the cross-quarter days of Candlemas or more likely Hallowe'en / Samhain. This festival has not previously been noted as being significant at any British or Gallic temple or shrine, but the alteration of the alignment of the temple complex may have implications in that the significant cross-quarter day festivals gained their significance from interaction with the Roman world and the introduction of the Latin 12-month calendar.

The apparent isolated position of the shrine is also a factor to consider alongside the Roman orientation of the religious site. The festival of Hallowe'en was within folk tradition a period of liminality when the dead could cross over from the land of the living to the land of the dead. In later Christian traditions it has been recognised through archaeology that burials were placed in liminal places on parish boundaries, and an early medieval example is known on the Aves Ditch. The tradition of boundary temples, located on the interface of the polis (city state) is recognised in Greece from at least the 5th century, and it is probably the case that the Shilton shrines were located where they were because they lay on a boundary between the Dobunni and the Atrebates. Lastly the Iron Age phase 2 shrine may draw some of its architectural design from earlier Neolithic long barrows. (Oasis ID- johnmoor1-224273)

Standlake, Mulberry Bush School, Abingdon Road (SP 39281 02698)

ANDREJ ČELOVSKÝ with contributions from PAUL BLINKHORN and SIMONA DENIS

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological field evaluation at Mulberry Bush School. The aims of evaluation were to establish the presence or absence of

Oxfordshire

archaeological remains within the site, and establish whether the remains within the Scheduled Ancient Monument SM 140 (Historic England No. 1006342) extend onto this application area. The fieldwork comprised a scheme for the mechanical and limited hand excavation of one trial trench across the site with a total length of 25.74 m.

No features related to prehistoric, Roman or the early medieval period were encountered within the evaluation trench, however the evaluation revealed activities within the site from the high medieval period up to the late 20th century, which can be divided at least into six phases. The earliest phase was represented by two pits and large ditch presumably related with settlement activities dated to the high medieval period (12th–13th century). The following phase was represented by two possible furrows, however see discussion. The furrow seems to be part of wider ridge and furrow field system established in the late medieval period (13th/14th century) and being in use at least until the end of 17th century. During third phase (17th –18th century) the ridge and furrow field system was abandoned. Presumably certain levelling process took place during this phase and an inconsistent levelling layer was formed across the site. The fourth phase (18th –19th century) was represented by three postholes and one pit possible related with construction of the existing cottages in the 19th century. The fifth phase was represented by two rubbish pits, a gully and a possible drain. Those features were clearly related with domestic activities in the 19th–mid 20th century. The last phase was represented by two late 20th century service trenches and possible planting beds related with garden activities.

Standlake, Mulberry Bush School, Abingdon Road (SP 39281 02698)

PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE with contributions by
PAUL BLINKHORN and SIMONA DENIS

Following an evaluation phase, John Moore Heritage Services Ltd carried out a watching brief at Mulberry Bush School. Except for two undated pits, it did not reveal any archaeological feature or layer earlier than post-medieval or modern. Several walls were seen that could be part of the foundations of the former cottages. (Oasis ID- johnmoor1-273559)

Stanton Harcourt, Land Adjacent to No' 1 Blackditch (SP 4078 0570)

GAVIN DAVIS with contributions from ANDREJ ČELOVSKÝ and
PAUL BLINKHORN

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological evaluation at Land Adjacent to No. 1 Blackditch, Stanton Harcourt. The evaluation identified one ditch which was cut into the natural gravel. It contained a single sherd of abraded medieval pottery. Land drains were identified in all three trenches but no other archaeological features were identified. Above the original topsoil deposit there were several deposits of made up ground. The later of these layers was made up of rubble upon geotextile which had been overlain with tarmac in places. This may indicate that there was a compound or temporary parking area on the site, which was perhaps associated with house building on the opposite side of the road. A single silver coin dating to the reign of William III (1694–1702) was recovered from the surface of the field.

Stanton Harcourt, The Harcourt Arms, Main Road (SP 41528 05710)

PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE, with contributions by ROXANNE
BLANKS, PAUL BLINKHORN, SIMONA DENIS, EMILY EDWARDS
and EDWIN PEARSON

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at The Harcourt Arms, Stanton Harcourt. This took place after a previous building assessment. A second phase of work can be divided in multiple stages. A first stage was conducted the 18th November 2015. Groundworks consisted of the excavation of footings trenches for a new village shop. Only modern pits and layers were revealed during this phase. A second stage, consisting of ground reduction saw multiple prehistoric and medieval features unearthed. The prehistoric part, concentrated in the south-east of the main building, includes a ditch, several postholes or small pits and a possible cremation burial. Dates provided by the potsherds points towards an occupation through all Iron Age. The principal phase of occupation of the site, to the south, is probably dated between the 12th and 14th century with at least six main linear features (and recuts), a massive pit and one posthole. Only one ditch can be assigned to late medieval activity (15th – 16th). Further developments occurred during post-medieval and modern periods in the form of plantation or rubbish pits (among which one contained a piglet burial). (Oasis ID- johnmoor1-273275)

Tiddington, Oak Cottage (SP 66164 04808)

EDWIN PEARSON

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation within the rear of the property of Oak Cottage. The two trenches excavated were devoid of any archaeological features.

West Hagbourne, Hagbourne Hill Farm (SU 497 870)

PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at Hagbourne Hill Farm, West Hagbourne. No archaeological evidence was recorded. Some fieldwalking to the south of the excavated area revealed some prehistoric and later pot sherds.

Wheatley, Land off London Road (SP 5988 0587)

STEVE LEECH

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation. Nine 50m and two 25m trenches were excavated within the field and these contained three undated linear ditches, one Post-Medieval pit and seven Post-Medieval planting pits. Six of the trenches were devoid of any archaeological features. Five of the trenches contained modern made ground resulting from the construction of the modern A40 to the north of the site. (Oasis ID- johnmoor1-261954)

Wolvercote, Wolvercote Primary School (SP4975 0977)

TOM ROSE-JONES

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at Wolvercote Primary School. Groundwork consisted of ground reduction ahead of piling mat construction and landscaping associated with the proposed extension, in addition to a topsoil strip associated with the

construction of a multi-use games area (MUGA). During the works a series of linear enclosure ditches were recorded; two phases of activity were shown. The first was represented by two ditches of probable later Bronze Age or early Iron Age date which formed the north-eastern corner of a regular sided enclosure. The second phase of activity was represented by a linear ditch, dated to the mid-1st century.

Woodstock, Sansomes Farm Studio, Wooten
(SP 4503 1898)

KIRSTY BONE

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at Sansomes Farm Studio. The excavation of foundation trenches for an extension to the student common room exposed one ditch orientated east to west which contained no finds. The excavation of foundation trenches for a further extension, for a single storey office also exposed several linear archaeological features, none of which contained any dateable material.

Woodstock, St Mary Magdalene Church, Park Street
(SP 44386 16716)

PIERRE-DAMIEN MANISSE

An archaeological watching brief was conducted for the potential for archaeological remains in St Mary Magdalene Church. A square trial pit was excavated within the church but revealed no significant archaeological remains.

LITTLEMORE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Background Noise of History Project
2016: Littlemore, Oxford (SP 5372 0215)

JULIA E BROCKLESBY

Test pitting to investigate historical land use continued in a back garden of the 1930s housing development in Annesley Road (AR16) near the sites of known Bronze Age and Iron Age archaeology, and Roman pottery production at the former King of Prussia (Harden, 1936 1937) (Gilbert, 2011). A range of Roman sherds, including mortaria, greyware, whiteware, and Oxford colour coated, and small pieces of medieval pottery and glass had been collected in the garden over the years (Fig. 5). A desk assessment of previous archaeological work in the area included Harden's 1936 and 1937 excavation reports in Oxoniensia, his original notes and finds in the Ashmolean museum, and reports by John Moores Heritage Services as further development took place at the former King of Prussia near Annesley Road. We are very grateful to the Antiquities department of the Ashmolean, especially Curator Alison Roberts, for access to the stored

material. This contained unpublished and some unexpected items, including possibly Anglo-Saxon pottery, and Roman pottery finds from further east along the footpath marked on OS maps leading from the junction of Ellesmere and Annesley Road in Rosehill cemetery. This path is marked from the river Thames at Iffley and follows the edge of the high ground (83m OD) of the Rosehill area towards the NW-SE Roman Alchester to Dorchester road at the Bullingdon Green area. Further investigation is required of this material, and possible early route ways in the area.

A 1.5m by 1m test pit revealed very disturbed garden soil overlying a flaggy limestone pavement of the natural Corallian at a depth of 25cms resting on Beckley Sand (BGS Thame memoir Sheet 237). This natural flaggy limestone resembled a floor, and is like that referred to in Hardens original notes suggesting hut floors and the presence of a quarry nearby. We found no postholes, or clear occupation debris. A further 3 small 0.5m x 0.5m test pits to the east and towards the house were dug to reveal a down sloping of this natural limestone to 45cms, towards the site of the small quarry known to underlie the house.

Our test pit finds were well represented by the sample recovered from the garden by the owners shown in Fig 5, and are likely to have resulted from manuring and infill of the numerous small local quarrying activities also recorded in the nearby street name Stone Quarry Lane on the border of Rosehill and Iffley village. There were no early medieval finds, the 102 abraded pottery sherds recovered averaged 1.7gms, of which 4 (4%) are probable prehistoric, 28 (25%)



Figure 5: Finds from the garden surface in Annesley Road

Oxfordshire

Roman, and 47 (46%) later medieval. The Roman sherds included 3 mortarium fragments in three different fabrics, 4 parchment ware, 11 Oxford colour coated, 6 whiteware and 7 greyware sherds, and 1 very fine colour coated slipware sherd, imitating Samian (Young 1977). A long period of production is suggested by this wide range of products. The medieval pottery sherds were Brill Boarstall ware dating 12th to mid 17th century (Mellor 1994). Charcoal flecks, bonfire slag, fragments of bone, clay pipe stems, sparse post medieval and early modern pottery, and corroded unidentifiable ferrous pieces were consistent with other non-intensive horticultural activity in the Littlemore area. Quarried limestone buildings and walls are visible widely locally.

The archives and local reference collection are held by Littlemore History Society (LHSS) and may be viewed on request to us at Littlemore Community Centre, Giles Road, Littlemore, Oxford OX4 4NL. We would be very pleased to hear other's experiences and suggestions; after final analysis, the finds will be returned to the owners who may be contacted through LLHS and an entry sent for inclusion in the Historical Environment Database HER.

References

- British Geological Survey and Horton, A (1995) *Geology of the Country Around Thame: Memoir for 1:50 000 Geological Sheet 237 (England and Wales)*
- Gilbert, D (2011) *An Archaeological Watching brief at the site of the former King of Prussia. John Moore Heritage Services Project No. 2284*
- Harden, D.B (1936, 1937) *Two Romano-British Potters Fields near Oxford. Oxoniensia 1, 81–102*
- Mellor, M (1994) *A Synthesis of Middle and Late Saxon, medieval and Early post-medieval Pottery in the Oxford region. Oxoniensia 59, 17–217.*
- Young, C. J (1977) *Oxfordshire Roman Pottery. BAR 43 Oxford*

MOLA

Oxford, SCR Smoking Room & The Old Picture Store, Magdalen College (SP 4521 0621)

GREG LABAN

In response to renovations being carried out on parts of the Senior Common Room (SCR) Smoking Room and The Old Picture store at Magdalen College, building recording was completed to Historic England level 4 standards between September and December, and represents a comprehensive analytical record of the building. The survey recorded the individual roof elements in the Old Picture Store making notes of the construction and assembly methods. The Roof and building have been dated by the Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory to c. 1477. A record was made of the changes to the roof structure noting three major phases of building, the late 16th century when the attic flooring was added, the mid-18th century when many rafters were replaced, and the 1950s when the current entrance to the attic and dormer windows were added. Carpenter's marks and apotropaic marks were recorded throughout the roof structure.

The watching brief recorded several phases of flooring on the first floor as well as original ceramic tiles within the Lower Muniment Room. During the renovations disarticulated human remains were also uncovered beneath the floorboards on the ground floor entrance to the SCR Smoking Room as

well as in the Old Practice Room, and are likely to belong to the medieval Jewish cemetery which existed on the site prior to the 13th century St. John the Baptist Hospital.

MOLA NORTHAMPTON

Banbury, land at Hanwell Fields (SP 4356 4279)

SAM EGAN

Seven separate excavations were carried out within the 18.4ha development. Excavations located a Bronze Age ring ditch and part of a probable middle Iron Age to Roman settlement over a c. 350m by 250m area. The Iron Age activity consisted of three enclosures, two of which had associated internal features containing pits and postholes. The Roman activity comprised three corn driers, beam slot and posthole structures, a metallised trackway and other ancillary features. A moderate quantity of Iron Age and Roman pottery and a large faunal assemblage were retrieved. A probable middle/late Iron Age crouched burial, supine burial and two cremations were also found. OASIS 268368

Banbury, Land to the east of Bloxham Road

(SP 4457 3894)

JIM BURKE

The excavation revealed a late Iron Age settlement which comprised sub-rectangular ditched enclosure, recut at least once, containing one roundhouse ring gully, pits and postholes. Remnant medieval furrows were observed across the site. Post-medieval features included drainage gullies, planting gullies and there was also an area of modern disturbance. OASIS 251288

Banbury, Bloxham Road, Land south of Salt Way

(SP 4397 3890)

CHRIS JONES

Remnant furrows of former medieval ridge and furrow medieval cultivation was present across the site. OASIS 248005

Banbury, Land at Drayton lodge Farm (SP 4313 4257)

KEVIN WRAGG

A geophysical survey had previously identified a complex series of anomalies which appeared to define a settlement with probable evidence of extensive pit clustering; a rectilinear field system and a further, more complex arrangement of enclosures. The trial trenches largely confirmed the presence of the features identified in the geophysical survey. Most of the activity is likely to date from the middle Iron Age with a probable continuation into the early Roman period. Furthermore, a small assemblage of pottery dated to the early-middle Anglo-Saxon period suggests the potential for localised activity of this period. Two undated inhumations were also present in the northern field. OASIS 267015

Cholsey, Reading Road (SU 5942 8626)

KAMIL ORZECOWSKI

The earliest activity recorded in the evaluation was the presence of four and possibly up to six Neolithic pits. Four pits, in three separate locations, were noted for the recovery of a quantity of Neolithic pottery, worked flint and flint



Figure 6: Well preserved T-shaped drying ovens at Hanwell Fields, Banbury

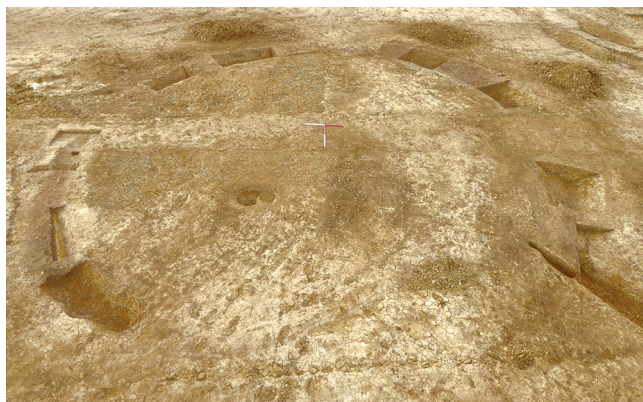


Figure 7: A roundhouse ring gully at Bloxham Road, Banbury



Figure 8: Flint assemblage from a Neolithic pit at Reading Road, Cholsey

debitage (Fig 3). Two of these pits also contained some hazel nutshells, calcined animal bone fragments and occasional cereal grains. Part of a middle/late Iron Age field system, a few Roman features but also some undated features lay at the far western and south-western part of the development area. There were curvilinear, linear ditches including a probable trackway. The latter may have led from a postulated villa some 100m to the south of the development area. Elsewhere in the central and eastern areas of the evaluation a few undated features were found as well as a single Iron Age pottery sherd in one feature from each area and may be residual. It is possible that these undated features relate to medieval or later field boundaries. OASIS 257695

Duns Tew, Land at Hill Farm (SP 45426 30054)

GEMMA HEWITT

An evaluation found features previously identified within a geophysical survey. The remains were part of a settlement dated to the late middle to late Iron Age. Two domestic enclosures, one lying largely outside the development area, linked by a linear ditch with several roundhouse ring ditches and small sub-enclosures lying along the southern side of the linear ditch. A polygonal enclosure to the east contained two domestic roundhouse ring ditches. Further sub-enclosures, with either an annexe or remnants of an earlier enclosure lay to the south-west. There were also remnant furrows of a former ridge and furrow field system. OASIS 253926

Great Coxwell, Badbury Hillfort (SU 2610 9470)

PETER RAUXLOH and JOHN WALFORD

An earthwork survey and a geophysical survey on the site of Badbury Hillfort was carried out on behalf of the National

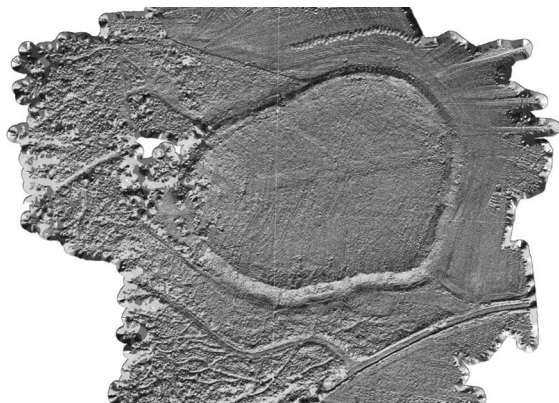


Figure 9: LiDAR image of Badbury Hillfort

Trust. The earthworks were mapped by LiDAR from a small unmanned aircraft (SUA), thus providing a set of baseline topographic data for the site. Geophysical (magnetometer) survey was undertaken across parts of the fort interior and across land immediately outside the eastern and northern ramparts. The results of the two surveys confirm the presence of an apparently original eastern entrance to the fort. Additionally, the geophysical survey revealed possible pits and roundhouses within the fort and a previously unknown annex ditch extending northwards from the rampart. OASIS 255194

Thame, Towersey, Manor Road, Time Peace

(SP 737 049)

IAN FISHER

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the groundworks. No archaeological finds were identified. OASIS 247126

Watlington, Land at Britwell Road (SU 680 945)

GRAHAM ARKLEY

A magnetometer survey, of c. 7ha, detected part of a set of 19th century watercress beds at the northern end of the survey area, close to the B480 Cuxham Road. Nothing else of historic or archaeological interest was detected. OASIS 270291

NORTH OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

Swalcliffe, Swalcliffe Lea (SP 3912 3849 / SP 385 394)

EDWARD SHAWYER and MURIEL WILLSON

2016 was the final season for group organiser and site director Edward Shawyer who is moving abroad, having led the group since founding it in 1996. Activity this season comprised the continuing excavation of buildings near the centre of the Romano-British settlement in addition to a series of small test pits on the adjacent Round Hill site.

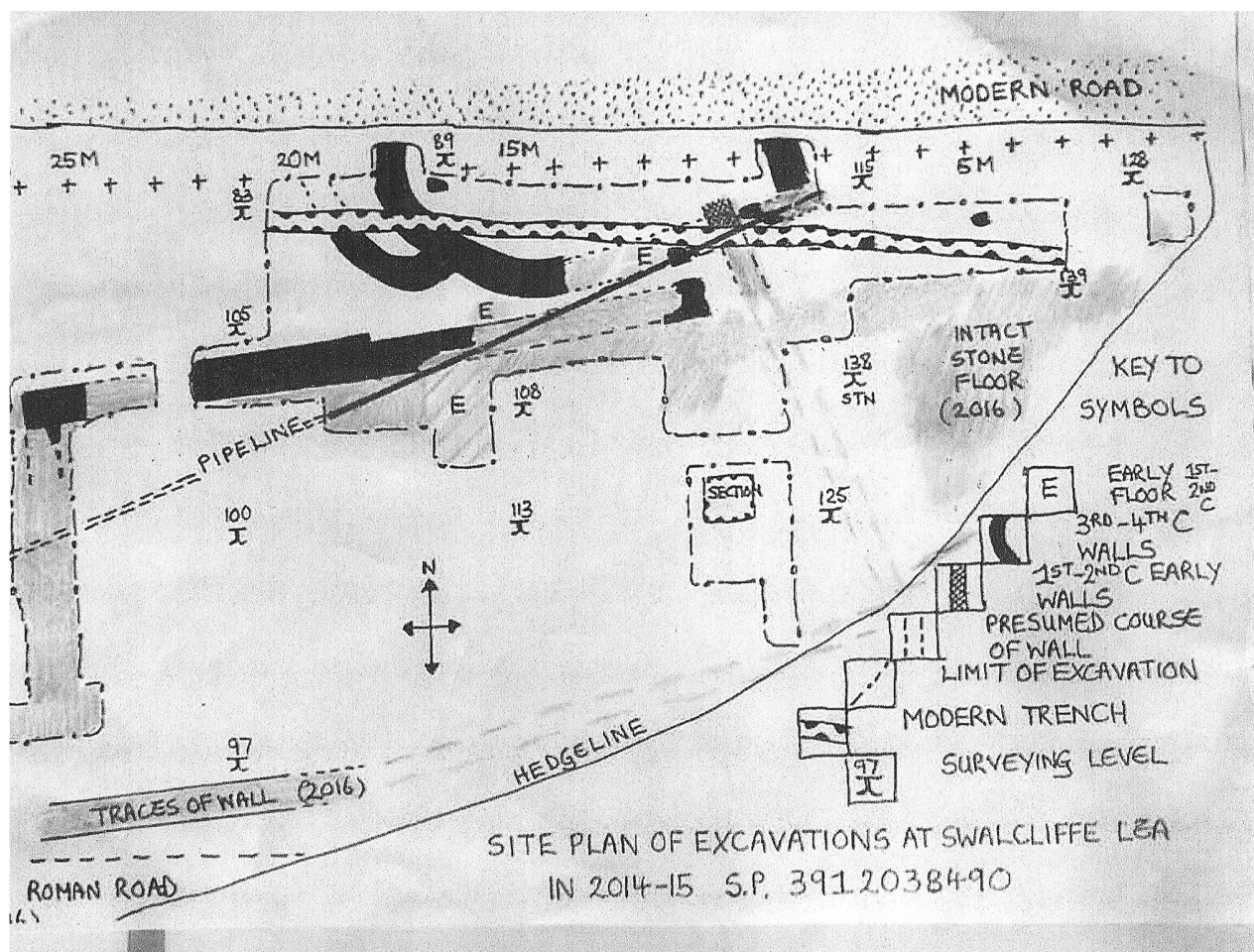


Figure 10: Overview plan of recent excavations

Late Roman Buildings (SP 3912 3849)

We extended the excavation area to the south and east. The eastern extension revealed a possible clay floor extending for 6 – 7 m to the south of building B in addition to a stone slab floor overlain by at least one clay floor layer thought to belong to the earlier building C.

Extending the excavation to the south revealed a cobbled road surface aligned with the section excavated in 2006 and thought to be the main route through the settlement equated with Viatores road 56a. On the same level as the early floors we found traces of a wall running slightly to the north east possibly belonging to building C which may, if contemporary with the wall uncovered in 2015 indicate that building C comprises two rooms. Floor surfaces to the west of this wall were clay suggesting domestic occupation while those to the east were stone slab suggesting stalls for livestock.

To conclude it seems that initially there was a large long-house (building C) to the north of the road during the 2nd to 3rd centuries AD. This structure contained a succession of floor layers and indications of re-building. By the late 3rd to 4th centuries AD building C was replaced by a similar structure, building B, with the double apsidal possible shrine, building A to the north.

Round Hill site (SP 385 394)

Eight 1m × 1m test pits were excavated. The test pits did not reveal any archaeological features though sherds of greyware, soft pink grogged ware, black burnished ware and a piece of Samian decorated with two figures and foliage were recovered. Further excavation in this area is planned for 2017.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH**Bampton, Weald Manor Farm** (SP 3105 0257)

JIM MUMFORD

Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook an evaluation within the former farm yard area of Weald Manor Farm, Bampton, in March 2016. Three trenches were excavated. No archaeological deposits or features were present. Contamination that had stained the clayey geology was evident within each trench. This related to the use of the former farm buildings. A modern ditch and pit were recorded in Trenches 1 and 3.

Barton, Bayswater Farm (SP 5624 0802)

PETER VELLETT

Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of the site of a proposed residential development of 47 dwellings off Waynflete Road and five detached dwellings off Bayswater Farm Road. The work was undertaken in June 2016. A total of five trenches were excavated, laid out to provide a good general coverage of the site. Late Iron Age to Roman pottery and fragments of medieval to post-medieval ceramic building material recovered from the subsoil in two of the trenches were most likely associated with established settlement and agricultural activity in the surrounding landscape during these periods. Post-medieval activity on site was represented by a single pit within which 17th-18th century pottery was recovered. No further archaeological features were identified during the evaluation.

Benson, land off St Helen's Avenue (SU 618 912)

ROBERT MCINTOSH and TIM ALLEN

During the latter part of July and early August 2016 Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook a trial trench evaluation in fields where previous geophysical survey had indicated a large curvilinear enclosure, a series of rectangular enclosures, a small curvilinear enclosure and a scatter of large and smaller pits. The evaluation comprised 22 trenches targeting both geophysical anomalies and potentially blank areas, and represented a 2% sample of the site.

The features shown on the geophysical survey plot were of Roman or late Iron Age/early Roman date, apart from the small curvilinear enclosure that produced only Mesolithic or early Neolithic struck flints. It is possible that the enclosure is of Neolithic date, but the flints may well have been residual; a scatter of flints was also found in other trenches across the site, and these were clearly residual.

Most of the excavated features were of early Roman date, with a focus of middle Roman activity on the east and of late Roman activity on the south. Early Roman pits and ditches included fineware pottery suggesting that the site was of higher status than most rural settlements of the same date in Oxfordshire. Preservation of environmental charred plant remains was particularly good, and indicated a zone of crop-processing in the north-east of the settlement. A chalk foundation and a possible circular well were found, together with box flue tile fragments, roofing tiles and stone slates, suggesting that a masonry building exists close by, if not within the site itself.

The evaluation trenches showed that the geophysical survey had not located all the buried features. As well as ditches and pits, postholes were also evident in several trenches, though none in alignments indicating structures. A largely blank area on the survey in the north-east corner of the site proved to contain a mid-Saxon inhumation cemetery of at least 8 graves. These were summarily recorded and left in situ, but an iron knife was recovered from one grave, and a bone from the skeleton in this grave was dated by radiocarbon, confirming a later 7th or early 8th century date for the group. Further inhumation burials were found and although none was directly dated, they were on different alignments to the Saxon graves, and probably represent Roman graves associated with the settlement.

Bicester MOD, Graven Hill, Bicester (SP 5886 2083)

GUY COCKIN and STEVE LAWRENCE

Oxford Archaeology (OA) conducted a watching brief and evaluation on separate occasions in 2016 at Graven Hill, Bicester. The watching brief was undertaken during the removal of the ground slab following the demolition of Rodney House during February. Five additional targeted evaluation trenches were excavated in June to supplement the results of a primary evaluation stage undertaken by OAS in September and November 2015.

No archaeological horizons were revealed during the removal of the ground slab with the demolition disturbance being limited to the underlying hardcore rubble layer. Three shallow linear features were recorded in Trench 60 during the evaluation phase, one of which produced a single sherd of Roman pottery but the remains did not provide conclusive evidence for the extent or character of activity within this field. The evaluation did find the remains of Roman Akeman

Oxfordshire

Street within Trenches 62 and 63. The sequence recorded within these was comparable to those of Trenches 49, 58 and 59 from the 2015 evaluation with a surface constructed of limestone pieces set within a shallow terrace into the slope of Graven Hill. A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the surface in Trench 63.

Trench 64 was targeted on the shallow linear features of probable Iron Age date recorded within Trenches 12 and 13 from the 2015 evaluation. Excavation of an area measuring 25m by 25m revealed a more extensive arrangement of shallow curvilinear ditches and larger linear ditches dating from the late Iron Age.

Bicester Village 4 (SP 579 219)

ADAM FELLINGHAM and REBECCA PEACOCK

Between 31st August and 23rd September 2016, Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook an archaeological watching brief. The deposits encountered were mainly truncated alluvial clays sealing a limestone natural. It was evident through the excavation of the footings that any potential archaeological remains would have been removed during the construction of the previous building, prior to the current phase of construction. No finds or environmental material were present.

Cholsey, New Barn Farm (SU 5990 8800)

MARK DODD and STUART FOREMAN

Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a 54 trench evaluation on a 33.8ha proposed gravel extraction site between 31st August 2016 and 14th October 2016. The archaeological finds and deposits, where datable, fall into two broad periods, the Bronze Age and the medieval/post-medieval. Some of the worked flint recovered from the trenches was of early Neolithic type, but the assemblage was very small and none of the material was in situ. Late Iron Age, Roman, and medieval artefacts were notable for their scarcity.

The earliest in situ features comprise a single crouched inhumation burial, accompanied by probable early Bronze Age pottery, and a single cremation burial, contained within a collared urn, which is also most likely to date from the early Bronze Age. The geophysical survey and trenching results also suggest the presence of a landscape of extensive but sparsely distributed Bronze Age tracks and enclosures. Artefacts recovered from the enclosure and trackway ditches are very few, but consistently of mid-late Bronze Age date.

The former line of the Wallingford-Cholsey road (as depicted on the 1842 Tithe Map) and associated features was investigated by trenching at five locations. No evidence for road surfaces was found and it is likely that it was unmetalled. The trenches revealed a roughly parallel pair of large drainage ditches, one of which (on the south-east side) was substantially deeper and wider than the other. At the south-west end the LIDAR data suggest that the road approached a crossing over Buckland Creek via a small stream valley. No reliable artefactual dating evidence was recovered from the trenches. Extrapolating the line of the large ditch suggests that it may originally have been dug to link the Winterbrook with Buckland Creek.

Didcot, Great Western Park phase 2 (SU 5065 8953)

ALEX DAVIES

Oxford Archaeology undertook a major programme of excavation at Great Western Park to the west of Didcot between May 2015 and April 2016. This work was preceded by phase 1 excavations just to the north of the present site, undertaken between 2010–2012.

Phase 2 excavations uncovered a possible Neolithic enclosure, a middle Bronze Age settlement and an associated coaxial field system that was picked up across much of the site. Two further areas of settlement dating to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age consisting of post-built roundhouses and four-posters were discovered, alongside another area comprising over a dozen early Iron Age four-posters, but no certain roundhouses. Middle Iron Age activity at the site is represented by two multi-phased enclosures containing roundhouses and pits. In the early Roman period, the larger of the two enclosures was incorporated into a field system. Linear ditches related to the field system and associated trackways were found covering most of the site. Three Roman corn drying ovens with associated pits and hollows were also discovered near one another. Two of these are the more usual T-shape, whereas the third had a square central chamber. These can be added to the six corn dryers discovered during first phase of the excavations, and might be related to a villa known at the site.

Dorchester on Thames Allotments

(centred at SU 577 941)

PAUL BOOTH

The training excavation run by the Dorchester Project team which commenced in 2008 in the allotments overlying the south-west quarter of the Roman settlement continued throughout July 2016 in the same 30 × 20m area as in previous years with the main north-south Roman road through the settlement at its eastern margin. In the western part of the site early Roman (roughly mid-1st century AD) features included short lengths of irregular curving gullies and a few small pits, and two parallel north-south aligned gullies or possible timber slots – again only seen as short lengths – one of which appeared to cut an infant burial. Not all these features were well dated, but one of the curving gullies produced a reasonable group of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery, and another produced a copper alloy coin of Cunobelinus, while a further late Iron Age coin came from an adjacent deposit. These early features were overlain by a deposit of clayey loam up to c. 0.25–0.30m thick, probably of later 1st-century date.

In the central part of the site a previously-identified large oval pit (roughly 8m × 6m) occupying the southern part of the area was shown to be roughly vertical-sided, with an estimated depth of at least 1.5m. The original function of the feature is uncertain – it seems unlikely that a quarry for brickearth would have been dug in such a location – but its use for rubbish disposal from the 2nd century onwards is clear. North of the pit was a complex sequence of soil layers associated with a small sub-rectangular arrangement of grooves or slight gullies packed with flint cobbles and large quantities of animal bone (including cattle skulls) and large pottery sherds, apparently quite carefully placed. Immediately east of this area, traces of a possible foundation for a cob built structure were located. This appears to

comprise a north-west corner of a narrow L-shaped foundation filled with gravelly material, upon which was the remnant of a reddish clay deposit. Adjacent red clay to the east may have derived from the decay of cob walls; while a couple of metres further east again a sloping layer of banded gritty clay may represent part of another collapsed cob wall. A north-south linear feature to the east may represent a possible roadside wall, also of cob. All these elements can be broadly grouped in the 2nd century.

Further work on the road itself demonstrated considerable local variation in the character of surface materials and the deposits accumulating between them. Towards the south-east corner of the site a well paved surface, perhaps a pathway, running roughly east-west across the line of the road between its uppermost and second major surfaces, suggests discontinuity in the use of the north-south road, at least for a time.

In the extreme north-east corner of the site a very late Roman east-west steep-sided feature, perhaps more likely a substantial palisade trench than an open boundary/drainage ditch, was confirmed as cutting the line of the north-south road. The date of this feature remains unclear. A *terminus post quem* of c AD 400 seems fairly certain, but whether the feature should be assigned to the 5th century or rather later is yet to be resolved.

Dorchester-on-Thames, White Hart Hotel

(SU 5780 9430)

PAUL MURRAY

Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a single evaluation trench, 17 metres long within the White Hart Hotel car park. The evaluation identified two features possibly representing walls that had been robbed of stone. One of these corresponds closely with the conjectured alignment of the northern defences of the Roman small town. A small number of postholes, a pit and a ditch were revealed, broadly dating to the post-medieval period, although two contained Roman pottery that was almost certainly residual. These appear to represent light-weight structures, possibly associated with horticultural activity within the back garden of properties fronting the High Street to the west. A sequence of layers contained a significant quantity of mortar. These probably relate to construction, modification or demolition of a building within the vicinity in the 18th and 19th centuries. A 19th-century cellar was also identified. This probably served as a coal store.

Drayton, land south of High Street (SU 477 940)

KATE BRADY

Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned to carry out an excavation in November following an evaluation in October 2014 (previously reported). Drayton is situated within a rich monumental landscape of Neolithic, Bronze Age and Anglo-Saxon date and the village is located c. 0.5km to the west. The excavation revealed a medieval field system to the south of the High Street and possible trackway coinciding with boundaries identified with map regression. Many postholes were also revealed in the north of the site which were poorly dated but suggest associated structures. The remains of ancillary buildings related to Whitehorns Farm were recorded in the north of the site.

Eynsham, Polar technology (SP 42762 08827)

MARIUSZ I. GORNIK and GERRY THACKER

During the latter part of March and early April 2016 Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook a trial trench evaluation on land to the south of Eynsham. The southern part of the site falls within an area designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The evaluation comprised 20 trenches targeted on both geophysical anomalies and cropmarks, and to test potential blank areas. Within the northern and central part of the site several undated ditches were identified, as well as a flat based pit which contained pottery of 5th-7th century date, and could represent a sunken featured building. Within the scheduled area a pit containing struck flint, pottery, animal bone and charred hazel nut shells is likely to be of early Neolithic date. Other ditches present were of probable Roman and post medieval date, although very little datable material was recovered.

Fritwell, The 'George and Dragon' and Village Hall

Sites (SP 52829 29338 (George and Dragon) and SP 52833 29237 (Village Hall))

MIKE SIMS

Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological trench evaluation of two adjacent plots of land in Fritwell, Oxfordshire, at the village hall and the George and Dragon public house. Three narrow trenches were excavated in the car park of the George and Dragon public house and three in the grounds of the village hall. Archaeological traces were encountered only in trenches 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 four, and pottery dated to between 900 and 1300 was present in the fills of the three ditches in Trench 6, indicating that all the ditches, which were probably field ditches or drains, were filling during the medieval period.

Furze Platt, Blenheim Palace (SP 431 184)

JIM MUMFORD and VIX HUGHES

In January 2016 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation prior to the submission of a planning application for potential development at Furze Platt, within Blenheim Park. The Park is a Grade I Registered Park and Garden, most of which has been designated as a World Heritage Site (WHS). Furze Platt, is an area of former farm buildings proposed for redevelopment. The evaluation consisted of two trenches targeted on landscape features identified during the previous walkover survey. Trench 1 was positioned across the projected line of the Roman road known as Akeman Street which runs east-to-west across the site. A second trench was located set back from the road to the south to look for any associated features. The aim was to establish the presence and state of preservation of the road within the boundaries of the present farm. The evaluation confirmed that the road survived between the farm house and animal feed building, and the cracks observed in the north-east corner of the animal feed buildings are where the building is subsiding into the northern roadside ditch. The road was found to be

Oxfordshire

in a good state of preservation, showing two layers of stony material deliberately deposited and forming a notable agger. The associated roadside drainage ditch was also located on the southern side. Trench 2 was located within the area of the proposed development. The trench contained no archaeological remains, except the former cobbled farmyard surface.

Long Hanborough (SP 4210 1350)

ASHLEY STRUTT

In September Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief at the site of a proposed new housing development. The historic mapping of Long Hanborough shows that there has been quarrying activity in the area with an early gravel quarry pit established in the north-west part of the site by 1921. By 1955 the quarry appears to have been expanded and the field was designated a gravel quarry. The gravel may have been extracted for nearby road construction. The results of the fieldwork indicate that any archaeology, which may have been present within the proposed development area, had been destroyed by the impact of the quarrying.

Long Wittenham, Didcot Road (SU 5468 9367)

MIKE SIMS

Between the 3rd and 13th of August 2015, Oxford Archaeology (OA) excavated 16 evaluation trenches on farmland. The evaluation exposed a sequence of ditches of probable Roman date, which, with a pit and cluster of postholes, were generally sealed by a buried soil layer of possible alluvial origin. Three Anglo-Saxon cremation burials dating to the 5th or 6th century were cut into the buried soil, and along with a single inhumation burial appear to be part of a larger cemetery located to the west of Didcot Road, and excavated in the Victorian era. A bank associated with the ditches of Roman date may have formed the eastern boundary of the cemetery. A ditch containing a sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery, and a ditch containing a sherd of medieval pottery were also excavated. Elsewhere the evaluation exposed undated boundary ditches, postholes and plough furrows together with large numbers of extensive post-medieval pits dug for gravel extraction.

Oxford, Abbey Road (SP 503 063)

JAMES MUMFORD

Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned to undertake a three trench evaluation on the site at 1 Abbey Road, Oxford prior to development. Evaluation trenches were excavated to a depth of 1.2m revealing the upper surface of the alluvium of the flood plain. Deposits above this were modern imported bulk materials (mainly gravel) forming a platform which presumably was intended to elevate the property above possible flooding levels prior to construction of a builder's yard in the late 19th century.

Oxford, Balliol College Master's Field (SP 518066)

PETER VELLETT and GERRY THACKER

During March 2016 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned to carry out a trial trench evaluation. Two evaluation trenches around the edge of the sports field each contained a ditch of medieval date, probably relating

to agricultural boundaries. A pit of similar date was also present. The trenches excavated through the car park and gardens on the eastern side of the site all exhibited truncation of the natural gravels and no archaeological features remained. Several well-preserved glass bottles and stoneware vessels of Victorian date were recovered from a made ground deposit.

Oxford, Corpus Christi College (SP 51633 06003)

BECKY PEACOCK and GERRY THACKER

Between 15th August and 23rd September 2016 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an intermittent watching brief at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, on works to replace sub-mains cables. Two sections of cable trench were monitored, and three test pits were observed to inform the depth of a third section of trench, also subsequently monitored. Evidence for burials associated with the 16th chapel was encountered, including the capping of a stone and brick burial vault which contained a coffin observable through a void in the structure. Some disarticulated human bone was also recovered and reburied on the site, providing evidence for additional disturbed burials in the area. A rubbish pit dating from 1650–1700 contained pottery and animal bones, including a rare example of a turkey bone from this date. Walls and pillar bases from earlier incarnations of the College buildings were also recorded.

Oxford, Keble College Kitchen Lift (SP 5132 0692)

ROBIN BASHFORD

In August 2016, Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of a trench for a new lift pit in the senior common room (SCR) pantry. The watching brief revealed the top of the second terrace gravel overlain by a layer of post-glacial brickearth. There was some evidence for a feature in the northern half of the trench. The shape of the feature in plan was uncertain and the fills were predominantly composed of re-deposited brickearth, which elsewhere in the city has been indicative of prehistoric or late Saxon features.

The location of the site lies within the projected area enclosed by the henge identified during recent works undertaken by Thames Valley Archaeological Services (TVAS) within the Kendrew Quadrangle of St John's College. However, the projected eastern continuation of the ditch identified by TVAS runs to the south of the SCR, and consequently it seems unlikely that the southern edge of the feature is part of the same ditch. It may represent a feature within the area encircled by the henge, either an inner ditch or a later barrow within the henge itself. The gravel, brickearth and probable feature had been heavily truncated during the construction of the south range of the Liddon Quad in the 19th century.

Oxford, Perrin Street (SP 5450 0674)

ALISON DE TURBERVILLE

Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned to carry out historic building recording of the former New Headington Infants School house and adjacent school at 18 Windsor Street and 6 Perrin Street, Headington, Oxford prior to works to conversion of the buildings into residential

accommodation. Both buildings were photographed and recorded in detail.

The school buildings are not listed but are on Oxford City Council list of Heritage Assets due to their Gothic design and the local association. The school was constructed in 1873 to a design by Ald. Joseph Castle, and the building was constructed by Messrs. Castle of Cowley at a total cost of £441. The school closed in 1908 and until the 1950s was used as a meeting hall for local Guides and Brownies. After the 1950s the school building was used as a furniture warehouse and later for light industrial use.

The school house is a two-storey house of red brick construction with Gothic detailing altered by later works including the addition of a small octagonal extension to the rear. The school building is located to the south of the house and faces onto Perrin Street with two entrances. It was initially a single storey building with large windows to the east and west elevations and a large window to the north elevation. A floor was inserted in the 1980s to create a second floor.

Oxford, Rhodes College Oriel Building (SP 5162 0623)

ROBIN BASHFORD

Between March 2014 and January 2015, Oxford Archaeology South (OAS) undertook a watching brief during the excavation of a new lift pit, a trench for the installation of a crane base and the excavation of new service trenching within The Rhodes Building and St Mary's Quad. The site lies on the High Street frontage of Oriel College, between Oriel Street and Magpie Lane and, prior to the construction of the Rhodes Building in 1909–1911, was occupied by a row of re-fronted tenements, with the Principal's Lodgings of 1833 projecting southward into what is now St Mary's Quad. Two undated pits were revealed in the base of the lift pit trench, but most of the deposits and structures encountered during the works related to the early 20th century backfilling of cellars belonging to the buildings demolished in advance of the re-development of the High Street frontage. A light well in the south wall of a cellar in the crane base trench is clearly identifiable in a photograph of the Principal's Lodgings by Henry Taunt from the late 19th or early 20th century.

Oxford, St John's College New Library extension

(SP 5134 0669)

DEIRDRE FORDE

Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned 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. The work was carried out prior to development of the site for the purposes of an extension to the college library (New Garden Reading Room), which will be attached to Sprott Wall, a Grade II Listed structure. 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 the fabric may be later, having been rebuilt over time. They both appear to have been altered in the 19th century.

Oxford, St Peter's College, Perodo Phase 2

(SP 5111 0625)

MIKE SIMS and GERRY THACKER

In November 2016, Oxford Archaeology (OA) conducted an archaeological investigation at St Peter's College Oxford. The investigation exposed a sequence of post-medieval landscaping layers overlying the truncated foundations for the old school buildings. Removal of the foundations exposed a demolition layer sealing the robbed-out foundations of a probable 18th century building, together with 18th century occupation layers butting up to the exterior of the building.

Oxford, Tinbergen Building, South Parks Road

(SP 5182 0692)

ROBIN BASHFORD and CHRIS PICKARD

In April 2016, Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook an archaeological strip, map and sample within the footprint of an extension to the Tinbergen Building followed by a watching brief on associated groundworks undertaken between May and August 2016. An evaluation of the site had previously been undertaken by OAS in 2015. The works revealed a roughly north-west/south-east aligned ditch in the western half of the site, and a configuration of pits to the east on the same alignment. Although the fills of the ditch did not produce any datable artefactual material, it is almost certain that it is associated with the Civil War defensive circuit, as contemporary cartographic sources indicate a bastion near the Tinbergen Building. The fills of the pits did produce 17th century finds, including a Charles I Rose farthing minted between 1636 and 1644, and a horse burial complete with shoes, the form of which suggest a late 17th or even 18th century date. Consequently, the pits are likely to represent pitfalls providing an additional line of defence outside the main circuit. The fact that the ditch was relatively shallow in comparison to other excavated segments of the defences may indicate a degree of truncation has occurred, possibly during the construction of the Tinbergen Building in the 1960s.

Oxford, University College, Goodhart Building

(SP 5182 0620)

ROBIN BASHFORD

Between September 2014 and April 2015 Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook a programme of archaeological excavation and recording as commissioned by Dr Roland Harris on behalf of University College. This work followed on from a watching brief carried out during the excavation of engineering test pits in May 2013. The excavation areas comprised new strip foundation trenches on the site of the recently demolished Goodhart Cottage (Area 1), and a new lift shaft within The Goodhart Building itself (Area 2). Whilst the full archaeological sequence was investigated within the lift shaft trench, the strip foundation trenches were only excavated to the archaeologically arbitrary formation level for the new footings.

The earliest features encountered were within Area 2, and comprised two pits and a roughly northeast-southwest aligned linear feature. The relationship between the pits and the linear feature is uncertain, but the linear feature probably truncated at least one of the pits. Pottery dating from between 1050 and 1250 was recovered from the linear feature within the lift shaft, and it is thus possible that the feature either

Oxfordshire

represents part of the earlier property boundary, or is evidence for activity fronting onto Kybald Street.

The linear feature was on a similar alignment to two ditches encountered during the 1960s excavations. These were interpreted as possible Bronze Age ring ditches, but no dating evidence was recovered and it is possible that these three features may represent different phases of the same boundary. The linear feature had been truncated by what appeared to be the north-west corner of a limestone-built structure probably fronting onto the northern side of Kybald Street. Little evidence for the street itself was revealed, except for a flattish layer of uncut stone, possibly representing a surface, which was overlain by a possible trample layer.

A silty clay deposit encountered throughout the strip foundation trenches was interpreted as a garden soil, consistent with maps showing this area as part of a garden or a vacant plot in the 16th and 17th centuries. The dating evidence from this deposit was predominantly 15th–16th century. Several stone walls were overlain by the garden soil, and therefore seem likely to predate it. Two phases of a roughly east-west aligned wall in the southern arm of the trenches possibly represented the rear boundary of properties fronting High Street and Kybald Street, as it roughly corresponds with the conjectured boundary between these plots suggested by Salter in his Survey of Oxford. An east-west aligned stone wall and a stone-lined pit lay to the north of this possible boundary and may therefore be associated with properties fronting High Street.

From at least the 16th century the High Street frontage was occupied by the Angel Inn, and a 16th century pit which truncated the garden soils is likely to represent activity to the rear of this property. Several structures also appeared to truncate the garden soil. A stone-lined semi-circular structure produced artefacts dating to 1740–1840 from its excavated upper fills, and this feature may have represented the top of a well to the rear of the Angel which was backfilled in the latter part of the 18th century. A stone and brick structure in the northern arm of the trench almost certainly relates to a 19th-century cellar to the rear of the Angel.

Oxford, Worcester College, new Sub Main (SP 5096 0661)

ROBERT MCINTOSH

Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the site of the renewal of electrical sub main cables and ducting for data cables through Pump Quad and then around the Main Quad. This took place between the 18th October 2016 and the 9th November 2016. The trenching revealed a range of 18th century and later layers, but never excavated deep enough to reveal anything earlier. Excavation through the large bank in the north of Main Quad indicates it was constructed up against the current buildings as opposed to pre-dating them. The deposits revealed throughout the watching brief indicate that little has changed in either quad since the founding of the college in the 18th century.

South Leigh, Gill Mill New Quarry (centred SP 372 081) PAUL BOOTH

Oxford Archaeology undertook further work in Area 2A of Smith and Sons' extension of their Gill Mill gravel quarry,

adjoining the south-west side of the area examined in 2015. The area of the 2016 work, c. 1.35ha, was centred at SP 3642 0851. This area lay almost entirely within a zone suggested by an earlier geophysical survey to be occupied by relict channels of the eastern arm of the River Windrush. These proved to be mostly superficial, and were mainly contained within the deposits overlying the gravel subsoil. Features cutting the subsoil were mostly related to an east-west aligned probable trackway, defined by shallow ditches, which ran towards the river. Beyond the western end of these features were hints of the former presence of a small landing stage, indicated by a few posts driven into the gravel and localised irregular stonework at the edge of an adjacent former channel encountered at the very margin of the excavated area (a 10m-wide unexcavated buffer zone is retained between the edge of excavation and the present river bank). A well-defined localised patch of stonework and associated timbers overlay the fill of one of the east-west ditches, from which a 19th-century bottle was recovered.

To the north-east of these features an irregular scatter of lengths of unworked wood appeared to represent an accumulation of material in a shallow backwater of the river. These deposits are currently undated.

Stanton Harcourt Airfield (SP 4146 0537)

MIKE SIMS and GERRY THACKER

Between the 13th and 17th of June 2016 Oxford Archaeology (OA) conducted an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Stanton Harcourt Airfield, Oxfordshire. The evaluation trenches were targeted on the results of a geophysical survey and the plot of cropmarks from aerial photographs. Possibly the earliest feature uncovered was a curvilinear ditch potentially defining a round barrow. Other trenches exposed a comprehensive system of drove roads and field boundary ditches dating to the earlier part of the Romano-British period, and which generally corresponded with geophysical anomalies and the aerial photographs.

The Romano-British archaeology was most dense within the north-west corner of the evaluated area, with the presence of numerous postholes and domestic refuse suggesting occupation in the vicinity. The frequency of finds was reduced in the southern part of the site indicating that these areas were further away from any focus of occupation and probably more agricultural in nature. Evidence for small scale gravel extraction possibly from the earlier post-medieval period was also observed, as was evidence for the machine cultivation of the site shown by tooth marks from "Gyro-Tiller" machinery, observed within the surface of the gravel deposits throughout the northern half of the site.

Sutton Courtenay, Bridge Farm (SU 5220 9380)

CYNTHIA POOLE and PAUL BOOTH

Excavation in 2016 examined a c. 4.6ha area in the southern part of the existing Hanson gravel quarry, revealing features and deposits ranging from at least the early Bronze Age to post-medieval in date.

The earliest positively identified features were of the Beaker period. Towards the south-east corner of the site a ring ditch 17m in external diameter produced small quantities of Beaker pottery from two of its fills, but no burials or other internal features were identified. An irregular 'halo' of small undated pits/postholes 10–20m distant from the ditch on

three sides may have been related. About 120m WNW of the ring ditch was an isolated Beaker burial. A single pit lying roughly midway between this burial and the ring ditch was the only other early prehistoric feature identified. A further 5 crouched or flexed inhumation burials of prehistoric character, dispersed across the site, are undated at present.

Later prehistoric features were more common. At the northern edge of the site the south side of a palaeo-channel was defined by an almost continuous, slightly sinuous alignment of gullies running east-west for at least 320m. Associated features, including further short lengths of gully and occasional pits, lay close to this boundary on both north and south sides. Many of these features were not dated, but where present the associated pottery was typically of late Bronze Age or late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date. It is possible that the boundary was first defined in the middle Bronze Age, but on balance, inception in the later Bronze Age seems more likely. South of the boundary and its immediately adjacent zone, later prehistoric features were scarce and poorly dated, except for two early Iron Age pits at the southern edge of the site.

There was no meaningful evidence for activity of middle Iron Age, late Iron Age or late Iron Age/early Roman date. Roman features, probably no earlier than the 2nd century, concentrated at the eastern margin of the site where a group of rectilinear ditched enclosures was aligned NNE-SSW. These would have fronted on to the west side of a ditched trackway on the same alignment, known from aerial photograph and limited 1970s excavation in Appleford Field to the south, which would have run just to the east of the present site. The south-western corner of the enclosure complex lay within the excavated area. From this point the main elements of the complex extended at least 100m northwards, with additional gullies running north beyond the edge of the site. The maximum WNW-ESE dimension of the enclosures within the excavated area was c. 65m and it is estimated that the trackway onto which they fronted probably lay immediately east of the site, giving a maximum depth of perhaps 75-80m. A minimum of four principal enclosures within the complex, defined by substantial ditches, show evidence of subdivision by slighter linear features, some perhaps secondary to the original layout. Apart from these, however, there was little evidence for Roman features within the enclosures – pits and postholes within the main south-westernmost enclosure, for example, were almost entirely undated and are likely to have been of post-Roman date, but three pits lying close to or on the line of the boundaries of this enclosure may have been contemporary with it. A stone-lined well c. 2.1m deep lay within the enclosure to the north, and was filled in the late Roman period. The latest fills of the enclosure ditches were mostly of late Roman date, in some cases after AD 350. Towards the north end of the complex its ditches were cut by a single east-west aligned boundary ditch which ran the entire length of the site, some 343m, continuing beyond it in both directions. This feature, up to c. 2.2m wide and 0.8m deep, lay 7-16m south of the later prehistoric boundary at the southern margin of the palaeo-channel, and seems to have effectively reinstated the same boundary, probably very late in the Roman period.

Part of the area west of the enclosure complex was used for burials. These occurred in two main groups towards

the western end of the site, with further scattered burials elsewhere. The principal group contained at least 16 inhumation graves and one cremation burial. Fourteen of these graves were aligned north-south (including one south-north burial), with two west-east. A second group, to the south-west, contained 12 north-south-aligned inhumation graves, and four more burials extended the alignment of this group into the south-west corner of the site. Broadly late-Roman dating is indicated by the alignments, the presence of coffin nails in some graves and by the occurrence of single pottery vessels in three graves. Two pairs of extended inhumation burials on a predominantly west-east alignment, one in the northern part of the site and one at the southern margin, were less certainly of Roman date.

Early Anglo-Saxon features were widely distributed across the site. Twenty-one sunken-featured buildings (SFBs) were identified, spread across a broad east-west band some 250m long. The structures were characteristic of the type, varying in size and depth and regularity of form of the sunken element. Finds assemblages were varied but included significant amounts of pottery and animal bone from some features. Bone combs and weaving tools and occasional other items were also present. The finds suggest a date range of late 5th-7th centuries. The SFBs at the western end of the settlement skirted the location of the two principal late Roman burial groups, except for a single example which cut into the main group, almost completely destroying one of the graves.

Just north of the eastern extremity of the spread of SFBs significant deposits of material of early Anglo-Saxon date were dumped into the top of the major east-west late Roman boundary ditch. These deposits contained metalworking debris, including slag probably from iron smithing and fragments of copper alloy waste. Most exceptional was an early Anglo-Saxon button brooch with a large casting sprue still attached.

Activity across the site in the medieval period is indicated by vestiges of north-south aligned ridge and furrow, and numerous medieval pits were found within the area earlier occupied by the Roman enclosure system at the eastern margin of the site.

Weston-on-the-Green, Land to the rear of the Old Forge (SP 5323 1870)

ROBIN BASHFORD

Between December 2015 and January 2016, Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook a watching brief to monitor the excavation of strip foundation trenches for an extension to the rear of the property. The natural geology had been truncated by a series of pits which produced predominantly late 19th – early 20th century artefactual material, possibly associated with the use of the forge by the Kirtland family throughout the 19th century. A possible east-west aligned ditch, with limestone rubble along its southern edge, probably represented an earlier version of the existing property boundary. The limestone rubble may have represented a demolished wall or a rudimentary revetment along the edge of the feature.

During 2016 the OBR investigated 23 buildings in the county. Five reports have yet to be completed. Three are part of an ongoing project in Chalgrove and three in Abingdon will be the subject of short reports on the town's website (www.abingdon.gov.uk/partners/history). Reports on all buildings will in due course be deposited in the Oxfordshire History Centre. This report highlights the key features of four particularly interesting buildings.

Abingdon, 18 Thames Street and The Grapes, High Street (SU 49951 97006 and SU 49637 97053 respectively)

Although both of these buildings have been reported elsewhere – 18 Thames Street is mentioned in N. W. Alcock and M. W. Barley, 'Medieval Roofs with Base-Crucks and Short Principals' in *The Antiquaries Journal* Volume 52 Issue 1, (March 1972), pp. 132–168 and The Grapes was studied by Oxford Archaeology in 2003 and by John Steane and James Ayres (*Traditional Buildings of the Oxford Region c. 1300–1840* (Oxford, 2013) pp.181–5) – little attention had been paid to the fact that both have double tie-beams. An opportunity was offered by the Friends of Abingdon to record such a roof in their curator's house at 18 Thames Street, and the Grapes was revisited for comparison.

Such structures are sometimes found when the aisle posts of aisled halls are removed and replaced by base crucks; the second tie beam being introduced to support the former arcade plates (as at Lime Tree House, Harwell – see Currie, C R J, 'Larger Medieval Houses in the Vale of White Horse' *Oxoniensia* 57 (1992) pp. 81–244). This may be the case at The Grapes, although much of the lower part of the timber frame has now gone. However, in both the Abingdon examples, the tie-beams seem contemporary, since they are tied together with small loose tenons, and in the case of 18

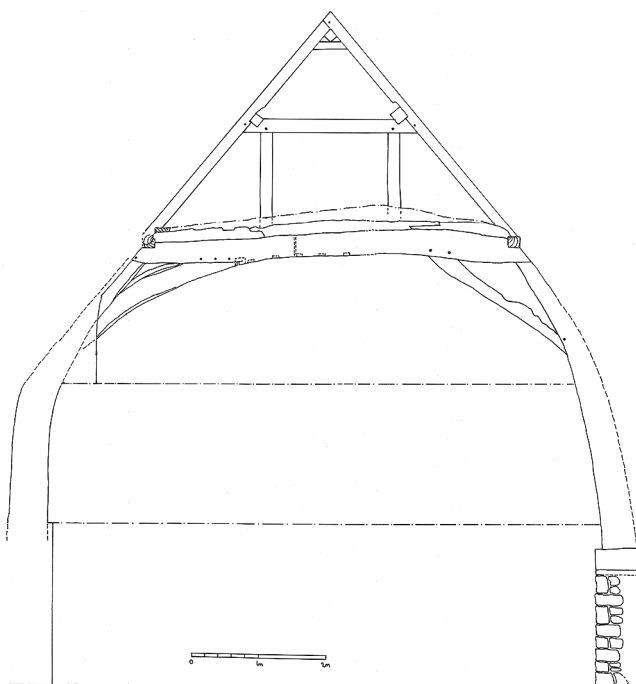


Figure 11: Base cruck truss in 18 Thames St Abingdon, from east

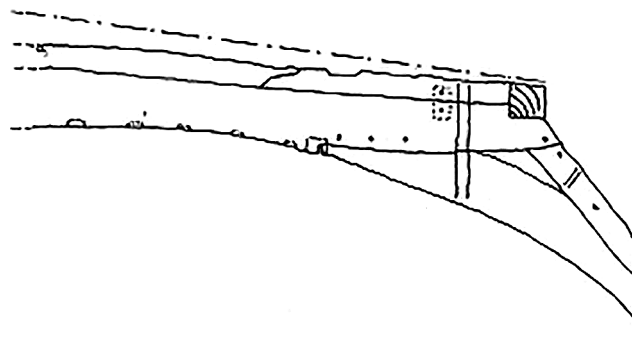


Figure 12: Detail of truss from west

Thames Street, the scratched assembly marks extend across both tie-beams and the arch brace below.

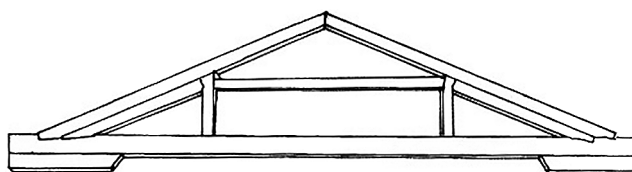


Figure 13: Palladian truss (after Valeriani)

Here the base crucks survive intact. The period of both buildings, based on the carpentry features, is likely to be ca.1300. Both have heavy smoke-blackening and the crown-post upper structure survives in The Grapes, but 18 Thames Street has a later (un-sooted) queen-post arrangement.

Banbury, Church of St Mary (SP 45408 40551)

Following water ingress, an opportunity was taken to examine the damaged roof of the small vestry at the north-east of the church, designed by S P Cockerell in the 1790s. The roof structure itself consisted of three low-pitched softwood trusses. The tie-beams were lodged over a timber wall-plate but (before destroyed by damp) the ends were supported by the stone walls. The trusses themselves are of a type called 'Palladian' – see Valeriani, Simona (2006) 'The Roofs of Wren and Jones: A Seventeenth-Century Migration of Technical Knowledge from Italy to England' *Working Papers on the Nature of Evidence: How Well Do "Facts" Travel?* No. 14/06 Department of Economic History, London School of Economics.

Although close in form to the queen-post roofs described in the usual glossaries, this is the only one in which there is no gap between the secondary rafter and the principal and no king-post. Valeriani explains that the truss is a traditional Italian form, predating Palladio, and that the secondary rafter is not common in England. It should also be noted that it is structurally different from a queen-post roof – queen posts are in compression whereas these posts are in tension – and the central horizontal timber is a strainer beam, not a collar. The purlins are trenched onto the backs of the principals just above the queen-posts. They are also in sections, butted at the principal and secured by loose tenons. The common rafters are nailed to a plank ridge. They are also nailed to the purlins. Their feet rest in shallow pockets in a secondary wall-plate; in fact there are three wall-plates, one set into the wall, another resting on top of the tie-beam, and a third standing on timber packing pieces.

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

Archaeology in Oxford 2016

David Radford, Archaeologist, Design, Heritage and Trees, Oxford City Council

Further excavation of the Franciscan Friary at the Westgate

The extensive archaeological recording project by Oxford Archaeology at the Westgate Shopping Centre site continued from 2015 through to June 2016. The main excavation was concluded and an intermittent watching brief was undertaken during subsequent utility and public realm works. Work within the main friary cloister revealed an impressive floor of 13th-14th century 'Stabbed Wessex' tiles. Elsewhere a small investigation within the friary church revealed its southern wall and a small number of medieval burials which were planned and left *in situ*. Further west a section of the town wall was exposed and recorded.

Other significant projects

Other significant fieldwork projects included excavations at the Tinbergen Building on South Parks Road, work to the rear of 114–119 St Aldates Nos 4–5 Queen Street, at Saville House on Mansfield Road and in the President's Garden at St John's College. Investigations by Oxford Archaeology within the footprint of the proposed extension to the Oxford University Tinbergen Building were completed between April and June. The excavation revealed the truncated ditch of the outer Royalist Civil War defences and a series of six parallel large steep sided pits containing limited 17th century pottery, clay pipe stems and a horse skeleton (Fig. 15). These parallel features appear to be man traps or 'pitfalls' protecting sensitive parts of the defensive line.

Oxford archaeology completed a phased excavation between April and August to the rear Nos 114–119 St. Aldate's and Nos 4–5 Queen Street on the site of a new retail and accommodation development. This site offered a rare opportunity to investigate land close to the centre of the late Saxon burh, located within medieval market frontage and within properties associated with Oxford's 12th-13th century Jewish Community. The first phase of the excavation examined the site of a proposed lift pit and recorded a medieval stone lined cess pit and a nearby medieval building

The rafters are marked according to the system of 'cellular marking' (Clark, David (2005) 'Cellular Markings at the Cottage, Newnham Murren' in *Oxoniensia* LXX pp.337–8). The assembly marks are very small and have been stamped with a chisel near the edge of the timber. All other known examples of cellular markings are for joists in a ceiling. This may be the first recorded example of their use for common rafters.

The vestry roof at St Mary's is thus an unusual example in England of the use of a true Palladian truss with a secondary rafter that helps to support a post in tension. Cockerell trained under Sir Robert Taylor, and the idea may have come from one of Taylor's Italian trips. It has also been used with an ad hoc supporting structure for shallow pitched common rafters nailed in place and marked with unusual small chiselled assembly marks used in a 'cellular' mode, the only recorded example seen in rafters rather than joists.

Oxford, Brasenose College Squash Court (SP 516 051)



Figure 14: BNC Squash court

The Brasenose College squash court, on their playing field off the Abingdon Road, is now used for storage and may be demolished. It was built in 1937 by Messrs. Turner and Dopson, (no architect's name is mentioned in the records) and derives from the first phase of standardisation of the playing area for the game. The model for these specifications was at the Bath Club in London, built at the turn of the 20th century, with dimensions of 32 feet by 21 feet (9.75 metres by 6.4 metres). Although these dimensions were proposed in 1911, the existence of a variant hardball game in North America, and the First World War, meant that they were not adopted as an international standard until 1923.

There are several historic squash courts in Great Britain. Some of these are in other building types – such as barns – that have been converted for the purpose, and others were built as part of other sporting or social complexes, such as the London clubs of the armed services, and in 1925 at the Manchester Tennis and Racquet Club in Salford. Free-standing single courts were also built by owners of country houses.

Among the pre-war 'institutional' courts are those at RAF Duxford (1935), RAF Yatesbury, and at Rivercourt House, now Latymer Prep School, Hammersmith.

What makes the Brasenose example special is that it is a rare example of a surviving double court from the first period of squash court building after standardization in 1923.



Figure 15: Possible Civil War period 'Pitfalls'

Oxfordshire

and drain. Below these features was a compacted surface on top of the natural gravel cut by features of late Saxon or early Norman date. Between June and late August, a second phase of excavation was targeted along the edges of the new building where previous basement construction had left small strips of ground at a higher level and within the existing basement where a water attenuation tank was required. The replacement of the existing basement floor slab created the opportunity to clean and record the archaeological remains sealed at this level.

The excavation of the attenuation tank footprint revealed a late-Saxon cellar pit, containing spindle whorls and late-Saxon pottery. The feature cut another possible cellar pit which contained charcoal deposits that were sampled for radio-carbon dating. The work on the east-west boundary between the former Blacks clothing store and the City Council Offices also produced a surprising amount of archaeology given the scale and character of the surrounding buildings. This included an east-west medieval wall with holes in the masonry to support a suspended wooden floor. This was covered by medieval garden soil through which was cut a post-medieval stone lined waste pit and later boundary wall. The pit was notable for containing dumps of 'tavern waste' from the nearby establishments that fronted onto St Aldates, including well preserved clay pipes, pottery from drinking vessels and glassware carrying the stamp of the post-medieval Mermaid Inn. Elsewhere to the rear of Queen Street floor layers and the remains of a stone relieving arch foundation for a medieval building were recorded.

Between June and September an archaeological excavation was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology on land at Saville House, Mansfield Road (New College). The footprint of the music room was excavated in strips exposing more of the bank of loam located below the later 17th century earthwork rampart previously discovered by evaluation trenching. Optically Stimulated Luminescence dating of the loam bank beneath the Royalist rampart has produced a 9th –early 11th century date range. The 2016 work revealed a series of undated pits directly below the loam bank. Further OSL samples have been taken to try and conclusively date this large east-west feature.

In September an excavation was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology on the footprint of a new library building in the Presidents Garden, St John's College. The new building will form a northward extension of the library within the Canterbury Quadrangle. The excavation revealed a V shaped east-west ditch, five meters wide at the top, of late-Saxon/Norman or earlier origin. The ditch had been re-cut on several occasions. The line of the ditch is consistent with the suggestion that the north wall of Canterbury Quad and field boundaries to the east capture the line of a substantial earthwork across the gravel terrace between the Thames and Cherwell rivers that encompasses the earthwork at Saville House discussed above. Elsewhere at the St John's site inter-cutting quarry and rubbish pits were recorded dating back to the establishment of the college.

Outreach

The year saw further outreach work for the Westgate project undertaken by Oxford Archaeology including a project with pupils from Northfield School. Another very successful pop-up museum exhibition was hosted by the Museum of Oxford

between March and April. This was entitled 'Westgate- the story so far' and featured artefacts from the 2015–2016 dig. Thanks are due to the army of volunteers who helped staff the exhibit and contributed greatly to its success. The exhibit was concluded with a public talk on the results of the excavation by Oxford Archaeology Senior Project Manager Ben Ford in the Town Hall. The success of the excavation has been recognised by the British Archaeological Awards which presented Land Securities and Oxford Archaeology the Best Archaeological Project Award in July.

The excavation at St. Aldate's and Queen Street also provided an opportunity for public outreach. The dig was visited by local academics and the Oxford Jewish Heritage Committee and filmed by the BBC for a local programme on Underground Oxford. A temporary window display with some of the finds from the site was maintained in the St Aldates shop frontage and a handling session and talk took place in Oxford Town Hall in October, hosted by the Museum of Oxford.

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

Goring, Gatehampton Farm Roman Villa (SU 6079 7985)

HAZEL WILLIAMS

SOAG's longest running project continues; the excavation of a substantial 3rd-4th century Roman villa and the survey of the surrounding landscape. The western half of the building has been excavated along with the small bath house. The current trenches are focussed on the eastern end of the building where a change in building layout and material indicates a different and perhaps earlier part of the villa building. The long north to south wall across the building in Trench 7 marks the change in construction with internal walls to the east of chalk blocks for example, rather than the flint seen elsewhere. Most of the work has focussed on Trenches 7 and 16.

In Trench 7, recent work in Room 7 has shown that it began as simply an attached barn or workshop and was later transformed into a living space when the building was extended westwards. Room 8 was found originally to have had a flint wall across the south side of the room that was

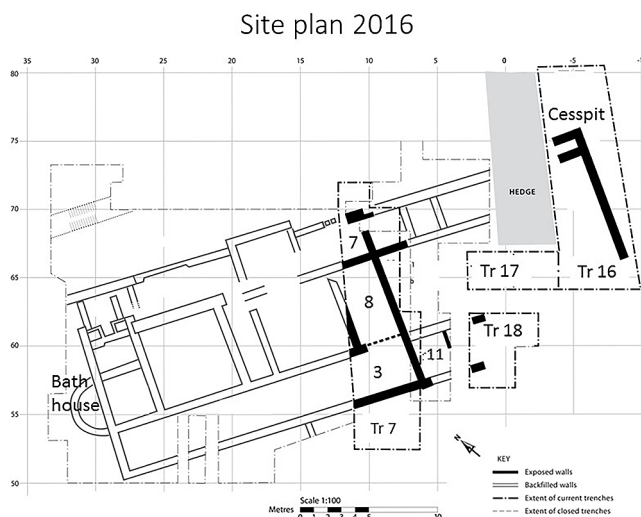


Figure 16: Villa site plan

later demolished when a sill feature made with vertically placed terracotta tiles was laid along the south side of the remaining wall foundation a floor surface of large terracotta tesserae laid. The long corridor Room 3 may have been an exterior area initially but was also made up with layers of tile and rubble to the sill level, also with patches of a tessellated floor surface. On the south side of Rooms 3 and 11, a much earlier feature was found; a flint wall foundation that extends along the inner side of the exterior south wall in both rooms. The feature is approximately half a metre in width and lies half under the later walls and appears to predate both the assumed earlier and later parts of the villa.

In Trench 16 the eastern end wall of the building was found and evidence of a workshop area. Hearth areas, possibly used for small scale metalworking, with much animal bone, a butcher's knife and several bone pins including blanks prepared for carving indicated a working area that may have been added on to the end of the building; roof tile from this part of the building is much inferior to the tile found elsewhere in the building.

However, the most exciting discovery was of a cess pit in the small L shaped extension to the building's extreme north east corner. It is the deepest part of the building to be excavated with four courses of flint stones above ground level and eight courses of chalk blocks dug into the ground. Filled with a deposit of loose mortar containing fragments of painted plaster 1.5 metres in depth the lower levels included large quantities of animal bone, a possible iron key and a piece of lead water pipe with affixing nail attached. An opening on the south side appears to form a culvert with an associated channel from latrines, not yet found, within the building. Beneath the rubble, a 10–15 C. layer of human coprolites was found, now biologically inert and heavily mineralised. Further below, at approximately 2 metres below the ground surface the most remarkable discovery was of a fragmented but almost complete Moselkeramik motto beaker, made in Trier between 150 AD and the 300s. Now reconstructed, it has six dimples, each with a white circle and white slip 'vine' decorations and the motto is 'IVVAT'.

SOAG is a voluntary group and an important part of the Gatehampton villa project is to encourage participation in excavation by both experienced diggers and beginners. Numbers of volunteers have remained high in recent years with as many as 60 people involved during the summer months, and of these at least twenty have been under 16s. An Open Day is held every September and is usually very popular, attracting up to 100 visitors.

References

- Jobling, D *Bone related artefacts found in Gatehampton Trench 16* SOAG Bulletin No. 69 2015
- Williams, H *Gatehampton Farm Roman Villa Excavation Interim Reports 2014–5 and 2016* SOAG Bulletins 69 & 70 2015 & 2016

Harpsden, High Wood (SU 4751 1795)

ALAN HAL and DAVID NICHOLLS

A Roman site in The Chilterns, at Harpsden, Henley-on-Thames, is under investigation by the South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group (SOAG). Two seasons of excavation have yet failed to elicit the nature of the building, but some clear wall lines and flooring have been exposed. Unfortunately, the site was subject to serious plundering

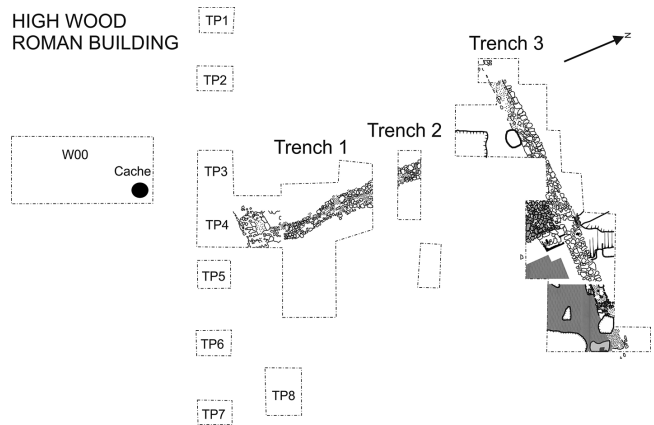


Figure 17: High Wood site plan

by illicit metal detectorists in the past and little *in situ* stratigraphy has been found.

The site of a Roman building first came to notice when the Henley-on-Thames Archaeological and Historical Group (HAHG) excavated what was initially believed to be the base of a windmill mound. Over an intermittent period from May 1977 to 1983 they reinterpreted the mound as a spoil heap from remains of a nearby 'Roman Villa'.

The site lies in mainly deciduous woodland on the Phillimore estate at an altitude of 92m.

A dowsing operation revealed the apparent side ditches and agger of a minor Roman-type road running north-north-east to south-south-west across the wood and pointing in the direction of Henley-on-Thames. As this could possibly be a wood bank a full width section is proposed to determine the nature of the feature. An inconclusive half width excavation was undertaken in 2015.

Test pitting in 2015 revealed the corner of a wall of the Roman period but also a non-contemporary gulley leading to a flint cairn covered by a very large flint within which a total of five plastic 1970's shopping bags were found, full of mainly Roman pottery but including metal objects and other items that had been buried. It is highly likely, although not certain, that this material emanates from the building(s) presently under excavation. (Nicholls 2016, 26).

This "cache" of artefacts contained several significant finds:

Four masses of Lorica Hamata (chain mail). These were X-radiographed by Wiltshire Conservation Service (C2015423, J2187). The presence of Roman period chain mail is very unusual on a rural site (Mould, 2016, 38). It could suggest occupation by a member, or former member, of the Roman military, or alternatively – as has been suggested – it may be a ritual deposit or gift at a temple; 25 coins recovered include one coin of Domitian (AD 81–96), one of Gallienus or Claudius (AD 253–268) with the remainder falling within the fourth century AD (Nicholls, 2016, 27). The greater proportion were recovered from metal detector searches within control of the site operations. A quarter gold stater of Cunobelinus (10–41 AD) was found in the surface disturbance at 200mm depth; A collection of 30 pieces of quern and millstone were recovered of which eight derive from rotary querns and were formed of Lodsworth Greensand or Old Red Sandstone. Between three and six millstones were identified that were formed from Millstone Grit. The surprisingly large corpus indicates the existence of organized and centralized grain processing in the area (Shaffrey 2016, 33). Most pieces were used in forming

Oxfordshire

the rough gully 'wall' and were not mortared – being used randomly.

Test pits 3 and 4 excavations revealed the corner of a wall of Roman date which was confirmed to continue for 10m to the north and, although the intervening area has yet to be excavated, it is probable that it joins with an east-west wall, so far excavated to a length of 15m. At the eastern end of this wall on the southern side was an *opus signinum* floor, some 8cm thick, which was overlaid, in a small area only, by a skim of finer mortar. Pottery and ferrous items were found in sampling below the floor and pockets of root disturbance pierced this layer. This was one of the few areas to provide sealed stratigraphy. The threshold and short stub of wall projecting south from the main wall was only partially excavated. However, the mortar floor stopped at the threshold in a clear straight edge. There was no evidence of paving to the threshold but on the western side was a surface of rammed flints which may indicate an outside yard. Clearly, we might expect that further building remains should lie to the immediate south of this area.

To the north of the main wall, apparently outside the building and at level below the foundation of the wall was a pit. It was partially excavated because only one quadrant of this (1m × 1.25m) lay within the bounds of the trench. At the base of the pit lay some large adjoining sherds of Late Iron Age to early Romano-British pottery with a latest date of AD 70. The extent and function of the building is not known but targeted geophysical survey and test pitting should inform an excavation strategy to answer these questions. Furthermore, the possible existence of an adjacent road of the period may indicate the possibility of a more-extensive settlement.

Analysis of pottery indicates occupation from the Late Iron Age throughout the Romano-British period as tabulated: An Iron Age baked clay spindle whorl was also recovered in 2015

The understanding of the sources of grey sandy wares is a problem ubiquitous to the study of pottery for the period and, as a generality, it has been conventional to emphasise the dominance of the Alice Holt potteries of the Hampshire/Surrey border. However, it has been possible to recognise a significant presence of sherds from the near locality at the apparent (but unexcavated) kiln site at Swan Wood, Nettlebed. As to the remaining greywares, it is apparent that much may be from unidentified, local regional sources (Paul Booth, pers. comm.).

Disappointingly, this work has established that the site has been the subject of previous substantial diggings – Possibly antiquarian. An understanding of the building and its function will depend on identifying intact archaeology, which may possibly exist within the tree lines to the east-west and south of the areas thus far excavated. Further investigation and excavation is planned and it is hoped to discern any relationship with other nearby Roman archaeological features in the landscape.

References

- Nicholls, David, 2016, 'Interim Report 2015', *Bulletin of South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group*, 70
- Shaffrey, Ruth, 2016, 'High Wood Finds Report – Querns and Millstones', *Bulletin of South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group*, 70.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Dorchester-on-Thames, Dorchester Abbey Cloisters Geophysical Survey, 2012

WILLIAM WINTLE and DAVID GRIFFITHS

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). An important element of the University of Oxford's contribution to the Dorchester-on-Thames project has been the Department of Continuing Education's MSc in Applied Landscape Archaeology programme, which located its one-week field survey training course in Dorchester in 2008, 2010 and 2012. The field survey weeks were administered and financed by the Department and directed by David Griffiths. This report provides a summary of an earth resistance geophysical survey undertaken in 2012 in the cloister gardens to the north of Dorchester Abbey.

Previous Investigations in the Cloisters

Between late 1960 and early 1962 three small trenches (I to III) were excavated in the presumed location of the abbey cloisters to determine their limits and any other monastic buildings (Cunningham and Banks 1973). The trenches confirmed the location of the cloister foundations in the west and north but the eastern trench appeared to be outside the cloisters. The foundations had been robbed and replaced with rubble, sand, gravel and broken tile. Although large amounts of Roman material were found, particularly in trench I, there was no firm evidence of Roman structures.

The southern part of the cloister walk was examined in 2001 in advance of a planned boiler room and pentice to be constructed adjacent to the north wall of the Abbey (Keevill 2004). Three trial trenches (3 to 5) were opened and subsequently trench 3 was enlarged to cover the entire area and depth of the boiler room. A watching brief was maintained over the area of the Pentice where several medieval graves were revealed. As in the 1960s, most of material recovered was of Roman date, but no *in situ* Roman feature or deposit was located (Keevill 2004, 323).

In 2004 Rush (2004) of Reading University employed a range of geophysical survey techniques over the cloister gardens. His most satisfactory technique was a twin-probe earth resistance survey which was conducted at one metre sample intervals.

Using the above archaeological and geophysical survey evidence together with plans of other Augustinian abbeys, Rodwell (2009, 47, Figure 24) has proposed a plan of the monastic buildings associated with the Abbey in the fifteenth century. The location of the earlier excavation trenches and Rodwell's suggested locations of the monastic buildings are illustrated in figure 18.

The Geophysical Survey

It was not possible to survey the entire area of the cloister garden. In the west are a line of large trees while flower beds are situated in the east and north-east. Three grids each 20 metres square were laid out, but not all this area could be surveyed. The survey was undertaken on the 4th and 5th July 2012 by MSc students Clair Burton, Anni Byard, Clemency

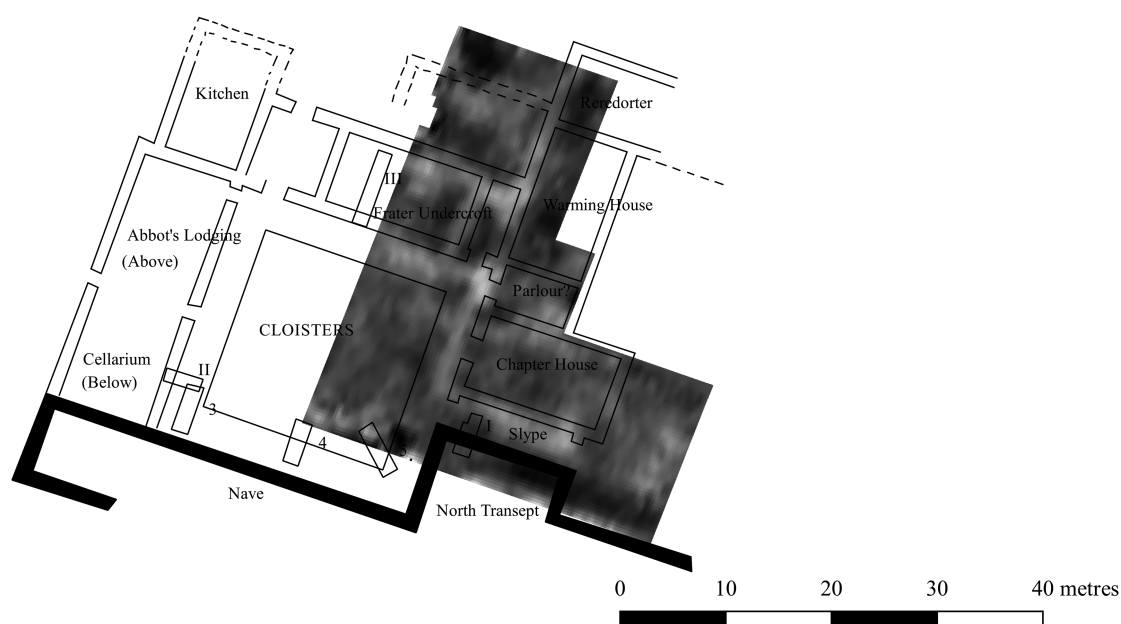


Figure 18 – Abbey Cloisters Resistance Survey (4th and 5th July 2012) Plan of Abbey buildings based on Rodwell (2009, 47, Figure 24)

Cooper, Iain Dickson, Damon Dennis and Dean Paton using a Geoscan RM-15D Earth Resistance Meter. The three grids were walked in a clockwise “zigzag” pattern with traverses one metre apart and readings taken every 50 centimetres. The results have been processed by ArcheoSurveyor and are displayed in figure 18 as a block shaded image using a grey-scale.

Directly to the north of the Abbey is an area of low resistance (a dark east-west linear feature) while visible in the north and north-west of the survey area are linear high resistance features marked in white which may represent possible wall foundations or robbed-out wall foundations.

Of the previous excavation trenches, only trench I (from Cunningham and Banks) and part of trench 5 (from Keevill) lie within the survey area.

Discussion

The results of the 2012 earth resistance survey are compared with Rodwell’s suggested monastic layout in figure 1. In general, the agreement in location between buildings and areas of high resistance is good, although the survey cannot shed light on the functions of the buildings. There is an approximately rectangular area of high resistance to the north of the North Transept which corresponds to Rodwell’s Chapter House. This is most clearly shown in the south and west. Further north, the west front of the Warming House continues northwards, although with a clear gap between it and the Chapter House (or Parlour). In the north-west of the survey area the foundations of the eastern end of the suggested Frater are visible as high resistance linear features.

The survey becomes less distinct in the north. It did not extend over the western half of the cloisters and the buildings further west due to modern disturbances such as trees and the line of the path and wall adjacent to the vicarage and its garden.

Acknowledgements

The 2012 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. We are grateful to the Reverend Sue Booy for permission to work in the Abbey Cloisters.

References

- Booth P, Gosden C, Hamerow, H, Hey G, Metcalfe J, Morrison W, Richards J and Wilkinson D 2012; *The Discovering Dorchester-on-Thames Project. A Report on the Excavations, 2007–2011*. The Parochial Church Council of St Peter and St Paul.
- Cunningham C., and Banks J 1973; Excavations at Dorchester Abbey, Oxon. *Oxoniensia*, 37, 158–164.
- Keevill G 2004; Archaeological Investigations in 2001 at the Abbey Church of St Peter and St Paul, Dorchester-on-Thames, *Oxoniensia*, 68, 313–362.
- Rodwell W 2009; *Dorchester Abbey, Oxfordshire: the archaeology and architecture of a cathedral, monastery and parish church*. Oxbow.
- Rush M 2004; *A Geophysical Investigation into the Monastic Buildings at Dorchester-on-Thames Abbey, Oxfordshire*. Unpublished MSc Dissertation. University of Reading.

Long Wittenham, Great Hall site (SU 55089 93789)

ADAM MCBRIDE and JANE HARRISON

In 2015 and 2016, the University of Oxford Institute of Archaeology and the Department for Continuing Education led a volunteer excavation of a presumed Anglo-Saxon site at Long Wittenham, Oxfordshire. This has produced evidence for a large, well-constructed timber building, similar to those found at other 7th Century Anglo-Saxon sites known to be of high status.

Long Wittenham had been previously identified from aerial photographs as a possible 7th Century great hall complex, similar to those excavated at Sutton Courtenay, Oxfordshire,



Figure 19: Timber building foundations excavated at Long Wittenham, Oxfordshire, probably from a high status late 6th to early 8th Century building (photo credit: Adam Stanford, Aerial-Cam)

and Yeavering, Northumberland. A magnetometer survey in 2015 confirmed the presence and location of several possible post-in-trench timber buildings.

In August 2015 and September 2016, four trenches were excavated, targeting two possible buildings and one possible pit cluster. The possible pits are interpreted as natural solution hollows, and one of the rectangular features, tentatively identified from aerial photographs as a 30m long great hall, is now interpreted as a Late Roman ditched enclosure. However, the second excavated building has been shown to be a post-in-trench timber building.

This building was approximately $11.6 \times 6.1\text{m}$, with entrances positioned roughly centrally in the long walls and a possible third entrance in the eastern gable wall. There was also some ephemeral evidence for an internal partition toward the eastern end of the building. The external walls were built from a combination of squared planks and rounded posts. The foundation trenches were approximately 0.40m wide and sunk 1m below the modern ground surface (0.70m into the natural gravel). The foundation trenches suffered from some bulging in the loose sandy natural, but the features appeared to have been carefully constructed, with near vertical sides and a near flat base.

Very little material culture was recovered from the feature: a few sherds of Roman pottery, a sherd of probable Iron Age pottery, and a few fragments of animal bone. The feature can therefore not be directly dated to the Anglo-Saxon period, but the morphology of the building, and indeed the paucity of material culture, is consistent with a late 6th Century to 8th Century date. This building joins a growing number of high status early to mid Anglo-Saxon sites in the Abingdon to Dorchester area, the historically documented heartland of the West Saxon kingdom.

West Challow Roman Villa Geophysical Survey, 2006

WILLIAM WINTLE, KNIGHT BOYER and JOHN HAWES

Introduction

Between 2001 and 2011 the University of Oxford excavated a late Iron Age and Roman site at Marcham/Frilford as both a research and training excavation (Kamash *et al.* 2012). This project stimulated wider research into the landscape of these periods in the Vale of the White Horse (Wintle 2013). Boyer (2006) investigated four Roman villa sites near Frilford, three of which have previously been published in *South Midlands Archaeology* (Boyer *et al.* 2007; 2008; Wintle and Hawes 2011; 2015). This report describes the results obtained from a three-day geophysical survey at the fourth site, the Roman villa at West Challow (Wintle 2006).

The villa was first recorded by Davey (1876) after reports that fragments of ancient pottery and the foundations of a building had been found in a field west of Wantage. For five weeks in October and November 1876 he recorded and collected what he could while the stone foundations of a substantial building were removed. The building was clearly a small Roman villa measuring 25 metres north-south and 11 metres east-west, containing five rooms, the southernmost of which provided evidence for a hypocaust. In 1969 three trenches were dug by Mr A. Grover, one of which revealed a chalk wall about 0.6 metres wide and four metres long (Rutland and Greenaway 1970; Rutland and Greenaway 1972). Further small-scale excavation was carried out in 1972 (Romano-British Notes 1973).

The Villa Site

The villa lies at Cornhill Farm between the villages of East Challow, West Challow and Childrey on the north sloping

escarpment of the Berkshire Downs with an excellent view north across the Vale. The present farmhouse and the nearby Roman villa lie on a narrow band of Head and Coombe deposits with adjacent bands of lower Greensand. These deposits separate the lower chalk of the Berkshire Downs to the south from the gault clay of the Vale to the north. This geology is responsible for a spring line along the escarpment

Cropmarks are visible in aerial photographs near the villa. The two most useful photographs are NMR SU3787/4&6 taken in July 1995 which reveal two large, irregular enclosures in the north of the field, and the villa and other rectangular features in the south of the field. It is not clear whether there is any relationship between the two sets of crop marks. West Challow lies within the area mapped by the Lambourn Downs Mapping Programme (Small 2002). This programme provided an archaeological interpretation of the crop marks: the villa compound appears to be a rectangular enclosure defined by two concentric ditches within which are several rectangular buildings joined by walls or tracks.

The Geophysical Survey

The field was initially investigated in August 2006 shortly after it had been ploughed when concentrations of pottery and ceramic building material were identified near the known location of the villa. Apart from this the field appeared to contain very little pottery and other material. There did not appear to be any pottery associated with the crop marks in the northern part of the field (Boyer 2006, 19–22).

The objectives of the geophysical survey were to determine whether the features revealed on aerial photographs could be detected through a magnetometer survey, and if so, to determine whether additional features and details could be added. It was hoped it might be possible to provide a detailed image of the entire villa compound. The survey took place between the 7th and 9th September 2006. An arbitrary base line was constructed between two fixed points in the field to the

north of the villa. From this base line grids were laid out to the south in 30 metre squares. Figure 20 illustrates the processed results and figure 21 provides an archaeological interpretation.

Discussion

The results demonstrate that the primary objectives of the survey were met, namely that the features recorded in the aerial photographs and mapped by the Lambourn Downs Mapping Programme have been detected by geophysical survey, and that considerably more detail has been added. The villa and other associated buildings appear to be enclosed by two continuous ditches defining a rectangular compound. In addition, several much more irregular features can be discerned. However, it was not possible to survey the entire area enclosed by the ditches in the time available. The northern part of the survey area appears relatively undisturbed and provides excellent detail of ditches and other features. In contrast, the south and west are much more disturbed and hence more difficult to interpret. This is probably the result of earlier stone robbing and archaeological investigations.

The discussion starts with a large rectangular feature measuring 17 metres by 12 metres observable in the north-west of the survey area, possibly best interpreted as the foundation trench of a building. The aerial photographic mapping suggested a polygonal feature to its east but there is no geophysical evidence for this. Instead, the magnetometer survey has revealed several irregular enclosures defined by ditches. To the south-west is a large circular feature 21 metres in diameter which would appear to be too large for a roundhouse but may possibly be a barrow. The place-name Challow (Ceawa's tumulus) refers to a barrow, but as this tumulus is mentioned in the charter bounds of Denchworth, Gelling locates it on the boundary between Challow and Denchworth (Gelling 1974, 293). To the north there appear to be two parallel ditches on the same alignment as the rectangular feature. The survey results suggest that a further pair of ditches branch to the north. Both the geophysics and aerial photographic evidence indicate lengths of ditches or foundation trenches running east from the southern part of the rectangular feature.

The villa recorded by Davey lies to the south-east of the rectangular feature. Whereas the aerial photographs suggest a building of size 30 metres by 18 metres, the geophysics survey suggest 28 metres by 15 metres. These figures are larger than that given by Davey who recorded a size of 25 metres north-south and 11 metres east-west (82 ft. by 36 ft., Davey 1876, 383). The aerial photographic mapping and the geophysical results also suggest walls running north and south from the eastern edge of the villa for some 14 metres before turning east to form three sides of a possible eastern courtyard. This northern wall is quite clear on the geophysical survey, but the southern wall less so. There is no clear evidence for a fourth, eastern wall which would have enclosed this area.

The aerial photographic mapping suggests a further rectangular structure to the south of this possible courtyard. But here the geophysical evidence is more difficult to interpret as the ground appears much more disturbed and there are two strong magnetic anomalies. It is more likely these anomalies are due to (relatively) modern iron agricultural equipment than to Roman activity. There is some evidence for rectangular features but not necessarily structures. The southernmost part of this area appears



Figure 20: Geophysical Survey of 28 grids at Cornhill Farm

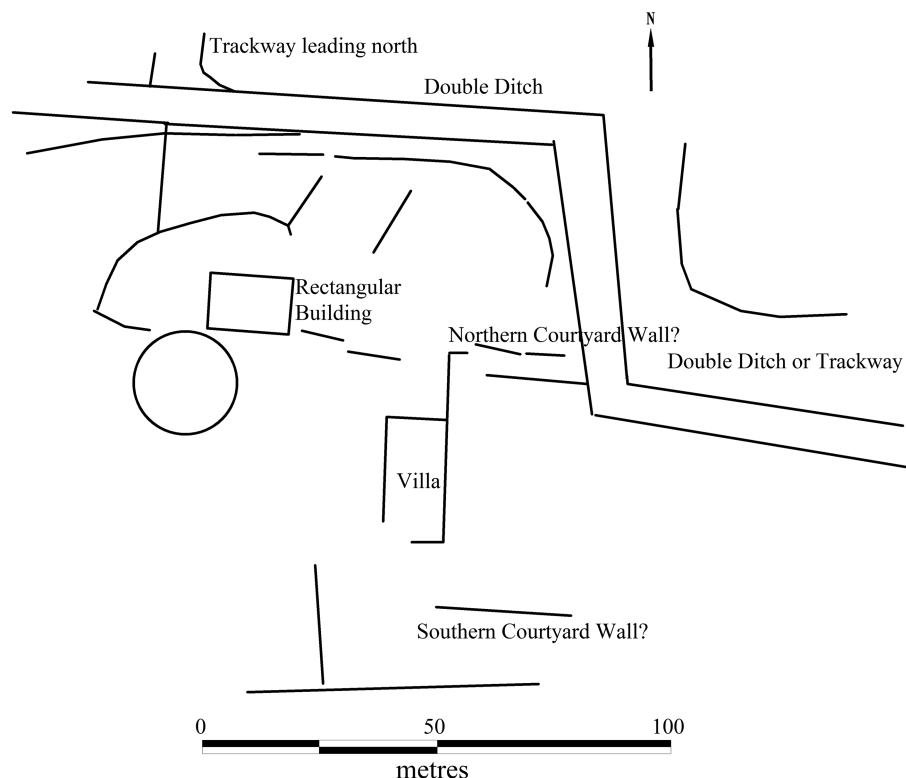


Figure 21: Interpretation of the Geophysical Survey

largely devoid of features apart from one possible ditch and one strong magnetic anomaly.

In the east of the survey area, both the aerial photographic mapping and the geophysical survey show two parallel ditches about eight metres apart and which may represent the edges of a trackway. These ditches initially run west towards the northern end of the villa but at the edge of the possible courtyard turn to the north. It is possible that a branch of the northern ditch may continue towards the villa, running just to the south of the suggested courtyard wall. The two ditches continue north and then turn west to define the northern boundary of the villa compound. Visible to the east of the villa and within the possible courtyard is a rather faint oblong feature.

Conclusions

The eastern half of a Roman villa compound has been surveyed. The foundations of two probable buildings are clearly identifiable, namely the north-south oriented villa reported by Davey and a second rectangular building to its north-west. A series of continuous ditches appear to enclose the villa compound, although the south-eastern section remains unclear.

The agreement between the aerial photographic mapping and the geophysical survey is very good. The geophysical survey has added additional detail and features. It is unlikely that all the features revealed in the geophysical survey are contemporary with each other, but no attempt at a phasing has been made. It appears probable there was activity on the site before the villa was constructed.

Survey Technique

The survey was 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 the figures as a block shaded image using a grey-scale.

Acknowledgements

We are very grateful to Steve Benson, the owner of Cornhill Farm, for permission to conduct this geophysical survey on his land. We are also very grateful to Chris Welch of Historic England who gave permission for this survey to take place on a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

In undertaking the geophysical and other survey work we are grateful for the assistance of Lyn Simmonds, Margaret Andrews and Charles Wrench. The geophysical survey work was undertaken using a Bartington 601 magnetometer generously loaned to the Department of Continuing

Education by Bartington Instruments. The results were processed using ArcheoSurveyor. The staff of the NMR in Swindon have provided access to their collection of aerial photographs and to the Lambourn Downs National Mapping Programme data. The Ordnance Survey data used in figure 1 is the freely available OS Open Map – Local.

This work formed part of a D.Phil. thesis by William Wintle supervised by Professors Gary Lock and Chris Gosden at the Institute of Archaeology, University of Oxford.

References

- Boyer K 2006; *Roman Villas in the Landscape – A Study of Continuity and Change around Four Roman Villas in the Vale of the White Horse, Oxfordshire*. Unpublished Dissertation for the MSc in Applied Landscape Archaeology. Oxford University Department of Continuing Education.
- Boyer K, Hawes J and Wintle W 2007; Field Survey of a Roman Villa at East Hanney, Oxfordshire. *SMA* 37, 22–25.
- Boyer K, Hawes J and Wintle, W 2008. Geophysical Survey at two locations in Frilford, Oxfordshire. *SMA* 38, 52–56.
- Davey E 1876; Discovery of a Roman Villa at Cranhill, near Wantage. *Archaeological Journal*, 33, 381–392.
- Gelling M 1974; *The Place-Names of Berkshire (Part 2)*. English Place-Name Society, Volume L.
- Kamash Z, Gosden C and Lock G 2012; The Vale and Ridgeway Project: Excavations at Marcham/Frilford 2011. *SMA* 42, 77–83.
- Rutland R and Greenaway J 1970; Archaeological Notes from Reading Museum, *Berkshire Archaeological Journal*, 65, 57.
- Rutland R and Greenaway J 1972; Archaeological Notes from Reading Museum, *Berkshire Archaeological Journal*, 66, 129–134.
- Romano-British Notes 1973; Cornhill Farm Roman Site, East Challow, Wantage, Berks. *CBA Group 9 Newsletter* 3, 15.
- Small F 2002; *The Lambourn Downs Report on the Aerial Photographic Transcription and Analysis*. English Heritage Report Series AER/13/2002.

Wintle W 2006; *Geophysical Survey of a Roman Villa at West Challow, Oxfordshire, September 2006*. Unpublished report sent to English Heritage for work on a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Wintle W 2013; *Becoming Romano-British: the landscape of the late prehistoric and Romano-British periods in the Vale of the White Horse*. Unpublished DPhil Thesis.

Wintle W and Hawes J 2011; Geophysical Survey in Garford. *SMA* 41, 68–73.

Wintle W and Hawes J 2015; Geophysical Survey in East Hanney 2006 to 2010. *SMA* 45, 88–90.

WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY

Abingdon, St. Helen's Mill (SU 49595 96745)

R. PAYNE

Wessex Archaeology monitored ground investigation works (two ground investigation pits and two window samples/boreholes) in advance of a proposed flood defence scheme at St. Helen's Mill, Abingdon. The deposits encountered were all made ground, apart from an undated limestone structure recorded in a window sample in the south of the site, and consisting of limestone rubble blocks with pink lime mortar. Further interpretation was limited by the small extent of the

window sample but this could represent a riverside wall. No further archaeological remains were uncovered; some ceramic building material was noted in an undated made ground deposit in the north of the site.

Abingdon Common, Abingdon Flood Alleviation Scheme (SU 47240 96330)

R. PAYNE

Wessex Archaeology monitored ground investigation works in advance of a proposed flood storage area. Part of a linear feature of uncertain date and a second feature of 19th-century date were observed. These remains may be associated with the former Abingdon Racecourse.

Oxford, Hinksey Flood Alleviation Scheme, Old Abingdon Road (SP 51667 03956)

P. OLSEN

Wessex Archaeology undertook archaeological excavation and a watching in advance of construction of a proposed new culvert under the railway between Hinksey Drain and Hinksey Stream. No archaeological artefacts, features or deposits were encountered.

NOTES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

1. The submitted article should follow the format of *South Midlands Archaeology*. That is:
name of the County followed by
name of the organisation (if applicable) followed by
name of the writer or compiler followed by
body of the article with suitable headings and sub-headings.
2. If the article consists of many separate site reports, each site should be reported as follows:
name of the site followed by
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: nick.crank@milton-keynes.gov.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. If you are unable to comply with the above please contact the Editor. (Nick Crank – 01908 254259 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.

NAC

Revised: 20th February 2017