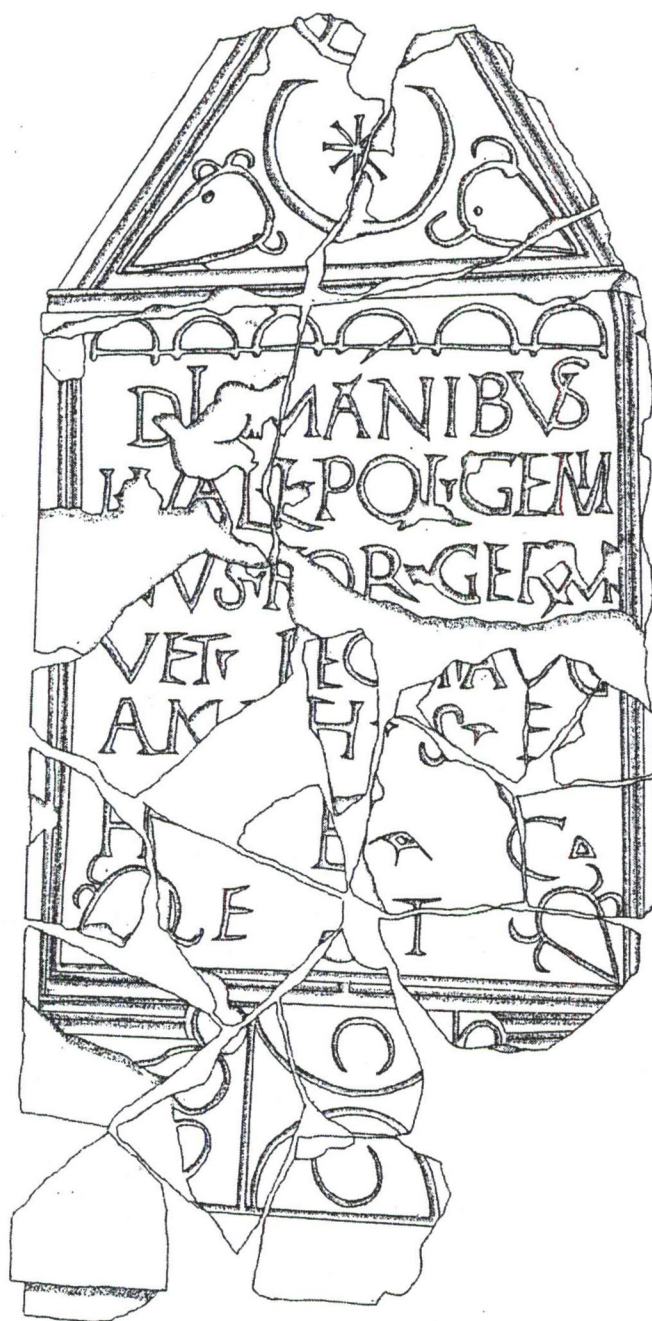




SOUTH MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY

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

NUMBER 35, 2005

CONTENTS	Page
Editorial	ii
Bedfordshire	1
Buckinghamshire	11
Northamptonshire	33
Oxfordshire	43
Index	106
Notes for Contributors	119

It should be noted that the reports in this volume refer, in the main, to work carried out in 2004

EDITOR Barry Horne
 'Beaumont'
 Church End
 Edlesborough
 Dunstable, Beds
 LU6 2EP

CHAIRMAN: Ted Legg
 17 Napier Street
 Bletchley
 Milton Keynes
 MK2 2NF

HON SEC: Lorraine Lindsey-Gale
 Nut Tree Cottage
 The Green South
 Warborough
 Oxon
 OX10 7DR

TREASURER Gerry Mico
 6 Rowan Close
 Brackley
 NN13 6PB

Typeset by Barry Horne

ISSN 0960-7552

EDITORIAL

Welcome to volume 35.

The cumulative index to volumes 1-35, is available on the website at:

WWW.britarch.ac.uk/smaindex

The index to the CBA Industrial Bulletin Nos 1-16 (1967-71) is available on the website at:

WWW.britarch.ac.uk/smaindustrialindex/index.html

If anyone wishes to have a copy for their own PC would they please send me a 3.5" disk and a stamped addressed envelope and I will provide them with a copy.

A number of new organisations have provided reports and this is very encouraging. However, some organisations continue to provide no report of their work in the area. County archaeologists and peers must apply pressure to these defaulters.

Some of you will be aware that because of a deterioration in my health I told the Chairman this would be the last edition edited by me. As a result of this I received kind words from some people. However, my health has stabilised and I feel able to continue as Editor and the Chairman has accepted my offer to do so.

In conclusion I would like to thank all those who sent in reports and ask that they, and anyone else, send in articles for *SMA* 36. Please send a note, however short, of any work carried out in the four counties.

Copy date for *SMA*36 is 31st March 2006; please refer to Notes for Contributors.

Barry Horne AIFA
Editor

BEDFORDSHIRE

ALBION ARCHAEOLOGY

Salford, Whitsundoles Farm (SP 9220 4005)
Mike Luke, Richard Gregson and Tracy Preece

Observation and investigation took place in advance of gravel extraction at Whitsundoles Farm adjacent to investigations previously reported (Luke, Phillips and Preece 2003). The investigations, undertaken during October and November 2004, located the highest concentration of archaeological remains so far discovered within the quarry. They ranged in date from the early Bronze Age, through the Iron Age and Saxon periods, and into the post-medieval period.

Two pits contained early Bronze Age pottery including 14 sherds of Beaker pottery and worked flint. They are the earliest features so far discovered within the quarry, although they are located 300m west of a ring ditch investigated in 1990 (Dawson forthcoming).

A scatter of small pits, some containing early Iron Age pottery, and postholes were distributed over an area 1.5ha in extent. One arrangement of postholes is suggestive of a four-post structure. Overall the evidence is indicative of a dispersed, unenclosed settlement. To the east of the settlement a boundary ditch was identified which contained similar pottery, but which truncated some of pits. The ditch was redug on a number of occasions.

Although investigations undertaken in previous years had located a probable Roman field system, there is no evidence that this continued into this year's investigation area.

Part of a previously unknown Saxon settlement was identified comprising two sunken featured buildings and at least one post-built building. Thirty-two pottery sherds dated to the early to middle Saxon period were recovered, the majority associated with the sunken featured buildings. A small number of medieval furrows were identified, along with several post-medieval quarry pits.

Luke M, Phillips M and Preece T, 2003, 'Salford, Whitsundoles Farm', *SMA* 33, 4-5.
Dawson M, forthcoming, *Excavations at Salford Quarry*

Harrold, Former Bridgman Joinery Works
(SP 9512 5698)
Mike Luke, Mark Phillips and Tracy Preece

Following evaluation by trial trenching, an open area excavation was undertaken between April and June 2003, prior to a housing development on a former factory site just north of the High Street, Harrold. Despite extensive disturbance as a result of the former factory buildings, archaeological remains from the late Bronze Age through to the post-medieval period were identified. A small number of features contained late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery. These comprised a ditch, pits and postholes, but formed no coherent distribution. The earliest firm evidence for settlement comprised a ditched enclosure system dated to the late Iron Age/early Roman period. An east-west aligned ditch extending for at least 100m was an integral part of the enclosure system, which extended over an area c 1ha in extent and respected a former palaeochannel to the east. Although no definite settlement-type features were identified, the distribution of the artefactual assemblage indicated that the southern

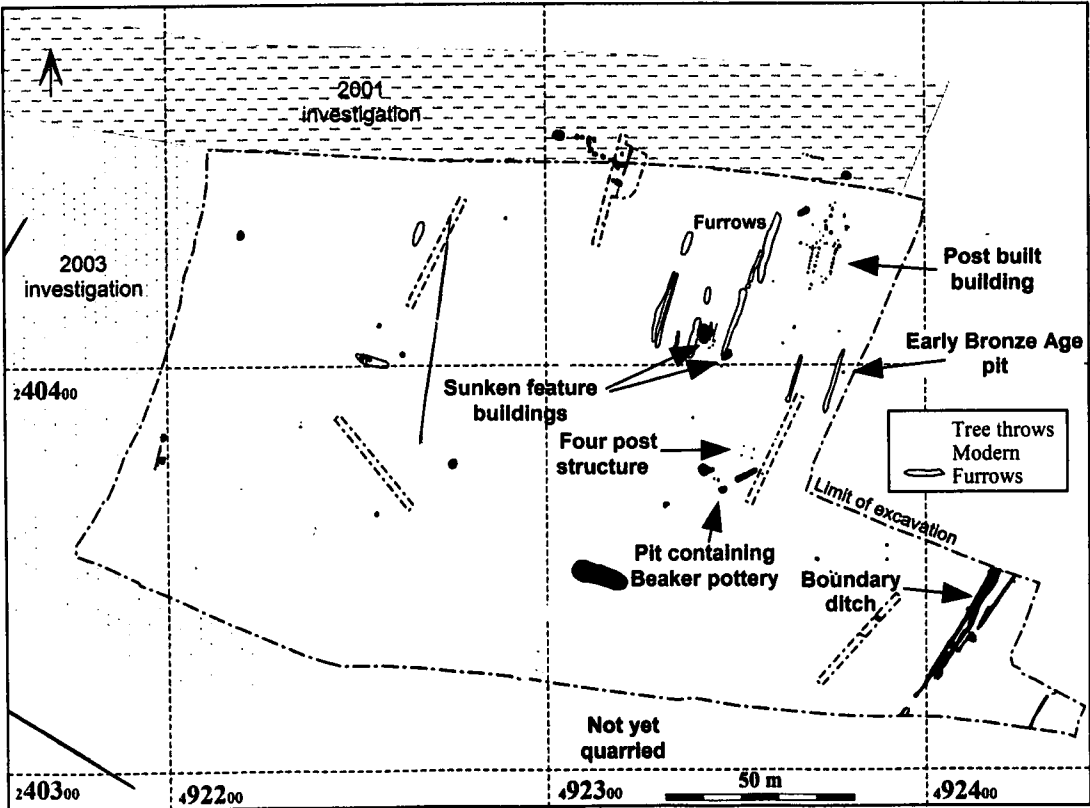


Fig 1. Whitsundoles Farm. Site plan.

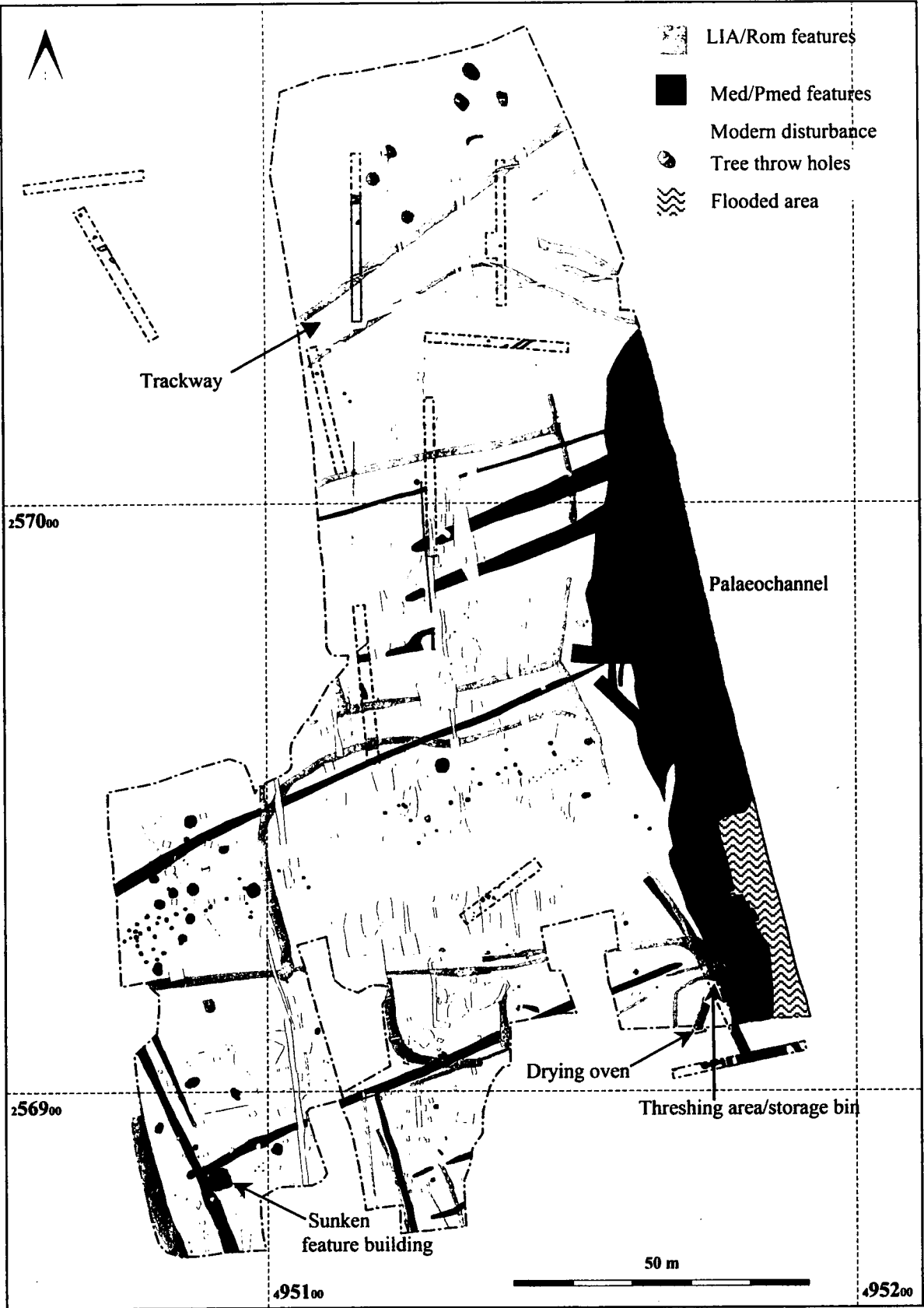


Fig 2. Bridgman Joinery Works, Harrold. Site Plan.

enclosures are likely to have been a focus of domestic activity.

Despite the existence of an earlier extensive enclosure system Roman activity was restricted to two areas to the north and south-east of the investigation area. They appeared to be associated with a much more restricted enclosure system. In the south-east corner of the investigation area a number of structures associated with agricultural processing were discovered. These comprised a drying oven and a stone-lined threshing area/storage bin. The latter truncated one of the ditches of the earlier enclosure system and the drying oven produced an archaeomagnetic date in the 2nd century. The drying oven comprised a keyhole-shaped feature c 5m long with a stokehole at the south-west end. Both sides of the flue were lined with limestone slabs but only the base in front of the stokehole contained limestone slabs (which were heavily burnt).

Located 3m from the drying oven was a rectangular stone-lined feature with rounded corners on the north side. It was 3.35m long, 2.6m wide and 0.45m deep. Its base and sides were lined with a light green grey clay within which were set large, unworked limestone slabs. On the base of the feature the slabs were laid flat on top of the clay, but on the sides the slabs were set on end on the clay at 20-30 degrees from vertical. As there was no evidence for *in situ* burning, it would seem that this feature is more likely to be a threshing area or storage bin. The only other evidence for Roman activity within the investigation area was located 120m to the north and comprised parallel ditches suggestive of a trackway.

Saxon activity comprised a single sunken featured building and a number of pits. In the early medieval period an enclosure system was established on a slightly different alignment to that of the late Iron Age/early Roman period. This contained a number of pits, but was probably on the periphery of the main settlement to the south. Some of the ditches of the medieval enclosure system continued to function during the post-medieval period although the areas enclosed were significantly larger.

Shefford, Shefford Lower School (TL 1375 3875)

Mike Luke, Tracy Preece and Chris Thatcher

Following evaluation by trial trenching and test pitting in March 2003, several small open area excavations were undertaken between January and May 2004 in advance of building works in an area of known Roman settlement. The investigation area was situated to the south of the open area excavation undertaken in 2002 that located an aisled building (Luke, Phillips and Preece 2003).

The substantial ditch that was located in the excavation to the north (Luke, Phillips and Preece 2003) was found to continue into the investigation area. This ditch is believed to represent the western boundary of a large settlement enclosure. The upper fills of the ditch contained a large quantity of Roman pottery, ceramic building material (including *tegula*, brick and flue tile), along with smaller quantities of mortar, painted plaster and stone roof tile. Much of this material is presumed to be associated with the aisled building located in 2002. Evidence for a second less

substantial building was identified within the interior of the enclosure. This was post-built and was orientated parallel to the enclosure ditch.

A second ditch was located c 23m to the west of the substantial ditch. The area in-between these was devoid of features and therefore it is possible that this area functioned as a routeway. To the west of the possible routeway was a large area of intercutting quarry pits dug to extract sand. An articulated dog burial was discovered in the upper fill of one of the quarry pits.

Although the presence of 3rd and 4th century pottery indicates that settlement continued into this period, the only firm evidence was in the form of a single ditch that truncated the infilled quarry pits. This may have been part of the later Roman enclosure system identified in the 2002 excavations to the north.

Luke M, Phillips M and Preece T, 2003, 'Shefford, Land to the rear of 77-81 Amphil Road', *SMA* 33, 5.

Kempston Box End Quarry (TL 0134 4821)

Mike Luke, Tracy Preece and Teresa Hawtin

In May 2004 archaeological salvage investigations were undertaken after the discovery of human remains by a member of the public during gravel extraction. Investigation was primarily concerned with establishing a ground plan, the excavation of all graves and a sample of all other features. Many of the features had been badly truncated by quarry machinery and it is clear that a large number of features were completely destroyed before archaeologists arrived on site. The quarry was located to the north of the extensive Romano-British settlement centred on Kempston Church End (Dawson 2004).

The investigations located a rectangular ditched enclosure system with an integral trackway which was probably the continuation of the system identified to the south (*ibid.*). Over 40 large pits, a well and a possible kiln were located in the southern-most enclosure. It appeared that the enclosures to the north did not contain features and are therefore interpreted as fields. The pottery evidence suggests that the enclosures may have originated in the late Iron Age.

During the later Roman period a cemetery comprising over 38 graves was established in the southern-most enclosure. The majority of these were badly truncated by quarry machinery and although 26 contained human remains only eight of these comprised reasonably complete skeletons. However, the bases of the graves could be detected and therefore the orientation could be determined. In addition, the position of *in situ* human bones within the graves and presence/location of coffin nails were recorded and have greatly assisted the interpretation. The majority of the graves were orientated east-west. A small number were found on north-south and north-east to south-west alignments and these were usually positioned on the periphery of the cemetery. At least ten graves produced evidence that the burials were placed in coffins. Only one grave contained possible grave goods: a knife and a coin provisionally dated to the third quarter of the 4th century.

Provisional analysis indicates that males and females are equally represented and ages range from a full-term foetus to an over 60 year old, with the majority being adults.

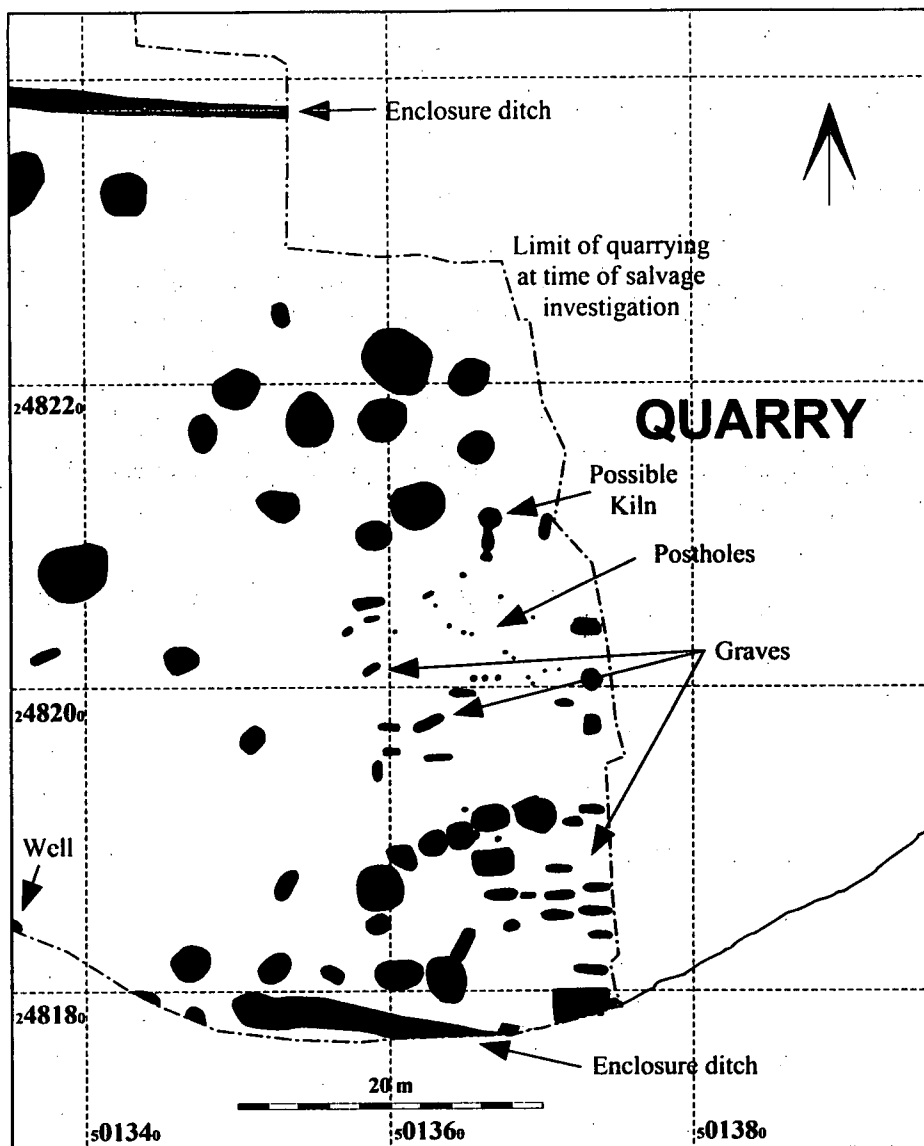


Fig 3. Kempston Box End Quarry. Site plan.

Several individuals show evidence of heavy manual work and joint degeneration. Periostitis is common, usually in the lower legs, and is notably present in all three of the teenagers identified. Dental health is generally good, but all individuals with teeth present show a degree of hypoplasia. The few incidences of caries, periodontal disease, abscess and ante-mortem tooth loss are confined to the individuals aged over 45 years. Overall, this population appears to be hard working with a non-elite diet.

Nineteen postholes, some of which formed two or three post structures, were identified within the cemetery area. Although impossible to prove, they may be contemporary with the cemetery because they appear to be concentrated in an area devoid of graves. However, their purpose is uncertain.

Dawson M, 2004, *Archaeology of the Bedford region*

Great Denham, Village Medical Centre (TL 1884 4886)
Mike Luke and Tracy Preece

An open area excavation was undertaken during February and March 2004, prior to the construction of the Village

Medical Centre. This development is situated within a meander in the River Great Ouse known locally as the Biddenham Loop. Previous investigations carried out in 1996/7 showed that the Biddenham Loop contains extensive evidence for fairly continuous human settlement and funerary activity from the earlier prehistoric through to the Saxon period (Luke 1997, BCAS 1998). The Village Medical Centre investigations located evidence for activity during the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age and medieval periods.

The majority of the archaeological remains comprised pits and postholes that contained a small quantity of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery. These remains represent the continuation of the extensive settlement that was located during the 1996 investigations. The eastern limit of this settlement was identified within the excavation area and this is particularly significant because it means that the full extent of the settlement is now known. Preliminary interpretation of the distribution of these features suggests that three spatially distinct areas can be identified. These may represent discrete "domestic foci" comparable to those identified in the adjacent investigations.

Luke M, 1997, 'The Biddenham Loop', *SMA* 26

BCAS, 1998, *The Biddenham Loop: Post Fieldwork Project Design (Report 98/8)*

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES AND CONSULTANCY LTD

Dunstable, 17 High Street North (TL 0180 2190)
Jonathan Hunn

The excavation of two geotechnical test pits was monitored, but no archaeological remains were observed

Dunstable, 40 Luton Road (TL 028 221)
David Fell

In February a desk-based assessment was undertaken of land at 40 Luton Road. The assessment revealed that

archaeological sites and monuments are not known from the site, but a range of sites is known in the surrounding area. The assessment site probably comprised open land until the 20th century when the area was developed for commercial and residential use. Any archaeological remains within the footprints of these buildings are likely to have been disturbed or destroyed, but remains may survive in less disturbed areas, notably in the north part of the site. The overall archaeological potential of the site is low.

Eaton Bray, Poplar Farm, High Street (SP 9715 2077)

Nick Crank

During October ASC carried out an evaluation on a site at Poplar Farm. The work was undertaken in advance of proposed residential redevelopment of the site. Five trenches were excavated. In three of them a ditch was present, representing a probable field or property boundary, from which a small quantity of 12th to 13th century pottery and animal bone was recovered. No archaeological features were observed in the remaining trenches.

Houghton Conquest, 3 High Street (TL 0446 4156)

David Fell

In November an evaluation was undertaken at 3 High Street, in advance of residential redevelopment. The site is adjacent to a medieval moat, which may have extended into the development area. Three trenches were excavated but archaeological remains were not present. It appeared that the area may have been truncated in the past.

Old Linslade, Acoustic Bund, Old Linslade Manor (SP 9096 2674)

Nick Crank and David Fell

During June and August an evaluation was undertaken on land containing possible medieval village earthworks west of Old Linslade Manor, prior to landscaping works. Eighteen trial trenches were excavated. Only two features were revealed, a substantial, deep modern pit and a probable geological feature visible as a slightly darker band within the sand subsoil. No archaeological deposits were revealed in the remaining trial trenches. 19th century maps record the presence of old sand quarries close to the site, and the earthworks observed may be further evidence of sand quarrying as may the modern pit.

Sharnbrook, 2 Church Street (SP 9953 5961)

Nigel Wilson

In March a watching brief was undertaken during groundworks for an extension to 2 Church Lane. The footing trenches were shallow (c 0.45m), so the only deposits identified were relatively modern disturbance layers. No significant features or finds were recorded

Streatley, Streatley House (TL 0706 2860)

Nigel Wilson

During July ASC undertook an evaluation in the garden of Streatley House, in advance of the construction of a swimming pool and associated facilities. A single trench was hand-excavated to the west of the house, close to the churchyard wall. Within the trench the ground had been highly disturbed by root action, but it was clear that no archaeological features were present.

**ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD UNIT
CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Former RAF Cardington, Shortstown

(TL 07764678 08404710)

R Mortimer and C Jacklin

The eastern part of this site revealed three ditches, two of which have tentatively been dated as prehistoric and the third as a post-medieval enclosure ditch. The western area provided evidence of post-medieval agriculture comprising ridge and furrow and field boundaries. There was also a strong World War 2 element in this area with Nissen hut footings, a haul road, construction rubble and service trenches.

HERITAGE NETWORK

Barton-le-Clay, Land adjacent to The Rectory, Church Road (TL 0862 3046)

Geoff Saunders

In order to determine the archaeological risk posed by a proposal to construct a new Rectory on land adjacent to The Rectory a programme of archaeological evaluation was commissioned by the St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance. Two trenches, measuring c.2 x 10m each, were excavated across the footprint of the proposed new building. A boundary ditch, running on an east – west alignment, was identified in the eastern trench. Two sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered from the fill of this ditch. A number of probable natural springheads or ponds were recorded in the western trench. These had apparently been used for the small scale disposal of domestic rubbish from the late Saxon to the post-medieval period, when the present garden was landscaped and the ponds filled in.

Biddenham, Land at Bromham Road (TL 0227 5050)

Chris Turner and Geoff Saunders

In response to an archaeological condition on the planning permission for new housing on land off Bromham Road the developer commissioned a programme of archaeological investigation.

Three stages of fieldwork were required. The first stage consisted of the excavation of five trial trenches in order to investigate whether archaeological features, identified on

Bedfordshire

the adjacent site to the north, extended into the present site. The evidence suggested that archaeological remains had survived on the eastern side of the study area, including a posthole and north-south aligned boundary ditch, dating to the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age.

The second stage consisted of an open area excavation across the eastern side of the site. This revealed two features, including a late Bronze Age/early Iron Age butt-ended ditch, aligned broadly northwest – southeast. A natural silty hollow, which extended eastwards and southwards beyond the limits of the site, was also investigated in the south-eastern corner of the excavation trench. This contained six unurned cremations and a scatter of cremated bone. Although no artefacts were recovered to date these they have been assigned to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age period on the basis of their relationship with the butt-ended ditch.

The third stage consisted of the monitoring of the excavation of the footings trenches for the new building adjacent to the excavation area on the western side. No archaeological features or deposits were identified in this area.

On the basis of these findings, it is suggested that the present site lay outside the core of the prehistoric settlement, which appears to have been located to the north.

Colmworth, Burnix Close, Church Road
(TL 1089 5871)

Geoff Saunders

In response to an archaeological condition on the planning permission for a new housing development at Burnix Close the developer commissioned an archaeological evaluation of the site.

Three trial trenches, measuring c.1.5m x 25m each, were opened across the proposed development area. A series of boundary ditches and drainage gullies of 10th to 13th century date were revealed, suggesting that the site was located within a field system on the edge of an early medieval settlement. Two modern postholes were also revealed, and may probably relate to a former structure shown on the site on recent Ordnance Survey maps.

Shefford, 10 Northbridge Street (TL 1438 3920)
Chris Turner & Geoff Saunders

In response to an archaeological condition on the planning permission for four new dwellings on land to the rear of 10 Northbridge Street the developers commissioned an archaeological evaluation of the site.

Four trial trenches were opened across the proposed development area. These demonstrated that the site lay within the flood plain of the rivers Flit and Ivel. All the trenches were waterlogged at the lower levels, and the stratigraphy was indicative of repeated flooding.

Despite the presence of Roman activity in the vicinity of the site, no evidence dating to this period was identified in the course of the evaluation. Artefacts dating to the 12th-14th century were found on the site, but their density and the nature of their deposition, suggests that the centre of medieval activity lay outside the boundaries of the site.

A post setting made up from interlaced horn cores and a horse mandible was uncovered on the eastern side of the site. This arrangement would have been intended as a good luck charm set in, or near to, a building foundation, probably of late post-medieval date. It is likely that the focus of early settlement, as today, lay on the higher ground to the north and west, and outside the flood plain formed by the confluence of the two rivers.

Silsoe, Land to the rear of 38 Newbury Lane
(TL 0778 3626)
David Hillelson

In order to determine the archaeological risk posed by an application to construct a new dwelling on land to the rear of 38 Newbury Lane a programme of archaeological evaluation was commissioned by the owners.

Despite the proximity of the site to a Scheduled Ancient Monument, consisting of two moated enclosures, no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were encountered during the course of the fieldwork.

MANSHEAD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Dunstable, Priory Middle School 2002 (TL021216)
R Hudspith

With the kind permission of Mr R Pepworth, Headmaster, the Society carried out an excavation in the school grounds between July and October 2002. Volunteers from the school also assisted with the excavation.

At the same time a resistivity survey was carried out across the adjacent playing field. The area of excavation was situated to the west of the school buildings close to former excavation sites at the school (Warren, 1994) and Wellington Terrace (Warren, 1993).

The former excavations in this area of the school grounds had revealed evidence of a partially cobbled roadway running parallel with High Street South. Finds from the surface of the track suggested usage into the early 19th century.

Map evidence (Ordnance Survey, 1925) shows that this area comprised small closes containing trees in the early 20th century.

The current excavation comprised an "L" shaped trench 9m x 5m with natural chalk at 0.3m DBS (Depth Below Surface) in the west of the trench sloping down to 0.4m DBS in the east.

The natural chalk was found to be full of hollows or tree root holes, containing a sterile orange fill with occasional flints. Residual Roman and medieval potsherds were found in the subsoil immediately above the chalk but not, generally, within the fill of the hollows, suggesting that some of these features were sealed below the Roman and medieval plough-soil and may represent woodland cleared in prehistory.

Various other features were found cut into the chalk, all probably late or post-medieval to 19th century in date.

Of these [06, 07, 09 and 12] were postholes (a bone handled knife was found with the post-hole packing in 12). Features 18 and 19 may have been pits. An enigmatic circular chalk feature [03/04] may have served as a post pad for a hay-rick. Evidence for the previously identified post-medieval trackway was observed with cart ruts (filled by peg tiles and flints) running northeast-southwest across the area of excavation.

An 18th century 'tongue' type horseshoe was found in one of the cart ruts.

References

Warren D, 1993, Wellington Terrace, *MAJ* No 32,5-10.

Warren D, 1994, Priory Middle School Excavation 1993, *MAJ* No 34, 1-6.

Dunstable, Priory Middle School 2003 (TL022218)

R Hudspith

With the kind permission of Mr K Scotchford, Headmaster, the Society carried out an excavation in the school grounds between July and September 2003.

The excavation was planned to tie in with the CBA's National Archaeology Day (July 19th) and involve volunteers from the school, who helped with trowelling, sieving and finds washing.

The excavation trench was dug in the north east corner of the playing field, close to previously excavated areas which contained Medieval and Roman features (Warren, 1993, 1994). On this occasion, the only identified feature cutting the natural chalk was a ditch/ pit/ tree throw [06/07] containing peg tile in the upper fill. A post-hole with peg tile and flint packing [03/04] was also found cut into the subsoil. Linear depressions in the chalk may indicate ploughing or cart ruts.

The finds from the topsoil and subsoil included c 19kg of peg tile fragments, modern, post-medieval, medieval, Roman and Iron Age potsherds and c 1.5kg of animal bone fragments.

Small finds included a trading token, a fob watch key and an iron arrowhead. Residual finds of late Iron Age pottery suggest domestic occupation nearby and that this area may have been cultivated in the later prehistoric period.

The area of excavation was situated only a few metres from medieval and Roman features which appear to represent the limits of Roman and medieval Dunstable in this part of the town; and suggest that at various times in the historic past this area was part of a cultivated field system.

References

Warren D, 1993, Wellington Terrace, *MAJ* No 32,5-10.

Warren D, 1994, Priory Middle School Excavation 1993, *MAJ* No 34, 1-6.

Dunstable, Grove House Gardens 2003 (TL018222)

R Hudspith

As part of Dunstable's History Week activities, the Society carried out further trial trenching at Grove House Gardens, with the kind permission of the Town Council. The purpose

of the excavation was to look for a continuation of features observed in 2002 (Warren, 2002).

Two Trenches (GHG/03/B/C) were dug by JCB then hand cleaned to natural chalk.

Much of the removed spoil was sieved for finds which included 6.6kg of peg tile fragments, as well as residual modern, post-medieval, medieval and Roman sherds. Small finds included an iron arrowhead, a 1770 farthing, a straw splitter (used in the hat trade) and corroded scissors.

In Trench C, several enigmatic features, possibly due to tree roots, or cultivation on the site, were identified cutting an ancient water channel or ditch. There were no finds associated with these features.

In Trench B there was further evidence of tree root holes and possible stake holes cutting the natural chalk. A 'rotten' chalk surface was identified covering much of the trench probably indicative of natural waterlogging or even trampling (puddling) by farm animals, but with no domestic finds to confirm the presence of a prehistoric hut floor.

Reference

Warren D, 2002, Grove House Gardens History Week Excavations May 2002, *MAJ* No 42, 1-4.

Dunstable, Victoria Allotments, West Street (TL014213)

R Hudspith

With the kind permission of Mr J Collop, allotment owner, the Society carried out a series of test pit excavations at Victoria Allotments during October 2002. A surface survey of the allotment in 2001 (Hudspith, 2002) indicated the archaeological potential of the site, with finds of worked and fire fractured flints, Iron Age, Roman and medieval potsherds.

The excavation area is situated in the southwest corner of Victoria Allotments, 300m from West Street. Six test pits (VAL02/A-F) were dug, planned and back-filled in one operation. No obvious archaeological features were identified, apart from tree root holes, which were filled and sealed by an orange silty clay deposit which contained no archaeological finds.

The late Iron Age, Roman and medieval potsherd finds were residual and probably indicate manuring scatters, perhaps from farmsteads alongside the Icknield Way. Amongst the Roman sherds were two samian fragments and sherds of imported Rhenish wares. The localised scatter of worked flints in Test Pit C, included several cores, a scraper and retouched flakes.

References

Hudspith R, 2002, Archaeological Work in Dunstable, 2001-2002, *MAJ* No 42, 4-10.

Dunstable, 184 West Street (TL013216)

R Hudspith

With the kind permission of Mr & Mrs L Evans a trial excavation (WSE/02) was carried out in the garden of 184 West Street. No archaeological features were identified during the excavation. Natural chalk was observed at 0.7m DBS. Finds were mainly of post medieval-modern material,

Bedfordshire

with a few residual Roman and medieval sherds suggesting manuring scatters, indicating that cultivation was the primary land use in this area of Dunstable.

Dunstable, 26 Burr Street (TL 01552158)

D A Warren

The site is close to known Roman and medieval features such as the Roman cemetery (Matthews, 1981 and Gardner, 2002); the 'Buttress trench' and cross-shaped features (Pain and Horne, 1998, Hudspith, 1991 and Gardner, 2002), both medieval, which continue beyond the western limits of excavations to date.

Two areas on this site in southwest Dunstable have been archaeologically cleared by the Society on behalf of Birch Corporation. Area A to the rear, ie, west end of the site and Area B on the street front. Stripping of both was done by JCB using a smooth bucket down to 2 – 5cm into solid natural chalk. Close observation of this part of the operation ensured that even small features were spotted as they were revealed.

In terms of 'older' archaeology, ie medieval and earlier, only three small medieval sherds (2 surface, 1 in a 19/20th century feature) were found, nothing else whatever, neither feature nor find except for two or three thickish clay pipe stem fragments (18th century) prior to the 19th century was noted.

Other than the robbed out base of a building in Area A, only two features F1 and F7 went more than 30cm into chalk. In Area B only one small and shallow feature apart from modern service trenches was present. It would appear that the entire site had at some time been stripped down to chalk with the soil being moved off site.

F1 lay in the southwest corner of Area A. About 50cm square, excavation showed it to be 49cm deep with a flat bottom. The fill was good clayey loam containing ten small fragments of pegtile, a scrap of iron, two tiny pieces of bone with the only dating evidence a very small sherd of blue under glaze transfer ware and a short section of 19th? century clay pipe stem. Clearly not a rubbish pit, it was most likely a garden feature, perhaps for a bush or ornamental tree.

F7 was a rectangular feature (long axis southwest-northeast) with a stepped north side to give a deeper slot (64cm) down to the south. There was also a shallow rectangular shelf adjoining the southwest end. Level with the top of the chalk along the edge of the northeast end and along both edges of the deeper section a thin line of rotted wood was recognised. Several forged and cut nails, some tile and a sherd of modern glazed pot indicate a fairly modern date, possibly late Victorian. Bearing in mind there was once probably around 60cm of soil over the top we may have the deep portion of a garden feature, eg a pond.

References

- Gardner R, 2002; Archaeological investigations at 24 Friary Field, Dunstable, Beds, *Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust Report*
Hudspith R, 1991; Excavation at Pond Cottage March to May 1990, *MAJ* No 31.

Matthews C L M, 1981: A Roman Cemetery at Dunstable. *BAJ* No 15.

Pain P & Horne B, 1998; Archaeological Investigations of the Religious Houses of Dunstable, *MAJ* 38.

Dunstable, Priory Church Lighting Scheme 2003

(TL021219)

D A Warren

This work was carried out at the request of the Church Commissioners with the permission of the Diocesan Church Council in advance of the installation of electric cables for external lighting units. Excavations revealed a feature of medieval date.

The evidence can be interpreted as a wall core ie part of the cloister layout of the pre-Dissolution Augustinian monastic establishment.

The excavations along the southern side of the church just picked up what is probably a medieval wall line associated with the cloister the bulk of the wall lying under the nearest box hedge. Apart from this both the holes and the north side trench were too shallow to meet any significant archaeology although the trench may have just begun to skim a more significant level. However, as it was unnecessary to go deeper it was not explored.

Dunstable, The Little Theatre, High Street South

(TL0215 2165)

D A Warren

This work was carried at the request of the Little Theatre group prior to the building of an extension to the south and rear of the site. Members of the Society were present during the excavation by hand (undertaken by the builders) of the foundation trenches. These revealed a feature of Roman date and others of post-medieval/19th century-Modern date.

The evidence can be interpreted as a Roman ditch with a suggestion of recuts. The main 19th century find is a well/pump.

Dunstable, An Interim Report on archaeological recording work carried out to the south of the Priory Church of St Peter, 2004 (TL 0213 2185)

R Hudspith

Observation and archaeological recording by the Society, following the removal of a hedge to the south of the Priory Church, has so far established the presence of features associated with the post-Dissolution demolition of monastic buildings on the site and to some extent confirmed the conjectural Priory plans of Worthington Smith.

Dunstable Town Council required the removal of an ornamental hedge to the south of Priory Church. As the site is a scheduled Ancient Monument (CM03), consent for the hedge removal by the Dunstable Town Council and archaeological recording by the Society was obtained from the Department for Culture, Media & Sport and English Heritage.

Sections of the hedge were removed and archaeological recording carried out in June 2004 as part of Dunstable's 'History Week' activities.

MUSEUM OF LONDON ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE

Compiled by Vincent Gardiner

Woburn, Woburn Safari Park (SP 96520 34870)

The ornamental hedge was removed by machine in c 20m sections (from the western end of the site) along a trench 1.5m wide to, as required, a depth of c 0.5m. Features were then cleaned by hand and recorded.

From the western end of the trench (adjacent to the footpath through the Priory gate) a series of spread surfaces was observed, comprising rammed Totternhoe Stone rubble [103] above a flint, pebble, tile and clay surface [104] appearing to date from the demolition of the Priory buildings. A localised spread of peg tile [107] may indicate the re-use of building material as interior flooring, perhaps in a barn or stables. Re-deposited Roman tile [108] and a medieval wall core of split flints [119] were also observed in the same area. The surfaces were seen to slope up to the east, with Totternhoe Stone and mortar deposits overlying and collapsed into the trench of an apparently robbed out wall foundation [110-114].

Some slight remains of a narrow, perhaps interior, wall with flint footings was observed aligned with the west front of the church [210-212]. Abutting this was a spread of rammed chalk and clunch [209] serving as a floor surface, probably the base of a robbed out tiled floor. A remnant of a pier base [208] was observed in association with the floor and this had been covered by a layer of clunch and tile following demolition. The floor abutted the remains of a partially robbed 1m wide wall footing [205-206] comprising layered clunch rubble set on split flints. To the east of this wall was a further large deposit of demolition material, comprising large fragments of rubble: chalk, Totternhoe Stone, flint and tile with mortar and loam [203]. This area was probably part of the cloisters and indicates that at this phase of the demolition much of the stone was unwanted. No undamaged ashlar has been found. Cutting the rubble deposit was a trench dated to the 19th century, perhaps a garden feature, or from stone retrieval on the site.

The observed features indicate that the Priory buildings were comprehensively demolished following the Dissolution. The lack of clay pipe stems from any contexts apart from topsoil suggests that the remains of the Priory buildings were, in the main, effectively sealed and landscaped during the 16th century.

Wall footings, observed during the excavation, were seen, to some extent, to coincide with the predicted location of the Prior's House and cloister walls published in conjectural plans by Worthington Smith in 1904.

Sewell, Maiden Bower hillfort (SP 996 224)

During 2003 the Society was given consent to carry out a resistivity survey of the area outside the rampart.

Further survey work is planned outside the environs of the Ancient Monument and a fuller report will be published later. However, it should be noted that the results show no break in the ditch for entrances. This was also noted by Dyer (1976) at Ravensburgh Castle.

Reference

Dyer J 1976; "Ravensburgh Castle, Herts" in *Hillforts*, Ed D W Harding, pp156

The site of the proposed elephant enclosure is close to the northern limit of Woburn Park, Bedfordshire. The site covers approximately 34.5ha within a large field to the west of the existing elephant enclosure. The field is currently in agricultural use and has recently been seeded for grass. The field is bounded to the north and south by plantations and to the east by one of the Safari Park roads, the proposed western boundary is the horizon line as viewed from the southeast corner of the field.

Following a detailed magnetometer survey an archaeological evaluation was carried out at the Safari Park. There was substantial evidence for prehistoric activity at the site. Cut features and a number of well-defined deep ditches were recorded. Prehistoric activity at the site appears to be focussed in and around the areas of higher ground, in the south-central parts of the site. Evidence for metalworking was also recorded. Pottery was recovered from the majority of the features recorded during the programme of trial trenching which dates the features to the Middle Iron Age. A programme of archaeological excavation has been confirmed and will be undertaken prior to any deep excavation of the site. The archaeological work is planned to take place in February of 2005. Work continues.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

Compiled by Pat Chapman

Flitton, St John the Baptist (SP 359 060)

Joe Prentice

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of a perimeter trench and associated soakaway drain trenches. This was carried out ahead of the insertion of a ventilation or 'French' drain, at the 15th century church of St John the Baptist, Flitton.

Much of the church's foundation was exposed, consisting primarily of ironstone blocks in a creamy mortar. At the west end of the south aisle under the buttress the foundation was wider than would have been expected. This masonry continued round to support the stair turret. The area by the north side of the tower was not disturbed due to the presence of modern cremations.

Great Barford Bypass (TL 159 554 - TL 102 513)

Simon Carlyle, Ben Pears, Ed Taylor and Tam Webster

A trial trench evaluation was carried out for JacobsGIBB, acting on behalf of the Highways Agency, along the proposed route of the Great Barford Bypass. The route extends from the Black Cat Roundabout on the A1 and runs

Bedfordshire

to the north and west of Great Barford, linking up at its western end to the A421 Bedford Southern Bypass near Water End.

The evaluation, combined with the results of an earlier desk-based assessment, with fieldwalking and geophysical surveys by NA (*SMA* 32 (2002), 9-10) and (*SMA* 34 (2004) 6) identified twelve key areas of archaeological interest along the proposed route of the bypass. These ranged in date from the early/middle Iron Age to the medieval period. The stretches of road corridor between these areas contained a dispersed pattern of archaeological remains dating from the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age to the post-medieval period, mainly field boundaries, drainage ditches and plough furrows.

Houghton Conquest, High Street (TL 045 241)

Jim Brown

Eight trial trenches were excavated at High Street, Houghton Conquest, on behalf of CgMs Consulting, as Part II of a two-stage archaeological assessment of the property. The site is arable farmland. A large pond was thought to be a former medieval moat associated with a manor. Trial excavations confirmed a medieval date for the moat and demonstrated that the infilled moat extended through the western portion of the site towards the High Street. Evidence for medieval domestic waste and associated settlement features lay inside the moated area. A late post-medieval building was identified towards the centre of the site.

Kempston, 1 King William Road (TL 0245 4739)

Anthony Maull and Adam Yates

Two trial trenches were excavated to the rear of 1 King William Road, Kempston on behalf of CgMs Consulting, prior to development. The principal feature, a linear ditch, possibly represented a former late Saxon rear boundary to properties fronting onto the High Street. The associated features, comprising two postholes, a pit and a large amorphous feature, defined limited activity within and to the rear of the plots. Evidence for considerable disturbance during the late 19th and early 20th centuries was visible in the western trench.

Luton, Butterfield Green (TL 1100 2500)

Jim Brown

A geophysical survey was carried out over 2.4ha of land at Butterfield Green, Luton. Anomalies suggesting rectilinear and possible sub-circular ditched enclosures indicating potential archaeological features were identified to the northern side of the proposed roundabout.

Marston Mortaine, Lower Shelton Road (SP 9954 4295)

Samantha Hepburn

A small excavation was undertaken on behalf of Dr Isabel M G Lisboa of Archaeologia Ltd, acting for Bellcross

Homes, ahead of residential development on land adjacent to 175 Lower Shelton Road, Marston Moretaine.

The earliest evidence for occupation was three small pits containing pottery dating to the middle Iron Age. The main activity on the site occurred during the medieval period, with the laying out of a single plot of land bounded by ditches. Within a short period of time the plot was subdivided. In the later medieval period this division was terraced and a building was constructed over the earlier boundary. This may have been a bake-house or kitchen building, possibly associated with the 16th century Shelton Manor. In the post-medieval period the earlier plots were amalgamated and a large ditch was dug defining the eastern boundary. Two large pits were connected to the ditch, perhaps for water management.

Old Warden, Swiss Gardens (TL 514244)

Joe Prentice

Excavation on behalf of Bedfordshire County Council was undertaken in the Swiss garden at Old Warden, within and around the remaining foundation walls that once supported the possible iron superstructure of the 19th century aviary. The current work revealed that there was no path to or around the aviary. No entrance was located and it is possible that access was gained over the top of the wall on the south-east side where a low bank abuts the brickwork level with the top of it. It is possible that the main frame for the aviary was not iron, but wood as there was no evidence of any frame supports.

Water End (TL 2102 5513)

Anthony Maull

A watching brief was carried out for Anglian Water Services Limited during the excavation of two temporary access roads for the re-routing of the present water pipeline at Water End, Bedfordshire. The new pipeline lies close to the western end of the A421 Great Barford Bypass.

The watching brief, combined with the results of an earlier desk-based assessment, fieldwalking, geophysical surveys and trial trench evaluation, identified archaeological features dating from the late Iron Age/Roman to post-medieval periods. The earliest feature from this stage of work, an east-west ditch dated to the late Iron Age/Roman period. However, due to the shallow depth of machine stripping, the majority of the features clearly related to medieval and post-medieval agricultural field boundaries, drainage ditches and plough furrows.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

Cardington, RAF Cardington (TL 0790 4720)

Steve Weaver

In June 2004 a field evaluation at RAF Cardington was carried out at the site. It was commissioned by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants (JSAC) on behalf of Bellway Homes. RAF Cardington is situated to the south of Bedford overlooking the valley of the River Great Ouse. The

proposed development site covers an area of approximately 46.75ha.

Evaluation trenching was initially targeted to examine those areas of the site identified within an earlier desk based assessment, prepared by JSAC in 2004, as having been subject to the least disturbance from its former use as a military air base. On this basis, three areas were identified for examination, Areas A, C and D.

Nineteen trenches were excavated within Area A. These revealed a limited number of undated archaeological features, predominantly characterised by surviving ditches considered likely to represent the remains of peripheral field systems. The recovery of a residual worked flint blade of Mesolithic/early Neolithic date also attests to occupation activity of this period within the general area of the site.

Seven trenches were excavated within Area C. These revealed high levels of modern disturbance. Only two undated features, comprising a ditch and pit were recorded in this area. The pit is considered to be of uncertain archaeological origin.

Eight trenches were excavated within Area D. These revealed evidence for moderate levels of modern disturbance, dumping deposits being shown to have in places sealed former topsoil horizons. A pair of parallel ditches of late Iron Age/Roman origin were recorded at the western extent of the area and a further pit-type feature of dubious archaeological origin being recorded at its centre.

The evaluation has demonstrated that a low level of surviving, below ground, archaeological activity is present within those areas of the development site defined as having experienced low levels of later modern disturbance. The overall emphasis of recorded features suggests they are linear in character, and the general lack of any associated artefactual material would suggest that they may represent evidence of more peripheral activity, possibly the surviving remnants of field systems of uncertain age. These may be associated with sites of direct settlement, cropmark and artefactual evidence for which is known/conjectured to exist immediately outside of the development area, both to its north, east and southwest.

The recorded archaeological remains in general are poorly preserved, having been shown to have been subject to both truncation through agricultural practices and modern disturbance. Such disturbance was shown to be more extensive over Areas C and D.

Dunstable, Ashton St Peters Lower School, Church street

(TL 0186 2220)

Mike Simms

On the 26th and 27th of January 2004 a field evaluation was undertaken at the site on behalf of Turley Associates Ltd. The evaluation produced evidence of a possible Roman pit and a significant period of activity from around the 11th-13th century indicative of domestic land use and possible quarrying. These features have survived within the site despite a considerable period of later post-medieval activity.

Buckinghamshire

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Luton, Youth house, St Mary's Road (TL 9600 2115)

Sarah Coles

Four evaluation trenches failed to reveal any archaeology.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES AND CONSULTANCY LTD

Aylesbury, Kingsbury (SP 8185 1386)

Jonathan Hunn

In the spring and early summer a watching brief on the refurbishment of Kingsbury Square in Aylesbury was undertaken. Although much of the work was superficial in character, the construction of a water feature required a greater depth of excavation. The northern part of this system was observed and this revealed the presence to two ash and cess filled pits. Neither of these pits contained dating evidence though their presence is likely to pre-date the development of the square in the medieval period.

Bletchley, Canal Footbridge, Stoke Road

(SP 8808 3242)

Alastair Hancock

In October an evaluation was undertaken on land adjacent to Stoke Road, Bletchley. The site was located c.1km to the south of the site of the Roman town of Magiovinium and immediately south of a field in which a number of Roman coins have been discovered. Four evaluation trenches were excavated and revealed no archaeological features or artefacts.

Cholesbury, Overburnts (SP 9309 0719)

Nick Crank

During September a watching brief was carried out on a site at Overburnts, Cholesbury. The watching brief was conducted during excavations for the foundations of an extension to an existing stable block. The work was required as the development is located within Cholesbury Camp, a large multivallate hill fort. No archaeological features were observed during the watching brief. However, an area of disturbed ground probably related to archaeological excavations conducted in 1932 was revealed, in addition to two modern service runs.

Cholesbury, Moat House (SP 929 071)

Jonathan Hunn

In the spring an enhanced watching brief was undertaken on an extension to the Moat House, Cholesbury. A preliminary

Buckinghamshire

trial trench along the course of one of the foundations, observation of the remainder and a soakway pit all appear to have been cut into undisturbed natural clay.

Emberton, 16 Olney Road (SP 8680 9320)

Alastair Hancock

In November a watching brief was carried out at 16 Olney Road, Emberton. A topsoil strip and excavation for the footings of a detached double garage were observed. A metalled pathway, a wall and two pits were discovered during the topsoil strip. Artefactual evidence indicated that these features were constructed during the 19th and 20th centuries, although an earlier date for the structural wall and one of the pits cannot be discounted.

Eythorpe, Beachendon Farm (SP 758 135)

Jonathan Hunn

During the early summer a watching brief was undertaken on a 19th century barn at Beachendon Farm, Eythorpe. The work recorded the state of the floor of the barn prior to it being removed and the character of the ground after the level had been reduced. This revealed the contemporary drainage pattern and two undated linear features, which possibly predated the barn.

Great Linford, Coopers Wharf (SP 8550 4250)

Joe Abrams and Bob Zeepvat

Between December 2003 and November 2004 a watching brief was maintained on the conversion for residential use of a former canal warehouse at Cooper's Wharf, Great Linford. The warehouse, which is of early 19th century date, was recorded at a basic level in order to place the watching brief findings in context. During the watching brief the original substantial footings for the warehouse were observed in all four footing trenches. The backfill of the canal basin was observed in footings on the eastern side of the early 19th century canal warehouse building. Observation of footing trenches for a garage to the west of the warehouse building did not reveal anything of archaeological significance.

Hanslope, Stocking Green Farm (SP 8014 4725)

Nigel Wilson

During August a watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of the footings on a plot off Long Street, Hanslope, prior to infill residential development. The shallow brick footings of a 19th century barn were observed. No evidence for earlier occupation of the site was identified.

Haversham, St Mary's Church (SP 827 427)

David Fell

In January and February a watching brief was undertaken at St Mary's Church, Haversham, during the development of a kitchen, vestry and disabled toilet. Associated service runs

to a septic tank were cut across the churchyard. Works in the churchyard did not reveal significant archaeological remains and articulated human burials were not disturbed. Parts of the footings of the tower and north wall were recorded. Disturbance within the church was minimal and allowed the opportunity to record the base of the walls of the tower and a pilaster at the west end of the north aisle.

Haversham, Hill Farm House (SP 8362 4367)

David Fell

In March an intensive watching brief was undertaken during the ground works for an extension at Hill Farm House, Haversham. The site is close to a Roman villa and the development had the potential to damage or destroy archaeological remains. The soil profile had been extensively disturbed, probably during the construction of Hill Farm House and its 19th century extension. The construction of a patio and other 20th century garden features and services contributed to the mixed nature of the soil. No Roman buildings or artefacts were observed and it is likely that the Roman building was centred to the north of Hill Farm House, on the site of Hill Farm.

Lavendon, 35 Castle Road (SP 9167 5385)

Nigel Wilson

During September and October a watching brief was undertaken at 35 Castle Road, during the excavation of footing trenches for the construction of a house and garage. The site lies within the historic area of Lavendon. No archaeologically significant features or deposits were identified.

Lavendon, 50 High Street (SP 9194 5347)

Nigel Wilson

In October a watching brief was undertaken at 50 High Street, Lavendon. The site was within the historic area of Lavendon, and it was considered possible that remains from the medieval or post medieval period could be uncovered. The watching brief focused on the levelling of the site in preparation for the construction of a new garage, greenhouse and workshop. No archaeologically significant features or deposits were identified.

Little Brickhill, Willow House (SP 9083 3264)

Nigel Wilson

During May a watching brief was undertaken at Willow House, Little Brickhill. The work was undertaken during the construction of an extension to the southeastern end of the house. Observations were made on topsoil stripping and the excavation of footing trenches, but no archaeological features or artefacts were observed.

Little Horwood, 2 Wood End (SP 793 307)

Bob Zeepvat

In September a record was made of a cottage at 2 Wood End, Little Horwood, prior to its demolition and replacement by a detached house. The two-storey nucleus of the cottage appeared to be of late 18th or 19th century origin, with 20th century extensions at its north and south ends. The south extension probably replaced an earlier structure, also incorporating the substantial chimney breast at its south end.

In November, following demolition of the cottage, a watching brief was maintained on groundworks for the construction of the new house. It demonstrated that the earlier parts of the cottage had been built on insubstantial footings, but did not reveal any features or finds of archaeological significance.

Milton Keynes, V4 Watling Street Reinforcement Main (SP 8029 3916 to SP 8098 3866)

David Fell and Nigel Wilson

In August and September the stripping of an easement for a reinforcement water main to the west of Kiln Farm was archaeologically monitored. The work was required as the water main ran parallel and to the immediate south-west of the Roman road now known as V4 Watling Street, and it was considered possible that remains associated with the road could be uncovered. The only ground disturbances revealed during the watching brief were a number of 19th or 20th century field drains and a modern service trench.

Milton Keynes, Site C, Snelshall West (SP 8295 3290)

Jonathan Hunn

In March a 'strip and sample' excavation was undertaken on Site C, Snelshall West, on the western margins of Milton Keynes. The removal of the topsoil revealed a uniform horizon of olive-brown clay. There was no evidence for the presence of ridge and furrow and only two small, undated features were noted on the extreme eastern edge of the development area. Apart from broken fragments of drainage tiles, no artefacts were noted. The lack of structural and artefactual evidence suggests that the area was never occupied or exploited in the past.

Milton Keynes, Hazeley Secondary School (SP 814 363)

Nigel Wilson

During July the first phase of an evaluation was carried out on the proposed site of Hazeley Secondary School. Following a geophysical survey, twenty-four 50m trenches were excavated. Many of the trenches contained evidence for modern drainage, and several also contained the truncated bases of medieval plough furrows. A few small, undated ditches were also revealed. The only area of potentially significant archaeology was located towards the southeastern corner of the site, where a small area contained

a concentration of 2nd and 3rd century Roman pottery and rubble. No evidence of associated features was discovered.

Newport Pagnell, Ironbridge Works (SP 8782 4377)

Nick Crank

In September a watching brief was carried out on a site at Ironbridge Works, Tickford Street, Newport Pagnell. The watching brief was conducted during excavations for a diversion of the mains sewer. No archaeological features were observed during the course of the watching brief. The area observed appeared to have been subject to considerable levelling as 19th/20th century made ground was observed to a depth of 1.5m overlying natural river terrace deposits. The natural strata observed appeared undisturbed by later intrusions.

Newport Pagnell, Moat Cottage, Caldecote (SP 8828 4234)

Nigel Wilson and Katie Pack

During March an evaluation was undertaken at Moat Cottage, in advance of an extension to the property. The site is located within a moated enclosure, possibly a medieval manor, and the evaluation trench cut across the north-western arm of the moat. The earliest fill of the moat contained Victorian material, suggesting that this segment of the moat had been kept clean until this period. No other features were encountered within the evaluation trench.

Newport Pagnell, Ironbridge Works (SP 8782 4377)

Nick Crank

In September a watching brief was carried out on a site at Ironbridge Works, Tickford Street, Newport Pagnell. The watching brief was conducted during excavations for a diversion of the mains sewer. No archaeological features were observed during the course of the watching brief. The area observed appeared to have been subject to considerable levelling as 19th/20th century made ground was observed to a depth of 1.5m overlying natural river terrace deposits. The natural strata observed appeared undisturbed by later intrusions.

Newport Pagnell, Caldecote Farm Cottage (SP 8805 4239)

Nick Crank

In October a watching brief was carried out on a site at Caldecote Farm Cottage, Willen Road, during the excavation of foundations for a kitchen extension and conservatory. No archaeological remains were observed.

Olney, 28 West Street (SP 8884 5164)

David Fell

In September an archaeological watching brief was undertaken at 28 West Street, Olney. The site lies within the historic core of Olney, in an area where there is also potential for Roman period remains. The excavation of

Buckinghamshire

footing trenches for an extension was monitored but no archaeological remains were observed. The area had been extensively disturbed, probably during the construction of the present house.

Padbury, Manor Farm (SP 7217 3086)

Nick Crank

In November an evaluation was undertaken on land at Manor Farm, Padbury. The site was located immediately to the south of the 13th century village church. A total of four machine-cut evaluation trenches were excavated revealing evidence of modern intrusive ground works and three earlier ditches. The three ditches were located toward the central area of the site and appeared to predate the extant 19th century and later farm buildings. It was impossible to securely date these ditches due to a paucity of artefactual evidence although the presence of a single medieval potsherd in the primary fill of one of these ditches indicated that it may have been in use between the 11th-15th centuries.

Penn, Rayners Cottage (SU 907 934)

Jonathan Hunn

In August a watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of foundation trenches for an extension of Rayners Cottage, Penn. A number of medieval and post-medieval pottery kilns are known in the area and the development had potential to disturb remains of the kilns. The excavation of the trenches was monitored, but no significant archaeological remains or artefacts were observed.

Shenley Dens to Oakhill Reinforcement Main (SP 8038 3690 – SP 8181 3626)

Nigel Wilson

In April 2004 a watching brief was maintained on the stripping of a water main easement from the Shenley Grounds Farm south-eastwards to the west end of H5 Portway. An independent study had identified the presence of buried archaeological features in the field to the immediate south of the farm, and a further possible enclosure had been identified to the east of Shenley Dens Farm. In the former area, the watching brief revealed no archaeological features. In the latter, two parallel ditches were found, orientated northwest to southeast and about 9.5m apart. Pottery from their fills has been dated to the early Iron Age.

Simpson, Poplars Farm (SP 8811 3627)

David Fell and Katie Pack

In May an evaluation of land adjacent to Poplars Farmhouse, Simpson was carried out. Four trenches were excavated. A single post-medieval north-south orientated ditch was found, sealed by the original topsoil horizon. It may have been a drainage ditch associated with post-medieval settlement in the vicinity of the site. Alternatively, as the ditch is parallel to the Grand Union

Canal, that runs north-south beyond the western site boundary, it may have been a drainage ditch along the eastern base of the canal embankment.

Wing, Mill Motors, Church Street (SP 8813 2258)

Jonathan Hunn

During the early spring an enhanced watching brief was carried out on a block of land to the rear of the former Mill Motors in Church Street, Wing. In practical terms this implemented a 'strip and record' procedure across more than fifty percent of the site. There was no evidence that the site had ever been directly settled in the past. The only feature observed, apart from two modern waste dumps, was a post-medieval boundary slot. No artefacts were identified predating the 19th century.

CHESSE VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY FIELD GROUP

Earthwork Enclosure SMR (5680) in Common Wood, Tylers Green and Penn (SU912948)

Introduction

Chess Valley Archaeological and Historical Society Field Group are undertaking surveys and excavations of an earthwork enclosure situated in Common Wood, at the invitation of the Penn and Tylers Green Residents Society. The main topographic feature is a broad ridge of Cretaceous 'Upper Chalk' rising to 165m, capped by 'Clay with Flints'. The site lies on the summit plateau in moderately dense deciduous woodland. For more than 1000 years, Common Wood formed the southern part of 4000 acres of common land called Wycombe Heath or Holmer Heath.

Nine similar earthwork enclosures in Chiltern woodland are known (Pike, 1995) at altitudes between 155-190m and average size is 150m x 75m. Some have subsidiary enclosures, and in a small number of cases surface finds of either medieval pottery or iron slag have been recorded. One site, Pulpit Hill at Great Kimble, has been interpreted as Iron Age (Barker, 2001) but most sites have not been excavated and their function remains conjectural.

Topographic survey

Because of the difficulties associated with visibility in woodland the survey was confined to mapping the extent of the bank and ditch and their structural features. The preliminary survey data show that the enclosure is roughly 'D' shaped (Fig 1) with an inner ditch and external bank. The bank 1.5-3m high but the breadth (5-8m) indicates that it was probably much higher when first constructed. Overall the earthwork is about 170m north-south and 110m east-west at its widest point and encloses roughly 1.5ha (3.7acres). Three entrances A to C (Fig 1) were found, none of which are used today. Entrance B, on the south side of the enclosure, is wide and level flanked on its west side by a significant bank, notably higher than elsewhere, and angled at about 45° away from the line of the circuit bank. Entrance A lies to the west and Entrance C, in the south west, enters through a dip in the bank and leads to a large dew pond.

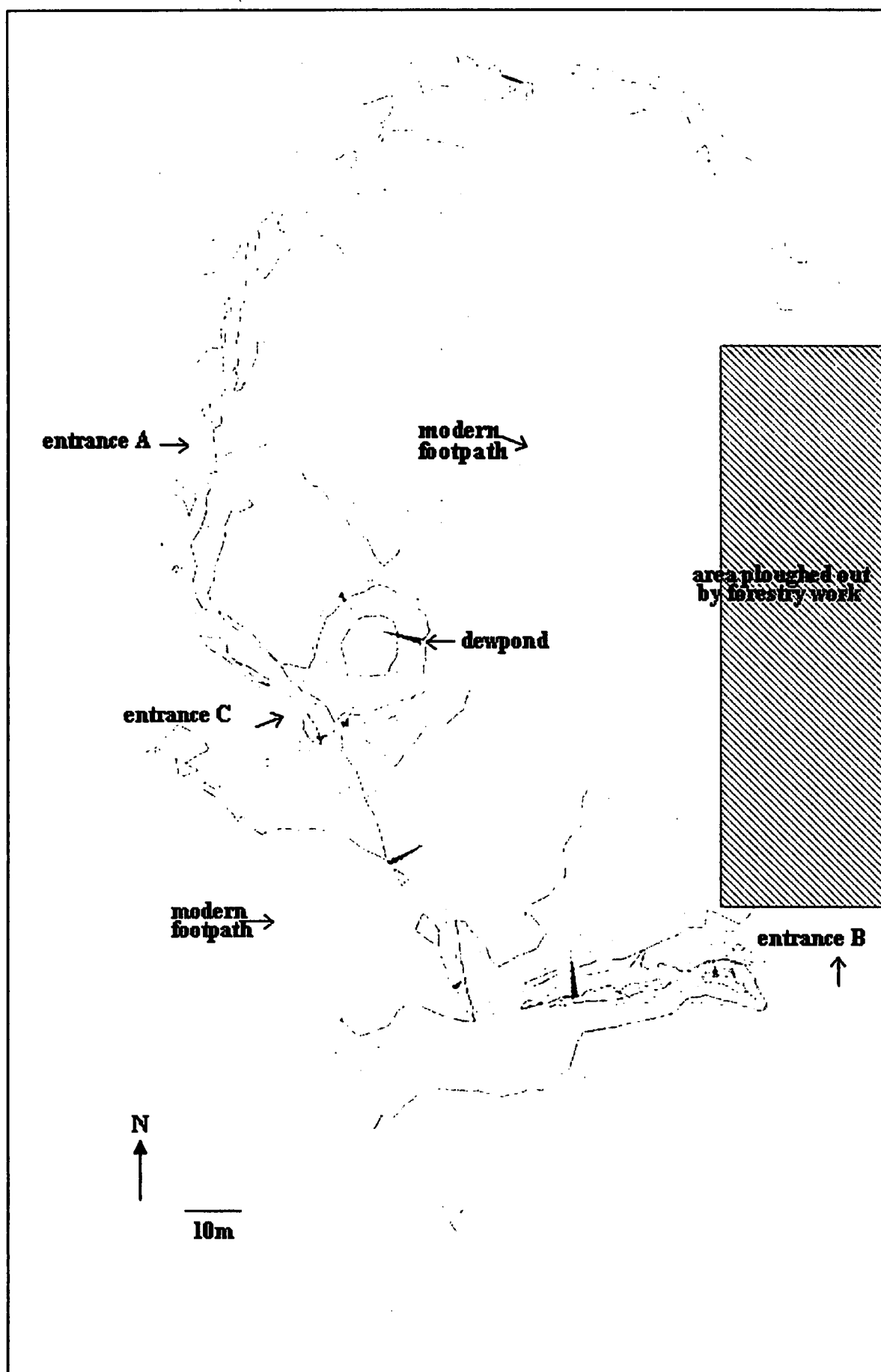


Fig 1. Earthwork Enclosure SMR (5680) in Common Wood, Tylers Green and Penn (SU912948)

Buckinghamshire

Examination of aerial photographs show that the eastern edge of the enclosure was lost to forestry work in the 1940s

Excavation

Our programme of excavation started in 2004 at Entrance A, a level causeway 6-7m wide, crossing a ditch. Our objective was to determine whether the causeway construction was contemporary with the enclosure and, if not, when was it built?

One trench was cut into the north side of the causeway, down to and through the level of the contiguous ditch surface. A second trench was cut to expose the full sequence of ditch deposits. Cutting back the causeway wall showed that the ditch deposits continued beneath the body of the causeway and retained a profile very similar to that in the ditch trench. These findings show that the causeway was laid subsequent to the construction of the enclosure. Large flat flint nodules comprised the lowest level of the causeway and were presumably placed there, to provide footings. A metal button found at the junction between the causeway material and the upper surface of the ditch deposits was identified as 'Georgian', 1714-1830, and provided an approximate date for the construction of Entrance A.

The ditch trench was dug to natural subsoil at a depth of c 60cm. Where the bank slope met the ditch, the bank material was interdigitated with organic rich layers of ditch fill suggesting alternating periods of ditch flooding and bank slumping. The lower levels of ditch fill included green-grey material, which could indicate cess deposition or decomposition of natural vegetation in waterlogged conditions. Large smooth pebbles and flints were also a feature of the lowest ditch fill levels and may have been deliberately placed in the ditch bottom, to improve drainage or to provide stepping stones. No artefacts or animal remains were found in the ditch sediments, with the exception of a few debitage flakes of uncertain age. pH measurements revealed a relatively acidic environment and explained the absence of shell and bone.

Conclusions

The 2004 work has established a ground plan for the enclosure and showed that it is one of the largest in the Chilterns. However evidence of its date or original purpose is still needed. Excavation at Entrance A has shown that the enclosure was put to a second use, 150 to 300 years ago, perhaps at the time when Common Wood was intensively exploited as woodland. In 2005 we plan to excavate in the region of Entrance B, which we believe is contemporary with the construction of the enclosure. Finds from a preliminary test pit and metal detecting in this region have yielded Romano-British artefacts.

References

Barker L (2001) Pulpit Hill Great and Little Kimble Buckinghamshire. Iron Age Hillfort. *English Heritage Survey Report A1/16/2001* (unpublished)

Pike A (1995) Earthwork enclosures in the Buckinghamshire Chilterns. in *Chiltern Archaeology Recent Work. A Handbook for the Next Decade*. Ed. Holgate R

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

Aston Clinton, Buckland Wharf Pipeline

(SP 887117 – SP 897113)

Mike Houghton

A watching brief was conducted during the stripping of the easement for the construction of approximately 1km of water main. Five ditches were found in the area north of the Wendover Arm of the Grand Union Canal. At least four of the features are considered to be of post-medieval date while the other may be of Iron Age origins. Residual sherds of Romano-British pottery were also recovered.

Bierton with Broughton, Bierton House, Aylesbury Road (SP 8366 1542)

Roy Entwistle

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Bierton House. The work consisted of two machine excavated trenches located across the footprint of a proposed new dwelling and a garage. Aside from two rubbish pits of 19th or 20th century date, the only other feature of archaeological interest was a shallow ditch crossing the site of the proposed garage. The ditch produced a small mixed period assemblage comprising sherds of late Bronze Age and Roman pottery, as well as plain body sherds of Iron Age or Saxon date. Though the evidence is slight, the pottery may represent activity peripheral to the main focus of late prehistoric, Roman and Saxon settlement, which is believed to lie to the south of the evaluation site.

Bledlow cum Saunderton, Manor Farm Barns

(SP 7766 0216)

Maggie Henderson

An archaeological watching brief was maintained during ground-works at Manor Farm Barns, Bledlow. The groundworks comprised new drainage and man-holes associated with the conversion of the 19th century farm buildings on the site. In addition to this, a degree of ground reduction in the farm yard was also carried out, under archaeological supervision. A number of un-dated ditches were located in the yard and also within the drainage ditch sections, together with the remains of a narrow wall of chalk construction. Adjacent to the farmhouse, the remains of a substantial backfilled quarry pit was also observed. All features on the site were subject to a high degree of truncation associated with the farm development over time.

Bledlow cum Saunderton, Cherrymead, Bledlow Road

(SP 7985 0222)

Maggie Henderson

A watching brief during work for an extension found an undated pit and ditch.

Cuddington, Cowley Farm, Aylesbury Road
(SP 7545 1173)
John Moore

An archaeological evaluation found the site to partly overlie an infilled valley caused by spring sapping. The only archaeological feature found was the butt end of a ditch lying on the extreme south edge of the application area. This ditch is considered to be a field boundary relating to the known Roman occupation to the south. Prehistoric finds were retrieved from colluvial deposits and appear to be part of a general use of the area between Dinton Castle and Cowley Farm during the prehistoric period.

Dorton, Ashfold School (SP 6784 1390)
John Moore

An archaeological evaluation was carried out as part of a consideration of a planning application for the construction of a single storey prep school. The site lies immediately to the south-west of the Church of St John the Baptist. The majority of the area had been truncated by landscaping. Remnants of ridge and furrow are present in an adjacent field. Pottery recovered from a trench here indicates manuring of the field from the later medieval period through to around the 16th century.

Long Crendon, Game Keep, High Street (SP 6988 0897)
John Moore

An archaeological watching brief was maintained during ground-works for a new garage. A stone-built wall foundation was partly exposed and probably relates to a short stretch of wall seen during the construction of Game Keep. The lack of finds and surfaces suggests that the footprint of the new garage is external to a building which must be mostly situated under the house of Game Keep. This building may well be the structure shown on the 1880 Ordnance Survey map.

Previously medieval finds including a wall, 14th-15th century pottery and iron bloomery cinder, possibly from the working floor of a bloomery were found during the construction of 'Game Keep'.

Long Crendon, rear of 25 High Street (SP 6961 0888)
Diccon Hart

Three hand-dug test pits were excavated across the proposed development area. Two potential late medieval pits were seen to cut directly into natural geology and a further two post-medieval pits were seen to cut into a truncated layer of subsoil. A further undated pit was also noted. All features seemed to be concentrated towards the southern half of the site close to the frontage with Burts Lane. All were heavily truncated by subsequent horticultural activity or activity associated with the construction and demolition of a small cottage fronting Burts Lane, the remains of which can still be seen today.

Long Crendon, The Manor, High Street (SP 6987 0902)
Roy Entwistle

No remains if interest were present in the area of a new conservatory.

Ludgershall, adjacent Brooklands Farm, Wotton End
(SP 6654 1716)
John Moore

An archaeological evaluation was carried out as part of a consideration of a planning application for the construction of a detached house and garaging with an access track. The site was considered to lie within the envelope of the medieval village of Ludgershall. The evaluation comprised the excavation of two trenches; one within the present paddock and the other in the field to the south where an access track is proposed.

A quantity of medieval pottery of most probably 13th-14th century date was found in the trench within the paddock. Aerial photographs indicate ploughed out ridge and furrow in the paddock although no traces were found. The trench in the field to the south sectioned the extant ridge and furrow and found an underlying earlier layout of strips.

Princes Risborough, St Mary's Church, Church Street
(SU 8059 0350)
John Moore

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at St Mary's Church. The work consisted of a machine-excavated trench located to the north of the church in the area of a proposed new extension. Eight undated inhumations and graves were located at a depth of between 770 and 1050mm below modern ground level.

MUSEUM OF LONDON ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE

Denham, Sanderson Site, Oxford Road
(TQ 05425 85095)
Craig Halsey

The ground interventions to the north of the site noted deposits similar to those recorded during an evaluation in 2002, but again no in situ archaeology was found. However, during a watching brief carried out on the route of a flood relief channel to the south of the site, a dense scatter of over 3,000 worked flints and associated animal bone was uncovered. The occupation surface occurred on a gravel ridge and clay hollow, which had been formed by an Early Holocene channel, and then become a dry land surface once the channel had migrated. The scatter consisted of preparation cores, microliths, burins and blades indicative of an Early Mesolithic date of around 7,000BC. The focus for the scatter appears to have been a hearth represented by the scorching of the underlying natural gravels. Sites of this period are rare in the London area, and the discovery of a new Mesolithic flint scatter will complement the

Buckinghamshire

discoveries from Three Ways Wharf, and the prehistoric period of the Colne Valley in general.

The site's significance lies not only in the in situ archaeology, but also in the palaeoenvironmental resource available from the site. The site contains deposits which represent the fluctuating climatic conditions taking place between the Late Devensian and Early Holocene, some 15,000 to 11,000 years ago. At this time the landscape underwent rapid changes from cold tundra conditions to warmer periods similar to today. These deposits therefore allow an opportunity to place the human occupation at Three Ways Wharf and Sanderson's site into a picture of the evolving landscape, which may have influenced the subsistence patterns and technological changes taking place during the transition between the Upper Palaeolithic and Early Mesolithic.

NATIONAL TRUST

Gary Marshall, Thames and Solent Region Archaeologist

(See also descriptions by Northamptonshire Archaeology for archaeological recording undertaken at Stowe Gardens, Hughenden Manor, Ellesborough, Coombe Hill and Waddesdon Manor)

The Kings Head, Aylesbury (SP 81901380)

The Kings Head in Aylesbury still functions as an Inn and the earliest parts are thought to date from the mid 15th century. The buildings were assessed for their suitability for dendrochronology dating by Martin Bridges of the Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory. Unfortunately most of the timbers were considered to be unsuitable for dating. Samples were taken from the roof of the stable block opposite the main entrance but these unfortunately failed to date.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

Compiled by Pat Chapman

Ellesborough, Coombe Hill (SP 8487 0673)

David Leigh

The excavation of a grave-sized pit, measuring 2.30m by 0.90m, required as part of a media project due to be filmed on Coombe Hill, Ellesborough was excavated on behalf of the National Trust.

The pit was excavated down to the level of the natural chalk at 0.23m and the stratigraphy above comprised a grey/brown silty loam with numerous chalk and flint fragments along with small fragments of modern corroded iron and glass sherds. No pre-modern archaeological deposits were encountered and no artefacts were present.

Hughenden Manor, Church of St Michael and All Angels (SU 8644 9553)

David Leigh

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on behalf of the National Trust during the extension and improvement of the car park at The Church of St Michael and All Angels, Hughenden Manor. No archaeological deposits were present and no artefacts were recovered.

Little Horwood, Pond Farm (SP 792 306)

Jim Brown

A trial trench was excavated at Pond Farm, 1 Wood End, Little Horwood, on behalf of Professor Ken Barclay in response to proposed residential development on the land. The application area was confined to the garden features, trees and lawn south of Pond Farm. Archaeological features comprised the former property boundary bank and a small 19th century pit. No features or deposits of earlier date were found during this evaluation.

Milton Keynes, Castlethorpe, 7b North Street (SP 7983 4447)

Tim Upson-Smith

A watching brief was carried out during the groundworks for an extension on the western side of 'Laverock', 7b North Street, Castlethorpe. The site is located within the outer bailey of Castlethorpe Castle, a scheduled ancient monument (SAM 19080). The groundworks exposed a section of the infilled castle moat running at an oblique angle. The pottery from the fill of the moat indicates that the feature was filling up in the 19th century when the site was occupied by allotments, and in the 20th century when the ground was landscaped for the construction of the present house in 1961.

Milton Keynes, Denbigh

(SP 487240 234880) and (SP 487020 234980)

Ailsa Westgarth

Trial excavations were carried out at Denbigh on behalf of John Samuels Archaeological Consultants acting for Ikea and Asda. Seven trenches were excavated, but no archaeological features were present within the development areas.

Milton Keynes, Haversham, Hill Farm (SP 837437)

David Leigh

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the conversion of agricultural buildings into residential accommodation at Hill Farm, Haversham. This followed a small excavation by NA in 2003 (SMA 34 (2004), 25). During the course of the watching brief a number of features of Romano-British date were identified and sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered. A single undated stone-lined well was also recorded.

Milton Keynes, Tattenhoe Park (SP 824 332)

Jim Brown

An archaeological evaluation for EDAW acting on behalf of English Partnerships was carried out on land at Tattenhoe Park. The work comprised geophysical survey (magnetic susceptibility and gradiometer survey) followed by trial trenching. Two principal areas of archaeological activity were identified, an Iron Age site and a post-medieval farmstead. Elsewhere, there was evidence for sporadic Iron Age and Roman activity and medieval and post-medieval ridge and furrow.

Stowe Landscape Gardens (SP 674 383)

Anthony Maull, Joe Prentice, Andy Chapman, Danny McAree

Work has been carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of the National Trust, as part of their ongoing programme to restore and repair the monuments and landscape (SMA 34 (2004), 25).

Buckingham Lodges

Excavation at two 19th century classical lodges at the southern end of the Grand Avenue revealed traces of a former cobbled surface in addition to traces of two gravel paths. Two of the three features are detailed on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1881, to the north and south of the lodges. The trenches to the north of the lodges also revealed evidence for later landscaping, in which major levelling resulted in the truncation of the original ground surface and the loss of the upper surfaces of both construction trenches.

Corinthian Arch

Excavation at the 18th century Corinthian Arch revealed evidence for a road surface, formerly the Queen's Drive, to the north and south of the arch, as shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1881. The former ground surface either side of two 19th century wing walls was also revealed. However, no evidence was uncovered for a former path on the east side of the arch, which was also on the 1st edition OS map.

Eleven Acre and Octagon Lake

A watching brief was carried out while National Trust garden staff excavated shallow trenches across the lines of historic paths to the south of the Eleven Acre and Octagon lakes linking them to the 1731 Hermitage. The uncovered paths varied in construction. Those to the south of the Eleven Acre Lake comprised carefully constructed sub-bases with a limestone and cobble edging and a rubble infill topped by gravel. Slightly sunken, probably grass, paths were also identified by the garden staff and were found to relate to layouts depicted on maps of the estate. To the south of the Octagon Lake the paths were simply gravel with no discernible sub-base or edging.

Grotto

A survey and excavation was carried out at the Grotto, built in the 1730s, to investigate the surviving components of the hydrological system supplying water to the interior of the building. The interior rear (north) wall was recorded along with the basin and culvert which held and then dispersed the water into the head of the Alder River. This part of the system was linked to previously un-recorded lead pipe which was uncovered by excavation behind the structure, and this in turn was linked to a topographic survey which recorded the profile of the southern section of the Grecian valley. The source which supplied the water to the Grotto has still not been established.

Wolfe's Obelisk

Prior to the restoration of the upper section of Wolfe's Obelisk in 1784, trenches were excavated for the erection of a large scaffold tower around the structure. The trenches revealed that the low mound on which the obelisk appeared to sit had in fact been created by mounding soil against the foundations of the structure, almost certainly after it was finished. During the removal of the upper part of the obelisk a quantity of re-used stonework was discovered. Before its re-instatement the stonework was recorded by a drawn record. The stonework is likely to have come from former buildings located in the grounds, but it is unclear from which monuments they derive, apart from two rusticated pieces which may have been part of the Guglio located in the Octagon Lake.

Waddesdon Manor (SP 7353 1645)

Anthony Maull

An evaluation, commissioned by the National Trust, was carried out on the gardens at Waddesdon Manor, a Grade I listed Renaissance-style chateau constructed between 1874 and 1889 for Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild. The work on the site of the Frog fountain was to characterise the late 19th century archaeological potential of garden features. The excavation uncovered a series of concrete features, brick wall, piers and made ground overlying the natural chalk in the area encompassed by the lower garden terrace. Some of the features possibly relate to the 1886-87 designs of the French architect Gabriel-Hippolyte Destailleur.

Wolverton, Wolverton Mill, Great Monks Street

(SP 802 409)

Alex Thorne

An archaeological excavation was carried out on land adjacent to the former Post Office Training Establishment at Wolverton Mill, in advance of a housing development by Bloor Homes (Fig **).

Evidence for prehistoric settlement comprised a small Neolithic/Bronze Age flint assemblage, and a small quantity of Roman coinage, pottery and tile may originate from manure scatters.

Two early-middle Saxon Grubenhäuser were superseded by a large ditched enclosure, which was remodelled several times. Two associated field systems and other isolated

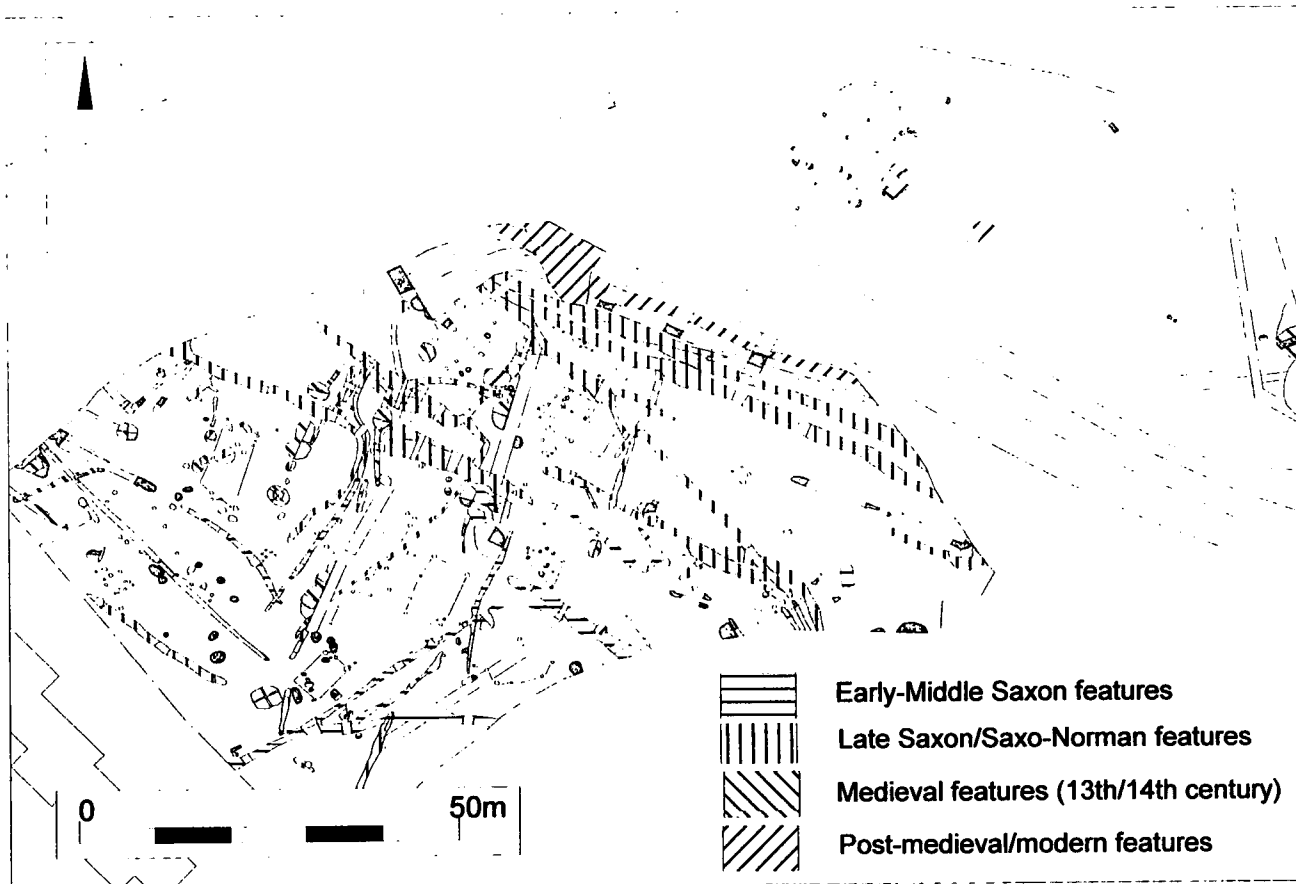


Fig 2. Wolverton Mill. Site plan.

early-middle Saxon features included several potential structures and cess pits.

In the late Saxon/Saxo-Norman period a series of boundary ditches enclosing small plots were established. Some plots contained small post-built timber buildings and there were also associated pits, a well, cess pits and a malting or drying oven. One pit contained a smith's hoard of iron spears, nails and some slag, as well as remains of three lava querns and two bone combs. These plots appear to have lain at the margin of the settlement and the coincidence of the boundaries spanning the late Saxon to post-medieval periods along the southern side of the track that bisects the site, shows that the late Saxon plots lay at the origin of the layout of a village plan that has partially survived to the present day.

During the 13th – 14th centuries, there was continuity of the major boundary systems, although the minor sub-divisions were modified. Several large rubbish pits are presumably related to occupation of buildings within the medieval village, now deserted, which lay to the north of the excavations.

In the post-medieval period a series of boundary ditches were dug, close to the current boundary and footpath between the main site and northern field, marking the continuity of the footpath. Some quarrying took place in the north field in the 17th-19th century.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

Bow Brickhill near Fenny Stratford, Belvedere Nurseries (SP 8874 3395)

Jon. Hiller

In December 2004 an archaeological field evaluation was undertaken at the site. The work was carried out on behalf of Dobbies Garden Centres Plc. in advance of new planning proposals for a garden centre at the site. The evaluation followed on from previous archaeological investigations of the site, including geo-physical survey, trenched evaluation and an extended watching brief in respect of an earlier planning application here and a desk-based assessment of the area surrounding the development. The present evaluation took place to the north and east of previous archaeological works, incorporating an area of land belonging to Dropshort Farm. The trenches revealed systems of field ditches and possible domestic rubbish pits in the south and east of the evaluated area and evidence in the form of large irregular shaped pits for possible gravel quarrying. Ditches were revealed in the area of land belonging to Dropshort Farm. All of these features can be assigned to the early Roman period (1st-2nd centuries AD) on ceramic grounds. There was no further evidence of the Roman inhumation cemetery previously located alongside Watling Street, suggesting that it may not have extended further to the north and east than previously defined. A post-medieval boundary ditch ran across the northern part of the proposed development area. To the north and north-west of the site under consideration for development, very little archaeological activity was found.

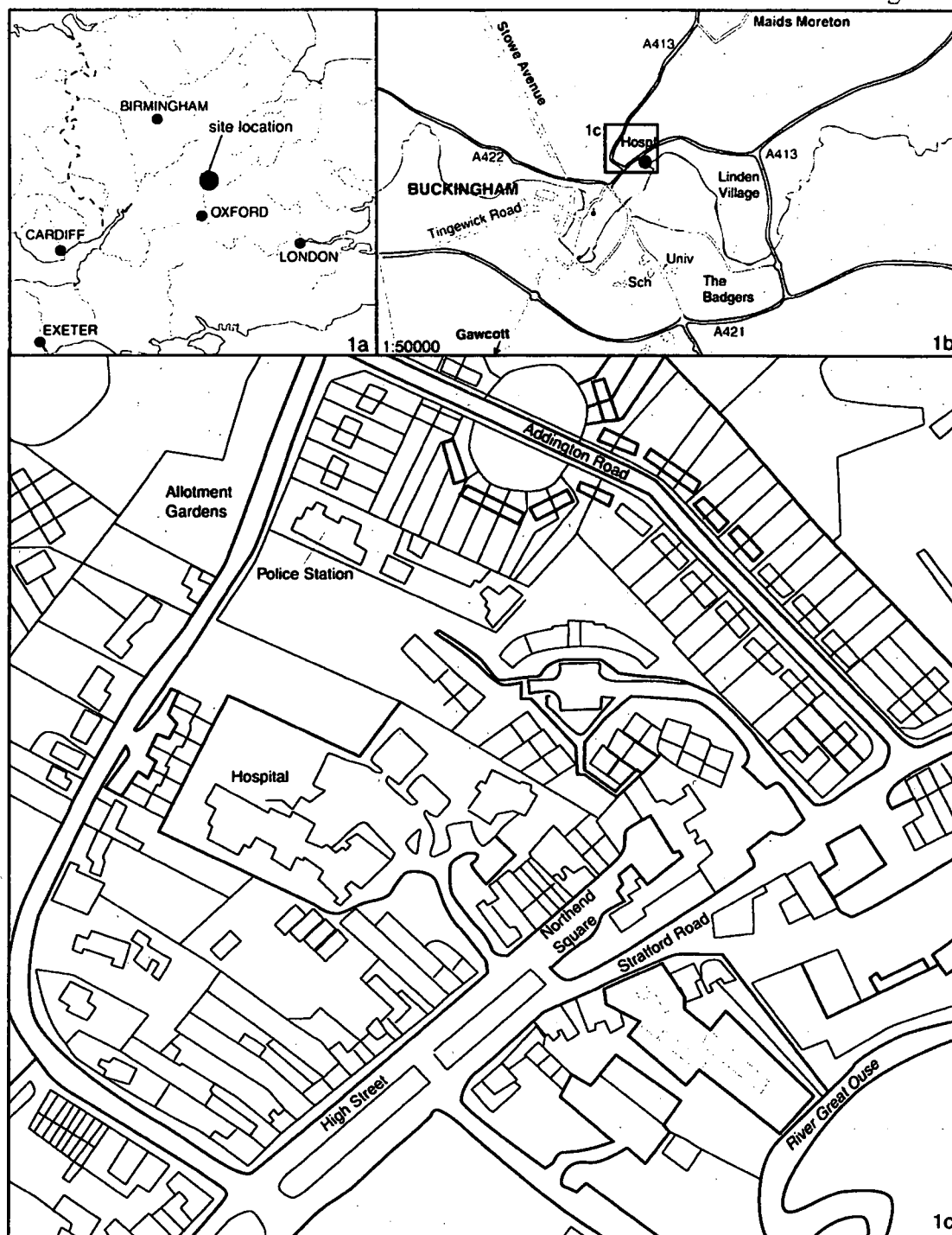


Fig 3. Stratford House, Stratford Road, Buckingham. Location map.

Buckingham, 12-18 Stratford Road (SP 698 342)
Mike Simms.

On 14th February 2005 a field evaluation was undertaken at the site on behalf of MOH Properties Ltd prior to construction of a new dwelling. The evaluation revealed two phases of post-medieval roadside culverts and substantial deposits of 18th century garden soils. No significant archaeology was observed.

Buckingham, Stratford House, Stratford Road
Emily Edwards

Archaeological work was carried out at Stratford House from March 2002 to November 2003. The evaluation revealed both medieval occupation pits dating from the 11th to the 13th century and a 17th century boundary ditch. The pottery recovered from these features included no sherds dating from the 14th century to the 16th century.

Buckingham was an important centre in the late Anglo-Saxon period, being a fortified, double-borough county town and location of the Minster church. This burgh was created in AD 915 by Edward the Elder. Clarke (Clarke

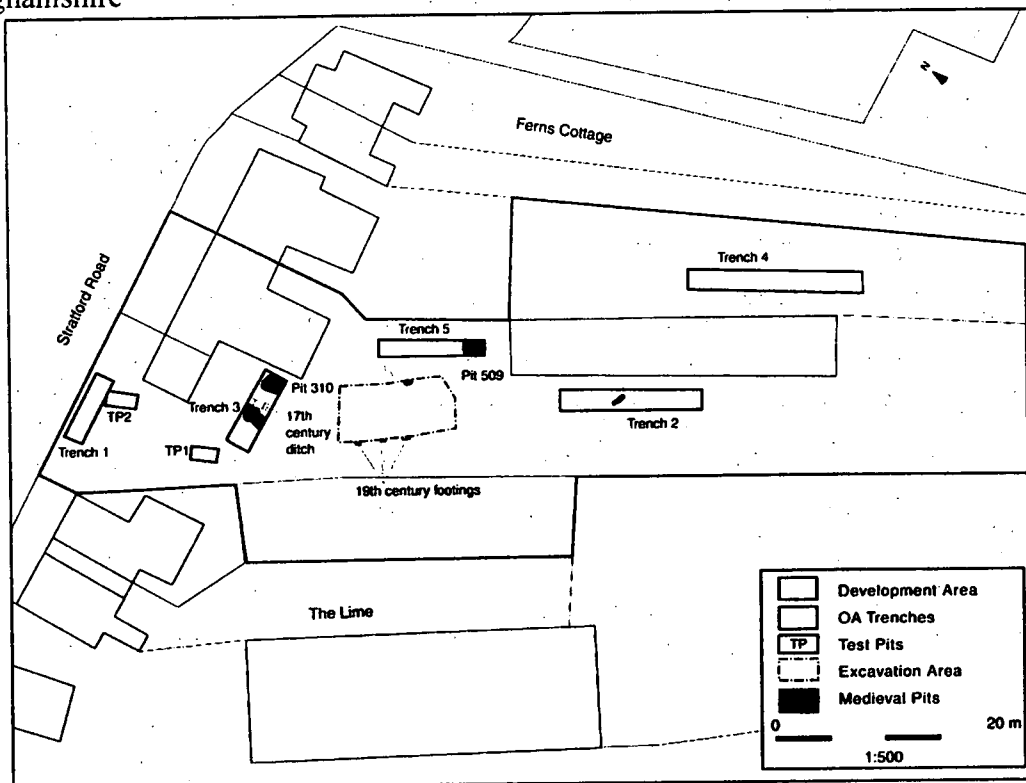


Fig 4. Stratford House, Stratford Road, Buckingham. Site plan.

1984, 35) suggests that the town expanded considerably during the 13th century and Lipscombe notes that the town's prosperity was closely linked to the developing wool trade from the early 14th century (1847, 559). It was during the 13th century that the castle and a chapel were built (Vernon and Bonner 1969, 22), which suggests some degree of central control over the expansion.

Although late Anglo-Saxon activity has been noted, the site lies to the north-east of the defences and may therefore have been situated outside the limit of the original Saxon town. Early 17th century and late 18th century map evidence also shows an absence of buildings on the site. It does, however, lie within a close that fronts onto the end of the market place, which could have been occupied during planned urban expansion between the 11th and 13th centuries. This site, otherwise, appears to have been situated on the fringes of Buckingham until 19th century expansion, which is reflected in results of this fieldwork.

Five trenches were located to the rear and front of the area of proposed new development whilst a larger trench was placed on the slot for the driveway. A large excavation area was located over the proposed footing of the new building. Trenches one and four contained no archaeological features.

The evaluation results showed a scatter of medieval domestic features, dated by stratigraphy and by the 11th to 13th century pottery recovered from their fills. One pit was identified in Trench 2, three pits were identified in Trench 3 and one pit in Trench 5. In addition, two pits and two postholes were noted within the excavation area, although all (with the exception of one) were visible only in section. Some of these features were large, although the number of finds recovered was low. The highest sherd count was from Pit 310, which contained 41 sherds of 13th century pottery.

Animal bones recovered included pig, sheep and cattle bones. No subsequent activity is evident until the division of plots fronting Stratford Road in the 17th century, as indicated by the north-south ditch in Trench 3. Contemporary domestic activity is suggested by pits in Trenches 3 and 5 (not shown in Trench 5). Garden soils dating to the 19th century lie over these features, including the remains of footings for a 19th or 20th century barn. These later features contained finds such as ceramic tobacco pipes, pottery, animal bone including an animal bone whistle and ceramic building material.

It would appear that this site is situated in an area which was marginal to the town of Buckingham up until the 19th century. The 17th and 18th century features may relate to gardens, orchards, stockyards and small areas of grazing or pasture situated between the arable open fields and the town. The activity during the medieval period appears to correlate with the expansion of the town during this period. The lack of evidence for later medieval activity appears to be consistent with the contraction of the town before the outbreak of the Black Death in the 14th century; this may have been linked to economic decline following the decline of the wool trade.

Clarke, J 1984; *The Book of Buckingham*, Buckingham

Lipscombe, G 1847; *The History and Antiquity of the Town and Country of Buckingham*, Buckingham

Page, W 1925; *The Victoria History of the County Of Buckingham*, 3, 471-489

Vernon, M T and Bonner, D C 1969; *Buckingham: A History of a County Market Town*, Buckingham.

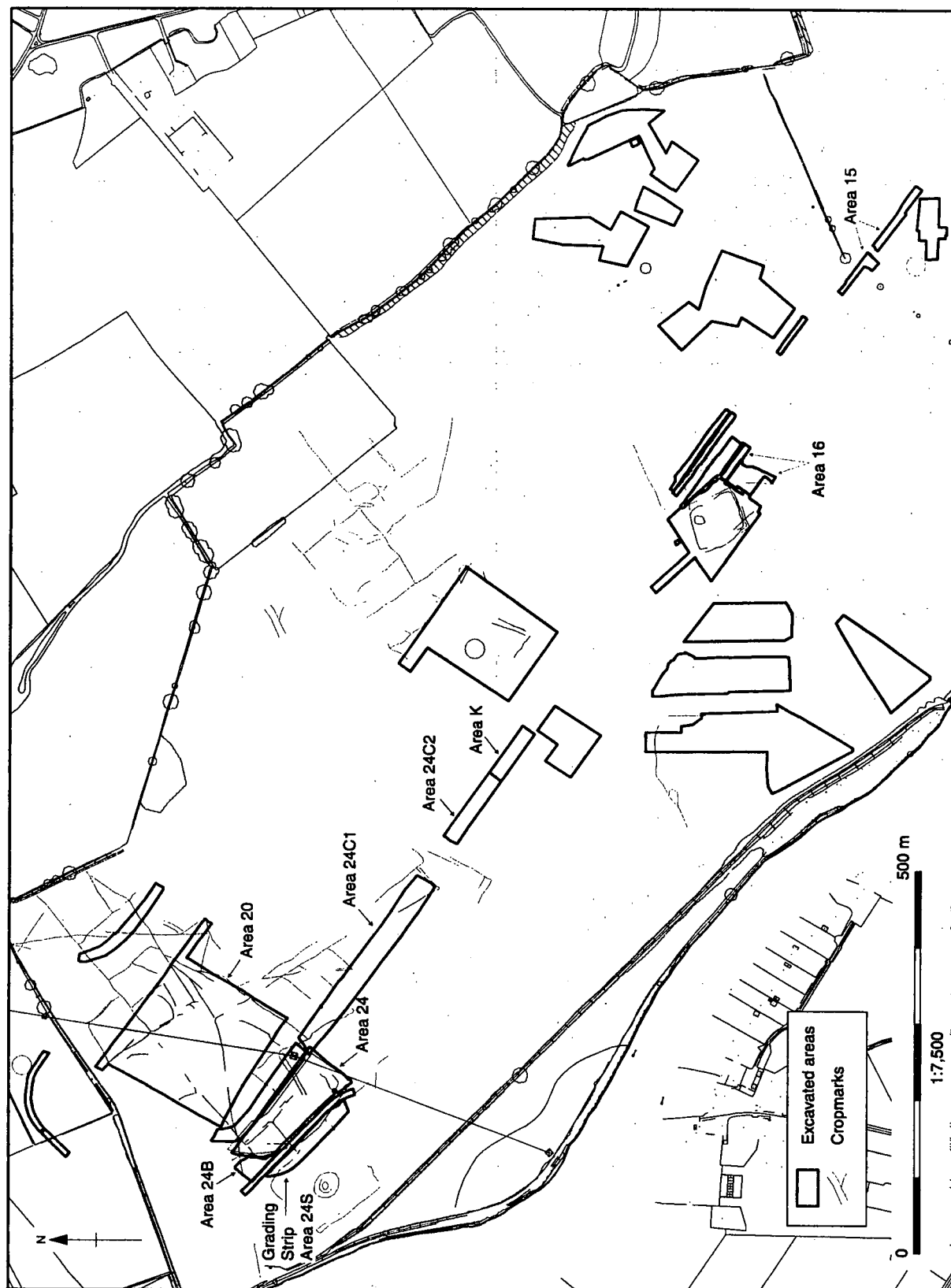


Fig 5. Eton Rowing Lake showing gravel islands, cropmarks and excavated areas.

Buckingham, Fingest, Chequers Public House
(SU 7770 9109)

Mike Simms

On the 20th and 21st of September 2004 a field evaluation was carried out at the site on behalf of W H Brakspear and Sons PLC in advance of construction of an extension and

detached annexe to the rear of the existing building. The evaluation revealed extensive colluvial deposits and garden soils, however post-medieval activity had truncated any potential archaeological deposits adjacent to the building itself. No other archaeology was observed.

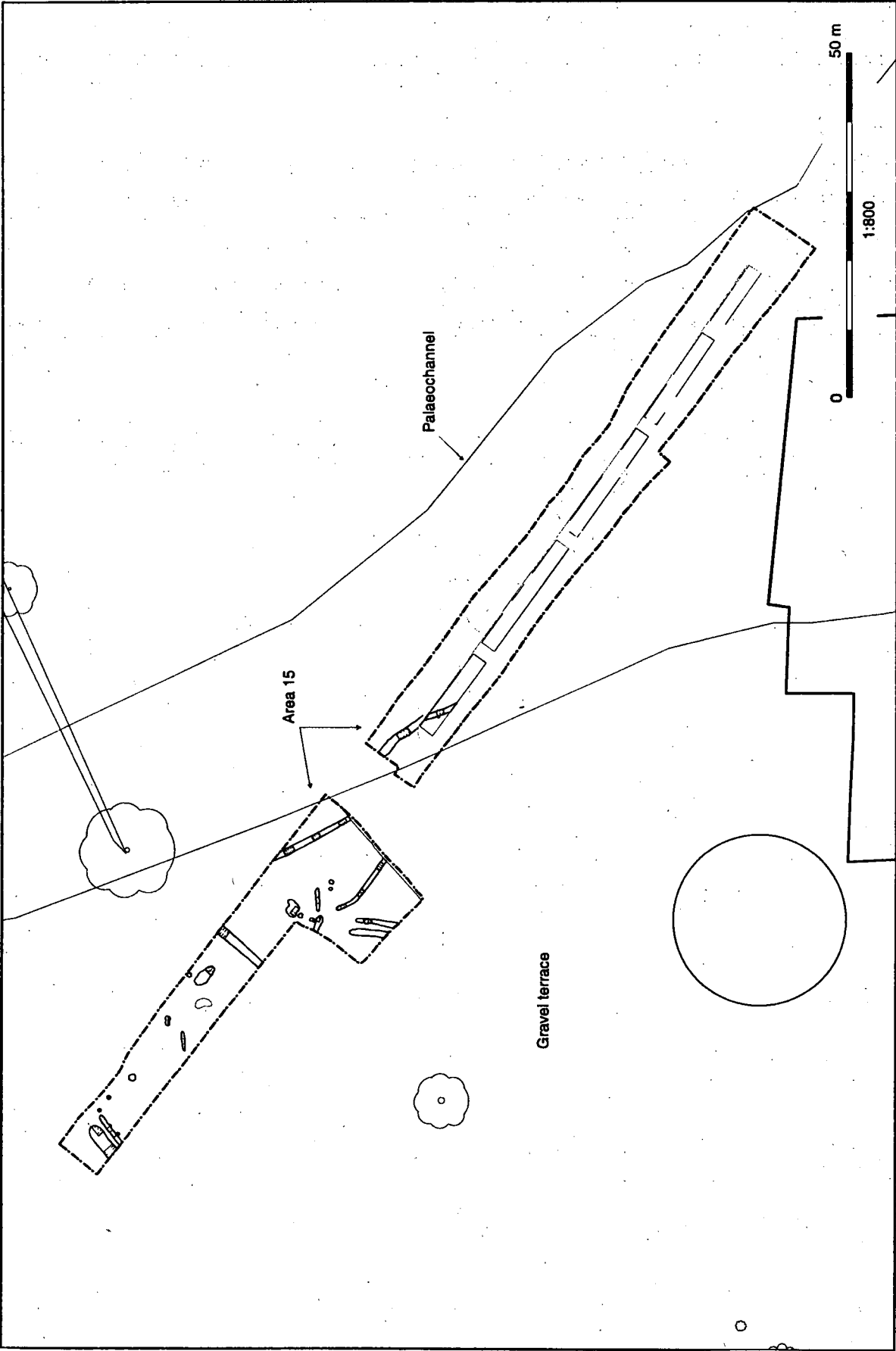


Fig 6. Eton Rowing Lake. Area 15.

Dorney, Eton. Rowing Course excavations 2003. Sixth Interim Report. (SU 919 787 to 939 774)

Tim Allen

Introduction

A further season of excavations was carried out at this site in advance of the widening of the Return Lane in 2003. Three areas were investigated: a strip north of the Early-middle Iron Age settlement (Area 15), an additional strip within the Iron Age and Roman enclosed settlement (Area 16) and additional strips across the middle Bronze Age enclosure and field system (Areas B, C and 24a). The strips across the Bronze Age site comprised a strip between Areas 24 and 20 (previously excavated in 2000), a small area enlarging Area 24 on the west and a larger strip south of Area 24 and of the Access Road excavated in 1995. The strip between Areas 20 and 24 also extended south-eastwards for 450m across the gravel terrace (Area C), ending with a cross-section of a palaeochannel dividing the main terrace from a gravel island (Y) to the east (Fig 5).

Aims of the work

Previous excavation in Area 15 (SMA 27, 29 and Fig 8) had not established the limits of the settlement to the north, so this excavation was carried out to establish whether the settlement was still continuing, and if so, to understand more of its character. It was also hoped that waterlogged deposits relating to the Iron Age settlement might be found within the silted palaeochannel (Inlet Z) adjacent. There was also the possibility that the Neolithic deposits found to the north-west in the top of this channel might continue into this area.

Excavation of the main enclosure in Area 16 in 1997 had been supplemented by further strips immediately adjacent (Area 16D) and on the edge of the Rowing Course to the north (Area 16C). The intervening area had been investigated by magnetometer survey, but this excavation allowed the opportunity of confirming the results and clarifying the sequence of the additional enclosures to the east and north. In addition, early Neolithic, Grooved Ware and Beaker features had been revealed in the previous Area 16 excavations, and it was hoped to recover more of this activity.

The excavations around Area 24 offered the opportunity to reduce the uncertainty of links between ditches in Areas 20 and 24, to complete the excavation of one of the two small square enclosures identified by previous work as probable domestic foci within the enclosure system, and to excavate closer to the triple ring ditch known from cropmarks to exist just south of this. The opportunity was also taken to investigate the field system known to extend south-eastwards, both in the hope of dating the system and of establishing whether settlement activity within it was concentrated within the known domestic enclosures, or was dispersed throughout the system.

A minor palaeochannel was known to cut through the gravel terrace, presumably from Channel G, and it was hoped to clarify the date and character of this, and the sequence of palaeochannel activity across this part of the site. Previous evaluation had also suggested that the edge of the gravel terrace further south was a focus for Mesolithic activity,

All trenches were stripped of topsoil and ploughsoils by machine, the ploughsoils being removed under archaeological supervision. The excavations were carried out in May-June 2003 and September 2003 to January 2004.

Additional excavations in Area 15 (Fig 6)

The mitigation area agreed with Bucks CC was a relatively narrow strip, the north-west half running across the gravel terrace, the south-east half crossing the silted palaeochannel formerly investigated in Areas 15 and 10. There was also a surviving strip of gravel crossing the Return Lane, previously used as a haul road.

The gravel terrace

To the north-west removal of the ploughsoil exposed the terrace gravel cut into by the archaeological features. Beneath the western part of the haul road the archaeological features continued, but the eastern part of this had been excavated to greater depth, and no archaeology survived. The southern continuation of the haul road across the Return Lane was badly churned up by machines, so was not further exposed. South-east of the haul road the gravel terrace reappeared, but dipped after a few metres below the silted palaeochannel.

Archaeological features largely comprised ditches and gullies, some running along the edge of the gravel terrace adjacent to the palaeochannel, other short lengths possibly forming small enclosures. One of those along the palaeochannel edge appears to represent the continuation of the boundary found in the 1997 excavation to the south. One of the terrace edge ditches produced Iron Age pottery, and several features contained struck flints. At the north-west edge of the area there was an entrance through a linear boundary marked by a large posthole that also contained Iron Age pottery. Several possible pits and treeholes were investigated, plus a recent boundary ditch that produced bottle glass.

The silted palaeochannel

The palaeochannel had fills of different character on the west and on the east. The fills on the east were very light coloured silty clays with darker irregular patches that appeared to represent tree-throw holes. Excavation of Area 15 in 1996 showed that these deposits were early Holocene, and no finds were recovered from them in 2003. On the west the top of the channel was filled by alluvial clays, which sealed the ditch running in from the north-west. This ditch continued across the palaeochannel into the excavated Return Lane, cutting the lower fills of the channel. The bottom fill of the ditch was waterlogged, and this was sampled for environmental remains. Fragments of animal bone were recovered from the ditch.

Another linear feature was visible running westwards across the alluvium in the top of the palaeochannel, but this proved to be very shallow. Sample areas of the channel deposits cut by these ditches were investigated by hand, but no finds were retrieved.

Impact Area A (Area 16) - Summary of discoveries (Fig 7)

An area totalling just over 0.11 ha. was stripped. The area had first been walked with a metal detector to look for finds,

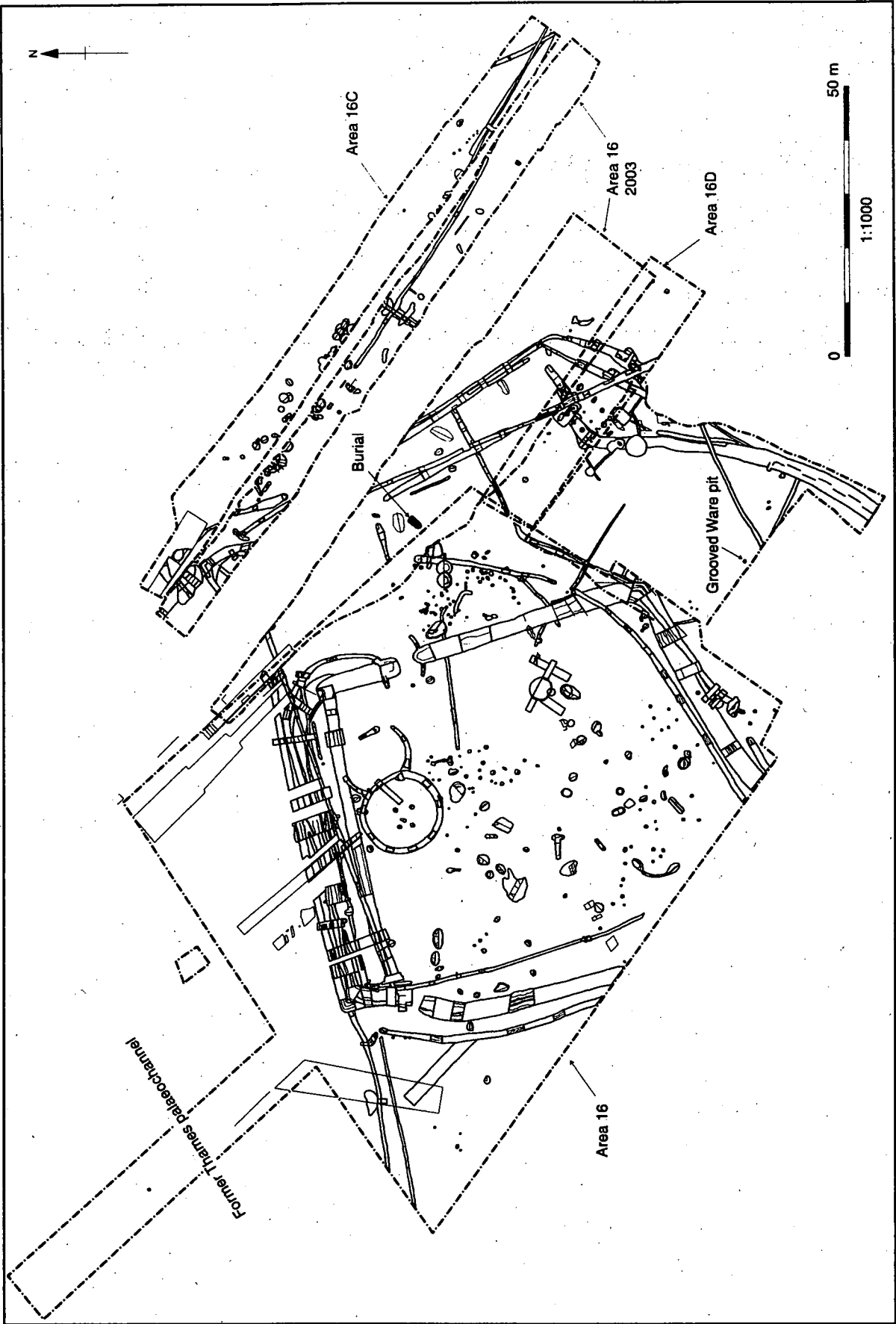


Fig 7. Eton Rowing Lake. Area 16.

but only indeterminate scraps of iron, nails and other recent objects were found. Removal of the ploughsoil exposed the terrace gravel cut by the archaeological features, which were cleaned, planned and photographed.

The enclosure ditches running north-eastwards across area 16D continued in the 2003 area up to an east corner, and thereafter returned north-westwards. Several phases of enclosure were evident, with an entrance at this corner at one stage, later dug through. The north-western return continued beyond the excavation limits, and geophysical survey indicates that these ditches ran into Area 16C. An internal division to the enclosure, also on a north-east alignment, was formed by the gully previously excavated in Area 16 and 16D. In 16D this enclosure had been cut across by another ditch running north-west, and this ditch also continued into the 2003 area. It was of two phases, one of which ran beyond the limits of the excavation into 16C. The other phase terminated in line with the entrance to the main Area 16 enclosure, with a gully returning south-westwards between the two. Finds were generally 2nd-3rd century AD. Within this enclosed area an extended Roman inhumation burial was found. Nails and other miscellaneous iron fragments suggest that the body was buried in a wooden coffin. A second grave-shaped feature lay adjacent to this, but did not contain any bone or other finds.

A single Roman enclosure ditch (a continuation of that excavated in 1997) was planned running along the palaeochannel edge. Below this a slot was excavated by machine into the deposits at the edge of the Thames palaeochannel, revealing a continuation of the Middle Bronze Age burnt flint layer towards the base of the channel edge. A human femur was excavated by hand from this layer. No other finds were recovered.

By agreement with Eton College a small area was opened up south of Area 16D to see if the flint post-pad building found in that area (*SMA* 31, 27 and Fig 10) continued to the south. No further posts were found, showing that the full extent of the building had been recovered in 2000, but a shallow slot was found surrounding the south-west end of the building, an oven just to the south and pits, including a very large pit or waterhole, to the south and east. There were no resources to excavate the waterhole, but much of a millstone was recovered from its top.

By agreement with Eton Aggregates part of the previously stripped area to the south was re-cleaned by machine, and was then planned to provide a context to the building. A particular aim was to locate 1990 evaluation Trench 6, which was successfully achieved. The stripping revealed a continuation of the Area 16D enclosure ditches running south, and one or two slighter gullies that may represent further internal divisions within the enclosure. There were very few discrete archaeological features within this area, but these did include another possible oven.

In addition to the Roman remains described above, the excavations also exposed one late Neolithic pit that was excavated. This contained Grooved Ware pottery, burnt stone and animal bones, plus a worked bone polished awl. A small number of struck flints were also recovered as residual finds in Roman features.

Outside the excavation areas middle Bronze Age pottery was recovered from spoil adjacent to several pits or working

hollows containing charcoal and burnt flint exposed in the Return Lane section south-east of Area 16 (Fig 5).

Results in Areas B and C (Fig 8)

Between Areas 20 and 24 the relationship between the northeast – southwest boundary of the middle Bronze Age field system and a ditch (thought to be Iron Age) running obliquely across the system on an east-west alignment was confirmed. The east-west ditch was of three phases, and the fills suggested that there had been a bank on the north side. On the west edge of the site two postholes cut the second phase ditch, but were undated. Scraps of residual Bronze Age pottery were recovered from this ditch. A small pit filled with charcoal lay just 4m east of the ditches; the charcoal did not derive from in situ burning as the edges of the pit were not scorched.

Linking sections of the middle Bronze Age field ditches forming a long enclosure spanning Areas 20 and 24 were found. These ditches were segmented or interrupted. Along the eastern edge was a trackway formed by two parallel ditches. The termini of the western trackway ditch segments were almost exactly aligned with those in the ditch to the west. This may indicate opposing entrances within the boundary system and associated with the flanking track.

The western trackway had two postholes along its western edge, with three further postholes at right angles within the enclosure. Close to these were two further linear features at right angles to one-another. None of these features contained finds.

To the south-east of the trackway, another ditch aligned northnorthwest-southsoutheast was located cutting across the south-east end of Area B and into Area C. This was of two phases, and had possible post-holes on the north-east side. Cropmarks suggest that this ditch joined the trackway at right angles, forming another internal division within the enclosure system (Fig 8). Just within Area C a short length of ditch projected north, terminating on the edge of Evaluation Trench 22. Beyond this the ditch had a 2m wide entrance, and just north of this entrance another ditch ran north-east parallel to the field boundaries in Area 20. This ditch had also previously been located by Evaluation Trench 22.

Beyond the entrance the ditch running southsoutheast kinked a couple of metres to the north-east before continuing. The kink was investigated, but there was no sign of an original entrance here, later cut through. A few metres south of the kink, however, was the possible terminus of another field boundary ditch running parallel to the trackway ditch south-west out of the stripped area.

The ditch running southsoutheast contained a group of sherds from a middle Bronze Age vessel. Beyond the kink it cut across a group of pits, postholes and gullies close to the edge of the area, the gullies possibly forming a trapezoidal small enclosure some 16m across. Only the north part of this enclosure lay within the stripped area. Several of the pits and postholes were excavated, but no finds were recovered. Further south-east two further ditches, both aligned north-east, ran across the area. The western of these was made up of several virtually contiguous lengths, and had probably been a continuous boundary, but had been truncated by the machine. This ditch had previously been

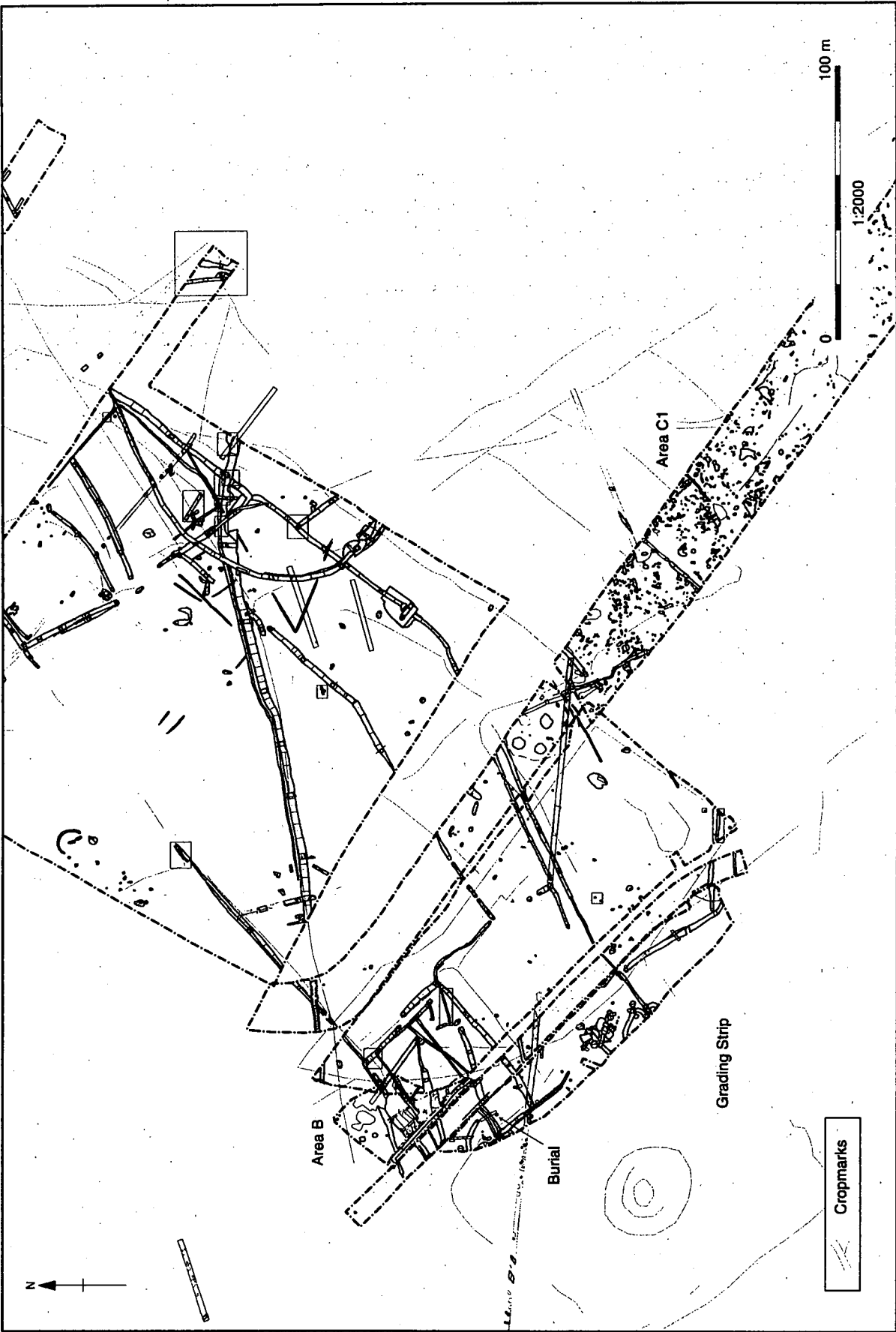


Fig 8. Eton Rowing Lake.

found in Evaluation Trench 21. The eastern ditch of the two had been severely truncated by the machine and only survived intermittently, though the excavated hollow made it clear that it too had continued right across the stripped area. Neither ditch contained any finds, but both were known from cropmarks, and appear to belong to the Bronze Age field system.

As well as these ditches there were a great number of discrete soilmarks in the western half of Area C, including small circular soilmarks in lines possibly representing postholes, and larger features such as grave-shaped pits, some of which had burnt flint in their tops. Representative samples of these features were investigated, but none of them produced any other artefacts. Weathering has shown that most of these features consist either of tree-throw holes, solution holes or natural silt patches filling hollows. These marks are not illustrated.

Further south-east in Area C the density of soilmarks decreased significantly, and only three features of any possible archaeological significance were noted. These all had reddened and blackened soils, but no artefacts, and may have been where trees had been burnt out. The decrease in activity may also have been related to a change in the underlying gravel, which in this area became concreted by iron-pan, and thus much more difficult to dig through.

Towards the south-east edge of the gravel terrace (previously called F west) the underlying gravel gave way to a fine sandy silt, which contained very few soilmarks. All of those that were observed were irregular, and are believed to have been tree-throw holes.

Results in Area K

Area K is the site of a channel that ran approximately north-south between a large expanse of gravel terrace (site F west) and a small island of gravel (Terrace Y). To the north site F west was divided from another large area of gravel (site F east) by a west-east palaeochannel (Channel G) that was investigated both by evaluation and in the Area 18 excavation and watching brief in 2000. To the south the Area K channel ran into a large area of floodplain between the gravel terrace and the main Thames palaeochannel running north-east across the Rowing Course site. The relationship between Channel G and the Thames floodplain to the south had not been clearly established by these investigations.

Area K was therefore subject to a watching brief both to clarify the date and character of the north-south channel, and in case further archaeological deposits were uncovered during stripping.

In the event, the channel proved to be broad and only 1.4m deep, with a shallow waterlogged peat at the base overlain by a thick homogeneous deposit of clayey silt. No artefacts were found, and from observation of deposits elsewhere across the site the character of the clays exposed suggests that they were early Holocene in origin.

Results from the Grading Strip south of the Return Lane (Fig 8)

The Grading Strip consisted of two parts. The larger of these was a strip south of the Access Road, unavailable in 2000 because covered by a topsoil bund, which included

both the very south edge of the Return Lane and the Grading Strip south of that; the smaller area lay north of the Access Road between this and Area 24.

The site was crossed by a series of broad furrows on an east-northeast alignment. A few furrows had been observed previously in the 1996 excavation of the Access Road adjacent, but the furrows were more numerous, and had cut more deeply, into the Grading Strip. Evaluation Trench 23 was also located crossing the trench.

Summary of results.

The continuation of the eastern side of the square 'domestic' Bronze Age enclosure excavation in Area 24 was found, plus the southern return of the enclosure. In the northern strip the continuation of the western boundary of the enclosure was more than 5m wide, much wider than in the adjacent Area 24, but shallow. A Beaker flint knife was recovered from the fills of this boundary. The southern enclosure ditch was of more than one phase, and the second phase fills were very dark, containing more finds than elsewhere around the enclosure, and also significant quantities of charred cereals, mainly spelt wheat and barley. Outside the south corner of the enclosure a pit and the probable terminus of a ditch continuing south were found.

Within the enclosure a very broad furrow was removed to reveal continuations of two northeast aligned ditches seen in Area 24 that were either sub-divisions of the enclosure or a different phase of the eastern boundary. The eastern one of these was cut by the second phase of the southern enclosure boundary. Just east of these ditches was the unaccompanied crouched burial of a young adult in a very fragile condition. This has subsequently been radiocarbon-dated to the later Bronze Age. The burial was tightly crouched, suggesting that it had probably been bound. A number of other soil patches in the vicinity were excavated in case these represented further burials, but none were found.

West of the broad furrow a curving silt patch was excavated, and along the inside edge was V-profiled and more than 400mm deep, but elsewhere the silt infilled a hollow of varying profile and depth. One or two struck flints and scraps of pottery were recovered, but it is unclear whether this was a man-made or natural feature. A probable pit was also excavated west of this up against the baulk.

Beyond the enclosure the southern ditch continued south-east, forming the southern boundary of the trapezoidal enclosure partly revealed in Area 24. Partway along the ditch narrowed and changed alignment from southeast to east, ending soon afterwards. A pit was found south of the change in alignment, and a posthole either side of the terminus. North of this was a collection of tree-throw holes, and north of this again another short length of gully ran north-east, but did not continue under the road.

After a gap of 9m the southern enclosure boundary continued as a short length of gully, which joined a ditch running southwest, presumably to enclose the barrow to the south. This ditch was in line with the interrupted boundary running north from the trapezoidal enclosure in Area 24. The junction of the gully and ditch cut across a large pit-like soilmark that appears to have been an early Holocene hollow or tree-throw hole, as Mesolithic struck flint and sparse charcoal were recovered from it.

Buckinghamshire

Cutting across the southern return ditch was a short length of ditch on an east-west alignment, with a line of 5 postholes parallel to it and 3.5m to the south. The ditch was cut by a group of pits on a roughly east-west alignment, some of which contained Bronze Age pottery. Approximately the same distance south of the postholes was a further east-west ditch, which terminated just short of the eastern boundary of the trapezoidal enclosure. There were two pits immediately adjacent to this terminus. The eastern boundary to the trapezoidal enclosure, which ran right across the site, appeared to have at least two phases, one of which terminated adjacent to the east-west ditch, and had three postholes cutting the earlier phase of ditch to the north. A further ditch ran parallel to the eastern enclosure boundary from the south edge of the site, curving northwest to cut across the terminal of the east-west ditch and end just beyond it, while yet another ditch began east of the boundary and ran south-west out of the area. All of these ditches represent different phases of the continuation of the southern boundary to the trapezoidal enclosure.

The eastern boundary of the trapezoidal enclosure continued south beyond the trench. This ditch was known as a cropmark, and formed the eastern edge of the enclosure surrounding the triple ring ditch. Beyond the trapezoidal enclosure another ditch ran southeast to the end of the trench, and probably represents the southern boundary of the fields known further north as cropmarks and recently part-excavated in Impact Area C. Right at the end of the site the continuation of an east-west ditch previously seen in the Access Road and in Area 24 was found, and terminated just north of the southeast boundary. There were no other archaeological features at this end of the site.

Gulzar, Southview, Penn (TQ 3727 8921)

Jon Gill

A building assessment was undertaken, on behalf of D P Architects, on a building called Gulzar within the grounds of a listed building (Southview) in order to assess the significance of the structure. The study concluded that it was probably a mid 19th century garden shed that was later extended to become a large shed or garden cottage.

Haddenham, Clacken Arches Farm, Scotsgrove Hill (SP 708 074)

Mike Simms

On 1st and 2nd March 2004 a field evaluation was carried out at the site on behalf of Mr J Wyse in advance of the construction of a new dwelling and access road. The evaluation revealed no archaeological features. A total of eight pieces of worked flint and three pieces of burnt unworked flint were recovered from the modern plough soil and broadly dated to the prehistoric period.

Haddenham, Baghill Farm (SP 7400 0808)

Mike Simms

On January 11th 2005 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken at the site on behalf of Mr B Parker in advance of a barn conversion. The evaluation revealed that the barn

walls had been constructed directly on top of the clay subsoil. No evidence for earlier structures or features were encountered. Two earth floor surfaces associated with the agricultural use of the barn were recorded, although no dating evidence was retrieved from either of these deposits.

High Wycombe, Project Phoenix (SU 8630 9320)

Dave Score

In May-June 2004 a field evaluation was carried out on land to the west of High Wycombe town centre on behalf of Wycombe District Council in support of the planning application for the 'Project Phoenix' redevelopment. The proposed development comprises the demolition of the surface car parks and commercial properties currently occupying the site and the construction of a range of retail and residential properties and a new bus passenger interchange and multi-storey car park.

The evaluation comprised the excavation of six trenches and a test pit, located to investigate the possible presence of medieval mills or other riverside structures, the medieval or earlier origins of Water Lane (now Desborough Road), Newland Street and Bridge Street and the potential for pre-medieval occupation of the floodplain and palaeo-environmental deposits in the peats and possible palaeochannels of the River Wye. In addition, two archaeological boreholes were dug to obtain soil cores for environmental and sedimentary analysis.

The stratigraphic and environmental evidence from the field evaluation and boreholes presents a consistent picture of an area of generally marshy ground lying adjacent to the River Wye. The wet conditions probably precluded the use of the area as anything other than meadowland until the ground level was artificially raised and the area developed during the 19th century for development as terraced housing.

A single ditch dating to the medieval or later periods was recorded and probably served a drainage or field boundary function.

Hillesden, Land at Jubilee Farm (SP 681 298)

Mike Simms

Between 8th and 10th December 2004 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken at the site. The work was commissioned by Mr C R J Anstey, Chartered Surveyors, in advance of construction of a parking area and new access road to a barn conversion. The watching brief revealed agricultural soils directly overlying natural clay and sand. No features or archaeological deposits other than those dating to the 19th or 20th centuries were encountered.

Iver, St Peter's Church (TQ 0500 8130)

Mike Simms

In October 2001 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken at the site. The work was commissioned by the Diocese of Oxford, in advance of a planning application for an extension to the north side of the church. The watching brief revealed that the area had been heavily disturbed by graves and burial chambers, and also construction debris from later alterations to the church and services.

Monks Risborough, St Dunstan's Church (SP 812 044)

Mike Simms

In June 2004 a field evaluation was undertaken at the site on behalf of the Parish Church Council. The work was undertaken in respect of a planning application for the extension of the existing graveyard. The evaluation revealed a number of boundary ditches dating from the 10th century, possibly forming part of an area of late Saxon occupation. No structural remains of this date were discovered within the trenches, though Roman building materials from these features suggest either a substantial building of that date in the vicinity or the reuse of a local resource in the late Saxon period.

Penn, The Old Horse and Groom Public House, Elm Road (SU 9060 9402)

Mike Simms

On the 26th and 27th of January 2004 a field evaluation was undertaken at the site on behalf of Brocklehurst Architects Ltd in advance of the redevelopment of the site as a doctors' surgery. The evaluation revealed evidence for ridge and furrow agriculture together with 19th century domestic occupation but no evidence for earlier activity or for tile making on the site.

Pitstone, St Mary the Virgin Church (SP 942 149)

Mike Simms

On the 15th December 2004 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken at the site. The work was commissioned by The Church Conservation Trust in advance of the installation of a new French drain and renovation works in the church. The watching brief revealed a number of graves and a in-filled window in the chancel.

Princes Risborough, Whiteleaf Hill (SP 82 04)

Gill Hey

Archaeological investigations on Whiteleaf Hill by the Princes Risborough Countryside Group and Oxford Archaeology continued in 2004/5. Test pitting of 1m x 1m squares at 30m intervals across the site was completed and, although quantities of finds recovered were small these included struck flints, probably of Bronze Age date, and sherds of Romano-British pottery in addition to more recent material reflecting the popularity of this beauty spot throughout the 20th century. Two larger (2m x 2m) test pits were also excavated, one of which yielded the smashed remains of a number of Roman pottery vessels which lay in hollows in the natural ground surface. This test pit was opened in an area of anomalies picked up in geophysical survey to the north-east of the Neolithic oval barrow.

Quainton, Church of the Holy Cross and St Mary.

(SP 749 201)

Mike Simms

In June 2004 an archaeological watching brief, and subsequently an excavation, were undertaken at the site. The work was commissioned by Architects Design Partnership LLP on behalf of the Parochial Church Council in advance of the construction of a new north porch with a WC. The watching brief revealed a post-medieval brick-lined shaft grave and gravestone, 25 graves and an assemblage of pottery mostly of Saxo-Norman or medieval date. The remains of six mostly complete skeletons were recovered for osteological analysis.

Shabbington, The Bungalow, Ickford Road (SP 665 069)

Mike Simms

In March 2004 a field evaluation was undertaken at the site on behalf of Banner Homes Ltd in advance of the construction of three new dwellings. The evaluation revealed a medieval boundary ditch of 11th to 13th century date forming a possible rectangular enclosure and two probably later medieval pits.

Soulbury, All Saints Church (SP 8820 2705)

Mike Simms

In February 2003 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the site. The watching brief revealed made ground deposits, one of which contained concentrations of brick rubble, tile and masonry possibly associated with the 1863 renovation of the 14th century chancel.

Terrick, Grove Farm (SP 836 081)

Mike Simms

In June 2004 a field evaluation was undertaken at the site on behalf of Mr and Mrs Brunt in advance of a two-storey extension. The evaluation revealed a single ditch dating from the late medieval/post medieval period which is probably part of a small boundary or an enclosure within the area of this moated site (SAM 32115). On the 23rd November 2004 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken at the site; the watching brief encountered no archaeological features or deposits.

Wendover, Land off Little Hampden Close

(SP 8668 0764)

Mike Simms

On the 11th October 2004 a field evaluation was undertaken at the site on behalf of Ian Henstock in advance of a planning application for a new dwelling. The evaluation revealed extensive deposits of post-medieval garden soil, a layer of a possible early medieval ploughsoil and a 13th to 14th century field or property boundary ditch.

Buckinghamshire
RICHARD IVENS

Broughton, Broughton Farm (SP 9040 4030)

An intermittent archaeological watching brief was maintained between May 2003 and June 2004 during the removal of topsoil prior to the construction of a bund. The entire development site proved to be covered with the remains of ridge-and-furrow cultivation. No other pre-modern archaeological features or artefacts were observed.

Hanslope, 12 High Street (SP 80250 46930)

A continuous watching brief was maintained during ground works for a new house and garage. Two probable pits, a ditch and a spread of stone rubble (driveway?) were noted. No pre-modern artefacts were observed and the recorded archaeological features may not be of any great antiquity.

Lavendon, 15 High Street (SP 9168 5361)

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the excavation of foundation trenches for a new extension. No pre-modern archaeological deposits or artefacts were identified.

Olney, 20 Bridge Street (SP 8893 5106)

A watching brief was maintained during the ground works for a small extension. The property is a part of the former Bell Inn (reputedly founded c 1670). The area of the watching brief proved to have been much disturbed in recent times and no pre-modern contexts or artefacts were identified.

Sherington, Mercer's Farm (SP 8895 4632)

A limited archaeological watching brief was carried out during the excavation of foundation trenches for a new extension to Mercer's Farmhouse. No significant pre-modern archaeological deposits were identified.

Stony Stratford, 75 High Street (SP 7860 4047)

A trial trench evaluation was carried out in advance of a new development. The evaluation showed that the site has been subjected to considerable 19th century and later disturbance. The find of redeposited medieval roof tile and pottery and a few late 17th century pot sherds (some redeposited) suggest medieval and early post-medieval activity in the vicinity. The heavily robbed remains of a possible, though undated, property boundary wall was identified.

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Brill, 28 Temple Street (SP 6553 1401)

Jennifer Lowe

A watching brief encountered three pits, two relatively modern and one early post-medieval; the latter was cut through a levelling layer which contained medieval pottery.

Great Kimble, New horse training area, Manor Farm (SP 8215 0606)

Andy Taylor

No archaeological finds or deposits were encountered in a watching brief.

High Wycombe, High Wycombe Museum, Castle Mount (SU 8670 9320)

Jennifer Lowe and Richard Oram

Alterations to the steps on Castle Mount allowed observation of the uppermost layers forming the mound; several sherds of post-medieval pottery were retrieved from these layers, indicating that at least the surface landscaping is not Norman, but no conclusions can be extended to the interior of the mound.

Marlow, Ferry Nab, Ferry Lane, Medmenham (SP 8062 8381)

Pamela Jenkins and Andy Taylor

During a watching brief, a chalk wall and floor were recorded. These are undated but could be medieval.

Penn, Glenmore, Church Road (SU 9078 9351)

Sian Anthony

A 3-trench evaluation revealed a medieval gully.

Princes Risborough, Stocken Farm, Lacey Green (SP 8255 0015)

Stephen Hammond

Four evaluation trenches failed to locate any archaeology.

Wexham, All Soul's Farm Quarry (SU 9950 8190)

Steve Ford

Following a geophysical survey, seventeen evaluation trenches were dug, and seven contained archaeological deposits. Some Middle and Late Bronze Age pottery was recovered but all the datable features are from the Roman period (possibly some from the very late Iron Age). These include pits, ditches and post-holes and one deposit of pyre debris, and seem to indicate two *foci* of occupation. Some undated ditches could be modern.

WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY

Summaries by D Norcott

Bradenham: RAF High Wycombe (SU 83390 97974)

An archaeological evaluation comprising four trenches was carried out. The modern use of the site comprised asphalt car parking associated with extant mess facilities to the north. The site lay adjacent to Grims Ditch, a late prehistoric earthwork and Scheduled Monument, though the proposed development lay outside the scheduled area. No archaeological features were encountered.

Milton Keynes: Site C, Snelshall East (SP 83507 33254)

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on 5.5 ha of land in September 2004. The Site lay in an historic landscape with sites of Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval date, as well as medieval fishponds (protected as a Scheduled Monument), bordering the site. No archaeological remains were found in the trenches in the lower-lying terrain, within the north and north-west of the site. Limited archaeological remains of an early Romano-British date were identified in two trenches in the south-east suggesting the presence of some form of past human activity on the gravel plateau in this area. Subsequent excavation of this area revealed the truncated remains of three phases of Romano-British enclosure, pitting and a putative, semicircular, lean-to structure. These were overlain by the remnants of relict medieval cultivation terraces, or ridge-and-furrow.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES AND CONSULTANCY LTD

Weldon, Chapel Road (SP 9258 8977)

Nigel Wilson

During May ASC a watching brief was undertaken at the former St Johns Ambulance site, Chapel Lane, during the construction of a bungalow. No archaeologically significant finds were noted.

Kings Sutton, 16-18 Wales Street (SP 495 363)

David Fell and Jonathan Hunn

A watching brief and salvage recording were undertaken during construction of a housing development on the north side of Wales Street and a flood alleviation scheme further to the north. The excavation of service runs for the new houses was monitored, but no archaeological remains were observed. The stripping of the site of the flood alleviation scheme was also monitored and significant archaeological remains were observed. A salvage excavation was undertaken, revealing a comparatively rare example of a middle Iron Age settlement. This was rapidly recorded, but

Northamptonshire

circumstances permitted only a limited programme of excavation. Fig 1.

The site comprised enclosure ditches, a driveway, two possible circular buildings, pits, post-holes, gullies and a kiln/hearth. A rubble spread, probably the foundation for a 19th century building, was also present. Artefacts recovered from the site included a small assemblage of worked flint dating to the Mesolithic/early Neolithic periods. The remaining artefacts dated to the Iron Age and comprised animal bone and a small assemblage of middle Iron Age pottery.

Significant evidence for iron smelting was also recorded. This comprised fragments of fired clay, some with impressions of wood, and may have been from the structure of a kiln. An area of burnt clay, possibly a kiln or hearth, was identified in the south part of the site. A fragment of a crucible was recovered from the fill of one of the enclosure ditches and further fragments of iron slag were found in the northern part of the site.

Old Stratford, Towcester Road (SP 7776 4142)

Nigel Wilson

Between March and April a watching brief was undertaken on the construction of a new access road and associated drainage for residential development on a site to the north of Old Stratford, and to the east of Towcester Road. The site had previously been used as an Anglian Water depot, which had truncated all the upper soil deposits. No significant archaeological deposits were identified.

Rothwell, Old Shoe Factory, Gordon Street (SP 8156 8086)

Bob Zeepvat and Nigel Wilson

During April an evaluation comprising desk-based study, trial trenching and historic building assessment was carried out on the former Gordon shoe factory site at Gordon Street, to inform proposals for conversion for residential development. The site is adjacent to a medieval/post-medieval manorial complex. The desk-based study identified a moderate archaeological potential for the medieval and post-medieval periods, in the form of possible medieval tenements and manorial remains. The building assessment showed that the core of the factory, built in the late 1880s, survived relatively unaltered, though most of the machinery and fittings related to its operation had been removed or displaced. Later additions to the complex, made in the 1930s and 1960s, were felt to be of little architectural or historical significance.

Trenching to the east of the factory revealed Iron Age/Romano-British deposits and features, comprising four truncated postholes and a probable southeast-northwest orientated ditch. The finds assemblage, including pottery, animal bone and struck flint, reflects settlement activity at the site. A tile stack and Victorian floor showed likely industrial activity during this period, possibly related to the factory. No evidence for medieval or post-medieval deposits was found, although a large undated clay deposit could have come from the construction or maintenance of the manorial fishpond. Fig 2.

Northamptonshire

Northampton, St Edmunds Hospital (SP 7641 6102)

Bob Zeepvat

In April a programme of historic building recording was undertaken at St Edmund's Hospital prior to the demolition of most of the complex for housing development, and conversion of the Grade II listed main building for residential use. The site was first developed in 1836/37 as the Northampton Union Workhouse, to a design by George Gilbert Scott, shortly after the passing of the New Poor Law. The workhouse was one of several by Scott and his partner Moffatt, incorporating several design features developed by their practice (Fig 3). A sequence of development was established for the workhouse. In the 1930s the workhouse became St Edmund's Hospital. The changes made to the buildings at this time, along with subsequent developments and improvements, have swept away almost all evidence of the workhouse, save the basic fabric of the older buildings. The site continued to be used as a hospital until 1998, when its remaining functions were transferred to Northampton General. Since then the site was unused, and had been thoroughly vandalised by the time of the survey.

Northampton, 12 Duke St (SP 7568 6122)

Bob Zeepvat

In June a programme of historic building recording was undertaken at a former shoe factory at 12 Duke Street, prior to conversion of the building to apartments. The buildings

surveyed originally formed part of a factory complex belonging to Church & Co, one of the main boot and shoe manufacturers in the town. Church & Co. constructed the larger building, an L-shaped three-storey brick structure under a slate roof, in 1874 as their first purpose-built factory. Adjoining this was a smaller three-storey building, constructed shortly after by Isaac Powell, boot and shoe makers. By the end of the 19th century Church's had absorbed this factory, along with other adjoining buildings. Church's continued to expand their premises in Duke Street until 1956/57, when production moved to larger premises in the St James district. The survey showed that, although parts of the 1847 factory had been considerably altered from their original appearance, much of the form and fabric of the original building remained.

Northampton, Land north of Delapre Abbey (SP 75900 59300)

Claire Griffiths and Nigel Wilson

During October an evaluation comprising a desk-based study and trial trenching was undertaken on land to the north of Delapre Abbey, to inform proposals for the construction of a centre for the disabled. The desk-based study revealed that a number of possible prehistoric and Roman sites were known in the vicinity of the site, which lay to the north of the medieval priory buildings. However, an aerial photograph taken during the 1940s shows a crop mark possibly an early cruciform church, to the north of the site. Trial trenching

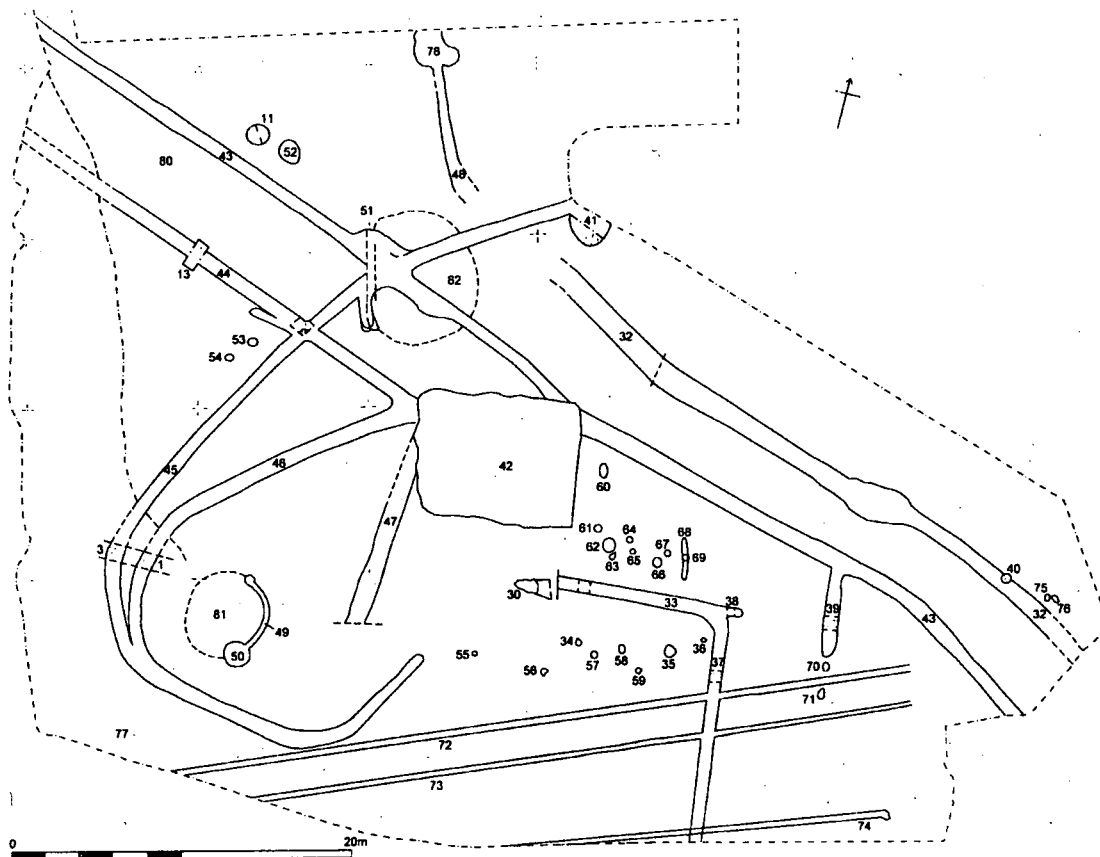


Fig 1. Kings Sutton, 16-18 Wales Street. Site plan.

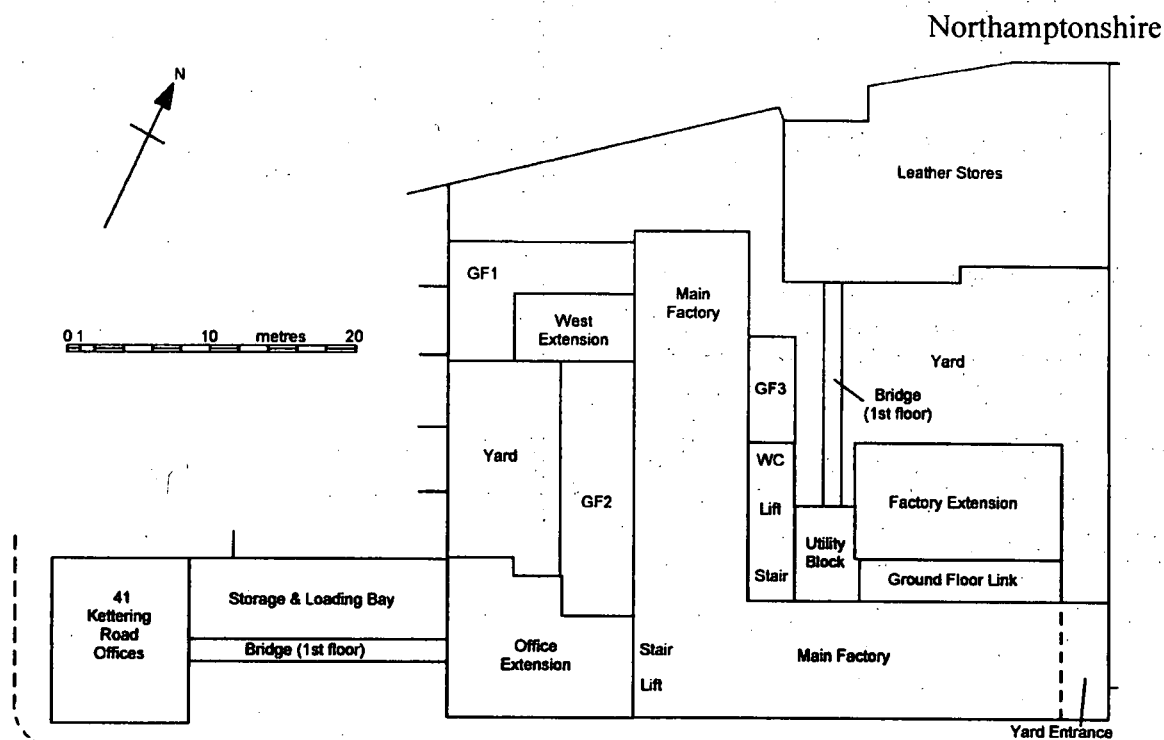


Fig 2. Rothwell, Old Shoe Factory, Gordon Street. Plan.

revealed only a late 18th or early 19th century stone wall aligned east-west across the site, shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey as a garden wall.

Land at Wakerley (SP 946 980)

David Fell and Nigel Wilson

In November a fieldwalking survey was undertaken of some 93ha of land to the west of Wakerley, in advance of quarrying. A light scatter of pottery ranging in date from the prehistoric to medieval periods was identified in the northern part of the site, and two discernible concentrations were found towards the eastern side of the site. A general spread of 19th century pottery and tile was also recorded across the site, probably related to agricultural activities and rubbish tipping. A light general scatter of worked flint was also identified. The survey also recovered significant quantities of iron working residues including furnace base and tap slag, both of which are sure signs of iron production. Three concentrations were identified, probably marking the locations of furnaces.

Raunds, Tannery, Wellington Road (SP 9943 7217)

Nick Crank

During November an evaluation was carried out on land adjacent to the former tannery in Wellington Road. The work was undertaken in advance of proposed residential redevelopment of the site, and comprised a desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and trial trenching. For the latter, nineteen trenches were excavated. A substantial Roman ditch was revealed, from which a small quantity of late 2nd to mid 3rd century pottery was recovered. Towards the north end of the site, trenching revealed evidence of extensive quarrying of a probable post-medieval origin.

Northampton, 21 St James Road (SP 745 604)

David Fell and Jonathan Hunn

In March an evaluation was undertaken at 21 St James Road, Northampton, prior to residential redevelopment. The site lies to the west of the historic core of Northampton, close to the river Nene and had the potential to reveal evidence for the development of the course of the river and medieval settlement. Trenching revealed the remains of a 19th century building or row of cottages in the southwest part of the site, overlying alluvium which covered the natural gravels across the site. No trace was found of a river channel shown on Speed's Northampton map of 1610, and believed to have been located on a site directly to the south.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

Compiled by Pat Chapman

A509 Isham Bypass (SP 882715 to 877757)

Simon Carlyle, Anne Foard-Colby, Chris Jones, Tam Webster

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out on a proposed western route of the A509 Isham Bypass on behalf of Atkins Heritage, acting for Northamptonshire County Council. This work was targeted on areas of interest identified following fieldwalking and geophysical survey previously carried out by NA. Ditches and pits were found mainly in a restricted area near the southern end of the corridor. A small quantity of Iron Age pottery, an almost complete Saxon vessel, and some animal bone were recovered from these features. Together with charred plants from soil samples, the remains suggest the presence of Iron



Fig 3. Northampton, St Edmunds Hospital.

Age and early-middle Saxon occupation. Most of the rest of the corridor revealed little of archaeological significance.

Braybrooke, The Old Rectory (SP 76366 84350)

Alex Thorne and Danny Mcaree

A desk-based assessment, building recording and watching brief was carried out at the Old Rectory, Braybrooke, after Mr and Mrs Thompson had been granted planning permission by Kettering Borough Council to alter the layout of the existing kitchen and lounge.

The Old Rectory dates from the 17th century, but had undergone changes between c 1850 and 1870, mainly with the addition of windows and doors and a new porch, when the first available photograph showed the Rectory's

external appearance to be as it is today. A north-south building also existed attached to the east side of the north wing up to c 1926.

The north wing was built onto the Rectory as a service wing in the latter part of the 18th century and further extended early 19th century and the fenestration altered. Two windows were added in the later 19th century, when the wing was converted into cottages from a laundry. The surviving interior fixtures and fittings relate to its use as cottages. The wing had been disused since the 1960s when the previous owners of the house used it for storage. At this date the north-south building was also removed. A watching brief during the removal of an oak post in the old kitchen saw no evidence of a former stairway in this location.

Burton Latimer, Polwell Lane (SP 887 756)

Paul Mason

An evaluation, commissioned by Brian Barber Associates, was conducted on 14.5ha of land on behalf of Weetabix Ltd ahead of expansion of facilities, to the north of the Weetabix Mills factory at Polwell Lane, Burton Latimer.

A geophysical survey located only two significant linear anomalies; the one towards the east of the site being a possible remnant of the rail track which served the Barton Seagrave ironstone quarry which operated between 1883-1891/2.

Trial trenching located a number of substantial stone-lined drains which may relate to the quarrying operation. Three undated gullies were also found. One of these may be the remnant of a field boundary removed in the latter half of the 20th century. The other two could be related to late 19th century drainage.

Canons Ashby House

David Leigh

A watching brief was carried out on behalf of the National Trust at Canons Ashby House during groundworks associated with drainage and the laying of a security cable for the Shepherd Boy statue in the gardens. A single unstratified stone architectural fragment dated to the late 16th or early 17th centuries was recovered. Evidence of an earlier driveway, possibly 18th or 19th century, was identified.

Chelveston, St John the Baptist (SP 4989 2692)

David Leigh

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with the installation of a septic tank along with toilet and kitchen facilities and associated pipe trenches at the 13th century Church of St John the Baptist, Chelveston, on behalf of The Parochial Church Council.

The excavation of one pipe trench uncovered a number of graves which were not disturbed. Below the topsoil was a layer, c 0.35m thick, which contained modern ceramic building material, indicating that the churchyard had either been made level or that material had been spread following restoration work on the tower by the United States Air Force.

Daventry, Air Raid Shelter (SP 5748 6263)

Tim Upson-Smith

A desk-based assessment and building recording was carried out of the air raid shelter at the Old Abbey School, Daventry, on behalf of Daventry District Council, prior to demolition ahead of development. No records were found in the Northamptonshire Records Office pertaining to the shelter, although general research has demonstrated that it was probably constructed between August 1939 and June 1940, due to later restrictions on the use of steel reinforcement.

The shelter is divided in two parts and was probably built to serve the school, with boys in one half and girls in the other. After the war one half of the shelter was reused as the boys' toilets for the school, with the insertion of two windows and the installation of six toilets. After the school closed the shelter was partially bricked up and the half containing the toilets was filled with rubble and the building became derelict. It was demolished in January 2004.

Daventry, Borough Hill (SP 5888 6251)

David Leigh

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks comprising the digging of postholes for fencing to enclose car parking space on Borough Hill, Daventry. This was undertaken on behalf of Daventry District Council to fulfil the requirements of Scheduled Monument Consent relating to the hillfort (SAM No:17145). A number of concrete blocks with the remains of wire cables were noted close by and within the area of car park works. Examination revealed these to be anchor points for a number of radio masts that, up until recently were located in this area of the hillfort. Previous work in this area by NA, (SMA 30 (2000), 37) and (SMA 23 (1993), 46), had not revealed any archaeological features.

Daventry, Old Abbey Centre (SP 5748 6263)

Jim Brown and Iain Soden

Excavations, commissioned by KKAP Consultancy Ltd, on behalf of Stockdale Heritage (Daventry) Ltd, were carried out on the former site of the c 1100-1526 Cluniac Priory of St Augustine at Daventry ahead of development. Evaluation carried out by NA in 1999 had located some medieval features including two walls (SMA 29 (2000), 24). The site comprised the former Abbey School building and associated land, together with the former park on the corner of the Market Square (Fig 4).

On the eastern side of the site, next to Holy Cross churchyard Area A, late Saxon pottery was recovered from several inter-cutting pits, together with ditches and a later medieval well shaft. An extensive build up of more recent 18th to 20th century deposits formed a raised terrace above these features. Evidence for several sets of works on the embankment showed that the ground had been disturbed since 1803 and may have removed the later medieval and early post-medieval deposits.

On the western side of the site, Area B, excavations showed extensive medieval quarrying of Northampton Sand Ironstone for building materials next to the Market Square and contemporary with the priory's occupation. Subsequent deposition of medieval refuse was used to landscape and reinstate the hillside. A row of post-medieval cottages marked fresh occupation on the site in the later 18th century and conformed closely to standard models of 18th century Northamptonshire vernacular housing. These buildings, one of which included a fine cellar, are known to have been demolished in the 1960s.

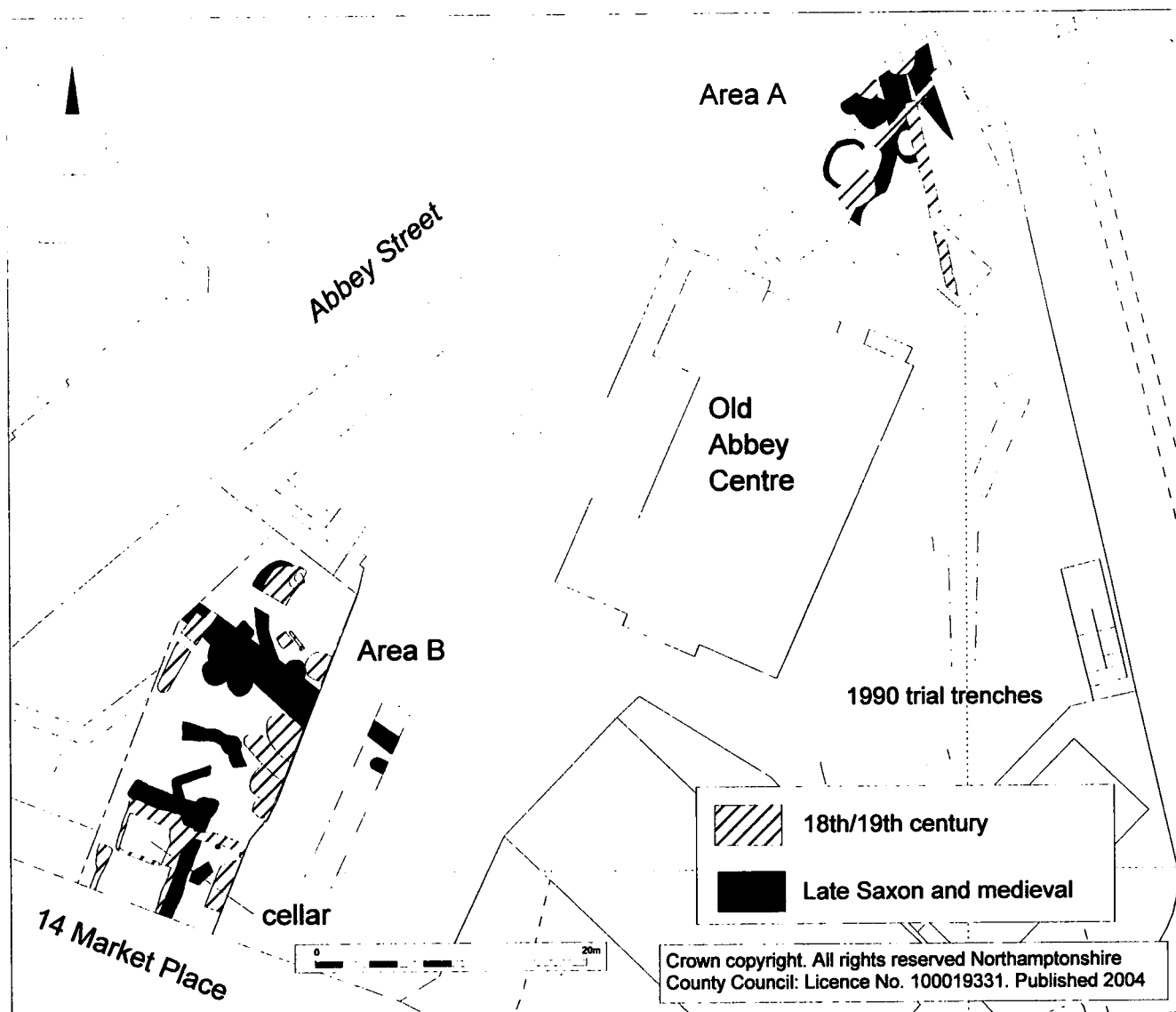


Fig 4. Daventry, Old Abbey Centre.

Deanshanger, Kingsbrook School (SP 7690 3961)
Jim Brown and Ed Taylor

Geophysical survey followed by trial trench evaluation was carried out at Kingsbrook School, Deanshanger, on behalf of Northamptonshire County Council, ahead of plans to build a sixth form block.

The application area is currently a level grassed area within the bounds of the sports field. An archaeological excavation in 1957 investigated remains associated with a Roman villa, including a large walled courtyard that was identified when building work began on the original school buildings. Subsequent excavations in 1972, 1974-5, and 1996 (SMA 27 (1997), 36), expanded upon the recorded evidence for the site. Geophysical survey and trial excavations in 2004 have both confirmed the presence of surviving walls in the south-east corner of the courtyard. The results also indicated that the wall along the north-eastern portion of the courtyard had been subjected to severe disturbance after the 1950s building and landscaping works.

Glendon, Coach House Barns (SP 8457 8135)
Joe Prentice

In November 2004 a number of human burials were uncovered during building works as part of the conversion of coach house barns at Glendon to a domestic dwelling. These were investigated and removed at the request of the property owner, Mr M Hipwell of Hall Farm, Glendon. The excavation revealed ten burials, seven of which were removed, the remaining three were left *in situ* as they lay beneath the level required for the building works. There were four adults, two males and two females, three infants below the age of 5 and one juvenile, together with disarticulated bones from infants and adults. The burials almost certainly relate to the now lost medieval village and church of Glendon.

Harlestone, Harlestone Quarry (SP 708 635)
Barry Lewis, Tim Upson-Smith

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on behalf of CgMs Consulting, at Harlestone Quarry near

Northampton to fulfil conditions of a planning permission granted to Barton Plant Ltd to extend the southern part of the quarry for ironstone extraction. Other than an area of modern burnt material, no archaeological features were present.

This was followed by an archaeological evaluation. Two 10m by 10m trial trenches were excavated over geophysical anomalies. One trench contained a natural glacial feature and no archaeology. The other trench contained three sub-circular pits, forming part of a pit alignment running east-west. Two of the three pits were excavated, neither contained finds.

Higham Ferrers, Chichele College (SP 9599 6865)
David Leigh

A watching brief was undertaken on behalf of K G Wright Builders Limited, during groundworks connected with the refurbishment of the entrance gates at Chichele College, Higham Ferrers, following Scheduled Monument Consent (SMCC No:0302). Only a recent soil layer including modern concrete fragments and lumps of tarmac under a gravel layer was found, no archaeological features or artefacts.

Irchester, Roman town (SP 266,500)
Adrian Butler and Ian Fisher

A detailed geophysical survey was undertaken on behalf of ProLogis Developments Ltd on land with an area of approximately 8.5ha to the south of the A45, at Irchester Roman Town in advance of a proposal for a scheme to dump excess soil from the Victoria Business Park development.

Prospection revealed that the site was divided into two zones. The lower, western zone contained magnetic anomalies which described an apparent north-south orientated road or track, to the east of which were detected a sub-rectangular area of 1.2ha of irregularly gridded ditched enclosures interspersed with pits and four possible ovens or kilns. A putative roundhouse and rectangular building were also detected to the south of the main enclosures. The eastern up-slope zone, was dominated by shallow geological features and quarrying.

A watching brief has been ongoing during groundworks for the access road.

Kettering, Montague School (SP 876 802)
David Leigh

An archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a new sports block, car park and access road at Montagu School, Kettering, revealed extensive modern disturbance across all of the site. No archaeological deposits were present, nor were any artefacts recovered.

Northampton, Regent Street (SP 7524 6098)
Anne Foard-Colby

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the removal of concrete footings and excavation of test pits, on land proposed for housing in Regent Street, Northampton. No archaeological remains were present; however, one test pit may retain a small vestige of undisturbed subsoil 0.7m below the surface. A small quantity of pottery ranging in date from the 10th – 15th centuries was recovered from the buried topsoil.

Northampton, Rothersthorpe Lift Bridge (SP 72550 56590)
Alex Thorne

A building record was made of Lift Bridge GN5 on the west side of the Grand Union Canal, Northampton arm, at Rothersthorpe, Northampton, on behalf of British Waterways, immediately prior to its dismantling in October due to its dangerous state. It was built in 1815 to enable the farmer to access fields otherwise cut off by the new canal. Although the Lift Bridge was renovated in 1914 and the 1960s, several of the original iron fittings are thought to have been re-used in the structure.

Northampton, 46-50 Sheep Street (SP 7537 6082)
Jim Brown

Archaeological excavation was carried out at the former Swan Garage, 46-50 Sheep Street, Northampton in advance of rebuilding, following evaluation (SMA 34 (2004) 37). The site fronts onto Sheep Street, one of the principal streets of the medieval town, and produced evidence for 11th-13th century settlement activity within the Norman New Borough. Evidence for post-medieval activity on the site included the remains of a 16th century stone building, constructed at a time when the town was in decline. The presence of nearby clay tobacco pipe manufacture was shown by the recovery of pipe bowls and stems of a type dated to c 1670 and fragments of the saggars in which they were fired were recovered from the fill of a 3.5m deep clay extraction pit. A former 18th century cottage, 46 Sheep Street, was also excavated.

Northampton, St John's Hospital (SP 7543 6019)
David Leigh

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with the refurbishment of the 12th century St John's Hospital Chapel, Northampton. The Hospital was founded in 1140 and the chapel was still used as a place of worship for the Roman Catholic Church until the later 20th century when it was sold for secular use, with Listed Building constraints. Floors in the chapel dating to the 18th and 19th centuries were removed to insert under-floor heating and new flooring.

Pottery dated to the 13th century was found beneath the earliest of three former floor levels and this earliest floor

Northamptonshire

level, of beaten earth, was cut through by the construction of the south wall of the building.

Architectural stonework built into the fabric of the south wall foundations indicates that the wall was built no earlier than c 1450.

Northampton, St Peter (SP 47498 26038)

David Leigh

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with the re-bedding of paving slabs outside the west end of the 12th century Church of St Peter, Northampton in 2004.

The groundworks comprised lifting the slabs, removing the old bedding material, refilling with new mortar bedding and resetting the slabs. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

Northampton, The Green (SP 7507 6030)

Lucy Griffin

A watching brief on behalf of J Goodman, took place during the digging of boreholes and test-pits for geotechnical purposes, at 50 The Green, at the very centre of Saxon Northampton, within the Scheduled Ancient Monument area. The results corroborate details of 1982 fieldwork which noted that between 1m and 1.7m of modern overburden covers any significant archaeology on this site, which is also truncated by at least one cellar and a buried tank at the frontage.

Oundle, 71 West Street (TL 0370 8815)

Adrian Burrow and Anne Foard-Colby

A desk-based assessment and trial excavation was carried out in advance of the redevelopment at 71 West Street, Oundle. Evidence suggests that this area was located towards a focal area of early-middle Saxon settlement. However, the excavation found archaeology dating only from the late medieval period in the form of a quarry pit and a discontinuous surface of limestone slabs.

Oundle, Laxton Grammar School (TL 0419 8814)

David Leigh

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a new three storey extension to Laxton Grammar School, North Street, Oundle, following demolition of former school buildings. A heavily disturbed stratigraphy was revealed across the development area. No archaeological deposits were encountered and no artefacts were recovered.

Preston Capes, Preston Capes Manor (SP 5766 5488)

Iain Soden and Ian Fisher

A preliminary geophysical survey and trial trench excavation was carried out at Preston Capes Manor, on behalf of Roger Coy Partnership, in response to proposed residential development of the land. The 11th century motte

and bailey castle (Scheduled Ancient Monument; County Number 13635) still stands immediately to the west of the manor house which probably lies within the castle bailey.

The work consisted of detailed earth resistance and gradiometer survey followed by the excavation of four trenches. Both methods of survey identified a long sinuous feature, probably associated with a footpath. Excavation found two small pits, one of which produced a single sherd of medieval pottery, and part of a medieval pot in the subsoil.

Raunds, Warth Park

Danny McAree

A single trench 45m long and 8m wide was excavated on land at Warth Park, off London Road, Raunds. The work was conducted, on behalf of RPS Design Limited acting for Kier Warth Limited. The work formed part of a broader archaeological intervention which included extensive field-walking, trial trenching, aerial photographic assessment and desk-based assessment.

The excavation area was targeted on a pit alignment, identified from aerial photography and partly excavated by Northamptonshire Archaeology in 2000 (*SMA* 31 (2001), 37). Sixteen pits were revealed and fourteen were excavated, all were roughly rectangular in plan with steeply sloping sides and flat bases. A few fragments of coarse pottery, possibly of early Iron Age pottery were recovered from four of the pits. The butt ends of three ditches terminated on or within 2m of the northern edge of the alignment. A single ditch cut across the alignment from the south and through one of the pits. A single shallow circular pit did not appear to be related to either the pit alignment or to the ditches.

Stanwick Quarry (SP 9669 7150)

Andy Chapman

Earlier stages of mineral extraction at Stanwick Quarry had been subject to excavation and survey in the 1980s and early 1990s as part of the *Raunds Area Project*, which investigated an extensive and long-lived prehistoric landscape, a large area of Iron Age and Roman settlement at Stanwick and the deserted medieval village of West Cotton. The final phase of working involved the extraction of gravel from the marginal areas where the gravel was overlain by 1.0-1.3m of alluvial clays, so that the mineral resource was fully exploited.

The three areas involved were subject to an archaeological watching brief between 2002 and 2004 to determine the presence of any unrecognised dry-land sites and to examine the form and development of the palaeochannel system (*SMA* 33 (2003), 55) and (*SMA* 34 (2004), 38). The work has defined further details of the palaeochannels contemporary with the Neolithic and Bronze Age monument complex. A minor channel defining the eastern edge of Irthlingborough Island had silted well before the commencement of monument building in the early 4th millennium, and a number of cut-off channels had silted at various dates during the Neolithic. The sequence has been radiocarbon dated using waterlogged wood samples. In the

early/middle Bronze Age a line of oak posts had been driven into the margins of a silted oxbow lake, and a small undated ring ditch, 10.5m in diameter, has added another monument to the prehistoric landscape.

Towcester, Baptist Chapel and Manse (SP 6952 4845)
Iain Soden

An archaeological desk-based assessment and buildings recording was carried out on behalf of HFP Architects Archaeology on the Baptist Chapel and Manse, Watling Street, Towcester, ahead of conversion to new residential use.

The Chapel was built in 1877 with memorial stones set each side of the door, inscribed MEMORIAL STONE LAID BY MRS J GOODMAN AUGUST 6 1877; and MEMORIAL STONE LAID BY MRS J R DUNKLEY AUGUST 6 1877. Built of red brick, the front façade used yellow stock brick for the quoins, door and window surrounds. The windows were sash with stained-glass borders. A sub-floor baptismal pool for full immersion lay beneath the floor of the chapel. The roof was covered in Welsh slate. The schoolrooms to the rear were built of coursed limestone and ironstone. The adjacent 19th century Manse may have been brick and stone-built as a single-storey building, but had been raised to two storeys, with a modern ceramic pantile roof.

Weedon Bec (SP 6362 5914)
Adrian Butler and Ian Fisher

A geophysical survey was conducted on behalf of Steve Young of University College Northampton, on 1.08 ha of land at Weedon Bec. Gradiometer survey was carried out and revealed evidence of three sub-circular probably ditched enclosures amidst other small curving and discrete positive anomalies, possibly the remains of prehistoric settlement in the east of the survey area in a region bounded by a gently curving ditch. Most striking was a wide, generally east-west orientated, ditch in the north of the area, possibly a boundary.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

Aynho, St Michael's Church (SP 514 331)
Mike Simms

In July 2004 an archaeological watching brief was carried out at the site. The work was commissioned by P R Alcock & Son Ltd on behalf of the Parochial Church Council in advance of the installation of a new WC and utility room within the church. The watching brief revealed the old north boundary of the graveyard predating the early 18th-century rebuilding of the church.

Kettering, Land North of (SP 861 811(centred))
Clare King

In July 2004 an archaeological field evaluation and watching brief was undertaken on land to the north of Kettering, Northamptonshire for John Samuels Archaeological Consultants, on behalf of Manly Project Services.

Much of the evaluation work was sited to target the results of a geophysical survey, which had identified a number of potential archaeological features. These included an area of possible pits, a possible field system and an enclosure with an inner circular feature. The evaluation demonstrated that the features recognised in the geophysical survey, where they were present within the trenches, were either geological in origin or were the result of natural drainage. Seven sherds (19g) of Iron Age pottery were retrieved from the subsoil within Trench 13, which was sited to test a possible enclosure. The pottery was not associated with any feature, whether archaeological or geological, or with any geophysical anomaly. Worked flint was recovered from the subsoil of three of the trenches.

The watching brief was carried out on the haul road and on the balancing pond. These also revealed no archaeological features, but produced worked flint from the subsoil.

Towcester, Radstone Technology Park, Water Lane (SP 691 485)
Mike Simms

In July and November 2004 a two-phase field evaluation and excavations were undertaken at the site on behalf of John Samuels Archaeological Consultants in respect of a planning application for residential and B1 development. The site was divided into two areas by Water Lane: Block A to the west and Block B to the east.

Block B was situated over the projected course of the Roman road from Towcester to Alchester and revealed extensive evidence for 1st-2nd century boundary ditches, pits and a limestone wall footing, although there was no conclusive evidence of the Alchester road. Evidence of 3rd-4th century ditches and gullies was also recovered.

Evaluation to the north of Block A revealed evidence of 1st-2nd century plot boundaries and gullies and a possible limestone wall footing. Three 3rd-4th century inhumations were also excavated and the western extent of the burials appeared to be defined by a re-cut of a section of one of the earlier plot boundaries. As a result of the preliminary results of the evaluation in this area, a subsequent excavation was undertaken which revealed a further 25 burials, a possible southern boundary to the cemetery and evidence of 1st-2nd century activity to the extreme north of Block A.

The trenches excavated to the south of Block A were subject to flooding and features observed were therefore not fully characterised. However, a sequence of alluvial deposits overlying the natural geology was recorded, together with a number of features of Roman date.

Northamptonshire
RICHARD IVENS

Potterspury, 1 Woods Lane (SP 7603 4326)

An archaeological watching brief was maintained during the mechanical excavation of the foundation trenches and the reduction of the level of a small house extension. A stone-built and water-filled well was observed just beyond the north-east corner of the new extension. No other pre-modern features were noted during the course of the watching brief and the site had been much disturbed by clearance in the 1950s.

Welford, The Church of St Mary (SP 64008035)

A watching brief was carried out during the excavation of a service trench. No significant archaeological structures or strata were observed. Almost the entire area of the watching brief proved to have been heavily disturbed by modern drainage works and extensive grave digging. Slight evidence was observed regarding varying construction techniques for different sections of the north wall of the north aisle, suggesting that the western end, with its pronounced stone-built internal and external offset foundations, may be of different date to the rest of the north aisle. It is not clear whether this work is a remnant of a medieval aisle foundation, or whether 19th century restorers merely used a different technique.

THOMAS C WELSH

Holcot., Ringwork (Hillfort?) (SP 798688)

This sub-circular earthwork enclosing about 2.4ha is situated 900m south-east of Holcot village, on the east side of a public right of way. It was initially identified on a 1947 air photograph (CPE/UK/1994 4383), partly from plough marks crossing the bank, and partly a dark halo marking the inner and outer ditch; it was confirmed on 1990 colour air photographs. The earthwork is situated on clay soil on an elevated ridge running east-north-east to west-south-west above the 125m contour, at the highest point on the ridge. It seems that, at inclosure, the field boundaries were set tangentially on or close to the earthwork, leaving the earthwork exposed across the corners of the field, and this may account for partial preservation of the remains, even if greatly reduced by ploughing.

The earthwork is almost circular on most aspects, but the steeper ground on the north-east has flattened the curve on the north. The bank contains an area between 160 and 190 metres across, and is spread to about 25 to 30m, but only about a metre high. There are indications of an internal ditch on the south-west (about 15 metres wide) and very locally on the north and east. There is the impression of an external ditch on the south-west where the ground is wet, and the air photo evidence indicates that it was carried around the west side, currently under crop in the adjacent field, and on the south-east. The northern aspect is marked by a distinct curved scarp, but there are limited indications of the inside

of the bank. Within the constraints of the low profile and vegetation cover, there were no obvious signs of an entrance or entrances, but the 1947 air photo shows what might be an inturned entrance on the south-east.

The Holcot earthwork lies 12km north-east of Hunsbury Hill, the nearest Iron Age fort, and is 3km north-west of the Ecton/Sywell prehistoric landscape, and 7km north-east of Brampton prehistoric landscape.

UPPER NENE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Preliminary report on iron production at Piddington Roman Villa

Irene Schröfer-Kolb

(This analysis was inadvertently omitted from the report in *SMA* 34 - Ed)

At Piddington, long-term excavation has brought to light the remains of a complex Iron Age settlement that developed into a Romano-British villa. Associated with the villa are several series of metallurgical activity, including potential small-scale early Roman bronze casting (Friendship-Taylor 1989a, 1-2; Frere 1989, 290) and perhaps even mid to late 4th-century lead or pewter working (Frere 1981, 342-343), but the main archaeological evidence is for iron production. In addition to slag being found throughout the excavation of the villa site itself, a concentration of iron slag c 100m in diameter has been recognised in the fields immediately to the north of the villa site, close to a stream. No detailed examination of the scatter has been carried out as yet, although some inconclusive geophysical survey (P Simpson, Leicester Univ. BA dissertation) has been undertaken. A brief inspection of the scatter yielded tap slag and pieces of furnace lining, as well as Roman coins. The evidence for substantial iron production on the site integrates well with other industrial activities known to be associated with the villa. Stamped tiles appear to have been produced on-site in the 2nd century, and sherds of sizeable mortaria found during excavation indicate large-scale food processing beyond the needs of the villa itself.

There is no structural evidence for iron production at Piddington as yet. However, detailed examination of a number of different slag and ore samples enabled a better understanding of the iron production processes carried out and the role of the villa in the context of regional iron production (Schröfer-Kolb 1999 and 2003). Archaeological analysis confirmed large scale iron smelting through substantial amounts of tap slag as well as furnace lining found on the site. An assemblage of slag rods suggests that bellows may have been used in the production. Little ore has been found to date, the origin of which may have been Hunsbury Hill or outcrops near the Roman villa at Wootton a few miles to the west of Piddington. A small number of smithing slags indicate that the iron was not only produced but also worked at Piddington. Analysis of the archaeometallurgical evidence is still ongoing and it is anticipated that the results of a comprehensive assessment

of iron production at Piddington will be published at a later date.

References:

- Frere S S [ed.] (1981) Piddington. *Britannia* 12, 342-343.
- Frere S S [ed.] (1989) Roman Britain in 1988. *Britannia* 20, 257-326.
- Friendship-Taylor, R M and D E (1989) *Iron Age and Roman Piddington: an interim report on the excavation of a late Iron Age settlement and Romano-British Villa in Northamptonshire*. Upper Nene Archaeological Society Fascicule 1.
- Schrüfer-Kolb I E (1999) *Roman iron production in the East Midlands*. In: Young S M M, Pollard A M, Budd P and Ixer R A (1999) *Metals in Antiquity*. BAR Int. Ser. 792. Oxford: Archaeopress. Pages 227-233.
- Schrüfer-Kolb I E (2003) *Past to present – Roman iron production in the East Midlands, England*. In: Nørbach L Chr. and Voss O [eds.] (2003) *Prehistoric and medieval direct iron smelting in Scandinavia and Europe. Aspects of Technology and Science*. Århus: Århus University Press. Pages 71-79 and 249-251.

OXFORDSHIRE

AKEMAN STREET - A POSSIBLE ROMAN FRONTIER

Roger Ainslie

Recently the debate on whether the Romans entered Britain via Richborough or Fishbourne has re-opened (Bird; Frere and Fulford 2001; Sauer 2002a). It is therefore probably time to resurrect a theory that Akeman Street could have been, (at least in part), a frontier for a few years immediately after the invasion of AD 43. As W St Clair Baddeley put it "For, however a brief period that upper Akeman Street making eastward was itself the mid first century Roman frontier (Baddeley 1930).

Looking at the Archaeological as opposed to the historical evidence I consider the main points of relevance to be:-

1) Its alignment.

The route goes from Bath to Verulamium, although its link to that town is uncertain, and thence to London via Elstree and Watling Street which aligns on the early Thames crossing at Westminster (Marsden 1980). Bernard Berry has also traced a Roman road from Lake Farm near Poole harbour to Bath (Berry 1963). It is therefore not a very direct road if Poole harbour and London are its ends and it appears to be more of a route joining places which themselves are on radial routes from Silchester. Akeman Street also appears to

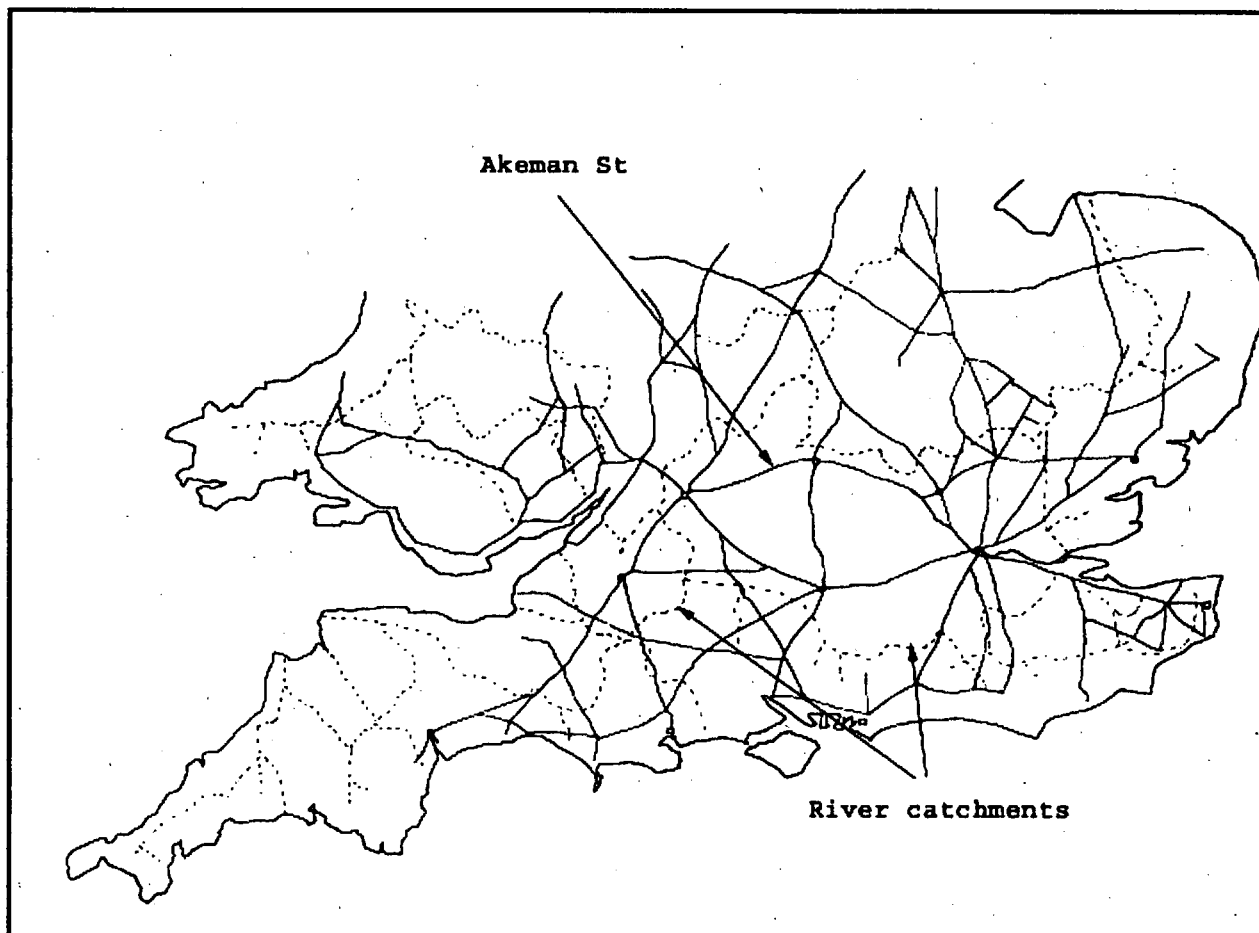


Fig 1. Roman Road network and watersheds.

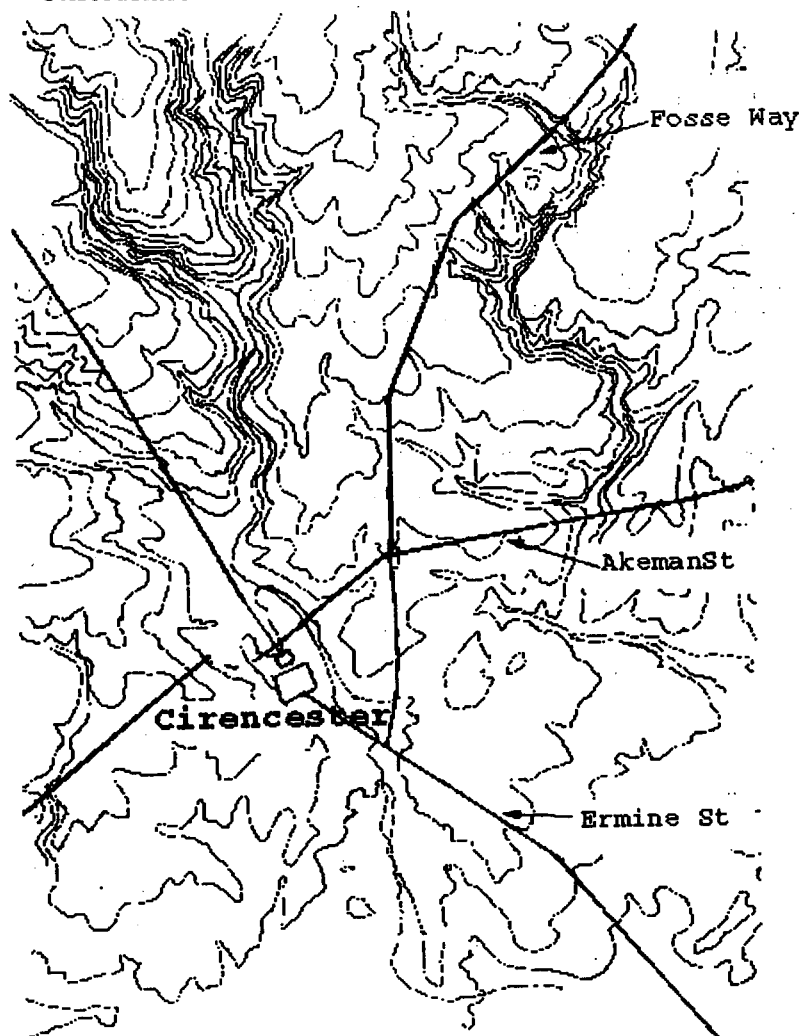


Fig 2. Roman Roads around Cirencester.

divide the catchment of the upper Thames from that of other rivers.

2) Its relationship with other roads and features.

This can indicate its place in the sequence. It is later than the North Oxfordshire Grims Dyke which has been dated to the first century AD (Copeland 1099), although it should be noted that Sauer considers a bank associated with Akeman Street, Aves Ditch, to be of Iron Age date (Sauer 1999). At Wilcote Claudian pottery was found in the fill of pits which produced material for the construction of the road (Hands 1993).

Its relationship to the Fosse Way has caused some debate. The relationship of the roads near Cirencester could explain their sequence. Codrington considered that the Fosse way was later than Akeman Street (Codrington 1905) whilst Margary (Margary 1967) considered that it was the earlier than Akeman Street with the branch to Cirencester being added later to the original Fosse Way which he had branching from Ermine Street to the south of Cirencester. Salway is of the view that the Fosse way junction to Cirencester may have been laid out before Akeman Street met the junction from the east (Salway 1999). Henig and Booth consider that Akeman Street and Fosse Way are contemporary, both dated to AD 47 (Henig and Booth 2000). My view is that the only satisfactory explanation for the kink in the alignment of the Fosse Way north east of

Cirencester is that it was re-aligned to meet a pre-existing Akeman Street which was itself aligned to go to the north of the early fort on Ermine Street (Wacher 1974).

3) Its relationship with other forts and military sites. Looking at a map of Roman Britain (Jones and Mattingley 1993) we have some 96 forts and similar encampments in Britain before 68 AD. Only 7 of these are inside the extended Akeman Street line and of these four are in Fishbourne and Richborough with the two at Staines and Dorchester-on-Thames being questionable (Cunliffe 1991). We thus have most of the military sites, Lake Farm, Cirencester, Asthall and Alchester being on the fringe of that area and on Akeman Street.

These sites all have Claudian dates with the most accurate date being the 44 AD date for the extension to the Alchester fortress (Sauer 2002b). Forts outside this line produce significantly later dates such as Exeter AD 50 (Henderson 1988), Kingsholm AD 59 (Hurst 1988), Lincoln AD 60 (Jones 1988), Longthorpe AD 48 (Frere and St Joseph 1974), Usk AD 55 (Boon 1983), and Metchley near Birmingham late 40s (Jones 2001). We therefore have a rapid expansion up to the Akeman Street line which appears to have happened without the need for many forts, followed by a period of possibly some five years before further, more military advances were made.

From these 3 points we have a road which divides watersheds, at least in part, links early forts along the edge of otherwise largely unoccupied territory and appears to have been the edge to that territory between 44 and at least 47 AD.

This would, I suggest, make Akeman Street a good candidate to be a frontier limes which shows similar development to that in Germany, where the frontier developed from a line of forts, to a road between the forts with watchtowers along it (Klee 1989). Later their system had a palisade fence and bank and ditch, (and wall in some places), added (Schonberger 1969). Here the Roman frontier army was based at Lake Farm, Cirencester, and Alchester to keep their obligations to protect client Kingdoms whilst watching out for the opportunity to take action and occupy lands outside this area, or even client Kingdoms, if the situation arose.

A bit like the recent American bases on the Kuwait-Iraq border, I suppose.

References

- Baddeley, W St Clair 1930; Notes on positions of a late and secondary road system in Gloucestershire, Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Soc. v52, p155 note 5
- Berry, B 1963; *A lost Roman Road*, Allen & Unwin

- Bird, D G: The Claudian Invasion Campaign Reconsidered, *Oxford Journal of Archaeology* v19 no1 p91
- Boon, G C 1983; Report on the Excavations at Usk 1965-1976, the Coins p3
- Codrington, T 1905: *Roman Roads in Britain*, p257, 379
- Copeland, T 1988: The North Oxfordshire Grims Ditch: A Fieldwork Survey *Oxoniensia* v53, p284
- Cunliffe, B 1991: *Journal of Roman Archaeology* 4, p164-5
- Frere, S S and Fulford, M 2001: The Roman Invasion of AD 43, *Britannia* 32, p45-55
- Frere, S S & St Joseph, J K 1974: The Roman Fortress at Longthorpe. *Britannia* v5, p1-129
- Hands, A 1993: The Romano British Roadside Settlement at Wilcote, Oxfordshire, *BAR British Series* 252, v1, p12
- Henderson, C 1988; in *Fortress into City* ed G Webster, p78
- Henig, M and Booth, P 2000; *Roman Oxfordshire*, p35
- Hurst, H R 1988; Kingsholm-Gloucestre in Webster 1988
- Jones & Mattingley 1993; *An Atlas of Roman Britain*, p89
- Jones, A 2001; Metchley Roman Forts; *Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society Journal* v105, p5
- Jones, M 1988; Lincoln in Webster 1988
- Klee, K 1989; *Der Limes Zwischen Rhein und Main*, Stuttgart, p23
- Margary, I D 1967; *Roman Roads in Britain*, p147-8
- Marsden, P 1980; *Roman London*, p14
- Salway, P 1999; *Roman Oxfordshire*, *Oxoniensia*, p1-22
- Schonberger, M 1969; The Roman Frontier in Germany, *Journal of Roman Studies* 59, p154, 166.
- Sauer, E 1999; *SMA* 29, p29
- Sauer, E 2002a; The Roman Invasion of Britain (AD43) in Imperial perspective: a response to Frere and Fulford, *Oxford Journal of Archaeology* 21, v4, p333
- Sauer, E 2002b; *Oxford Journal of Archaeology* 21 (4), p335

- Wacher, J 1974; *The Towns of Roman Britain*, p30
- Webster, G (ed) 1988, *Fortress into City*

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES AND CONSULTANCY LTD

South Stoke, Manor Farm (SU 598 836)
David Fell

In June and July a watching brief was undertaken at Manor Farm during the construction of three new houses and the renovation of two listed barns. The site is close to Manor Farm, which was probably a manorial settlement. No archaeological remains were observed.

JOHN STEANE

Church Farm, South Leigh (SP393088)
John Steane

Following a proposal to repair Church Farmhouse, South Leigh, John Steane and James Ayres were asked to carry out a historical/archaeological survey in February 2005. Church Farmhouse stands, with the church of St James, on a gravel terrace at the highest point of this dispersed, originally forest-edge village. It was described (in the Listed Building description) as "an early example of a two-storey house". In fact, the archaeology of the standing building suggests instead, that we have here in its first phase (late 15th century), a central ground floor hall, open to the roof, with jettied floored-over service and parlour - solar ends.



Fig 3. Church Farm, South Leigh. House from north. Note close studding, two storied porch and stone plinth.



Fig 4. Church Farm, South Leigh. 15th century screen.

The central cross passage has two opposed entrances with late 15th century doors. It is separated from the main living room, the lower part of the hall by a magnificent 15th century screen, originally sited centrally, with doorways to buttery and pantry. Heading off from the service end to the south is a long single storey pentice (a very rare feature), which probably connected to a detached kitchen (now removed, but sited in the farmyard). Other features of interest include the remains of the upper part of a smoke hood - holes drilled in one of the main tie beams, the butt purlin, principal rafters and wind braced roof of eight bays, the close studding of the walls, the two-storey porch added to the carcass of the house, and the considerable remains of painted decoration on the main roof timbers, indicating that the solar was originally open to the roof. Close carpentry parallels are seen at The Golden Cross (*SMA*, 17, 56-8, 1987), and at Chalgrove Manor House (*SMA*, 15, 73-5, 1985).

Kettell Hall, Trinity College, Oxford (SP514065)

Following a decision to repair and refurbish for undergraduate accommodation this early 17th century building, Trinity College commissioned John Steane and

James Ayres to compile an archaeological and historical report in January 2005.

This fine stone house, facing onto Broad Street, was built by President Kettell c 1620 on the site of Baner Hall, leased to him by Oriel College. The building was planned and described by WA Pantin in a seminal article "The Development of Domestic Architecture in Oxford" (*Antiquaries Journal*, 27, 1948), but a number of interesting additional features came to light in the recent restoration. The long three cell house is all of one date; it has two great chimney stacks at right angles. The design of walls, windows, and some doorways and fireplaces have survived from the original campaign despite the fact that much external stonework has been renewed. It seems likely that Dr Kettell built the house that bears his name for himself and "Lady Elizabeth, his wife" with a view to providing accommodation for members of the College after their deaths. The present cellar comprised the basement kitchen, built as Sir Roger Pratt later advised, to separate the lowly tasks of cooking and storing foodstuffs involving smells, heat and proximity of servants from the house above (RT Gunther, *The Architecture of Sir Roger Pratt*, 1928). The passage runs the length of the basement and is floored in pitched limestone and flags. There are built-in niches at two places, which probably housed lanterns or candles, lighting the wine and beer cellar. Much of the structural timber seen above the basement has been recycled, another indication of the low status accorded the kitchen and storage areas. The ground floor entrance from the street is through a porch with bay windows in the two storeys above. The door has an ogival head and a wicket; it is furnished with a rebate, which will

have served to reduce the draught of a house of this plan with a long corridor and two staircases. We agree with Pantin's supposition that there was a second grander staircase at the north eastern end served by a surviving c 1620 back doorway. The house has been cut about internally as one would suspect; it was occupied by undergraduates for about 50 years from 1665 and after that the college sublet it as a private home until 1883 (*VCH Oxon* iii 242). Despite this later room subdivision at first and second floor levels there are two magnificent 17th century rooms overlooking Broad Street, which must have been well sited for watching University processions. The roof is early 17th century in date and has multiple gables in common with many other Oxford collegiate buildings (cf. Oriel and Merton Colleges), but a fire in the 19th century led to the replacement of the northern two bays by a soft wood, king post roof, and much reconstruction in brick of the multiple gables. One other interesting structural feature is the building in of bonding timbers at intervals in the main walls. These have now rotted. This technique persisted into the 18th century and is found in vernacular buildings in West Oxfordshire.



Fig 5. Church Farm, South Leigh, Painted decoration in roof above solar.



Fig 6. Kettell Hall, Trinity College, Oxford. Chimney bases in c 1620 roof.

Oxfordshire

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

Abingdon, Former Horse and Jockey PH, 47 Bath Street
(SU 49603 97296)

John Moore

The contractors reported the finding of two inhumations during building works. The burials are considered to be early Saxon in date. Pottery recovered during the recording indicates Roman occupation on this side of Bath Street in the 2nd to 4th centuries AD.

Abingdon, former Red Lion Public House, Vineyard
(SU 4994 9742)

Diccon Hart and Gef Parsons

Following an evaluation, a watching brief was carried out during excavation for foundations for new residential development.

Several possible Bronze Age pits containing struck flint were present within the site area. A single shard of residual Romano-British pottery was recovered but there were no features from this period or from the Anglo-Saxon period. Rubbish pits and quarry pits of the medieval period up to the 14th century covered most of the site area. Recorded in the edge of the development footprint was the corner of a back wall of a building with an inner courtyard and a possible industrial hearth. These were dated to the early post medieval period but may have been of an earlier date. This building would have fronted on to the Vineyard.

Begbroke, Coach House, 25 Spring Hill Road
(SP 4783 1380)

John Moore

A watching brief failed to find anything of significance.

Blackthorn, Elm Tree Farm, Station Road (SP 624 194)
Carmen Cuenca

A watching brief found nothing of significance.

Bucknell, Sewage Pumping Station
(SP 563250 to 564257)

Mike Houghton

An archaeological watching brief undertaken during the course of the demolition and the construction of a new sewage pumping station and replacement of 150mm diameter water main revealed no archaeological features.

Chilton, Blue Car Park Extension, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory (SP 4760 8600)

Amy Gray Jones

Evidence for prehistoric and Romano-British occupation was uncovered during an evaluation prior to development works at Harwell. Subsequent area excavation identified a range of features dating between the 1st century BC and the late 4th century AD. Major boundary ditches associated with a sub-rectangular enclosure appear to have developed during the late Iron Age and, with some modification, maintained their significance into the early Roman period.

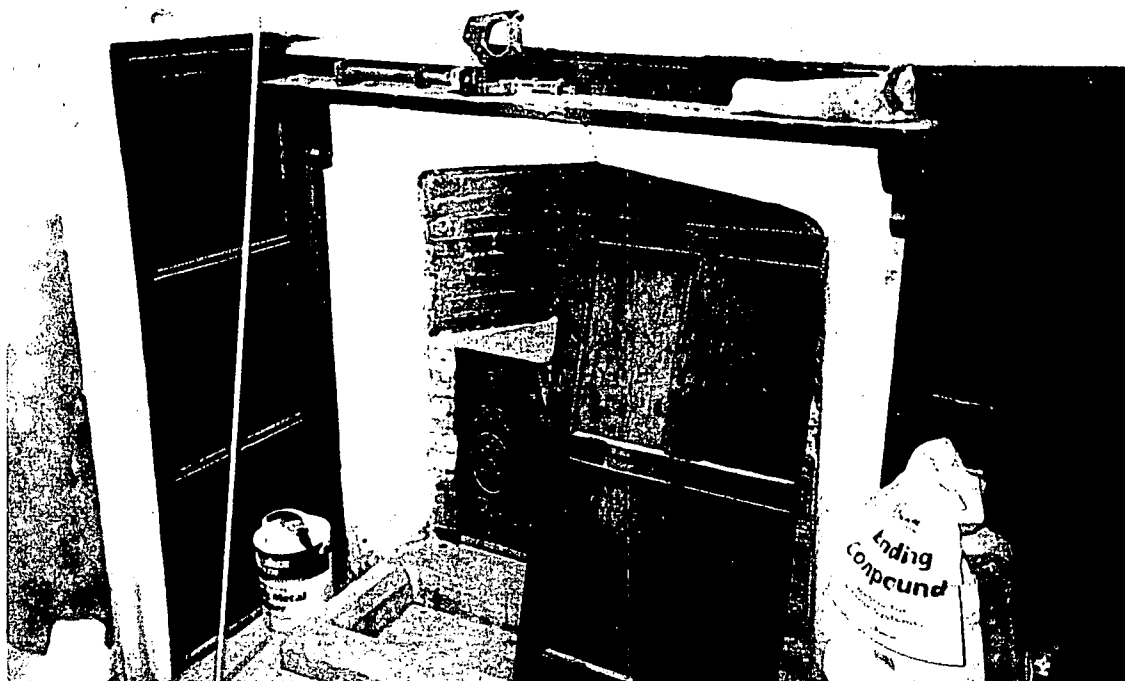


Fig 7. Kettell Hall, Trinity College, Oxford. Fireplace and panelling c 1620 in second floor room.

By the late Roman period there are signs of a break with the earlier organisation of the settlement, with the principal focus of activity shifting away from the enclosure and a slighting of the boundary ditches. Although the settlement appears to have flourished well into the 4th century it remained relatively small scale, with little evidence for any marked status differentiation. There was no indication that the occupation continued beyond the end of the 4th century AD.

Chilton, diamond Buildings Project

(SP 4786 8625 centred)

John Moore

A middle Iron Age occupation site was discovered during a watching brief. However the excavation for a new road had already destroyed a large part of the site. The site is probably a farmstead, surrounded by an enclosing ditch. The enclosure was at least 50m wide and appears, from the short length of enclosure ditch exposed, to have been rectangular or angular rather than sub-circular. An entrance on the south-west side had been remodelled. The remodelling of the entrance into the enclosure could suggest either, that the site was used over a relatively long time and that the ditch was not maintained and had silted up necessitating a re-digging of it, or that the site was abandoned for a while and the enclosure ditch was redefined on resettlement.

While no structures were found, many post-holes along with several large storage pits were found. From the features present, the economy appears to have been based primarily on agriculture rather than livestock. The nine large storage pits are obviously only a fraction of the total number of such features that would have been present. These were for grain storage and if this were a farmstead of an extended family group the grain would more likely be stored as seed corn. The inward turning entrance terminals also indicate that livestock control was not important. Outward turning terminals for enclosed settlements are more useful for animal control.

The site lies less than 2km north of the Berkshire Grim's Ditch.

Chipping Norton, rear of 4 Market Street

(SP 3128 2720)

John Moore

A watching brief during ground reduction prior to development found earlier post-medieval pits and later garden features.

Cumnor, Cumnor Place Cottage, Abingdon Road

(SP 462 040)

John Moore

An archaeological evaluation was carried out and found two ditch-like features and four pits all considered to date to the 17th century. The features have been interpreted as planting pits and trenches within a garden.

Didcot, Orchard Centre (SU 528 901)

Mike Houghton

A watching brief over parts of this large development area failed to find anything of significance. However the area adjacent to Broadway at the south had been truncated during previous development and the area of the former football ground was mainly raised during this new development.

Dorchester-on-Thames, St Birinus School, Queen Street (SU 5788 9439)

Mike Houghton

A watching brief during excavation for a new gas service failed to find anything of interest.

Dorchester-on-Thames, adjacent to Watling Lane (SU 5768 9405 to SU 5769 9409)

John Moore

A watching brief carried out during ground reduction for a new drive did not locate any evidence of the known Roman town defences.

Dorchester-on-Thames, 8 Wittenham Lane (SU 5783 9383)

John Moore

A watching brief carried out during excavation for an extension failed to find anything of archaeological significance.

Drayton, High Street Sewer (SU 483 930 to SU 479 940)

John Moore

A watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of a number of access chambers for directional drilling and for a 250m length of cut and fill trench. The investigation area stretched from the High Street, Drayton Sewage Pumping Station, which is situated to the rear of properties fronting the High Street, southwards across Drayton East Way to the Drayton Sewage Treatment Works.

The cut and fill trench passed through an area of early-middle Saxon and earlier medieval (11th century) settlement, represented by ditches and pits. It is also considered that the investigation area was within the field system of the Drop Short Roman villa estate.

A redefined boundary marked by a ditch was found to the rear of the High Street Sewage Pumping Station. This is considered to be of medieval or post-medieval date.

Eynsham, The Shrubbery, 26 High Street

(SP 4342 0923)

John Moore

A watching brief was conducted during the excavation of foundation and drainage trenches for the conversion of a barn to a single dwelling. At least one pit found is presumed to be associated with the Anglo-Saxon occupation known in

Oxfordshire

the immediate area. The medieval ploughsoil is dated to before the 13th century, suggesting that this site was in agricultural use up to some time in the later 12th century and then was developed into burgrave plots with settlement adjacent to the High Street. A ditch cutting the ploughsoil is considered to be a burgrave plot boundary. Further pits may date to the 15th century and clay-lined pits indicate a specialist use.

Eynsham, Willow Bank, 4 Oxford Road (SP 4347 0919)
John Moore

A watching brief was conducted by during the excavation of foundation and drainage trenches for an extension to the old Coach House during conversion to a dwelling. This trenching revealed a series of pits and a possible ditch. One pit was dated to the 15th century while the other features were of unknown date. A sherd of Roman greyware was retrieved from the overburden above the features.

Fritwell, Wheatcroft, North Street (SP 5227 2941)
John Moore

A wall foundation, which is on the line between two paddocks shown on the 1885 First Edition Ordnance Survey map, was found during a watching brief during work for a new dwelling.

Goring on Thames, Mill Cottage, Church Approach (SU 5973 8070)
Amy Gray Jones

Two burials were discovered during the digging of a grave for a pet in the east side of the garden of Mill Cottage, Goring on Thames. On encountering remains in the first pit digging was stopped and a second pit was dug further south, where human remains were again encountered.

The burials lie north of the church and building complex belonging to the Augustinian Nunnery of St Mary known within the grounds of Mill Cottage. Percy G Stone, a local resident, carried out excavations on the Priory during 1892-3 and identified the location of many of the buildings of the priory complex. However, during recent investigations, a wall seen in the edge of the mill stream bank, in line with the north wall of the church, suggests that there was one range of buildings which continued right up to the mill stream, farther than Stone suggested. These burials lie to the north of these buildings and may either belong to the lay cemetery of the church to the west, or to the nunnery to the south. However, the nuns' cemetery was thought by Stone to lie to the south east of the church.

Henley, Church of St Mary the Virgin and Chantry House, Hart Street (SU 7626 8270)
Roy Entwistle

A watching brief conducted during construction of new facilities found no surviving evidence for any early medieval occupation pre-dating the construction of Chantry House or any deposits associated with the early use of

Chantry House. Both later burials and recent service trenches had destroyed these. However, the remains of at least two burials were recorded, both of which extended under the wall of the late 14th century chapel of St Leonard's.

Henley on Thames, The Former Brewery, New Street (SU 7623 8278)
John Moore

A watching brief carried out during the excavation for new services and geotechnical pits found that the use of the site as a brewery had destroyed any evidence of earlier uses of the site. The only find of note was a prehistoric retouched flint flake.

Henley on Thames, The Former Brewery, Thame Side (SU 7629 8277)
Roy Entwistle

An archaeological evaluation consisted of a single machine-excavated trench located across the footprint of a proposed extension to the Cottage Pub. Despite the location of the site in an area thought to have been occupied by medieval wharves, no structures or finds dating to the medieval period were found. Aside from a large post hole, likely to have been of recent date, the only features were an artificial terrace cut into the river gravels and a linear feature running along the back of the terrace. No conclusive dating evidence was forthcoming for either of these features. Both the linear feature and the terrace had been infilled by 19th century deposits incorporating earlier pottery dating to the 16th and 17th centuries.

Horley, Hillside Farm, Wroxton Lane (SP 4180 4372)
Gef Parsons

An archaeological watching brief took place during construction of two dwellings and demolition of outbuildings for a double garage. From the results it is apparent that the land has been severely landscaped in the post-medieval period destroying any surviving significant archaeological deposits.

Kennington, The Onion Patch, Kennington Road (SP 5234 0230)
John Moore

The watching brief revealed evidence for at least two phases of pits on the site. The earliest are broadly dated to the Saxo-Norman period and probably functioned as cesspits. The second phase, which is undated, appears to have been for sand quarrying and pre-dates the present cottage on the site.

Kirtlington, Park Farm (SP 51142050)
John Moore

Nothing of interest was found during the excavation for a lake adjacent to the Roman Akeman Street.

Merton, Manor House Nursing Home (SP 5788 1794)

John Moore

An archaeological field evaluation located several pits, two lines of post-holes and a recut ditch. Three phases of activity were present. Firstly pottery indicates an early-middle Saxon phase of activity on the site followed by medieval occupation. The site then appears to have been abandoned, perhaps during the 14th century, when the land was used for agricultural purposes.

Milcombe, Old Chapel (SP 4098 3459)

John Moore

A watching brief was undertaken during excavation for foundations for an extension to the rear of the old Chapel, which is being converted for residential use. The chapel lies some 35m to the west of the St Laurence's Church, and is on the south side of the road from the centre of Milcombe towards Wiggington Heath.

The trenching revealed a 19th century burial and foundations for a medieval building of the later 11th to 13th century period.

Milton, Adj. Chestnuts, School Lane (SU 4880 9232)

John Moore

A watching brief carried out during excavation for foundations and services for a new residential building found an undated post-hole along with sherds of pottery of early/middle Saxon and Saxo-Norman date.

Oxford, Brasenose Centre, Brasenose Driftway, Cowley (SP 5540 0485)

Gef Parsons

From the results of an archaeological field evaluation it is apparent that the site has been severely landscaped; probably during the construction of the Brasenose Centre in about the 1970s, thus destroying any potential significant archaeological deposits. One small possible feature of unknown quantity produced a sherd of heavily abraded un-dateable pottery.

Oxford, Former BT Exchange, Paradise Street (SP 50850 05050)

Diccon Hart

Following on from an evaluation an excavation was carried out in the areas to be affected by new development. The site similar to others excavated in St Thomas's parish was raised with the dumping of material in the 13th century. However, it was not developed until the late 15th century with a timber framed building on stone plinths. This corresponds to increased prosperity with the growth of the cloth industry, which formed an important source of income for the suburb. The decline in the fortunes of the parish of St. Thomas, which accompanied the dissolution of the monasteries in 1536, is well documented on this site through the abandonment and demolition of Building 1 and the apparent

stagnation of activity on the site. The redevelopment of the site in the late 16th or 17th century, evinced through the construction of a masonry building (Building 3) to replace the earlier timber framed Building 1, is considered here to represent a general increase in the affluence of the parish from the end of the 16th century onwards. Parts of various buildings from the 17th-19th century along with part of the late 19th century Swan Brewery were recorded.

Oxford, Magdalen College, Cloisters Alterations (SP 452 206)

Maggie Henderson

A watching brief was maintained during refurbishment works to part of the north eastern corner of the cloister. A garderobe relating to the 13th century hospital of St John is known in this part but no remains relating to it were exposed.

Oxford, St Ebbe's Church Centre (SP 5119 0601)

Mick Parsons

Recording was carried out in advance of foundations for an extension to the Church Centre. Below the existing churchyard soil, and disturbed by several phases of burials, evidence of early medieval St Ebbe's was uncovered in the form of pits with finds dating from the late 11th century. One of these features may have been a cellar-pit. A slightly later pit cut a series of gravel surfaces.

The earliest burials encountered are thought to date to the 12th century and were on a slightly different alignment from later burials and the alignment of the present church. This may suggest that an earlier church existed on the site within a plot further to the north than the investigation area. The churchyard appears to have been extended both to the west and south in the 12th century, in which the earliest burials of this investigation were interred. The possible re-building of the church would have followed relatively shortly. Seven later phases of burials dating from the later 12th century to the 19th-20th century were identified. The graveyard diminished in size on the west with the building of a new boundary wall in the later 18th century.

Oxford, Former Bernwood School Site, North Way, Barton

(SP 5535 0780)

Roy Entwistle

Further evaluation in the south-western part of the site failed to find anything of significance.

Oxford, rear of 69 Woodstock Road, Oxford (SP 5030 0794)

Roy Entwistle

An evaluation followed by an area excavation to the rear of No 69 Woodstock Road produced features and finds of medieval and post-medieval date. The earliest activity on the site consisted of a series of pits which produced pottery assemblages dating to the late 11th or 12th century. Though

Oxfordshire

these pits were originally dug to extract gravel, they were used subsequently for the disposal of domestic rubbish. There is little evidence for medieval activity in the vicinity of the site which appears to have been open farmland well into the post-medieval period. However, the presence of medieval pottery and pits indicates that at least one dwelling, possibly a farmstead, occupied the site.

In 1648 the Horse and Jockey public house was built on the Woodstock Road frontage, and the subsequent history of the site is linked to the development of the public house and the adjoining outhouses. The recorded evidence includes several wall footings and a substantial stone-built cess pit which had fallen into disuse by the end of the 19th century.

Oxford, 316 Woodstock Road (SP 5026 0950)

Maggie Henderson

A historic building survey was carried out prior to demolition of 316 Woodstock Road, Summertown. The survey established that the house, built in 1898, had been subject to few interior and exterior modifications throughout its 105 years. The main alterations involved the division of space to create two distinct units or flats. A significant finding of the survey was the high rate of survival of the interior features.

Oxford, 72-74 Old Road, Headington (SP 5450 0630)

John Moore

An archaeological evaluation and watching brief found a series of post-medieval ditches. A residual sherd of Roman pottery was retrieved.

Radley, rear of 26 Stonhouse Crescent (SU 5258 9870)

Roy Entwistle

An evaluation was conducted close to a dense concentration of crop marks immediately to the south of the site, which had produced surface finds of Bronze Age flintwork and Romano-British pottery. No archaeological finds were encountered during the work. The only feature that might be connected with the crop mark site to the south of the evaluation was an undated ditch, which may represent a field boundary. A plough headland and possible traces of ridge and furrow cultivation provided evidence for post-medieval land-use.

St Helen Without, Sunningwell Road (SU 488 993)

John Moore

A watching brief was carried out during the excavation of a new pipe trench running diagonally across a field west of Wootton Road from the north-east corner (by the junction of White Cross and Sunningwell Road) south-westwards to a point near the junction of Tyne Road and Severn Road, Abingdon.

No archaeological deposits or features were disturbed. The recovery of three prehistoric flints could represent casual discard or losses over several centuries, or alternatively indicate a nearby occupation spot. Evidence for manuring

of agricultural fields during the Romano-British, late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods was found.

Stanford-in-the-Vale, Grange Nursing home, Church Green (SU 3413 9353)

John Moore

The archaeological watching brief revealed several pits of the medieval and post-medieval periods. In addition the footings of a wall shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey was located.

The investigation has shown that the site has been occupied from the earlier medieval period through to the present day. In the earlier medieval period the rear of the site appears to have been in the rear of a plot perhaps fronting on to Church Green. The two pits dated to the mid 11th to late 14th century may be for cess, as little rubbish was recovered their fills.

The wall that was found appears to form a boundary between two different areas of use. To the west of it (further from Church Green) no pottery later than the earlier medieval period was seen. This suggests that from the 15th century onwards the land was not cultivated, perhaps being used as an orchard or as pasture. To the east pits from the 16th century onwards indicate 'back-yard' use. The wall appears on the 1878 First Edition Ordnance Survey map where it forms a division in the Vicarage property separating a ?formal garden to the east from an informal garden to the west. The wall is still present on the 1912 edition. The positioning of a mid to late 16th pit by the wall suggests that the wall has been in existence from at least that period.

Stanton Harcourt, Stanton Harcourt Manor

(SP 4157 0565)

Mick Parsons and John Moore

An archaeological investigation was carried out in advance of the development of two new wings attached to the existing Harcourt House, formerly the 16th century gatehouse and stable of the Manor. This involved an evaluation followed by an area excavation of the majority of the footprint of the eastern wing. A watching brief was carried out during the excavation for the foundations of the western wing and the porch for the eastern wing.

Several large pits of earlier medieval date (mid to late 11th century and mid 11th to 14th century), possibly for the extraction of gravel, were found in the area of the new west wing. Undated pits found in the area of the new east wing pre-date a large rectangular stone building, which is shown on estate maps dated 1665 and 1726. This building was built onto a boundary wall defining the 'yards' from the garden and later bowling green to the east.

A smaller but wider rectangular brick and stone building was then added on to Harcourt House, which contained a kitchen. Later on a washroom annex was added to it along with a coalbunker. This wing was demolished in the late 1960s.

**Steeple Aston, The Beeches, Heyford Road,
(SP 4769 2522)**

John Moore

Nothing of archaeological significance was found during an archaeological watching brief.

Stonesfield, Adj. 16-19 Coombe Road (SP 3974 1703)

John Moore

An evaluation failed to find any archaeological remains of significance although pottery probably dating from the middle Iron Age period suggests occupation of that date in the near vicinity of the site. No remains associated with the Roman villa, some 280m to the east, were present.

Tetsworth, 58 High Street (SP 6870 0174)

Gef Parsons

An archaeological field evaluation took place as part of the consideration of a planning application for residential development. From the results of this archaeological field evaluation it is apparent that in the medieval period the south west side of the High Street was the same as the east side, in being very wet and probably marshy, as two phases of land reclamation were found. No walls or associated features of buildings were recorded within the evaluation, possibly suggesting that any post medieval buildings that may have existed on the frontage of the old Oxford to London Road, may lie further northeast under the adjacent garage or its forecourt, or more likely higher up the hill to the east.

Thame, 7 Upper Street, (SP 470 205)

Maggie Henderson

Nothing of significance was found during the excavation of foundations for a rear extension.

Wallingford, 16 St Georges Road (SU 60433 89753)

John Moore

A watching brief carried out during the excavation for footings for a new garage encountered the west edge of the Saxon burgh ditch. This investigation resolved an anomaly arising from the earlier watching brief during the building of the new house on the same plot (*SMA* 32). It was thought that there was another ditch further to the west on a similar alignment to the defensive ditch. This is now known to have been part of the Saxon defensive ditch.

Wallingford, The Studio, Thames Street (SU 6088 8939)

John Moore

A watching brief was conducted during the excavation for a basement and foundations for a new house following demolition of the existing building. The investigation revealed numerous pits of early medieval and post-medieval date. The site appears to have been occupied during the later 11th and 12th centuries before being

abandoned as part of the declining population in the 13th century. The site was not re-occupied until the later 16th or 17th century. Up until the 18th century, when Thames Street was altered to its present course, the buildings associated with the occupation would have been in the present garden to the east.

Wheatley, Moated Site of Holton House (Wheatley Park School) (SP 5987 0643/5995 0636)

Gef Parsons

An archaeological watching brief took place during road renewal and reconstruction of the north-eastern embankment of the moated site of Holton House, (Scheduled Ancient Monument 30823). From the results of these archaeological investigations it is apparent that an earlier phase of outer moat wall lies behind the present day revetment façade. This earlier moat wall with rounded corners is considered to date to the period 1670-1780AD from radiocarbon dating.

**Witney, New Cemetery to the east of Cogges Hill Road,
(SP 3690 0970)**

John Moore

An earlier evaluation had identified the possible position of a medieval building plot surrounded by ridge and furrow. In addition an area of Romano-British settlement dating to the first and second centuries was located. A watching brief was maintained during the first stage of the development of the cemetery at the north end of the site adjacent to Oxford Hill. The watching brief was conducted under unsatisfactory conditions, which made it virtually impossible to identify any potential archaeological features.

The only positive point gained from the Phase 1 watching brief was the finding and dating of medieval pottery, which indicates an 11th-12th century date for the postulated medieval occupation. Further Romano-British pottery was also collected.

NATIONAL TRUST

Gary Marshall, Thames and Solent Regional Archaeologist

Coleshill Walled Gardens (SU 23829377)

A single exploratory trench was excavated by machine in the walled gardens at Coleshill to assess surviving evidence for a pond shown on the 1876 Ordnance Survey map. An archaeological watching brief was maintained over this exercise, which revealed the brick footing for what would have been the west wall of the pond. The wall was found to be capped with a cement coping, which sloped gently towards the pond. The excavation extended to a depth of 2.7m but failed to locate a definite base to the pond. On the 1912 Ordnance Survey map this feature is labelled as 'Fish Pond'. It may have served as both a 'dipping pond' and fishpond until it was in-filled in the 1960s/70s.

Oxfordshire

Excavations were also carried out in the walled gardens to expose the brick footings for the 19th century glasshouses and cold frames (SU23879380). These were swept away in the 1960s but The National Trust is currently re-erecting a Victorian glasshouse donated by Chester Zoo. Most of the excavations, undertaken by machine, involved topsoil stripping. However, a small trench was enlarged and deepened to explore an arch incorporated into one of the footings. This proved to be one of a sequence of low-sprung brick arches incorporated into the thickness of the wall. It is thought that this particular glasshouse may have been used for cultivating vines, in which case the arches would allow the roots to grow out to the exterior. The soils within the interior were found to be carefully conditioned with charcoal and laid over a rubble base layer to allow for drainage.

Coleshill Auxiliary Bunker (SU 24409380)

Coleshill Park retains the remains of a rare World War II structure, an underground bunker created as a hide-out for auxiliary troops who were prepared to go underground and sabotage German lines in the event of an invasion. Coleshill Park was sequestered during the war as a training base for the auxiliaries and this was one of eight prototype bunkers created in woodland around the park. During 2004 minor excavations were carried out by machine to repair the corrugated roof over the toilet block and kitchen incorporated within the bunker. These revealed that the bunker had been created on the 'cut-and-cover' principle ie by excavating into the soft limestone bedrock to create a trench which was then lined and roofed with corrugated iron before back-filling. The excavation also revealed the top of the 'stink pipe' from the toilet block, consisting of a cast-iron pipe rising from the ceiling and continuing as two terracotta pipes. Above ground the pipe is missing but it is thought that originally it was carried up into an adjacent tree (!) to avoid detection by the enemy.

Chastleton Village Bakehouse (SP 246293)

Chastleton village between Chipping Norton and Moreton-in-the-Marsh retains the remains of a small village bakehouse used for communal baking of bread. The building is built of local limestone with a stone slate roof and probably dates from the late 18th or early 19th century. It still retains a small brick-lined oven, though sadly the oven door has been removed. Ownership of the oven was transferred to the Oxfordshire CPRE in 2004, who aim to raise funds for the restoration of the building before final ownership is transferred to the National Trust. The Trust carried out minor excavations in and around the building in 2004, and also undertook building recording to assess and interpret the surviving remains. Collapsed rubble within the interior included smoke-blackened bricks and two moulded copings from a chimney stack, suggesting that the interior was originally ventilated by a small chimney. Comparable examples are being sought to guide the accuracy of the restoration and it is understood that the Chiltern Open Air Museum are about to re-erect a similar, though larger, structure, recovered from Chesham.

NORTH OXON ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

Report for 2003

Edward Shawyer

This year our efforts were switched back to the other side of the road to resume work on the villa site that lay on the edge of the Roman village at Swalcliffe Lea. We were interested in investigating the northern extension of the main building, of which we had exposed a small section in 1997-99. The principal aim was to see how much survived of the mosaic that we knew existed in Room 9 and see if we could find intact parts of the central design, which would tell us what school of mosaic makers it belonged to as well as throwing more light on the partial mosaics found in Rooms 1 and 7. We also wanted to see if the hypocaust in Room 5 was part of a bath complex. The excavation was scheduled for September but the heat wave created an early harvest and so we were faced with a rushed dig, taking place on weekends and evenings, with only half the original time allotted to us. Thankfully our farmer Duncan Jack was very helpful and held off seeding the field until the last moment. Miraculously we managed to achieve our objectives although we didn't have time to investigate the earlier buildings of the lower levels. We were further hindered by having to record the mosaic in detail and the robber trenches of the walls were full of many large chunks of painted wall plaster, which necessitated slow, careful excavation.

Aside from our excavation at Swalcliffe Lea the only other activities were helping the dig at Little Wittenham and fieldwalking a new Roman site that E Shawyer had discovered in his rambles around Broughton.

Excavations

Swalcliffe Lea villa site (SP 39133838)

The first part of the dig entailed finding the northern edge of the old Trench 2 and establishing our bearings, since it was 3 years since we had excavated this part of the villa, and fixing our position proved to be difficult at first. Trench 5 completely uncovered Room 9 and was extended to the north and east where new Rooms (16 and 18) and a possible outbuilding were found.

Trench 5a exposed the remainder of Room 4, which turned out to be quite small, as did Room 5 and the existence of two new Rooms (15 and 17) were revealed in a small, narrow section.

Phase 3ba (c AD 300)

It is now apparent that Room 9 originally dated to this period and not the following phase, as was originally thought. This was realized when the northern wall of Room 16 was found to continue under the mosaic of Room 9, which meant that the room was enlarged and improved with a mosaic floor. Traces of white clay were found beneath the mosaic mortar and beneath the clay was merely humus soil with a few small stones. It is likely that Room 16 had a similar clay floor, however it wasn't clear to see in the section which we had dug by the north wall of this room since a layer of mortary soil and stone extended 60cm

KEY TO SYMBOLS



STOKEHOLE



ROBBED TRENCH



LIMIT OF EXCAVATIONS



LATE 4TH CENTURY FORGES



EXTENT OF THE
SURVIVING MOSAIC
WITH DISCOVERY
DATES (ROOM 1 ONLY)



ROBBED WALL



LATE 3RD CENTURY WALLS



LATE 4TH C. POST BASES



HYPOCAUST



LATE 3RD CENTURY WALLS
FLOORED OVER IN LATE 4TH C.



HYPOTHETICAL CONTINUATION
OF WALLS



EARLY 4TH CENTURY WALLS



3RD-4TH C. FIREPLACES



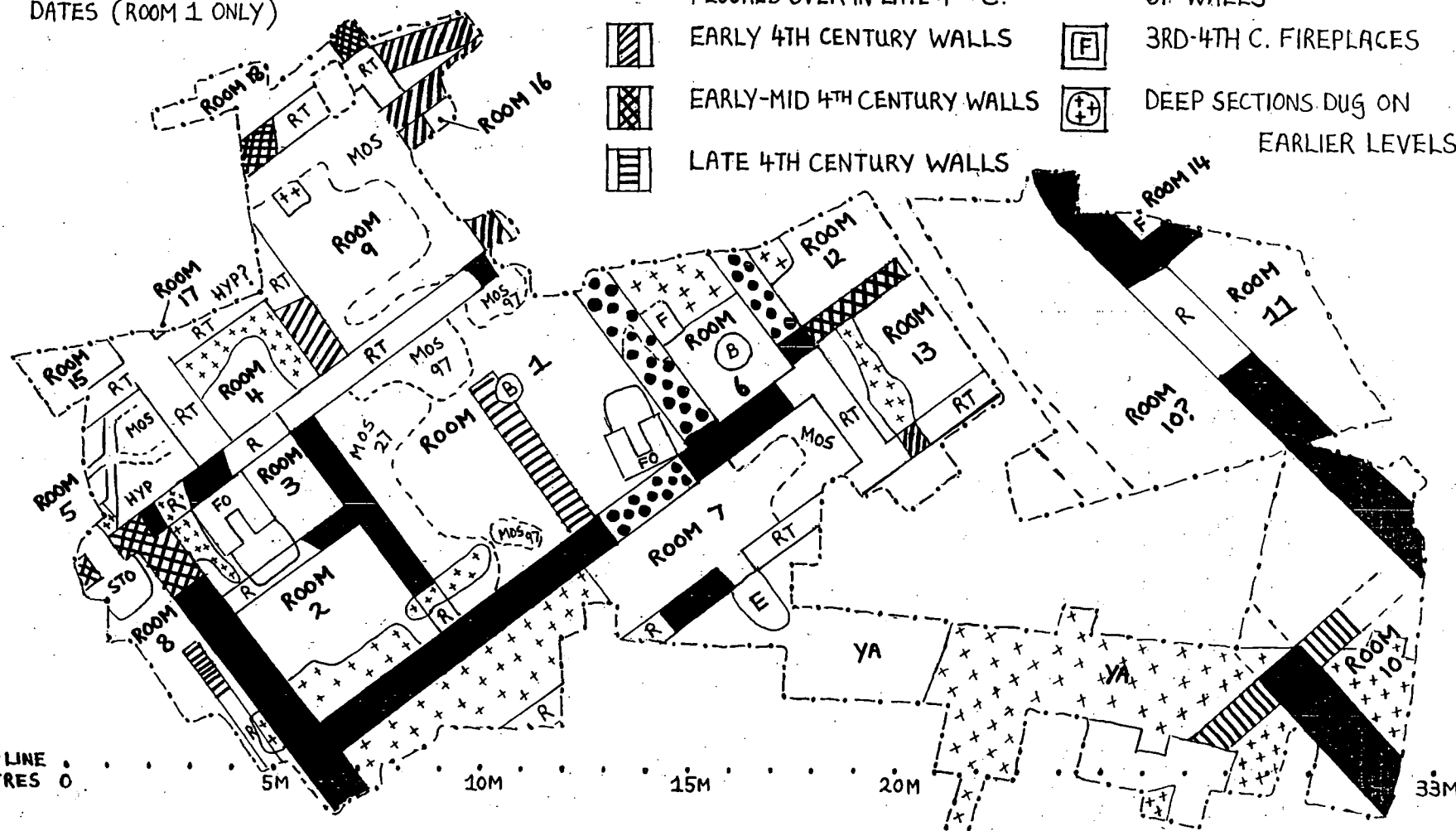
EARLY-MID 4TH CENTURY WALLS



DEEP SECTIONS DUG ON
EARLIER LEVELS



LATE 4TH CENTURY WALLS



Oxfordshire

Fig 8. Swalcliffe Lower Lea villa excavations 1997-2003. General site plan.

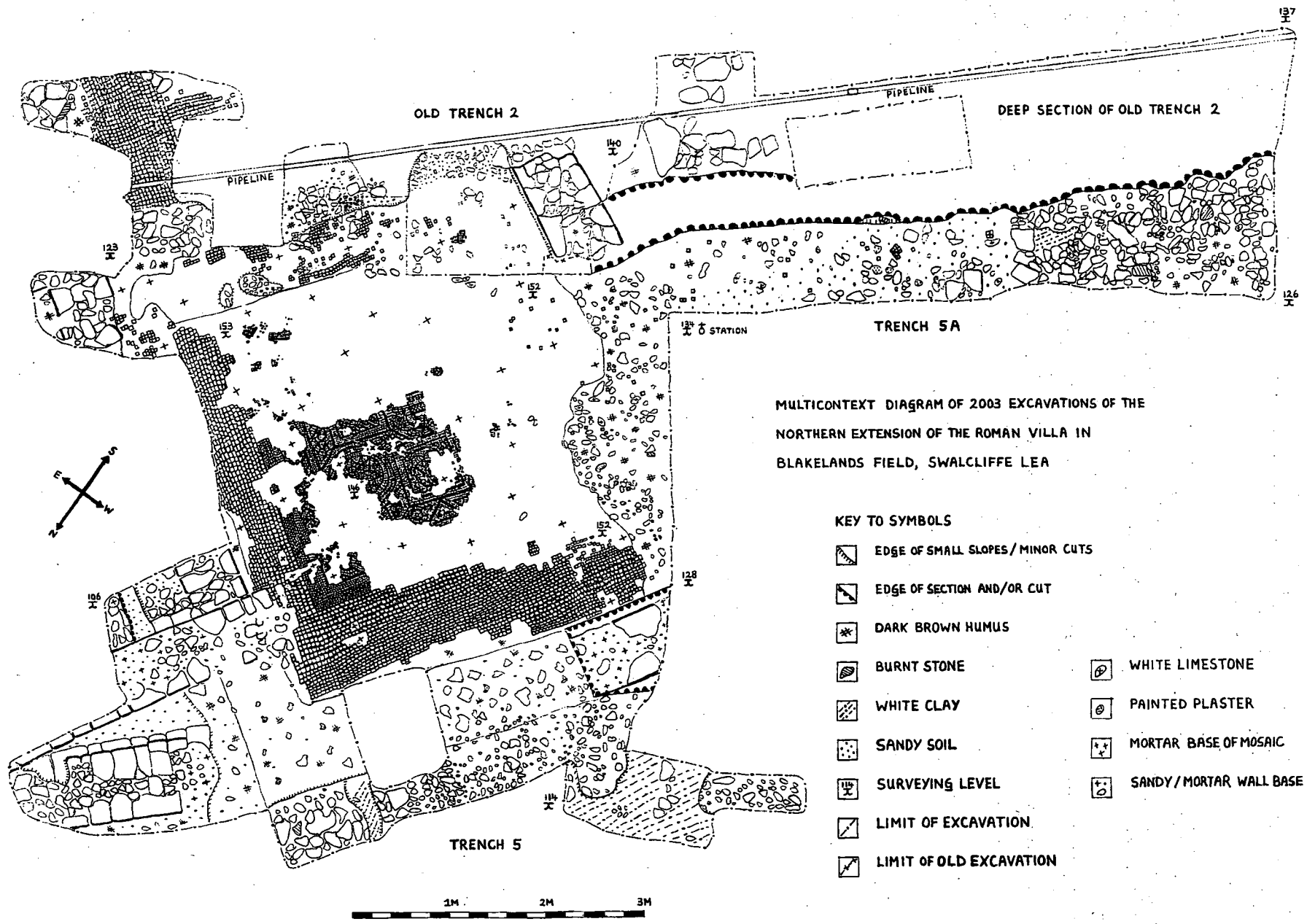


Fig 9. Swalcliffe Lower Lea villa excavation. Trench 5A.

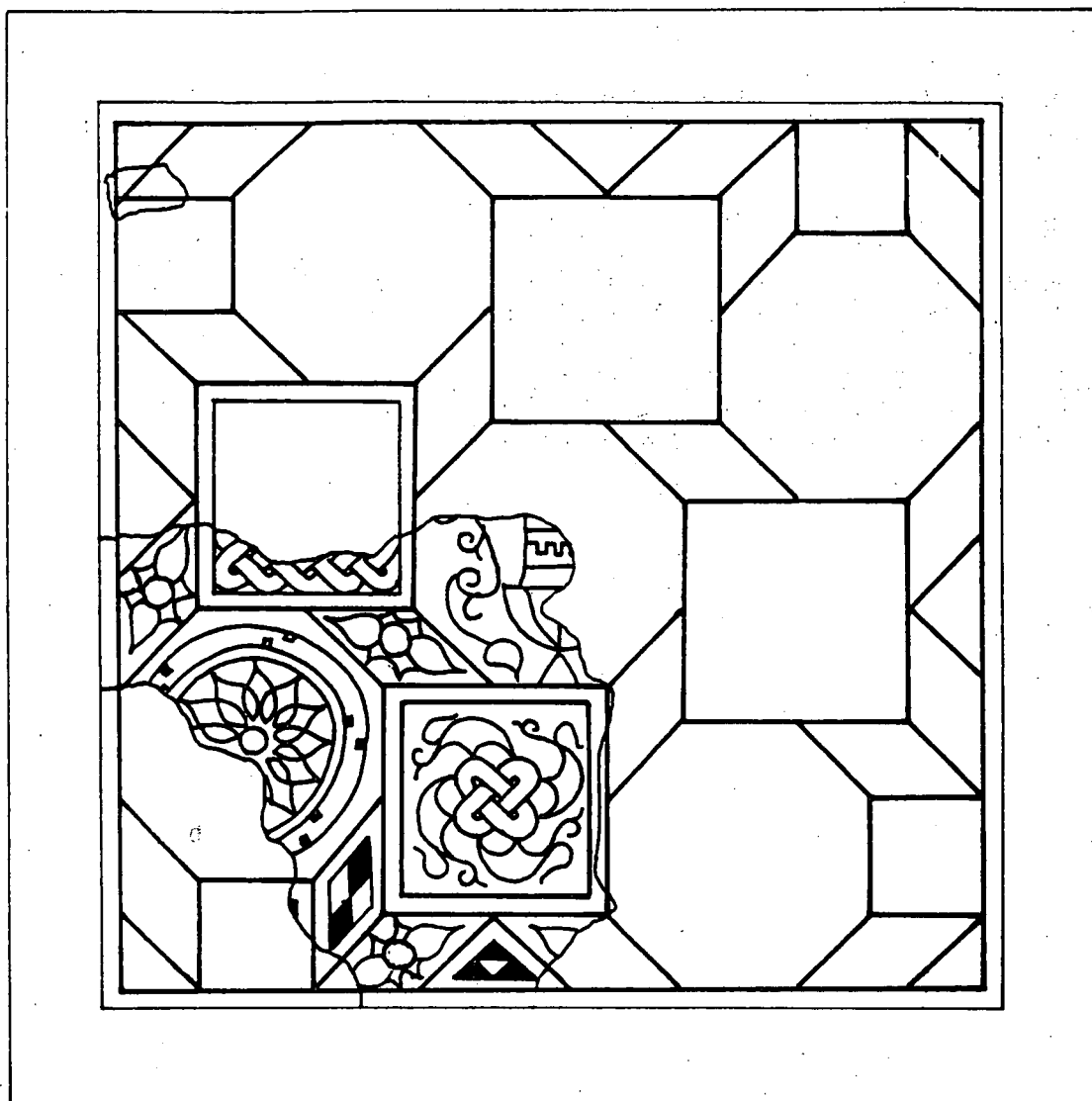


Fig 10. Swalcliffe Lower Lea villa. Room 9 mosaic reconstruction by Steve Cosh (ASPROM)

distance from it. The section wasn't extended further and so this layer may have been the foundation trench of the wall. A short stretch of wall extending from the north-east corner of Room 9 at an angle to join the north wall of Room 16 was uncovered. It was well built and of exactly the same construction as the north wall of Room 16 and had the same layer of stone and mortar between it and this wall. It is assumed for the present that this wall is probably part of some outbuilding and presumably of the same date; it looks as if the extended east wall of Room 9 may have cut through it. The wall was 70cm or so wide, well mortared and not of cheap construction or a sill wall, so it is highly likely that it is part of some high status building and not anything agricultural.

The edge of Room 4 was found in Trench 5a and it seems likely that this room probably had a clay floor as well, which was destroyed by the later stone floor. The room was terminated by a layer of disturbed mortary soil, which contained a lot of tesserae, some in blocks and lots of fragments of painted wall plaster. This layer, of which only a narrow section was exposed, may belong to a wall trench, however it is identical to what we found in Room 5 and may represent yet another small room with a hypocaust. This room was designated Room 17 and because it doesn't align

with the old north wall of Room 9 probably belongs to the next phase (3bb). Room 5 and its hypocaust, which also belonged to Phase 3bb, terminated at the same point as Room 4 and a new room (15) was found which had a crude stone floor laid down upon an earlier clay floor. This surface itself lay directly upon the local red clay humus and clearly belonged to the earliest phase of the villa in this section, which was 3ba.

As regards the two other rooms of the villa (Rooms 12 and 13) which belonged to this phase and were excavated in 1999; it now appears, after careful examination, that these two rooms were actually one large room and the partition wall between them was added later on. The side sections plainly show that this wall rested upon the clay floor and the new floors superimposed upon them were again clay laid down upon footings of stone mortared together. The floor level was similarly raised in the adjacent room 6 and these changes were all made in Phase 3bb.

Phase 3bb (c AD 330-40)

During this period, no changes appear to have been made to Rooms 4 and 16, but Rooms 5 and 15 seem to have been created by enlarging and dividing an earlier room. We have dating evidence for Room 5 (*SMA* No 30, page 54), though

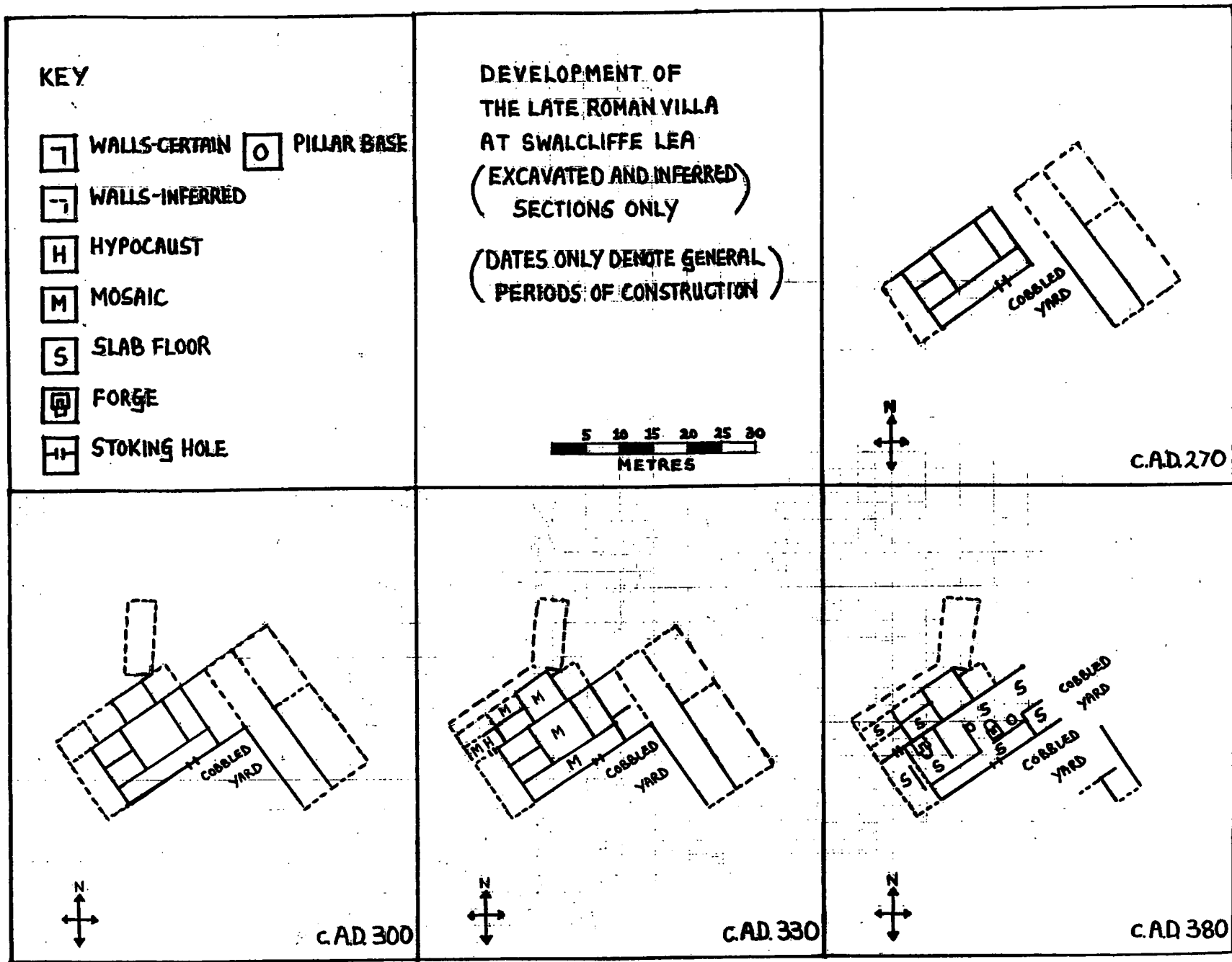


Fig 11. Swalcliffe Lower Lea villa excavation.

only further excavation will tell us what happened to Room 15. To the north of Room 9, a layer of stones and soil covered the remains of a white clay floor; the stones became larger and more tightly packed towards the north-east corner of Room 9, while they gradually faded away the further west one went from this spot. The layer was clearly destruction debris, while the larger, packed stones were probably the remains of a wall, though time was lacking to confirm this. The clay floor itself lay upon footings of small tightly packed stone and soil, a feature found elsewhere in the villa. This floor, clearly an internal feature, has been designated Room 18 and appears to extend beyond the western wall of Room 9 and might be another corridor like Room 7.

The possible wall trench or hypocaust of Room 17 suggests that the room had a mosaic and probably belongs to this phase, assuming that the old north wall of Room 9 continued further west.

The mosaic in Room 9 was the main feature of our excavation and despite the difficulties mentioned we were successful in finding a reasonably large section of intact mosaic, which provided us with some interesting details.

The mosaic was recorded and analysed by the mosaic experts David Neal and Steve Cosh of ASPROM (Association for the Study and Preservation Of Roman Mosaics). The mosaic we found was very similar to another discovered by Dave Sabin of the Edgehill group at Pillerton Priors, only 8 miles away and others at Llantwit Major in Glamorgan and Frocester Court near Gloucester. It is interesting that many of the similar mosaics found were placed in rooms which were extensions to existing rooms; therefore there is a reasonable possibility that Room 9 was an extension to Room 1 and the two were a large bipartite summer dining room with a broad entrance linking them, this would explain why the cantharus (the drinking vessel design, incorporated as an invitation to dine) faces the north, back wall; since it was here that the principal couch would have been placed and for anyone entering the room from the main entrance in Room 7, this couch would have been at the head of the room, overlooking the feast. Steve Cosh suggested this possibility and pointed out the close parallels with the double room at Llantwit Major, where the mosaics strongly resemble those in Rooms 9 and 1. It is also possible that the mosaic in Room 1 preceded that of Room 9 and so belonged to Phase 3ba. I will here quote Steve Cosh's detailed description of the mosaic: "The mosaic has a scheme of spaced and staggered octagons separated by squares and lozenges. Where the scheme is truncated by its square linear frame in the corners it is adapted in each to form a small square, a lozenge and a small triangle. The central octagon contains a cantharus of conventional type, except that the 'jewelled band' contains three rows of red and white tesserae rather than the normal two, and the body is further decorated by a linear meander. (The only other example of this latter feature in Britain is in the mosaic of nearby Pillerton Priors, perhaps indicating the same mosaicist.) The surviving S shaped handle develops more tendrils than usual, including one with a small leaf close to the pedestal. The other surviving octagon contains a medallion of elongated right-angled Z pattern enclosing a flower with twelve overlapping petals, very similar to one from Wroxeter. Two square compartments survive. One has a

mat of guilloche, the other an adapted form of swastika pelta, with the central guilloche knot with detached peltae developing tendrils. This is very closely matched on the large mosaic from Ashcroft house, Cirencester. These motifs were probably repeated in the two lost squares. There seems only to be two motifs in the lozenges; a two petalled flower; the other a lozenge quartered and particoloured red and blue grey. The one remaining triangle contains a small chessboard pattern of triangles. The panel has a frame of four-strand guilloche and a blue grey band.

There are several schemes of a related design in the area, including ones datable to the second century, but the closest parallel is that from Llantwit Major. Several of the motifs also occur in this pavement. These include the distinctive form of swastika-pelta and an identical mat of guilloche, the same motif in the triangle, and a similar flower; it is also framed by four-strand guilloche. The mosaics from Cirencester, Llantwit Major and Frocester Court, near Gloucester (where another example of the distinctive swastika-pelta was found) have all been attributed to the Saltire Group with its notional base at Cirencester. I see no reason why the Swalcliffe mosaic should not be similarly attributed. The mosaics at Llantwit Major and Frocester Court have been dated after AD 340."

Phase 3c (c AD 375)

Room 9 showed no further traces of occupation, the only layer covering the mosaic being a destruction layer, with the majority of stones being found near the walls, with quite a bit of painted wall plaster. As mentioned Room 18 had only destruction debris and there was a light dusting of wall plaster resting on the clay. Room 5 had just a collapsed channelled hypocaust. The small section of Room 16 revealed a soil and rubble layer 15 cm deep, but it wasn't clear whether there was a late slab floor here or not; though it is certainly possible there was one.

Room 4 had a late working stone floor and the newly discovered Room 15 was revealed to have a working floor of medium-sized stones laid directly upon the clay floor and bound by soil as usual. Only a few traces of iron slag were found here. It now appears that in this late metal working phase, stone floors were largely only laid down in the rooms where firm clay floors existed and not in the rooms with fragile mosaic floors or hypocausts. Only half of Room 1 and a small part of Room 7, which had mosaics, were affected and here they were partially gouged out.

Fieldwalking

Broughton castle site (SP 415382)

A small site was discovered on a slight terrace overlooking the floodplain of Broughton's Sor brook. The occupation area showed up as a dark patch of humus soil, which stood out against the red clay. The scatter covered about 100m x 100m with its nucleus in two 20m squares. This area had plenty of building and worked stone and also a fair quantity of white limestone slate. The pottery assemblage, though not yet formally analysed, is clearly Late Roman in character with a large percentage being coarse wares, grey ware, shell tempered ware, grog ware and Oxford red wares. But a notable quantity of finer table wares were found:

FIELDWALKING RESULTS OF A ROMAN SITE
DISCOVERED NEAR BROUGHTON
S.P. 415378

Oxfordshire

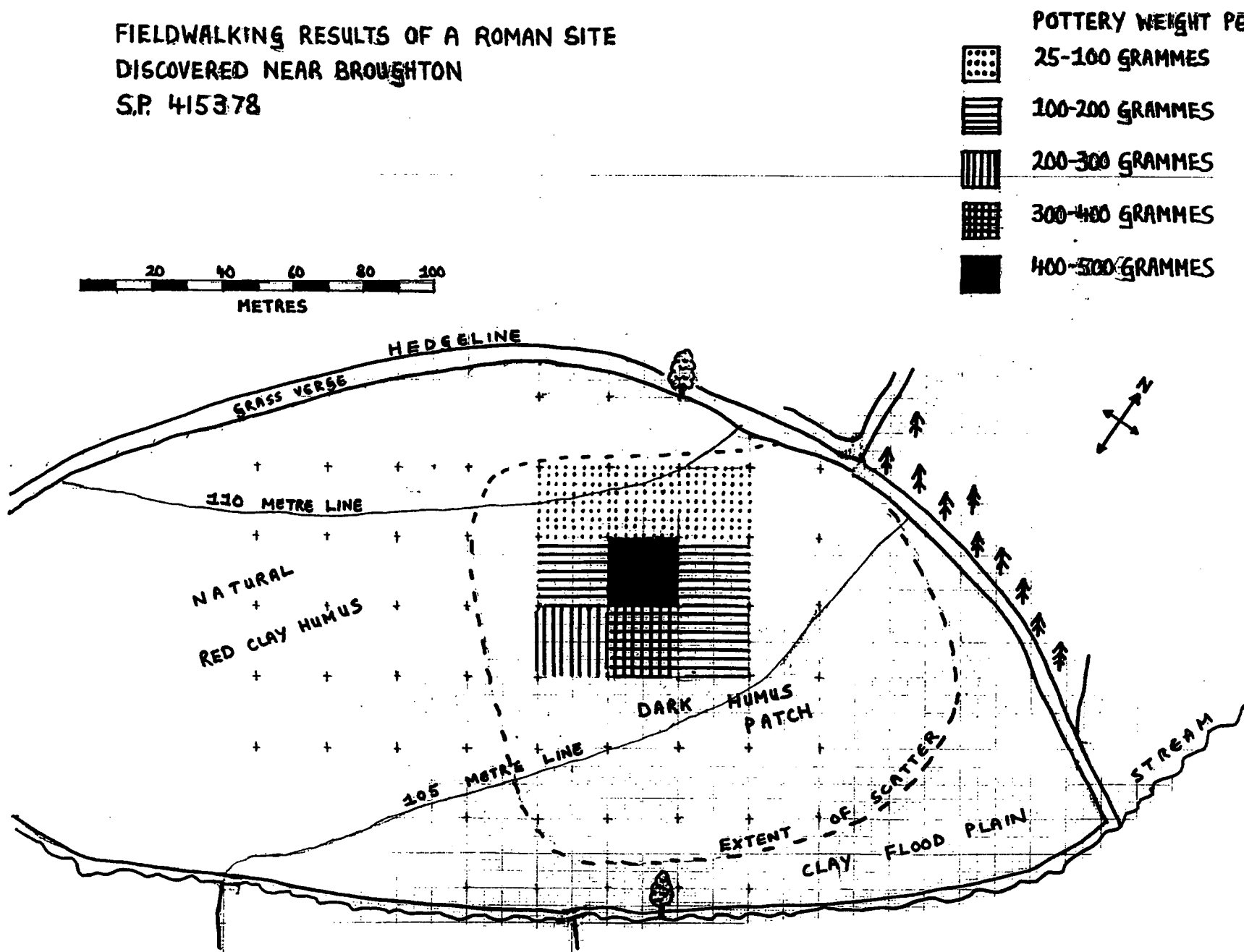


Fig 12. Broughton castle site.

Oxford red colour coated, Nene valley black and red colour coated, Oxford mortaria and some plain samian and, strangely, a bit of Spanish Amphora. The latter item was probably from Swalcliffe Lea Roman village, just a mile and a bit down the road. The Roman road 56a (Margary's classification) runs only a few fields away from this site. The settlement here is too small to be a villa and fits into our small site category; a notable amount of animal bone was found associated with this dark patch, while it was sparse elsewhere in the field. Interestingly in our core area we found 12-20 worked flints, which at a superficial glance seem to be either Bronze Age or Neolithic. The flints only occurred in the dark patch, which points to a prehistoric occupation on this small terrace. The Roman sites in this area at the moment are generally spaced about 1 mile apart, which gives us a rough idea of the average population density in this locality.

Report for 2004

Due to an error in judging the time of this year's harvest our excavation of the Swalcliffe Lea villa site had to be abandoned and instead we conducted a five day dig on the unexplored, outlying Roman settlement at Round Hill. This was easily our shortest dig ever, of nearly time team duration and considering that it was just an exploratory excavation, it proved to be very successful. This however wasn't our only activity this year. Earlier in Feb-April the writer carried out a small excavation on a medieval site in Horley and once again for a small dig it produced satisfactory results.

Round Hill Roman site (SP 38453935)

The site was first discovered in 1997 and is mentioned in *SMA* 28, page 67; *SMA* 29, page 60 and *SMA* 30, page 57, the latter entry including a diagram of the fieldwalking survey.

The Round Hill site now comprises five activity areas and our preliminary investigation was centred on the main activity area in the south-east corner of the settlement. This is where the pottery finds had been mainly early Roman and where a scatter of early coins, including one silver Dobunnian coin had been found. Two strip trenches in all were opened across the main activity area, which is the square two down and three in from the top left hand corner when one follows the diagram in *SMA* 30.

Once again our fieldwalking proved to be very accurate, since we came right down upon a cobbled surface. The excavation strategy was to open a narrow strip trench across the main activity area and to see what turned up. Trench 1 ran west to east and followed the cobbles for 7.6m down a slight slope. It became apparent that the cobbling was better preserved in the higher, western section but had been damaged badly by the plough in the lower, eastern half of the trench where the hill sloped away and the cobbles were nearer to the surface.

The stones were bound by a mixture of humus and yellow clay, the latter being the natural soil in this locality. In section the cobbles formed two layers which were separated by a layer of charcoal and humus/clay; it was this layer that gave us a good indication that we were within a structure.

There were deposits of the same yellow clay on top of the cobble in places and it seems that, as with our other Roman floors in nearby Swalcliffe Lea, there were clay floors laid down upon firm, dry, even, cobbled footings or stony soil. As a result Trench 2 was opened running north to south from the area in Trench 1 where the cobble was best preserved. Once again the stone surface ran for 7m before it finally ran out and for the last 2-3m it shelved dramatically 20cm. Once the cobbles were properly cleaned a partially damaged wall running north-west to south-east emerged and this was half way along the trench where the surface was still level. It became apparent that the cobbling beyond this point was a cobbled courtyard, since the ground was sloping and the charcoal layer didn't exist beyond the wall. An intact horseshoe was found in the subsoil resting upon the courtyard, though it is probably post-Roman. Another factor proving that the area north of the wall was inside was the presence of a fair number of burnt and oxidized cobbles. Also between the stones and mixed up in the charcoal rich layer were deposits of what looks like crumbly, white, lime mortar, which might have come off the walls.

The pottery finds consisted of Oxford red wares, grey ware, limestone tempered pottery, white wares, plain samian and a bit of Nene Valley black colour-coated wares. The ceramics were too badly abraded and undiagnostic for Paul Booth to give them a date range, but generally for the entire site when fieldwalked in 1997 the date range was mainly early Roman with a smaller quantity of later wares. Certainly the few small bits of pottery found in the charcoal layer appear to be limestone tempered, therefore of 1st-2nd century date. The coin assemblage also helps; so far one silver Dobunnian quarter stater (30 BC-0 AD) has been found, 21 early coins dating from Domitian (81-96 AD) to Antoninus Pius (138-161 AD), one 3rd century radiate and two coins of Constantine (317-337AD). Other finds made this year included a part of a brooch, a bit of bronze wire, nails and a stray Bronze Age tanged and barbed arrowhead.

In conclusion it is now apparent that we have found part of a house at least 8m long and 5m wide, which had clay floors laid down on cobble/soil footings. The walls were about 70cm wide and bound with clay and perhaps lime mortar in places. From the large quantity of red baked tiles we have found, and all the nails, it seems certain that the roof was tiled also. The first impression gained by the finds is that of a house of at least middling status, which from the dateable material seems to date from the 1st-3rd centuries AD, with some lesser activity in the 4th century. There were certainly two occupation layers noted in this part of the house and a cobbled courtyard extended 4m from the building. The major activity area in the next field has yielded pottery with a later date range so this earlier structure may have been the original farmhouse. At the present the architectural features of this site are identical with the early occupation layers found at Swalcliffe Lea, which is only 1km away.

Early Banbury (an update on Prehistoric to Saxon finds)

Pre-medieval Banbury has long remained a mystery and a nebulous subject; for the Victorian historian Alfred Beesley there were ample signs of early occupation ranging from Roman altars and an amphitheatre to Roman coins found down the High Street.

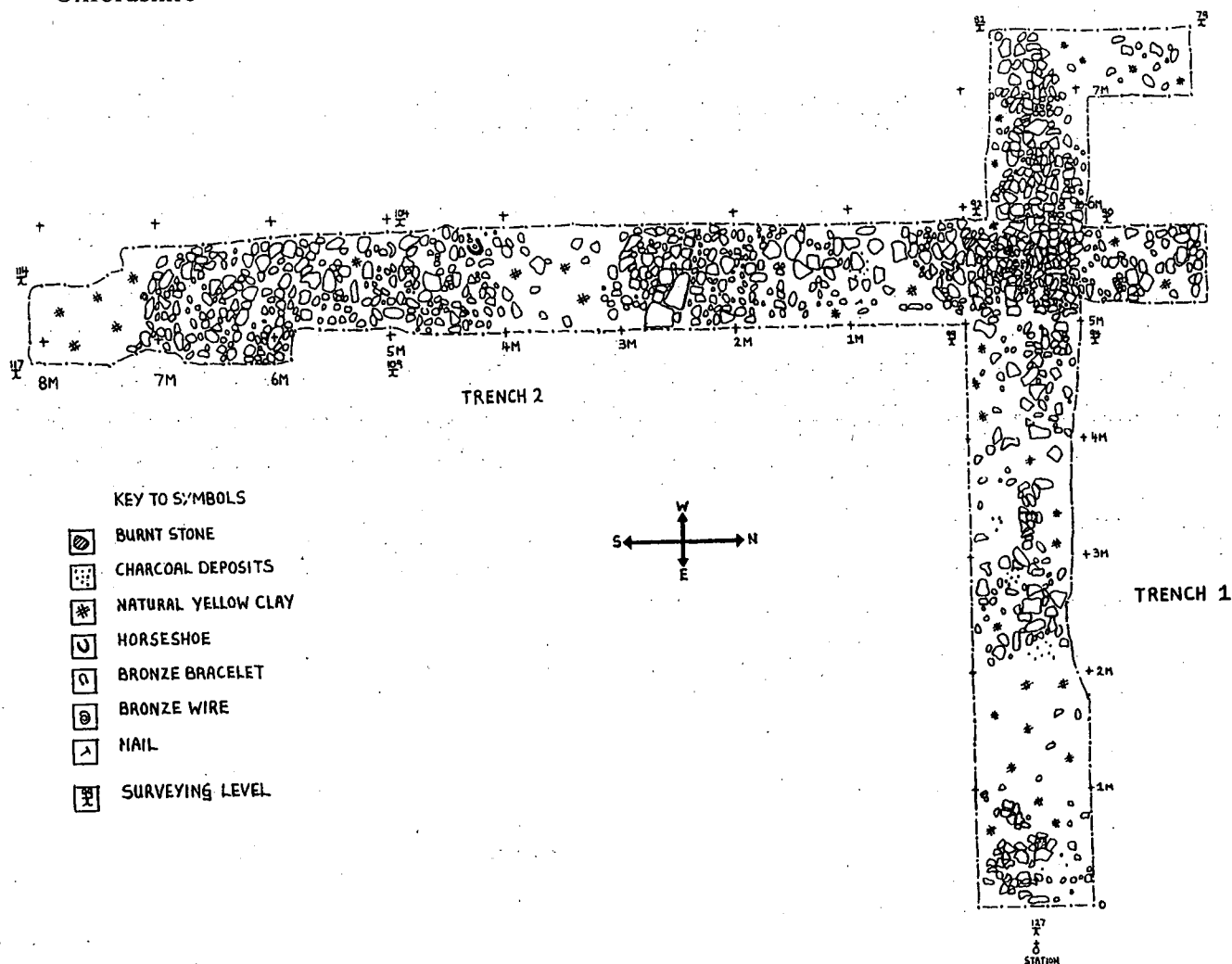


Fig 13. Round Hill Roman site near Swalcliffe Lea (SP 3845 3935). Plan of preliminary excavation.

However, by 1992 opinions in certain quarters were very dismissive of anything at all, since the amphitheatre was long proven to be a medieval bearpit, the altarstone spurious and the coins just casual losses.

It is only with redevelopment and a recent increase in local archaeological activity that important finds and clues have come to light which now give us some solid facts to deal with.

Old Banbury lies in its valley sited on a spur of high ground running down to a ford across the Cherwell, where the bridge is. The modern town now covers all its ancient three field system and has absorbed its old hamlets and farms of Easington, Calthorpe, Wykham and Hardwick as well as Grimsbury and Nethercote which were in Northants until 1888. It is these parts of modern Banbury that I shall mention in this summary.

Prehistoric Banbury

1. Wykham hamlet and Crouch Hill: Crouch hill has a British name, 'crug' is welsh for hill, also the Mayday celebrations which took place on it are certainly pagan, as are the Good Friday fair at nearby Giants Cave and the Fine Lady tradition at the cross. As reported in *SMA* 28, page 70 NOFAG discovered Neolithic flintwork on the slopes of Crouch hill, while just below a Bronze Age axe was

recovered by a local landowner and next door to that Bronze Age flints were found on the Pike Farm Roman site. Three fields south of Crouch Hill a Neolithic causewayed enclosure was identified from aerial photography by Roger Featherstone of the RCHME.

2. Pinhill (Hanwell Fields Farm) Pen or Pin is another Celtic name for hill and this area was first walked by NOFAG who found a lot of Neolithic/Bronze Age flints on the slopes of the hill and one minor activity area. This is also noted in *SMA* 28 and three years later Foundations Archaeology dug 30 trenches two fields away and discovered Mesolithic and Neolithic flints and Iron Age occupation in the form of a possible roundhouse.

3. Hardwick: near to the old medieval hamlet Neolithic to Bronze Age flints have been found and in 2004 (*SMA* 34) Oxford Archaeology found a Neolithic pit and ditches and a sherd of Peterborough ware, which reveals some Neolithic occupation existed here.

4. Grimsbury: The medieval hamlet lay on a slight spur of high ground by the river crossing and it was here that Late Mesolithic to Neolithic flintwork was found when the east-west link road to the M40 was made in 1989-91 and further finds were made when it was widened over ten years later. Parallel ditches and an oval enclosure of bronze Age date were found; later Iron Age enclosures and round houses

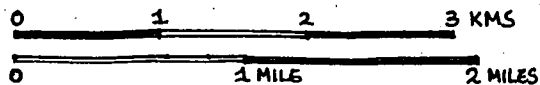


Fig 14. Prehistoric and Roman settlement around Banbury

KEY

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| | ROMAN ROAD |
| | HILLSIDES |
| | RIVER CROSSING |
| | MESOLITHIC FINDS |
| | NEOLITHIC FARM |
| | NEOLITHIC FINDS |
| | BRONZE AGE FARM |
| | BRONZE AGE FINDS |
| | IRON AGE FARM |
| | CAUSEWAYED ENCLOSURE |
| | ROMAN VILLA/FARM |
| | ROMAN FINDS |
| | ROMAN VILLAGE |
| | SAXON-MEDIEVAL
SETTLEMENT |
| | MEDIEVAL CASTLE |
| | MODERN BANBURY LIMITS |

Oxfordshire

were discovered. Just a field or so to the south NOFAG found some prehistoric flints at West Street, Grimsbury.

5. Banbury Town Centre: In 1959 or 60 Neolithic flints were found near St Mary's Church and flints of a similar age have been found by the Castle mound and near the river.

6. Calthorpe/Easington: During the 19th century a Bronze Age sword was found by St Johns Hospital, South Bar and in 1960 a perforated 2.5cm stone of Neolithic date was located during the construction of the maternity block of the Horton General Hospital.

Conclusion

It is now certain a Neolithic farmstead existed at Hardwick, with a possible causewayed enclosure at Wykham and activity areas in all the hamlets and Banbury. Earlier Mesolithic flintwork has been found at Grimsbury and Drayton on the edge of town. In addition by the Bronze Age a farmstead existed in Grimsbury and the sword in Calthorpe was probably a votive offering at a water site, since it lies on the spring line. Once again flintwork of this period has been found all around modern Banbury. By the Iron Age farms are now known to have existed at Grimsbury and Pinhill. There are many Iron Age hillforts and fortified farmsteads in the surrounding area, with villages at Swalcliffe, Nadbury and Tadmarton Heath.

It is now evident that the dense pattern of prehistoric sites found by Derek Barrett in the 1970s fieldwalking around Thenford just 6.4km east of Banbury must extend all over the area and it is only a lack of archaeological activity in the past that has prevented its earlier detection.

Roman Banbury

1. Wykham: The villa was discovered in 1851 and another farmstead was found two fields away by NOFAG in 1997. Pike Farm Roman site just below Crouch Hill and Withycombe farm roman settlement by Drayton lay on the edge of the modern town.

2. Pinhill: No Roman activity here has been noted save an unsubstantiated report of pottery found by the farmer.

3. Hardwick: Recent discoveries (*SMA* 34 page 69) can now show that a farmstead existed here also, with a pottery date range of 1st-3rd centuries AD. Roman pottery had been found here before.

4. Grimsbury: The link road excavations exposed a Roman ditch and a small circular enclosure with a single sherd of Roman pottery. Roman pottery has been found elsewhere near the railway station and by the Overthorpe road.

5. Banbury: Roman pottery has been found in redeposited soil during the castle excavations of the 1970s and 2000. The first finds were just grey ware, but now plain samian has been found and allegedly tesserae. Coins dating from Tetricus to Constantine were recovered from gardens along the High street in the 19th century. Also late Roman to sub-Roman pottery was found near the Broughton road in the 1950s.

Conclusion

NOFAG's fieldwalking has shown that Roman pottery only occurs in the vicinity of settlement, so it is certain that one or maybe two farmsteads must have existed in the valley of Banbury, while we know that all the surrounding hills and

the area as a whole had a settlement pattern of at least one farm every 2.5² km.

Saxon Banbury

Late Saxon occupation has now been discovered at both the Banbury Castle and Grimsbury Manor sites. It is a fact that early Saxon settlement was of the same dispersed farm and small hamlet pattern as that of the preceding Roman and prehistoric periods. It is only in Late Saxon and Viking times that villages as we know them came into existence, possibly for security during the Norse invasions. It has been suggested that Banbury's market place has the characteristic "V" shape of Danish markets and considering the close proximity of Danelaw it is highly likely that the town developed as a result of the establishment of this market, which lying directly upon the Jurassic Way led straight into Danish territory. The castle site probably started from a hall or defended Manor belonging to the Bishop of Lincoln in late Saxon times that lay on the edge of the Market Place. The Normans noting its defensive position on the edge of a marsh and the way it dominated the Market Place developed it into a Castle. The original settlement of Banbury lay in the triangular area bounded by the High Street, Horsefair and Parsons street. Calthorpe ('col' hill or upper outlying farm) and Neithrop ('neither' lower farm) hamlets must have developed from farms which grew up outside the original settlement.

Hardwick (Herdwick, the abode of the herdsmen) became the Bishop of Lincoln's dairy farm. Another farm existed at Easington (Esa's farm), which is a Saxon personal name and Wykham derives from the Latin 'vicus' for village, hamlet or country seat, a name often given to old Roman sites.

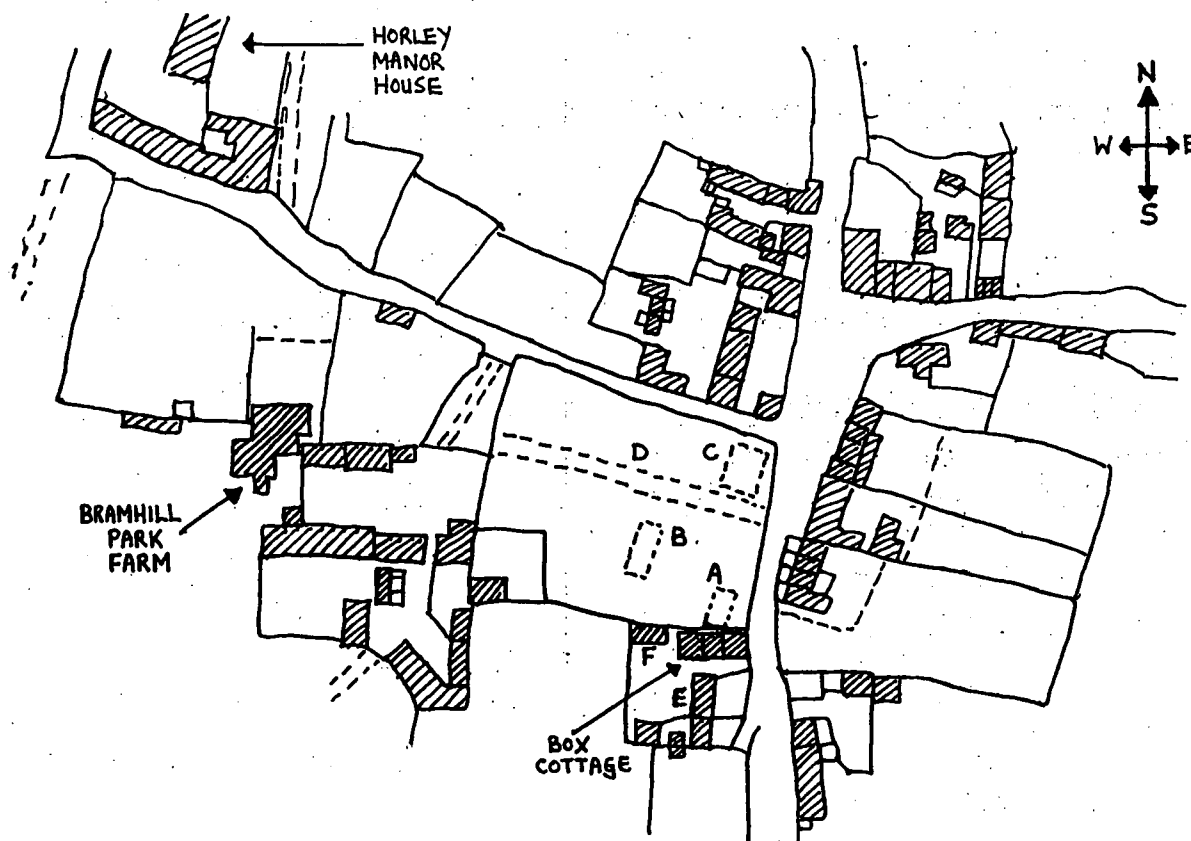
Conclusion

From all these recent discoveries it is now apparent that Banbury during the prehistoric and Roman periods was just a collection of scattered farms and this persisted into the Saxon period until by the late Saxon/Viking period a market grew up and this developed into a small town, with the Bishop of Lincoln establishing a manor or grand house there. Thus the stage was set for the Normans to further develop the site with a castle and the town grew still further during the middle ages, helped by the salt and wool trade and its geographical position.

Medieval sites

Horley: Box cottage (SP 43754179)

The writer was invited by the owners, Mr and Mrs Gayle, to investigate a few ancient features that had been noted in their garden. The case was also interesting for the writer since his uncle had previously owned the house, so he was well acquainted with it. The field next door had been subject to a watching brief by John Moore Archaeology in October 2002 and medieval cottages were found. (*SMA* 33, page 61) The Gayles asked if the existence of a wall bounding their property to the north could be proven, so a small excavation was carried out (Trenches 2 and 3). Conclusive proof of a wall was found and it turned out to be 19th century in date and part of an old access passage up to a 19th century cottage which existed at the top of Mr Gayle's garden. The western section of the wall still existed three courses high



KEY

-  A-C MEDIEVAL TO 18TH C.
HOUSES IN FIELD
-  D OLD LANE TO BRAMSHILL
MANOR
-  E, F DISAPPEARED 18TH-19TH C.
BUILDINGS IN THE GARDEN
OF BOX COTTAGE
-  BUILDINGS EXISTING IN
1882

Fig 15. Location of "disappeared" houses and lane in field by Box Cottage, Horley.

and could be seen complete 1.22m high at Bramshill Farm where a farm building had been tacked onto it. The eastern, lower section had been reduced to rubble. The wall still existed up until the 1960s when it was replaced by fence posts and barbed wire. The wall had been clearly undermined by shrubs growing into it. The boundary was a cause of dispute between the Gayles and the contractors, but interesting finds beneath the Victorian wall emerged.

Trench 2 (Context No 002, John Moore Archaeology)

A small trench was dug along the lower section of the wall and here a stone layer was unearthed, beneath the bank

which joined up with an area of stones (002) noted by John Moore. Once a small layer of rubble was removed a stone surface was revealed; Chris Gayle thought that it might have been a driveway to the end of his cottage which served as a small brewery in the 19th century, but it turned out to be a paved stone floor and part of a south wall was exposed. The east wall of this structure was also revealed, this showing up as a wall trench full of rubble, but in the stone area (002) the unmistakable line of a wall could be seen.

Plenty of Victorian pottery lay above by the 19th century wall and a horse burial was noted right by it. The horse burial was 20th century in date; the field had been a Bramley apple orchard in the 18th and 19th centuries, then by the

Oxfordshire

1950s it had become a horse field. John Moore had found another horse burial (context 005) to the west of the stone area. Beneath and among the stones of the floor a few bits of medieval pottery were found, one piece of Potterspury ware and another bit of limestone tempered cooking ware. The finds await formal identification, but are certainly medieval in date. Beneath the stone floor was a layer of charcoal on top of red clay, which seems to have been a clay floor. Beneath this was another charcoal layer on top of red clay. In all two clay floor surfaces were detected. The red clay used for the floor is also the natural layer beneath the soil in this locality. The entire building seems to be around 10m long by 4m wide. In the stone floor was a large nugget of iron slag.

Upon comparison with the two medieval buildings found by John Moore, the house discovered by Box cottage (002) seem very similar in having clay floors with charcoal deposits and walls bound with local clay. The dates for the south cottage, which is closest, (13th-16th centuries) are probably the same for the (002) building. By 1766 only the north cottage remained and by 1882 that too had disappeared. An old driveway was found between the cottages leading up to Bramshill Manor, which like the Manor near the church at least dates to the 16th century, although Bramshill is reputed to be older. By 1766 the driveway had gone and was probably replaced by the existing road to the manor, just north of the north cottage.

Trench 3: A small trench was dug just by the cottage marked F on the plan. This revealed the 19th century wall three courses high resting upon the natural. The foundation trench contained 19th century pottery.

Trench 1: A trench was dug in the garden of Box cottage to see what age the disappeared cottage shown on the 1882 map was; this is marked E on the plan. A stone surface was revealed and the eastern wall has been found. The floor may have been grey clay, though this is still not yet certain, since at present only a small section has been exposed. The wall was sectioned and 18th-19th century pottery was found at the base of the wall trench. The building is on higher ground than that of the cottage to the south to which it was formerly attached. The line of the former roof can be seen in the stonework of the cottage next door. Thus building E seems to be a later appendage of the cottage to the south of it and no older than the 18th century. It appears to be shown on the 1766 map, so it predates Box Cottage.

Box Cottage from its architecture looks late 18th century or early 19th and was originally three cottages, the eastern one of which had a small brewery in its cellar and had a door fronting the street. Traces of the cottage marked F can be seen at the top of the garden, but the architecture is definitely late 19th century in appearance.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

Compiled by Pat Chapman

Bicester, Bicester Park, Eastern Perimeter Road
(SP 6002 2239)

Ailsa Westgarth and Tim Upson-Smith

Between July and October 2004 an evaluation followed by open area excavation was carried out on 2.3ha of land at Bicester Park on the outskirts of Bicester (Fig 16). The work was commissioned by Gifford and Partners Ltd on behalf of Kier Property Services Ltd in advance of a proposed development comprising industrial buildings and associated infrastructure.

A multi-phase complex of boundary ditches had its origins in the late Iron Age, the 1st century AD, but the main focus of occupation was through the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD. In the 2nd century the ditches defined a loose agricultural system including a trackway. In the 3rd century a series of rectangular enclosures superseded the trackway. There was no direct evidence for buildings within the excavated area, but a number of features, particularly two wells, one of which was stone-lined, on the southern part of the site indicate that the main domestic focus for this middle status Roman farmstead probably lay to the south, in an area lost to a railway cutting. The educated status of the inhabitants may be indicated by the recovery of part of a wooden case for a wax writing tablet from one of the wells (Fig 17).

There was no evidence for occupation after the 3rd century.

Wallingford, St Martin's churchyard (SU 6075 8940)

Iain Soden, Chris Jones, Ailsa Westgarth

Following earlier evaluation in 2003, (SMC 34 (2004), 66), area excavation, commissioned by John Samuels Consulting, was carried out ahead of the redevelopment of a site by Waitrose on the corner of St Martin's Street and High Street. The site chiefly comprises the former churchyard of St Martin's Church, which is thought to have dwindled and been demolished as early as the 16th century.

A total of 210 burials were excavated from the site. They were mostly intercut although ground conditions were conducive to good bone preservation. Previous digging on the site from the early 18th century for sand and gravel extraction and cellar construction and 1960s-70s foundations had damaged burials. Remains of the church buildings had long been lost.

Burials date from about the later 10th century to the 13th or 14th centuries. There were few finds associated with the bodies, which were all laid east-west in the Christian manner. Two early bodies were charcoal-burials, while further early burials were in stone-lined tombs; others had stone 'ear-muffs' in the pre-Conquest manner. One such early burial may have been on a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostella as suggested by a pierced scallop shell that had been strung around the neck. An exquisite lead and mother-of-pearl crucifix predated the cemetery deposits as does a builders' mortar-mixer, perhaps indicating that the late Saxon church, in the heart of this Alfredian *Burgh*, was built of stone.

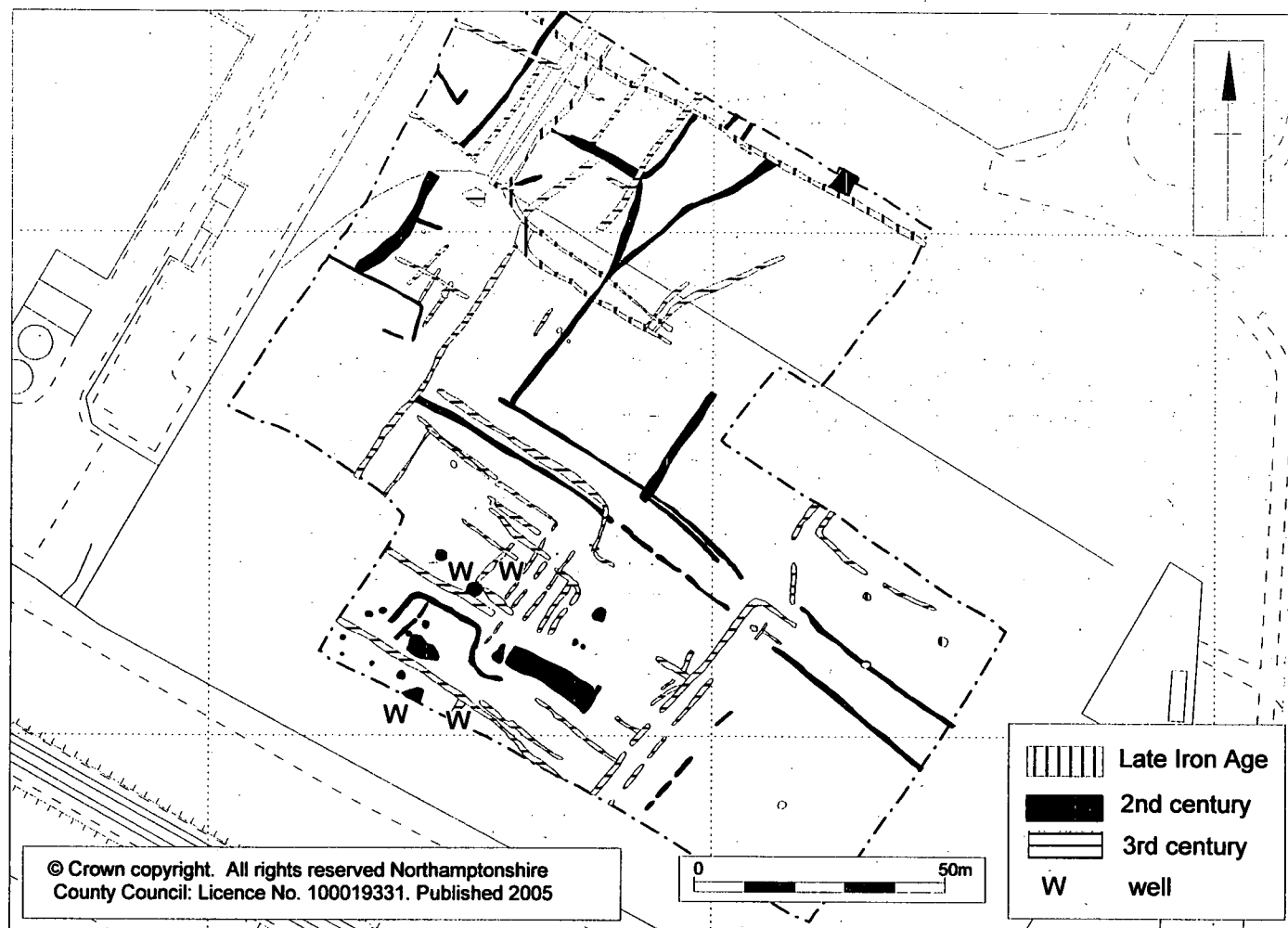


Fig 16. Eastern Perimeter Road, Bicester Park, Bicester. Site plan.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

Abingdon, Larkhill House, Cemetery Road (SU 4866 8718)

Mike Simms

Between the 13th September and 13th October 2004 a watching brief was undertaken at the site. The work was commissioned by the Barwick Property (Partnership) in advance of refurbishment of the existing building and construction of three new dwellings in the area of the old car park. The watching brief revealed evidence for extensive truncation and ground reduction throughout the area with no significant archaeology observed, probably as the result of removing contaminated land during demolition of an abutting factory.

Ardley, The Corner Garage (SP 5427 2751)

Mike Simms

In June 2004 a watching brief was carried out on the site. The work was commissioned by Thomas & Co in advance of the construction of 13 new dwellings. The watching brief revealed a possible sunken roadway and two boundary ditches relating to the medieval shrunken village west of the development.

Banbury, Units 1-6 Malthouse Walk (SP 4578 4054)

Mike Simms

From February to March 2004 a watching brief was undertaken at the site. The work was commissioned by Stockdale Cala Limited in advance of a rear extension and new shop front windows. The watching brief revealed post-medieval archaeological remains pre-dating the 19th and 20th century development of the site.

Bicester, Skimmingdish Road (SP 593 242)

Mike Simms

In May 2004 a watching brief was undertaken at the site. The work was commissioned by LBH Wembley in advance of test pits prior to development on the site. The watching brief revealed no archaeological features or deposits within the test pits.

Chipping Norton, 87-89 Burford Road (SP 3156 2640)

Mike Simms

In March 2004 a watching brief was carried out at the site. The work was commissioned by Catling and Catling Ltd in advance of the construction of two dwellings and garages.

Oxfordshire

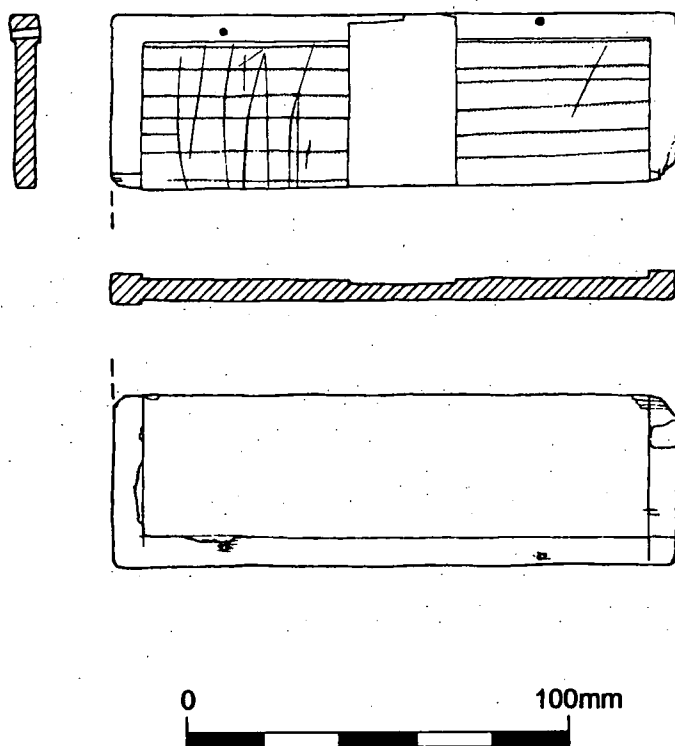


Fig 17. Eastern Perimeter Road, Bicester Park, Bicester. Wooden case for a wax writing tablet from one of the wells

The watching brief revealed no archaeological features or deposits.

Chipping Norton, 83 Burford Road (SP 3148 2651) Mike Simms

On the 11th of February 2004 a watching brief was undertaken at the site. The work was commissioned by J P Quinn Ltd. in advance of excavation of foundations for a house extension. The watching brief encountered no evidence for archaeological remains or activity predating 20th century agricultural use of the site.

Chipping Norton, Primsdown Industrial Estate (SU 3038 2704) Mike Simms

On 13th January 2005 an evaluation was undertaken at the site on behalf of SURTEC in advance of a new industrial building and car parking. The evaluation revealed possible 18th-19th century ploughsoils overlying a probable prehistory field boundary aligned north-west by south-east, which produced animal bone fragments and a single sherd of mid to late Iron Age pottery.

Culham, Culham Lock (SU 507 949) Mike Simms

On the 7th July 2004 a watching brief was undertaken during the digging of two test pits for ground investigation prior to the installation of new bank protection along the south-west side of the lock. No archaeological deposits or features were identified. It did reveal natural geology, which was exposed during the construction of the lock in

the early 19th century, and also the edge of a stone block apron relating to improvements to the lock in the late 19th to 20th century.

Dorchester-on-Thames, St Birinus School, Queen Street (SU 5788 9439) Mike Simms

In July 2004 a watching brief was undertaken at the site. The work was commissioned by British Telecom in advance of the installation of a new service duct. The watching brief revealed two undated soil horizons pre-dating the construction of the school.

Ewelme, Fords Barn (SU 645 913) Jon Gill

A programme of building assessment and recording was undertaken, on behalf of Rickett's Architects, on a large timber-framed barn of later 17th or 18th century date at Ford's Farm in Ewelme prior to the building's conversion.

Finstock, Holy Trinity Church (SP 359 164) Mike Simms

In April 2004 a watching brief was undertaken at the site. The work was commissioned by Acanthus Clews Architects on behalf of the Parochial Church Council in advance of a new service trench for the internal reordering of the church. The watching brief revealed a Roman quarry pit, but no other features pre-dating the 19th century church.

Glympton, Slape Hill, Woodleys Estate (SP 4229 1973) Mike Simms

In June 2004 a watching brief was undertaken at the site. The work was commissioned by Heyrod Communications Ltd in advance of the construction of new compound and mast for Vodafone Services. The watching brief revealed no archaeological features or deposits, as all the groundworks were within the infill of an old quarry.

Kingwood Common, Cherry Croft Cottage (SU 4698 1823) Jon Gill

In May 2004 a small programme of building investigation and recording was undertaken, on behalf of Mr P Snapes, on a labourer's cottage in the gardens of Cherry Croft Cottage, Kingwood Common in South Oxfordshire. The work was undertaken as a condition of planning permission prior to the building's demolition. The building is constructed of flint and brick dates from the 18th century albeit with later alterations.

Little Wittenham, Excavations at and around Castle Hill (SU 5695 9262)

Tim Allen and Hugo Lamdin-Whymark

Introduction

Castle Hill is a Scheduled Ancient Monument owned by the Northmoor Trust (Fig 18). It has never been excavated, although pottery of Iron Age, Roman and Saxon date was recovered from the interior in the 1940s (Rhodes 1948). Below the hillfort on the south side, excavations in the 1940s and 1970s established that there was Late Bronze Age, Early Iron Age and Roman settlement adjacent (Rhodes 1948; Hingley 1980).

As part of a Heritage Lottery-funded project a geophysical survey of the interior was carried out by English Heritage in summer 2002 (Payne 2002), and several trenches were dug by volunteers supervised by Oxford Archaeology in summer 2003. This report summarises the post-excavation assessment. Time Team further investigated the settlement outside in 2003, GSB providing an additional large area of geophysical survey (GSB Prospection 2003). Following more extensive geophysical survey carried out by local volunteers supervised by A Bartlett in 2004, a further series of trenches was dug in summer 2004 (Fig 24). Part of the project is the redevelopment of redundant farm buildings at Hill Farm, and this is revealing further evidence of the settlement (Fig 28).

The Castle Hill trenches (Figs 19-23)

Pre-enclosure Activity

Although no features of Mesolithic or Neolithic date were found, a small number of flint artefacts were recovered either from the topsoil or from later features. These include a Mesolithic obliquely blunted microlith recovered from Trench 5 and an earlier Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead from Trench 2. Two residual sherds of early Bronze Age pottery were also recovered from the excavations. Some of the undiagnostic flintwork may also be of this date, indicating further visits to the hilltop in this period.

Late Bronze Age Activity and the first enclosure

The geophysical survey undertaken by English Heritage in 2002 identified a sub-circular enclosure enclosing approximately 1ha around the very top of the hill (Fig 2; Payne 2002). Trenches 3, 4 and 6 were targeted to cross the enclosure ditch and Trench 5 was positioned to locate the northern side of the enclosure in the wooded clump. The excavation located the enclosure ditch in Trenches 3, 4 and 6, and tentatively in Trench 5a.

The ditch was U-profiled, and varied in width from 4-5.5m and in depth from 1.7-2.5m (Figs 20 and 23). In Trench 4 the ditch was not excavated to the bottom; in Trench 5a the probable inner edge of the ditch was found, but the ditch could not be excavated for lack of time.

In Trench 3 only one potsherd, a few animal bones and a scatter of charcoal came from the bottom of the ditch [3082]. Above this the northern (inner) side of the ditch was filled almost to the top by mixed chalk and clay lumps, probably derived from the material dug out in excavating the ditch. The ditch section suggests that a bank was thrown

up on the inside, which either collapsed into the ditch or was deliberately pushed back in to backfill the ditch. None of the trenches revealed any evidence for a revetment on the internal edge of the enclosure ditch to support the bank, which would explain why in places it collapsed. No *in situ* bank material was observed in any of the trenches, but in Trench 3, two middle Iron Age pits immediately north of the ditch were shallower than other such pits to the south. This may indicate the survival of an earthwork into the middle Iron Age, into which the pits on the north were dug.

Two late Bronze Age sherds were recovered from the primary fill of the ditch, and in Trench 6 a discrete dump of sherds from a single vessel was found 0.7m from the base of the ditch. The majority of the sherds conjoined to form a substantial portion of a Later Bronze Age globular jar with an applied, cabled, neck cordon. A fragment of a human bone (left radius) was also found recovered from fill [3081] in ditch [3017].

In Trench 6, two shallow postholes [6026 and 6028] were found two metres apart dug into the middle fills of the ditch (Fig 23). These postholes lay on the inner side of the ditch, and may possibly represent a fence redefining part of the enclosure, though no such postholes were found in Trench 3.

In both trenches 3 and 6 the uppermost fills of the enclosure ditch contained substantial quantities of early Iron Age pottery and bone. The uppermost fill of the possible northern arm of the enclosure ditch produced a fragment of igneous rock, possibly syenite, which may be part of a mould or quern rubber. Three early Iron Age sherds were also found in this deposit. The source of the igneous rock is likely to be in Devon, Cornwall or Wales.

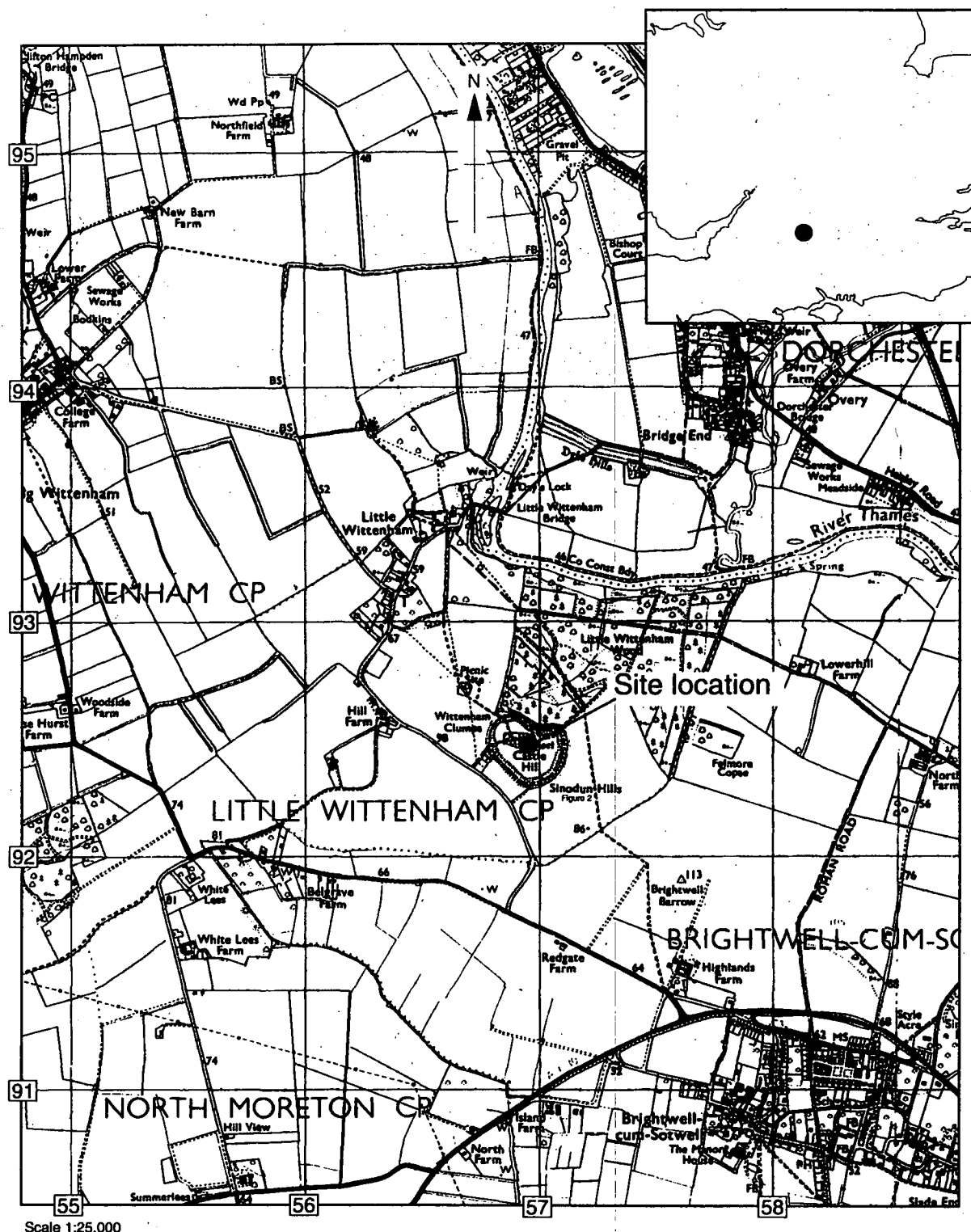
Iron Age enclosure and occupation

The hillfort defences

The hilltop enclosure was considerably enlarged, probably during the earlier Iron Age, although no direct dating evidence was recovered from the excavation. A single late Bronze Age sherd recovered from context [1012], the lowest layer of the counter-scarp bank, provides a terminus post quem for the construction.

The defences consisted of three main elements; a substantial ditch, a bank (the counter-scarp) on the outside edge of the ditch (Trench 1) and a rampart on the inside of the hillfort ditch (Trench 2). The ditch was constructed at a break of slope on the original ground surface. The ditch is 16m wide and a maximum of 7.5m deep from the original ground surface (Fig 20). It is V-shaped with sides dipping at 35° to 45° to a small flat base 0.8m wide. The hillfort ditch appears to have been kept clean and free from rubble and silt during much of the Iron Age, as only 0.8m of sediment built up before the Roman period. No finds were recovered from these lower fills.

The majority of the material excavated from the ditch appears to have been used in the construction of the counter-scarp bank. On the edge of the ditch the counter-scarp bank survived c 1m higher than the original, preserved, ground surface from which the ditch was cut. Its top is 5m wide, and it slopes down on the outer side at an angle of c 30° towards the fields below. The bulk of the



Scale 1:25,000

Reproduced from the Landranger 1:50,000 scale by permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office
 © Crown Copyright 1996. All rights reserved. Licence No. AL 100005569

Fig 18. Little Wittenham, Excavations at and around Castle Hill (SU 5695 9262). Site location.

deposit appears to have been deposited during the initial construction, but several fine silt layers towards the top of the sequence, each covered with a layer of chalk, possibly represent the formation of turf lines. These may indicate that the outer bank was repeatedly added to each time the ditch was cleaned out.

The rampart survived 7m wide and a maximum of 1.4m high above the buried ground surface on which it was built. The core of the rampart was composed of a series of layers and dumps of chalk rubble, chalk silt and some clays. The rear of the rampart was marked by a vertical-sided and flat-based trench [2040], 1.2m wide and 0.5m deep, which

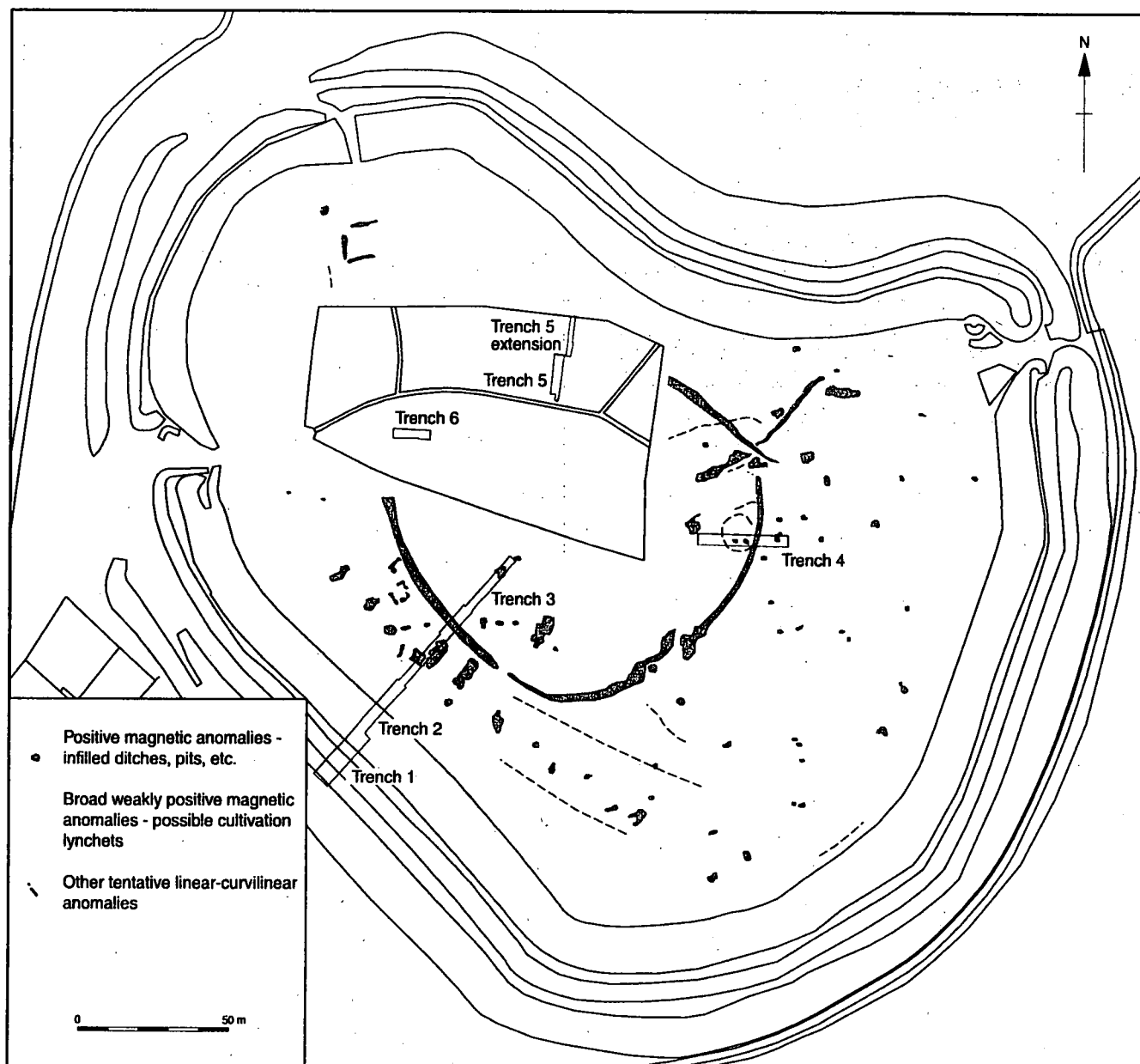


Fig 19. Castle Hill trench location and interpretation of geophysical survey.

cuts the buried soil. A series of rampart soil layers dipped towards the interior of the hillfort (north), and some of these stop against a vertical edge at the back (north side) of trench [2040]. This suggests that a timber wall or palisade (now completely decayed) may have stood here marking the original rear of the rampart, against which the rampart soils were piled. No structures (palisade trenches or postholes) were located at the front of the rampart alongside the edge of the hillfort ditch. There were no traces of stone facing the rampart or fallen into the ditch, nor a palisade trench (though erosion of the ditch side could have removed this). The rampart may however have been supported by a wooden revetment consisting of posts at intervals, as only a narrow trench (1m wide) was excavated through the rampart, and this may have lain between postholes. The angle of tip of the rampart soils, which dip towards the interior even close to the edge of the ditch, suggests that there was no room for a gap between the ditch and the existing edge of the rampart, and perhaps strengthens the case that there was some form of revetment at the front.

There is also evidence that the rampart was remodelled, probably during the Iron Age. A probable palisade trench [2032], with a posthole at the base of the trench and a rectangular slot higher up, was excavated through the core of the original mound and a layer of eroded material up against it (Fig 20). This contained seven sherds of early Iron Age pottery.

Inside the hillfort early Iron Age finds (700-400 BC) came from the top of the late Bronze Age enclosure ditch, from truncated pit [6022] in Trench 6, and from a large pit [3006] at the top of Trench 3 (Figs 20 and 21).

Pit [3006] was 4m in diameter and 0.7m deep, and was filled with a large quantity of well-preserved pottery, animal bones and charred material. The bones included a large number of juvenile sheep and wild boar bones with smaller numbers of cattle bones; fish bones and the bones of a large raven were also found. The pottery included fragments of haematite-coated cups and bowls, one of which it was possible to reconstruct, part of a highly burnished black lid decorated with impressed dots filled with a white inlay and

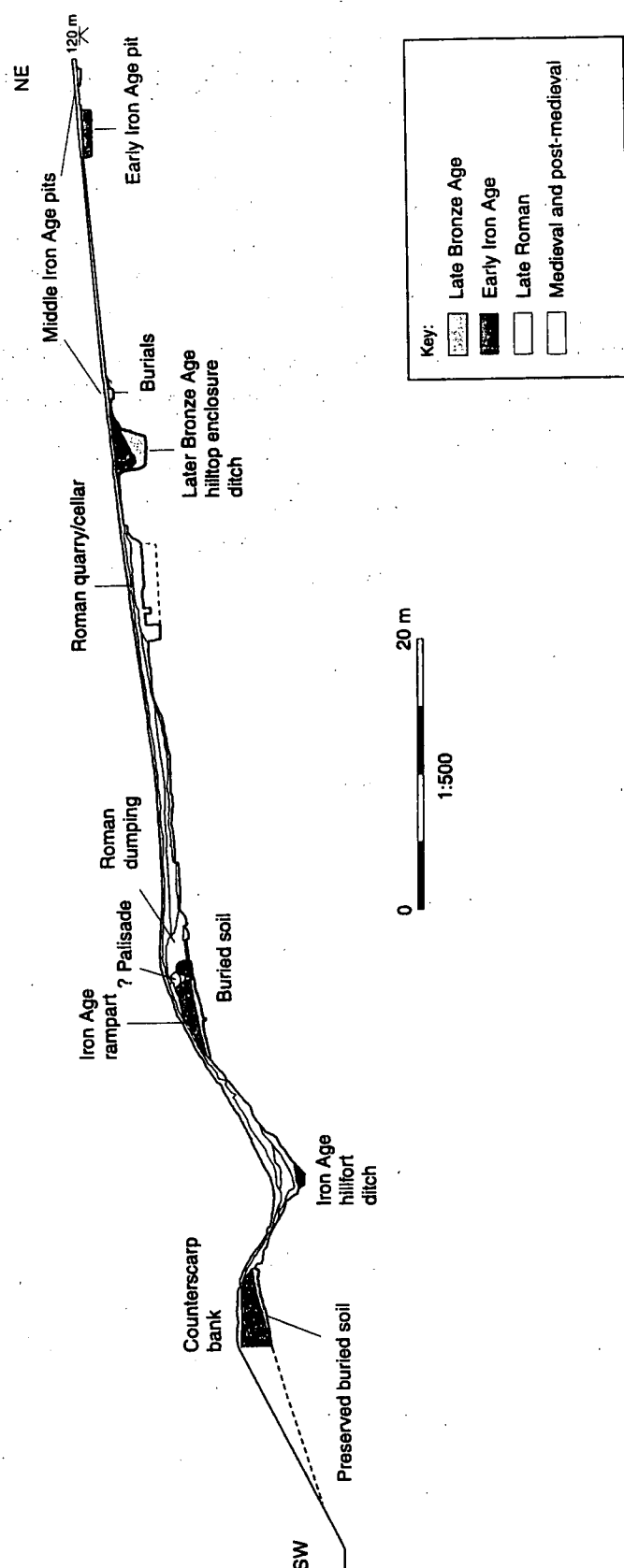


Fig 20. Castle Hill schematic section of Trenches 1, 2 and 3 with phasing.

numerous larger coarse bowls with 'T' profile rims. A bone pin, among other worked bone objects, and a clay sling-shot were also found.

Pit [6022] was truncated by a large medieval pit [6011] (Fig 23). Only one edge of the original pit survived, but from its single fill [6023] adult human bones including fragments of a femur, tibia, skull and several finger bones were recovered; sixteen sherds of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age and early Iron Age pottery were also found. Numerous human bones were found in the medieval pit, all probably deriving from pit [6022]. The bones recovered probably derive from an articulated burial.

A total of 14 smaller circular pits were excavated, three of which can be dated from the pottery to the middle Iron Age (400-0 BC). The middle Iron Age pits [3002, 3004 and 3019] were all relatively shallow and those on the top of the hill [3002 and 3004] had probably been heavily truncated by repeated ploughing (Fig 21). Pit [3004] contained fragments of a swag-decorated globular bowl, animal bones and charred wheat and barley grains. Pit [3019] (also Middle Iron Age) was the latest of a group of five inter-cutting middle Iron Age pits. A second group of three inter-cutting pits [3015, 3025 and 3057] was found immediately north of ditch [3017]; all three pits contained small numbers of early and Middle Iron Age sherds. Further Iron Age pits were found immediately south of ditch [3017], but these were truncated by later Roman features, so that few fills or finds survived.

Human remains were present in five, possibly six of the middle Iron Age pits; [3015], [3019], [3152], [3116], [3155] and possibly [3057] (Figs 20-22). Pit [3015] [fill 3016] contained a small group of disarticulated bone, comprising fragments of a left pelvis and fragments of the left and right femur. A few disarticulated fragments of cranium and a metacarpal were recovered from pit [3057], but it is likely that this bone has been introduced by ploughing from Roman skeleton [3011] adjacent.

The remaining four pits contain five articulated skeletons (two of neonates) and one partially articulated skeleton. Heavily truncated pit [3116] contained a tightly crouched burial [3113], possibly indicating that the body had been bound; three sherds of a Middle Iron Age vessel were recovered from the fill. Pit [3157] was not fully excavated, as it was situated under the baulk, but contained the crouched burial of a adult, who was probably female; a few sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery and animal bone were recovered from the fill. Pit [3019] contained the skeleton of a new-born infant [3020] within a dark soil rich in charcoal, Middle Iron Age pottery, animal bones and a fragment of daub.

The neighbouring pit [3152] contained a sequence of three burials (Fig 22). At the base of pit [3152] an adult male was buried in a crouched or foetal position [3160] with a charred deposit [3163] at his feet and two small pieces of animal bone (a sheep/goat humerus and a rib), possibly representing an offering, under the left arm. The burial was covered by a layer of clean soil, and after this the partially articulated remains of an adult female were interred [3143]. Four sections of the skeleton [3143] were found: the left femur and pelvis, the left tibia, the sacrum and lower spine and a medial section of the spine and ribs. Cut marks were present at the distal end of the femur and proximal end of the

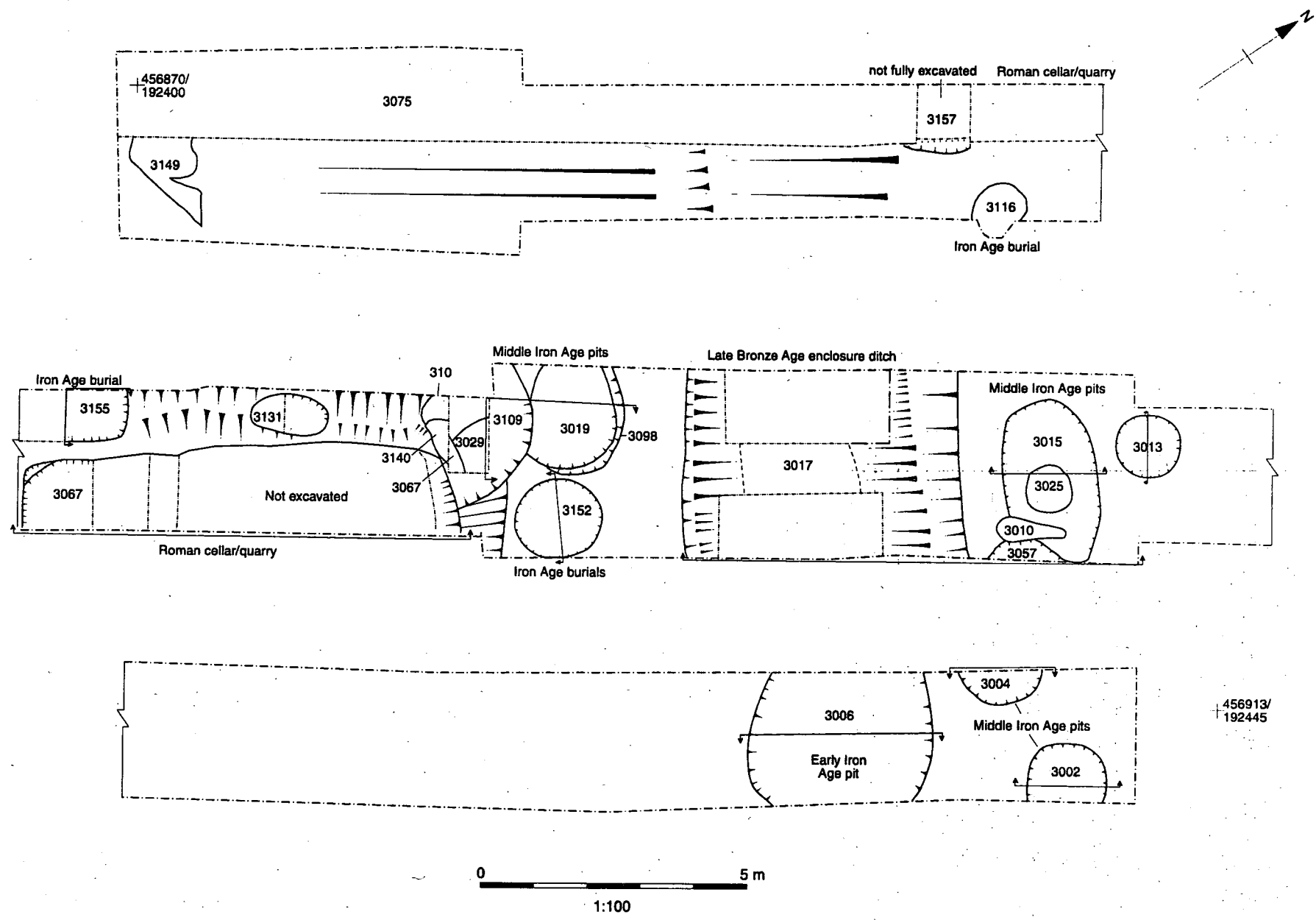


Fig 21. Castle Hill. Plan of Trench 3.

Oxfordshire

tibia, indicating some disarticulation of the skeleton, although it is possible that the body had also decayed, perhaps through exhumation for a time, before part of it was buried in the pit. A cattle skull was buried in association with this skeleton and a sheep/goat skull was present slightly higher in the backfill covering the part-skeleton.

Similarities in the backfill may indicate that both burials were placed in the pit and buried in one event. The uppermost two surviving fills of pit [3152] appear to represent natural silting over some time, though within one of these a new-born infant [3042] was buried, perhaps showing that the pit's previous use for burial was still remembered.

Late Iron Age activity

Abandonment?

Findings and features dating from the late Iron Age (0 BC-50 AD) were absent from the excavated areas, perhaps indicating that the hillfort was abandoned at this time. This was when the valley fort at Dyke Hills just across the Thames was constructed, and there may have been a population shift to this new centre.

Roman activity

Re-occupation and abandonment

A significant quantity of Roman features and finds was discovered in the excavations. The majority of the Roman activity dated after AD 250, but a few sherds of 1st century AD pottery were recovered from fill [1006], low-down in the hillfort's defensive ditch. Above this fill late Roman (c 4th century) pottery was recovered from deposit [1011], in association with tile, a fired clay tablet and pieces of limestone. A deposit of human and animal bone was also found in this layer, comprising the spine of a dog [1014], sheep bones and a collection of disarticulated human bone [1013], including a mandible, skull fragments, several vertebrae and a collar bone. The human bone probably derives from a single skeleton.

In Trench 2, behind the rampart, two pits containing small quantities of Roman pottery were found [2020 and 2064]. Overlying the pits was a series of dumped soils and occupation debris up to 1m thick and extending some four metres back from the rear of the rampart (Fig 20). Indeed, these layers even spread over the top of the rampart creating a false 'crest' at the edge of the hillfort. The deposits in the dump included large sherds of late Roman (c 4th century) pottery, some from largely complete but broken vessels, glass, abundant animal bones, and ironwork. Furthermore, behind the rampart a more extensive soil level containing Roman finds was preserved.

The excavation also revealed three large rectangular features: [4009] in Trench 4 (not illustrated) and [3157] and [3067] in Trench 3 (Fig 21). None were fully excavated. Pit [4009] was rectangular, 2.9m by 2m and 1m deep. The surviving sides were vertical and the base was flat, and the fills included spills of chalk and silty deposits. Finds from pit [4009] included small fragments of Roman pottery, a Roman coin and the spur from a cockerel. Pit [3067] was similar to pit [4009], but considerably larger, measuring 8m

by at least 3m, and was cut over 1.2m into the natural chalk. Its upper sides were sloping, probably from weathering over some time, and it cut several Iron Age pits on its north and west sides. The fills contained comparatively few finds.

In the fills of pit [3067] fragments of human bone were recovered including pieces of skull, vertebra and a patella; these bones may have been incorporated from a truncated Iron Age pit, or may have been discarded as Roman rubbish. The third square pit was situated alongside pit [3067], but was smaller (as shown on the geophysical plot) and was not excavated to the bottom. The upper fill did however produce a human cranium (Sf [3072]).

Further uphill a shallow grave [3010] was cut into the upper fills of Iron Age pit [3015], and contained the extended burial of an adult male [3012], with head to the south-west. The grave was very shallow and had been truncated by ploughing, removing the skull and much of the lower mandible. The burial was accompanied by fragments of two or three pottery vessels placed over the pelvis, these again had been badly damaged by ploughing. It is unclear if the disarticulated remains in Roman contexts derive from the truncation of earlier features or represent a contemporary, Roman, burial practice.

Medieval and post-medieval activity

Pit digging, ploughing and plantation

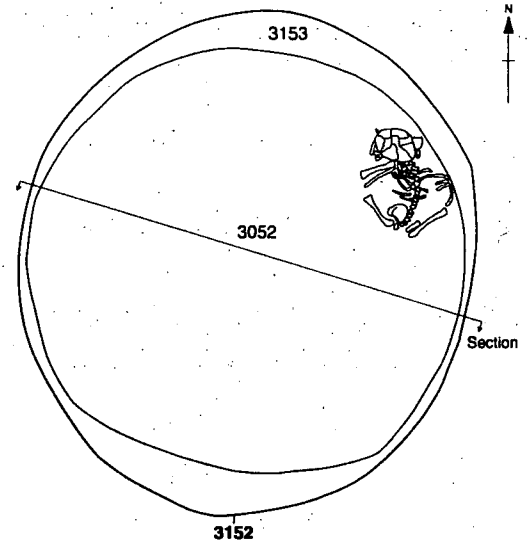
No Saxon features were found, although two small sherds of early-middle Saxon handmade pottery, one with faint traces of decoration suggesting a 5th-6th century date, were recovered from colluvial layers. Medieval activity is represented by two pits and clusters of pottery from colluvial layers, particularly those behind the rampart in Trench 3. Pit [4003] in Trench 4, was square in plan and contained a layer of black soil and charcoal at the base of the feature, which contained sheep bones, numerous fish bones found by sieving and a large sherd of 11th-13th century Wallingford Ware pottery. The deposit also produced an iron spoon-bit auger used for woodworking.

The second medieval pit [6011] was a large sub-circular pit in Trench 6, which was filled with dark charcoal-rich deposits containing animal bone, a few pieces of ironwork and a sherd of 11th-13th century Wallingford Ware pottery. This pit may have been dug as a chalk quarry and then used for refuse disposal (Fig 23). This feature was not fully excavated.

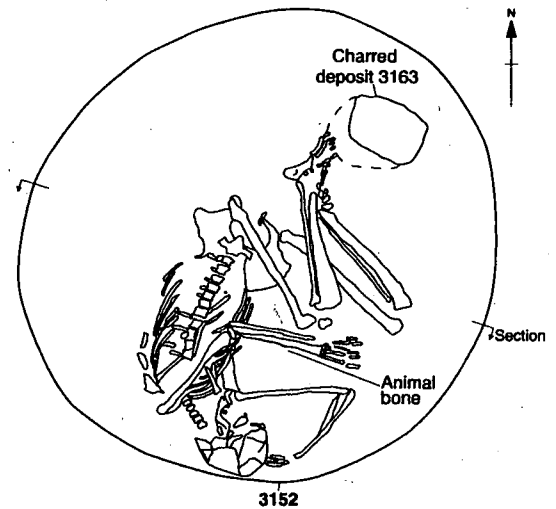
Above the Roman soils just behind the rampart the upper colluvial layers [3075/3076] in Trench 3 contained a significant quantity of medieval pottery, including numerous refitting fragments of a large vessel 11th-13th century Wallingford Ware vessel.

The presence of two large pits and the quantity of pottery from colluvial layers suggests a possible settlement. Environmental evidence from charred plant remains from pit [4003] also indicates domestic activity. Documentary evidence (Leland's Itinerary) tells us that the hilltop was used as arable fields by AD 1560, but the pits suggest that this did not begin until after the 13th century. Furthermore, the pottery in the colluvial layers is relatively fresh and may indicate that ploughing leading to soil creep began soon after the sherds were deposited.

Neonate 3074



Skeleton 3160



A horizontal scale bar with a black background and white markings. It is labeled '0' at the left end and '1 m' at the right end. Below the bar, the text '1:20' indicates the scale.

Fig 22. Castle Hill. Middle Iron Age burials, pit 3152.

and also a ploughsoil that overlies the pit. The ridges and hollows also stop just inside the boundary bank around the Clumps [5016], indicating that they are contemporary.

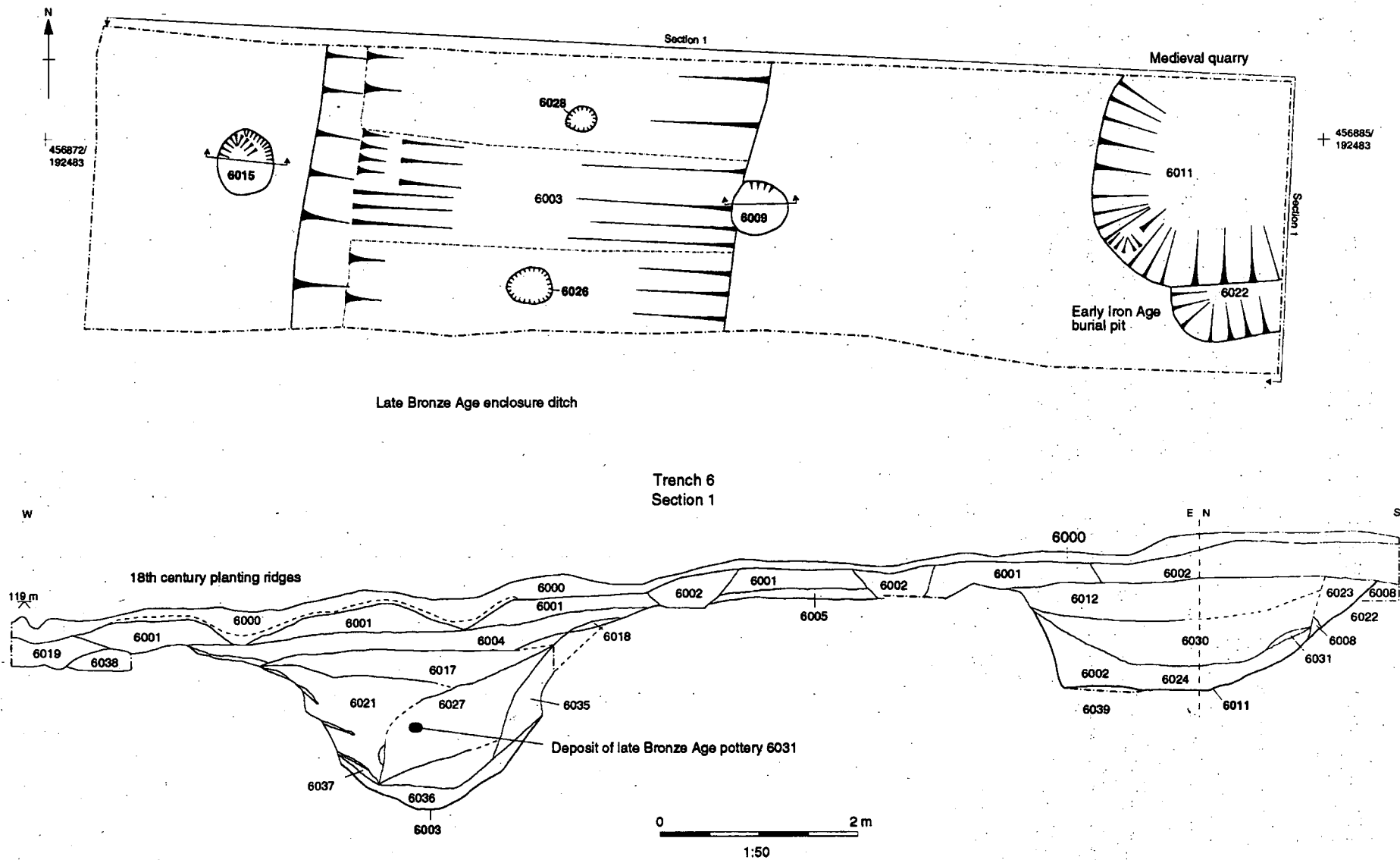


Fig 23. Castle Hill. Plan and section of Trench 6.

Little Wittenham, Excavations summer 2004 - an interim summary (SU 5695 9262)

By Tim Allen and Hugo Lamdin-Whymark

Introduction

A second season of summer excavation was carried out by Oxford Archaeology on behalf of the Northmoor Trust for their Landscape Evolution Centre project, which is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. This year eight trenches were opened up, five around Hill Farm and the Wittenham Clumps, three on Clifton Meadow by the Thames downriver from Clifton Hampden. This report deals with the trenches around Hill Farm and Wittenham Clumps.

The six week season involved a team of up to 35 volunteers at a time supervised by a small group of Oxford Archaeology professionals, and we would like to thank everyone who took part. Using the geophysical surveys carried out by Time Team in 2003, and by volunteers on the project in 2004, we were able to target specific areas to answer important questions about the date and development of the area.

The trenches around Hill Farm (Fig 24)

Trench 13 investigated the intersection of a rectangular enclosure ditch with a curving boundary, and showed that the boundary, which was of two phases, was Iron Age, and the enclosure Roman, probably 3rd-4th century (Fig 25). A deposit of cattle and horse jaws was found in the top of the second phase boundary ditch, together with a triangular loom weight, and another mandible at the bottom of the first phase ditch. The curving boundary may have marked the limits of the settlement below the hillfort at some stage, and the enclosure makes the third now known for the Roman period.

Trench 14 dug a small slice through the early Iron Age midden found by Rhodes in the 1940s (Rhodes 1948), and visited again by Time Team in 2003. Time Team re-exposed the corner of a chalk and pebble platform within the midden, recovering further Early Iron Age finds, and more of a Roman building spread including *tesserae*, roof tiles and painted wall plaster. We wanted to excavate a sample of the midden in detail, to see how it was formed, and to investigate an earlier land surface buried beneath it, which Time Team did not have time to investigate. Over 3000 finds came from the midden in our small trench, including quernstone fragments and grinding stones, a bronze swan's neck pin and nail cleaner dating to the 7th-6th centuries BC, a bone needle and gouge, spindlewhorls and loomweight fragments, as well as much pottery and animal bone. The pottery has not yet been assessed, but a preliminary scan agrees with the early Iron Age date published by Rhodes (Rhodes 1948). Two phases of midden deposition were recognised, separated by a horizon at which postholes were cut into the midden surface. Under the midden there were further postholes cut into the late Bronze Age ground surface, and the worm-sorting of this buried soil suggests that it was grassland for some time prior to its burial.

Trench 18 was opened up towards the top of Round Hill to investigate an area of fuzzy geophysical readings that

suggested a possible change in the underlying geology, and to confirm the apparent absence of archaeological features on the hilltop. The trench found chalk, not sands and gravels as expected, but the only archaeological feature was a shallow broad hollow containing an iron nail, probably a medieval field boundary.

South of Hill Farm Trenches 15 and 19 were opened up to examine circular enclosures showing on the magnetometer survey (Figs 26-27).

Trench 15

The circle revealed by geophysical survey just south of Hill Farm, which was partly revealed in Trench 15, was thought likely to be a Middle Iron Age enclosure. Excavations north of the road had found plenty of Early Iron Age evidence (600-350 BC), but hardly anything later in the Iron Age, and we wished to find out whether the settlement had drifted westwards and southwards away from Castle Hill over time. The trench proved to contain an early Iron Age circular gully and storage pits cut through by parallel ditches, and then by the large enclosure seen on the geophysical survey, which was indeed Middle Iron Age. The large enclosure surrounded the gullies of a roundhouse with storage pits inside, and had an annex to the north. This was superseded by a series of Late Iron Age/early Roman ditches (Fig 26).

Several of the pits had a layer of charcoal on the bottom, from which charred barley, spelt wheat and other seeds were recovered. Other pits contained a variety of probably deliberate deposits, including two human burials (a young adult male and an infant), a complete saddle quern, iron slag, spindlewhorls, loomweights, much of an Early Iron Age cooking pot found under a pile of pebbles, animal mandibles and bone tools.

Trench 15 demonstrated that early Iron Age settlement extended to the west edge of Hill Farm, beyond the curving boundary ditch found in Trench 13. It continued to be a domestic area in the Middle Iron Age, and this domestic activity continued into the Roman period. At the end of one of the early Roman ditches a smashed but largely reconstructable bowl was found, probably another deliberate deposit. This Roman activity dates to the 1st century AD, the first proof from the village site that settlement continued across the Iron Age/Roman transition. Trench 19 targeted an apparently continuous circle on the line of the curving boundary ditch examined in Trench 13. The boundary ditch appeared to stop short of the circle, perhaps suggesting that this was an earlier burial mound used as a marker. The trench just missed the circle, and was extended to pick up half of the enclosure, which proved to be Middle Iron Age (350-0 BC). This was of two phases, with a narrow western entrance later blocked off. A variety of internal postholes was found, but no clear contemporary structure could be identified. A second enclosure was found on the north side (Fig 27); the size of the enclosures (10-15m in diameter), and the presence of postholes and a possible wall-slot inside suggests that they surrounded roundhouses. Several contemporary storage pits had been dug on the west side, and the finds included part of a bellows hole for a smithing furnace.

Cut by the middle Iron Age circular enclosures were two dated by pottery to the Early Iron Age (650-350 BC), and a third was found at the south end of the trench. The enclosure

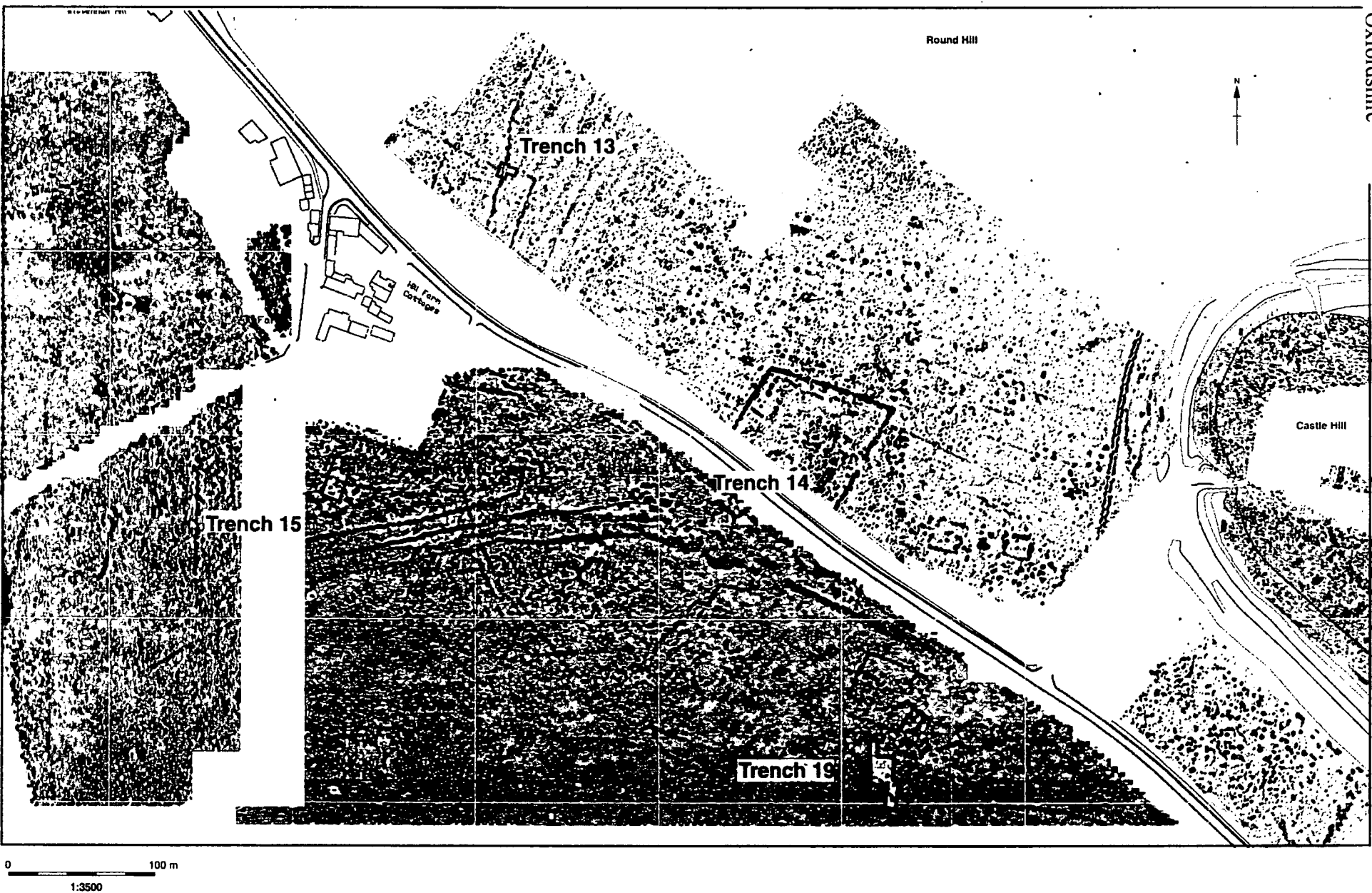


Fig 24. Geophysical surveys 2003-2004 and location of excavated trenches, summer 2004.

archaeological features have been seen, although a fragment of human skull was recovered from the foundation trench for a new garage.

Staff Car Park

Subsequent work has however proved more informative. On the east side of the farm, stripping for a new staff car park has revealed the plan of Iron Age and Roman features, some of which can be matched to the geophysical survey. Part of a roundhouse enclosure of Middle Iron Age date has been found, plus at least one Roman ditch and a probable continuation of a large east-west ditch belonging to a large enclosure revealed by geophysical survey (Fig 28).

Ponds

West of the farm very little was evident from the geophysical survey close to the farm buildings, but excavation of three ponds for wildlife, and stripping of a visitors' car park, has shown that both Iron Age and Roman features continue into this area. A curving gully probably representing a roundhouse enclosure was found on the southern edge of Pond 1. The absence of Iron Age features elsewhere across Ponds 1-3, or in the western part of the visitors' car park, may indicate that this is the western edge of the Iron Age settlement.

In the Roman period this area was crossed by a large boundary aligned just east of north. This ditch was of two phases, and the ditch at right angles in Pond 1, which deepened towards it, is likely to have been contemporary with the earlier phase. A little pottery and tile was recovered, suggesting a date in the 2nd/3rd century AD. A group of pits or a working hollow was found cutting the ditch on the west side in Pond 2, but there were very few finds, and the fills were similar to those of the ditch.

In the field to the south the geophysical survey shows a ditch running north towards Pond 1, and the excavated ditch may be a continuation of this. The geophysical survey also shows a parallel ditch further west that can faintly be traced continuing across the field west of the ponds, and this ditch changes alignment from south-north to north-north-east parallel to the excavated ditch. This suggests that both ditches form part of a Roman field or enclosure system.

The area of the ponds is crossed by pairs of medieval or post-medieval furrows, which are also evident on aerial photographs taken in the 1940s.

Work is currently continuing between the ponds and the farm, where a visitors' car park is being created. Stripping so far has revealed two curving gullies probably representing parts of the enclosures surrounding Iron Age roundhouses along the higher, east edge of the area, with a larger curving enclosure between them and a scatter of storage pits and postholes across the area. Middle Iron Age pottery has been recovered from these features.

Bibliography

GSB Prospection 2003 *Wittenham Clumps, Oxfordshire*. Geophysical Survey report 2003/61, unpublished client report for Time Team.

Hingley, R. 1980 Excavations by R A Rutland on an Iron Age site at Wittenham Clumps, *Berkshire Arch. J.* 70, 21-55.

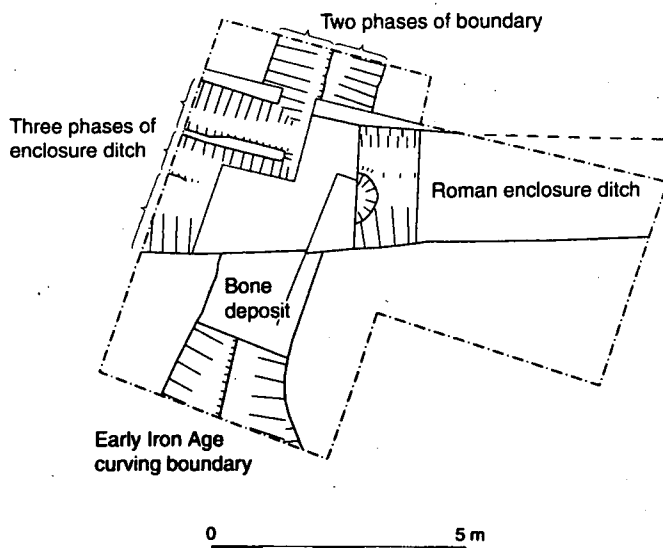


Fig 25. Trench 13.

gullies were slight, and the enclosures smaller (c 7 m), but again the enclosures surrounded postholes. Three large postholes may indicate that the central enclosure surrounded a square four-post structure, and the other enclosures may have done the same. One or more small posthole structures were also found, one apparently cut across by the southern Middle Iron Age roundhouse ditch, and fitting between the small enclosure gullies, so possibly also belonging to the Early Iron Age.

Little Wittenham, Hill Farm (SU 5635 9255)

Tim Allen and Hugo Lamdin-Whymark

The 1842 Tithe Apportionment Map of Little Wittenham and the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1872 show that this farm was established between these two dates, and a date of 1865 is carved into a timber in one of the barns. The farmhouse is now being redeveloped to provide new offices for the owners, the Northmoor Trust.

Geophysical survey has been carried out all around the farm by volunteers using a Geoscan 256 under the overall supervision of Alister Bartlett, who has processed the results to produce the plot shown in Fig 28.

Test-pits

Redevelopment of this redundant farm as the new home of the Northmoor Trust has now begun, involving several phases of archaeological recording. Twelve 1m square test-pits were excavated in and around the farm prior to the redevelopment to establish the depth of the building foundations and the general level of archaeological and stratigraphic preservation. On the basis of the geophysical survey and the excavated Trench 15 dense archaeology was anticipated, but only two of the twelve test-pits contained possibly archaeological features, each producing a single sherd of possibly Saxon pottery. From the levels in relation to the adjacent Trench 15 it appeared possible that the farm site had been levelled prior to construction of the buildings. Removal of the concrete hardstanding in the farmyard has since revealed the natural greensand in places, but no

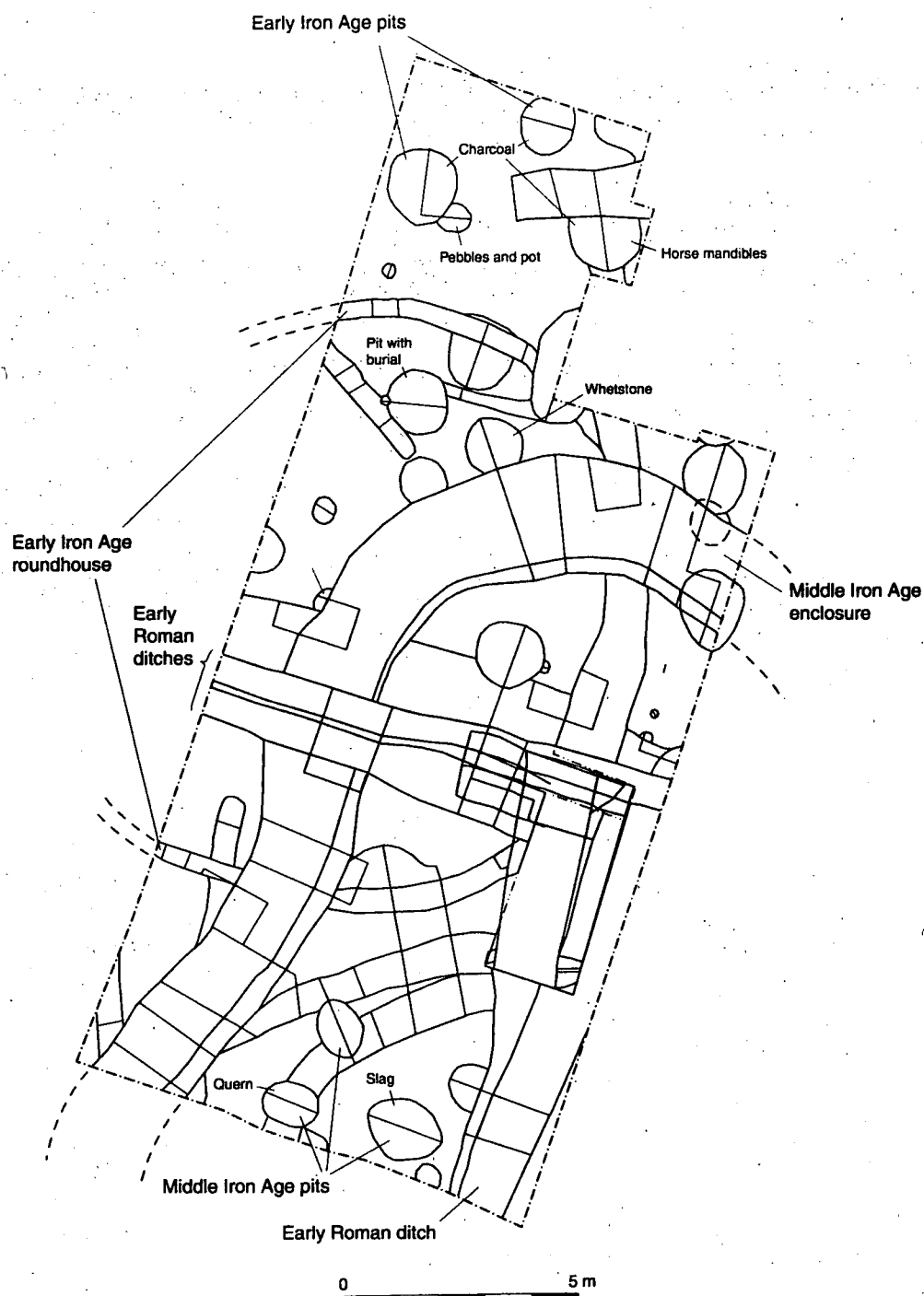


Fig 26. Trench 15.

Payne, A, 2002 *Castle Hill or Sinodun Hill Camp, Little Wittenham, Oxfordshire: Report on Geophysical Survey, June 2002*, Centre for Archaeology report 70/2002, English Heritage.

Rhodes, P.P. 1948 A Prehistoric and Roman site at Wittenham Clumps, Berks, *Oxoniensia* 13, 18-31.

Oxford, Land adjacent to the Pitt Rivers Museum
(SP 5152 0693)

Jon Hiller

In February 2005 a field evaluation was undertaken adjacent to the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford on behalf of Sir Robert McAlpine Ltd. The two trenches revealed a layer of buried 'supernatural' red/brown subsoil above the natural

gravel, a common feature of Oxford sites. Above the natural in both trenches lay buried garden/orchard soils of post-medieval date. A Victorian quarrying pit was observed as well as 20th century services. No significant archaeology was identified within the trenches.

Oxford, The Ashmolean Museum (SP 5116 0657)

Jon Hiller

In December 2004 and January 2005 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of contractor's test-pits at The Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. The work was commissioned by Mace Ltd (on behalf of the

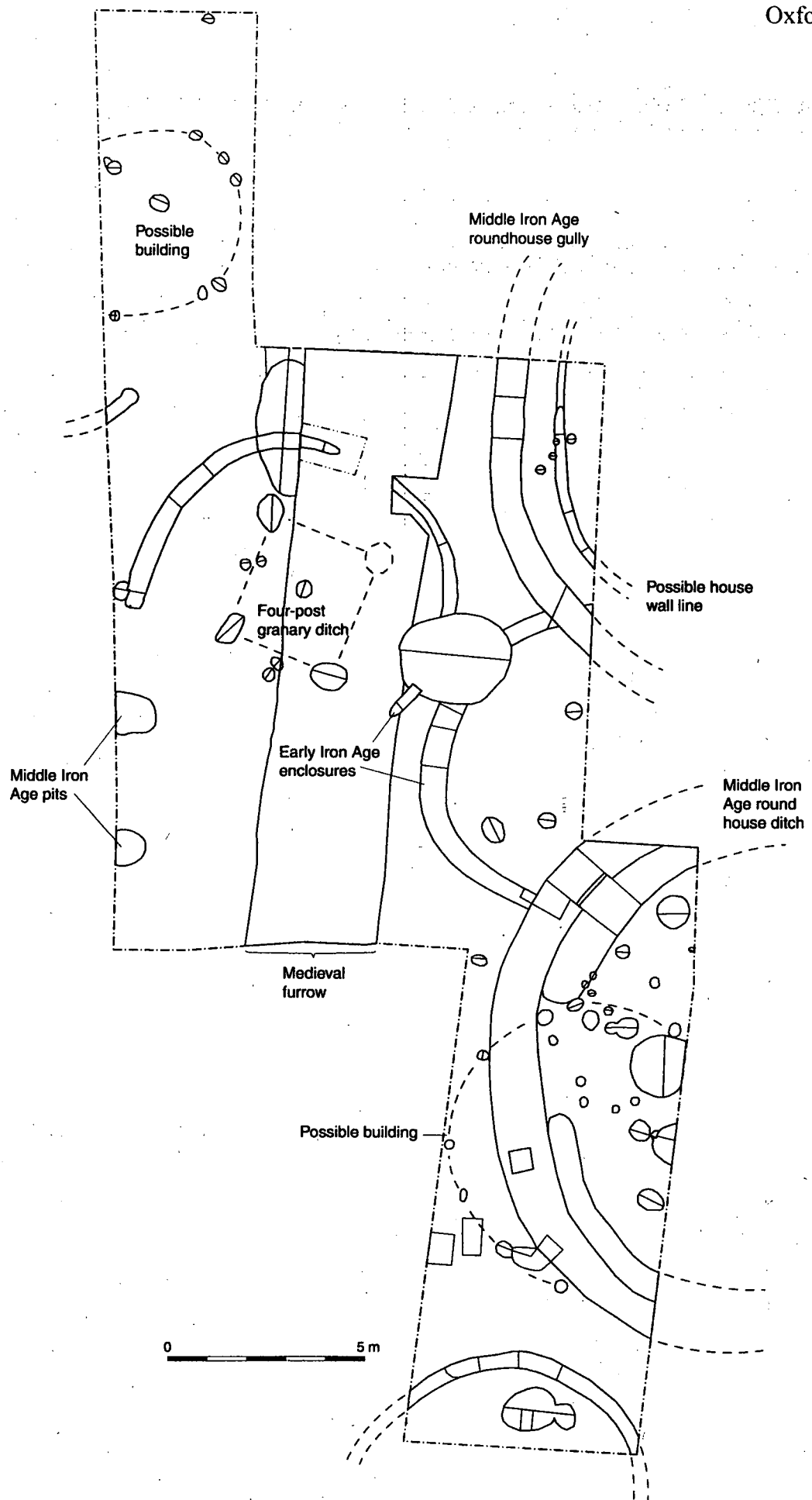


Fig 27. Trench 19.



Fig 28. Little Wittenham. Location of ponds and geophysics.

Oxford University Estate's Directorate), in advance of an extension with basements to the rear (north side) of the museum. The watching brief revealed evidence for medieval and post-medieval tenements that once fronted onto St Giles. A large possible medieval pit was seen and several wall footings were identified within the test pits, including a possible cellar wall. Much of the area had been disturbed by services and the construction of the museum buildings in the late 19th century.

Oxford, The Classics Centre, 65-67 St. Giles

(SP 5116 0662)

Jon Hiller and Jon Gill

In December 2004 an archaeological watching brief was carried out on the site. The Oxford University Estates Directorate commissioned the work in advance of a proposed planning application for a new construction with associated basements and demolition of existing buildings on the site. The watching brief revealed evidence for medieval or post-medieval tenements fronting onto St Giles. Several phases of yard surfaces were seen to the rear of the existing properties and a garden wall was also revealed. The base of a large but undated pit was seen beneath the existing basement area. No dating evidence was recovered from the monitoring exercise. A subsequent evaluation at the same site is currently in progress (February 2005). Two trenches have revealed that the earliest features and deposits on site date to the 12th-14th centuries and comprise pits at the rear of tenements fronting St. Giles. These are sealed by garden soils dating to the 16th century and later. A sequence of garden paths and walls dating to the 18th and 19th centuries lie below the modern garden and buildings of the current building. Further work is anticipated at the site.

In addition an assessment was undertaken of the archaeological and historical significance of the buildings at 65-67 St Giles, Oxford. The buildings are listed and have a phased development from the 18th through to the 20th century.

Oxford, St. Hilda's College (SP 5225 0590)

David Thomason and Jon Hiller

In December 2003 a field evaluation was undertaken at the site on behalf of Blackwood Architects for St Hilda's College. The evaluation revealed evidence for medieval activity including ditch alignments and possible associated structures. To this end, a continuous watching brief condition was issued upon the excavation of a pile trench around the perimeter of site, which was followed by a full excavation in February 2004. The excavation revealed a series of post-medieval in-filling and dumping levels that sealed the earlier medieval archaeology. The most archaeologically interesting aspects identified on the site were the medieval ditch alignments, possibly associated with the now demolished St. Clement's Church and its parish and associated posthole lines. Later features encountered included a post-medieval cellar structure, constructed from limestone and brick, a well and associated post-medieval surfaces. Later deposits were associated with

the construction and inhabitation of the 18th century building called Cowley House.

Oxford, Jesus College (SP 514 063)

Jon Gill

A watching brief was undertaken at Jesus College, for Architects Design Partnership on behalf of Jesus College, during the creation of a new door opening in an existing window. No features of particular archaeological interest were revealed.

Oxford, Oxford Castle, (SP 5098 0613)

Andrew Norton

Between March 2003 and November 2004 a number of archaeological investigations were carried out within the boundaries of the site of Oxford Castle (SAM 21701). The work was commissioned by Oxford Castle Ltd in advance of the redevelopment of the site. The redevelopment involves the construction of a restaurant/hotel building; retail and residential buildings; a fitness centre; a wine bar; a basement store; a heritage/museum shop and an educational/residential building. The fieldwork comprised three open area excavations, 14 additional trial trenches and an ongoing watching brief.

The investigations revealed evidence for late Saxon cellar pits to the north of the site and a late Saxon timber hall and possible street surface to the south of the site. Evidence for a rampart defining the southern limit of the Saxon burh was revealed throughout the southern area of the development. An associated retaining wall was revealed and retained, incorporated into the design of the development. Possible Saxon burials, associated with the chapel of St. George or its late Saxon precursor, were also exposed at the base of St George's Tower.

A section of the late 11th century ditch surrounding the base of the Castle Motte was fully excavated and a sequence of waterlogged silt deposits and dumped layers were revealed. At the edge of the ditch a northern section of the castle curtain wall was exposed. Medieval pits were seen within the bailey area, as well as throughout the development. Parts of the east gate bridge were seen at the east of the development area and a section of the curtain wall was seen at the base of St George's Tower, where a number of medieval inhumations were excavated. A large section of the late 11th century castle ramparts were revealed in the south-east corner of the site.

Throughout the site post-medieval surfaces and walls were revealed. The castle moat was seen to have been canalised in the 16th or 17th centuries and the edges of the moat utilised as back yards.

The motte ditch was used as a burial ground, probably for executed prisoners, between the 16th and 18th centuries; a total of 63 burials were recorded. The area was landscaped for use as a garden shortly before the construction of the prison in the late 18th century.

Evidence for the castle's western gate, a large 13th century cellar and a possible Civil War 'sally port' or postern gate have been revealed during the latest phases of watching brief work.

Oxfordshire

Oxford, Paradise Street (SP 5095 0609)

Andrew Norton

Between April and May 2004 an excavation at the site of the former business centre on Paradise Street, Oxford was carried out behalf of Ambroseden Court Ltd, acting on behalf of St Peter's College. The work was in advance of the construction of student accommodation on the site. The fieldwork revealed an outer part of Oxford Castle's bailey ditch. The section of ditch was to the south of the bailey and was excavated to a depth of c 3m below ground level. An 11th-13th century limestone ford or weir was revealed. The ditch was seen to be remodelled in the 14th or 15th centuries. It had been divided into two channels, one of which may have diverted water into the Castle Mill Stream. From the 15th century onwards the ditch had been allowed to silt up. Two stone channels set on wooden piers were set into the silt deposits and may have been related to activity on Paradise Street. In the 18th century the ditch was infilled, to allow for the construction of the prison, and utilised as yard space by the Paradise Street properties.

Oxford, Manzil Way (SP 5320 0575)

Mike Simms

On 2nd and 3rd March 2005 a field evaluation was carried out at the site of the new East Oxford Health Centre, Manzil Way, Oxford on behalf of Mowlem. The evaluation revealed extensive truncation of deposits within the north and west of the site and buried post-medieval soil horizons within the remainder. No significant archaeology was observed during the course of the evaluation.

Oxford, The Fox Inn, Barton (SP 555 076)

Mike Simms

Between the 24th and 25th of June 2004 a field evaluation was carried out at the site on behalf of Barrett Maidenhead in advance of the construction of a new apartment block and public house. The evaluation revealed that the site had been heavily disturbed by earlier construction on the site. Only the north and west fringes of the site contained evidence of recent garden soils.

Oxford, John Radcliffe Hospital (SP 5394 0765)

Mike Simms

On the 6th May 2004 a watching brief was undertaken at the site to investigate a possible stone wall uncovered during the excavation of a service trench for a new gas pipe.

Upon inspection the hole for the service trench measured 2.2m x 2.2m x 1.55m and the 'wall' comprised a natural sandstone outcrop within the geological sand. This was overlain by a 1.1m thick layer of subsoil consisting of grey brown silt sand, sealed by topsoil.

No archaeological features were present, but an abraded late medieval pottery sherd and a fragment of animal bone were recovered from the subsoil.

Rowstock, Rowstock Cottage (SU 475 891)

Jon Gill

A programme of building assessment was undertaken at Rowstock Cottage, on behalf of BHP Harwood Architects, in order to inform a planning application for a development at the site. The building was found to be of greater significance than previously supposed as it was built of cob and probably dates to the early or mid 19th century.

Thame, Rycotewood College (SP 701 064)

Jon Gill

A building assessment was undertaken at the former Thame Workhouse (now used by Rycotewood College) in order to inform a planning permission for a residential development at the site which would retain and reuse the older more significant buildings but would replace the newer buildings. The work identified which buildings survive from the workhouse and also which historic internal features survive.

Woodstock, Blenheim Palace (SP 441 161)

Mike Simms

In April 2004 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken at the site. The work was commissioned by Blenheim Palace in advance of laying a new gas pipe and installing a meter. The watching brief revealed an earlier cobble surface of the Kitchen court and cultivated soil layer in the park land.

Wantage, The Pantiles, Portway (SU 39720 87674)

Mike Simms

In July 2004 a field evaluation was undertaken at the site for CgMs Consulting on behalf of McCarthy and Stone (Developments) Limited as part of the planning application for the construction of 28 retirement flats. The evaluation revealed a 19th or 20th century stone soak-away, 19th/20th century pottery and tile from former topsoil layers, and evidence for modern disturbance. No significant archaeological remains were located during the evaluation.

OXFORDSHIRE BUILDINGS RECORD

David Clark

Peach Croft Barn, Radley (SU 513992)

The barn at Peach Croft Farm, Radley, is now the last surviving building of the original farmstead, the 'home farm' of the Bowyers of Radley in the mid 18th century. It is a five-bay threshing barn with a wagon-porch to the west in the central bay. It is timber-framed and stands roughly north-south on a low plinth of stone and brick. The roof structure employs cranked inner principals and clasped purlins. The walls are clad externally with weatherboarding; the roof is gabled and covered with plain red tiles. It has lost some of its wall covering and has suffered structural damage

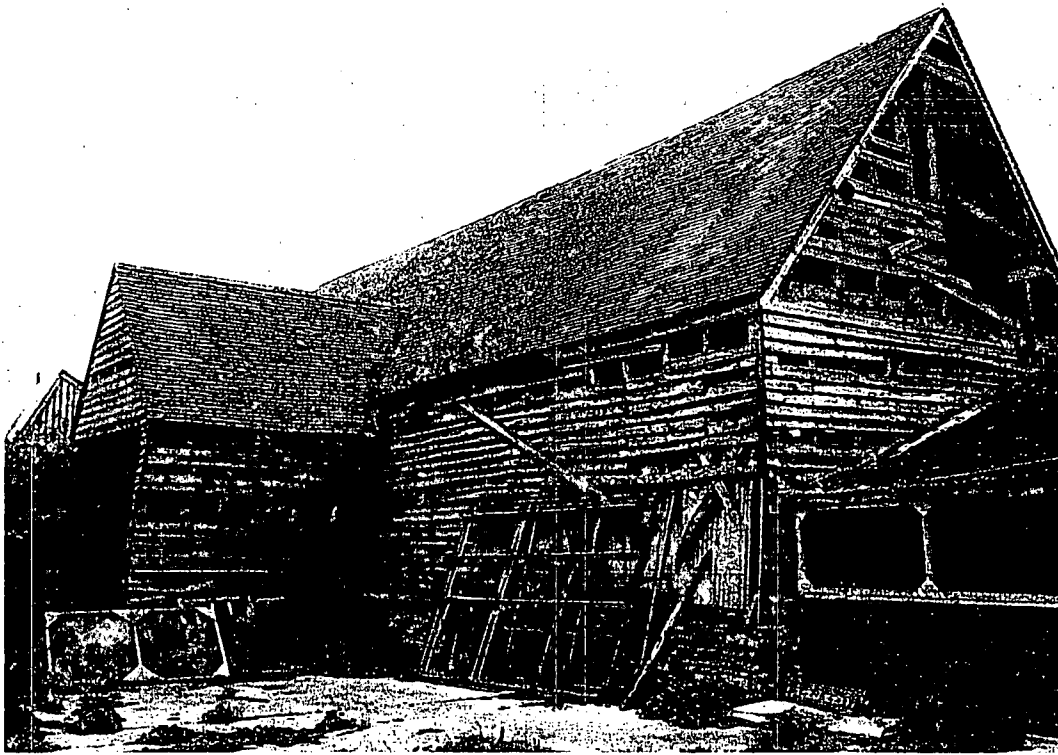


Fig 29. Peach Croft Barn from the south.

resulting in a distinct lean to the east, where the wall has been supported by timber buttresses. There is a lean-to structure to the north-west. The primary objective was to make a record of the structure before further deterioration and to inform any repair work.

In the course of the recording, a number of interesting and unusual features were discovered, and this report focuses on these.

The Timber Frame

The main barn structure is of five bays, and measures some 22m in length (internally). It is shown schematically in Fig 30.

The bays are of unequal width, varying from 411cm (Bay 3) to 449cm (Bay 4). The structure is tenoned into a sill-plate on top of a dwarf wall. The sill-plate has been pit-sawn from a number of smaller lengths of timber, scarf-jointed together at the places shown in Fig 30. One of these (1 on the diagram) is a standard secret-bridled and face-pegged scarf with squinted abutment (Currie, 1972); the other (2) is an unusual type, which one might describe as a bridled scarf with re-entrant abutment. An example is shown in Fig 31. Fig 32 is a structural diagram, based on external observation. A similar type of joint appears in the wall-plates, where the bridle is secretly housed. The closest analogy found to date is a tenoned scarf in Ilkley Manor House, Yorkshire, dated to the 16th century (Hutton, 1981).

The main structure is of four internal trusses comprising posts with long gunstock jowled heads supporting the wall-plates and tie-beams. The tie-beams are some 709cm in length 36cm deep and approximately 35cm wide. Their lower edges are chamfered and stopped. From the centre-line, curved arch-braces meet the posts below the gunstock. There are two rows of purlins, the lower of which is clasped between the principal rafter and a cranked inner

principal rising to the collar, above which the upper purlin is clasped to the principal. The cranked inner principals appear in most cases to have been cut from naturally curved timbers, and are of Type A1a (Clark, 2004).

One of the trusses is shown in Fig 33 below. The wall-plates and purlins are also formed of shorter lengths of timber scarf-jointed together. The purlins are formed with Type 1 scarfs but the wall-plates employ Type 2 joints which have less structural integrity – see Figs 34 and 35. The eastern facing roof frame has four scarfs in both the upper and lower purlins and four in the wall-plate; the western has three in both purlins and four in the wall-plate.

Timber Marks

All the trusses had assembly marks (Miles and Russell, 1995) but at Peach Croft the timbers for each truss were marked individually, all on the southward side, with numbers cut in different styles as shown in Fig 30 above. Thus truss B employed a T-shape, with cross-pieces to differentiate the individual components. On truss C, Roman numerals cut with a straight chisel marked the tenons from east to west in order: I, II, III, IIII. Truss D was framed with the use of crescent-shaped gouged marks, again forming a sequence of Roman numerals from east to west.

On the tie-beams are a plethora of other markings. Some of these were made with a race knife, in no particular pattern, but there are others which seemed to be of more significance.

Truss B: north side – compass circle in gunstock head, with central line possibly used in setting out the curve of the jowl. Truss C: two daisy wheel designs on the south side of beam C. On the north side is a four-petalled version, possibly part of a larger scheme, or drawn in the course of carpentry. – see Fig 36.

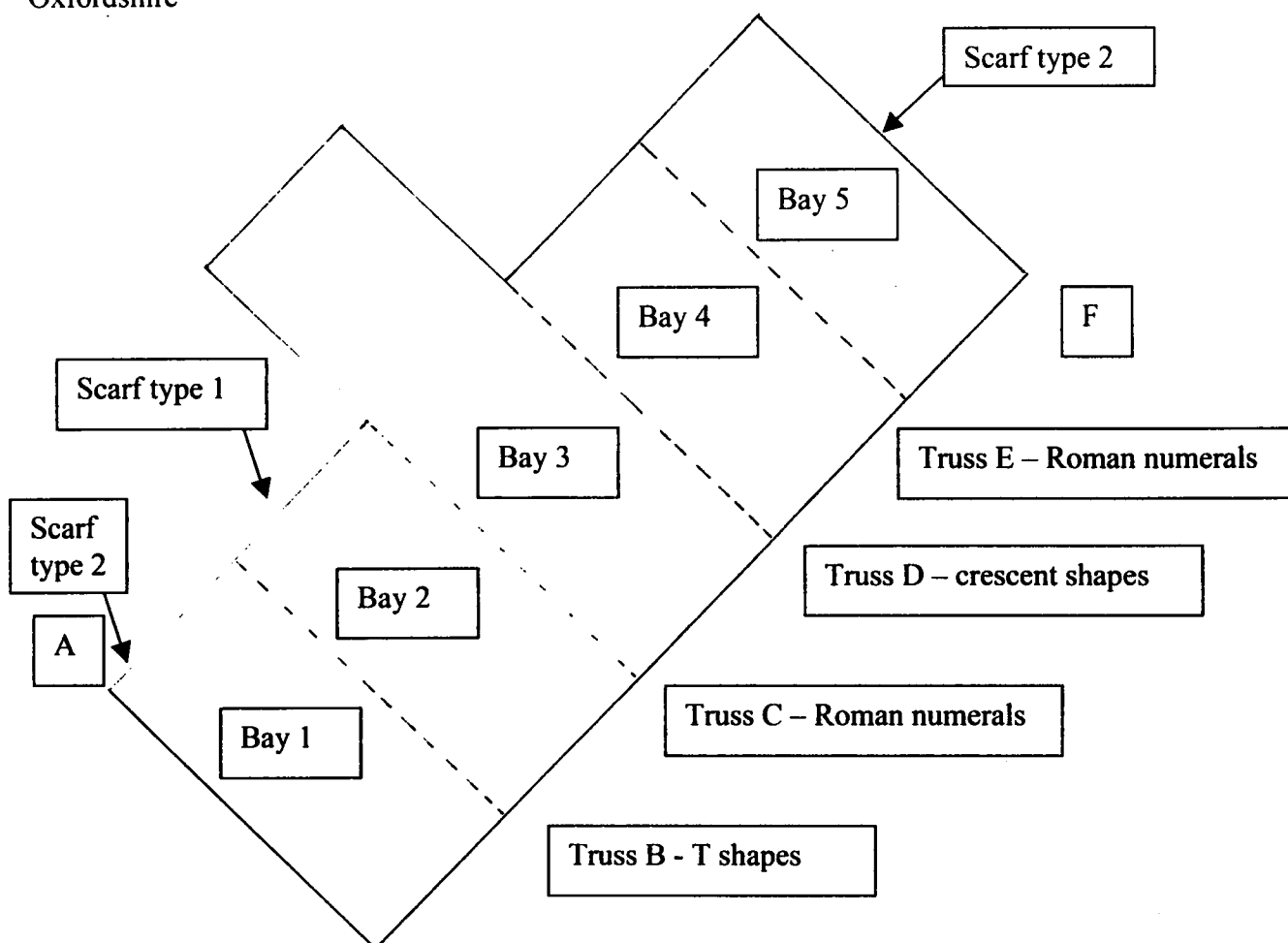


Fig 30. Schematic layout of barn (not to scale).

Truss D: On the south face of tie beam D there is a scribed sketch of a tenon, 6cm by 4cm. There are also a number of 'daisy-wheel' designs on the north side of the tie beam.

Discussion

The construction of the barn appears standard for the area and time (a date of around 1780 is consistent with the peak of popularity for the cranked inner principal roof), but in

detail there seems to be an idiosyncratic use of scarf-joints and assembly marks. With a drawing of a tenon and some setting out marks on the timbers, it may have been used as an exercise by the local carpenter for his apprentices. None of the timbers appears to have been reused, but the need to fit together many shorter lengths for the purlins and wall-plates suggests a limited amount of available timber.



Fig 31. Rotting example of Type 2 scarf joint in sill plate.

Bibliography

- David Clark 'Cranked Inner Principals' in *Vernacular Architecture* 35 (2004) 32-39
- C R J Currie 'Scarf-joints in North Berkshire and Oxford Area' *Oxoniensia* 37 (1972) pp.177-186
- Barbara Hutton 'Some Yorkshire Scarf-Joints' *Vernacular Architecture* 12 (1981) 30-37
- D W H Miles and Henry Russell, 'Plumb and Level Marks' in *Vernacular Architecture* 26 (1995) 33-38.

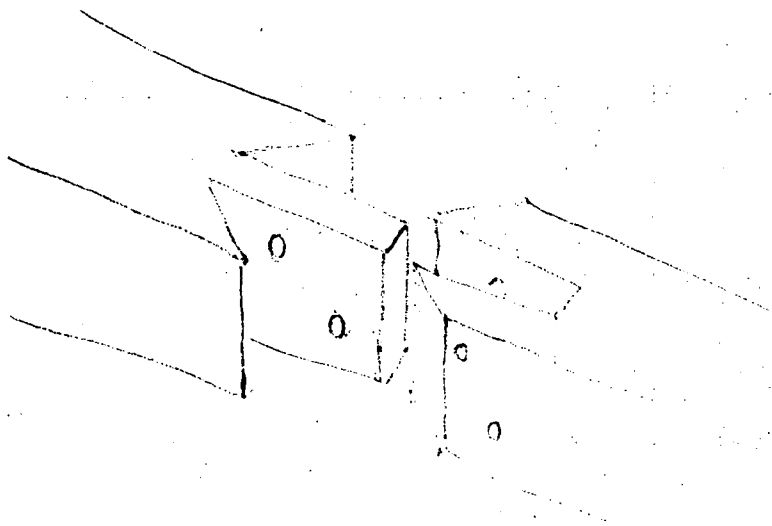


Fig 32. Type 2 scarf joint (exploded).

OXFORD UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Worminghall, Thomley Hall Farm (SP 6280 0938)
Hannah Jackson and Emma Lightfoot

The Society was asked to investigate this area following fieldwalking which had located a concentration of late Roman coins and pottery in this area. The Ancient Monuments Laboratory had carried out a Magnetometer survey, which had located a rectangular enclosure. The landowner had also found two bronze plates buried at approximately 0.5m in this field.

A small geophysical survey was carried out and 5m x 1m trench put down to locate the largest anomaly. The results of this were that the anomaly was a patch of limestone, probably geological. Above this, the ploughsoil was approximately 30cm deep, and contained small sherds of late Roman and medieval pottery throughout its depth.

The conclusion we draw from this is that any Roman site in this locality may, except for its deepest features, have been destroyed by Medieval and later ploughing.

The archive and finds are held by the landowner at the farm.

PHOENIX ARCHAEOLOGY

Wigginton Roman Villa (SP 38 33)
Mark Morris

The 2004/2005 year has been an exciting one for the group at Wigginton. The site has been earmarked for scheduling by English Heritage due to the importance of the villa nationally.

The group has uncovered the western wing of the villa (which was initially a proto-villa later extended and improved during the 4th century).

The site's importance lies in the fact that the nature and form of the building and associated finds suggests a villa with far reaching trade and social links within the Romano-British era.

Oxfordshire

Excavation this season has revealed a series of walls, interconnecting tessellated walkways, mosaics and bath suites. The mosaics in particular have been notable inasmuch as the well-known recorder of mosaics, David Neal, has been on site drawing up the exciting main mosaic which consists of dolphins, fish and sea creatures.

General excavation of the site produced some great archaeology, notably the discovery of a flagged bathing area, decorated and painted wall plaster and numerous single finds including an important enamelled brooch, coins, votive statue and personal items.

County archaeologists also suspect the site to have a cemetery and temple complex (detected from aerial photos).

The whole site is now being re-evaluated in the light of these discoveries and the group is now in the process of compiling records, notes and drawings so that an interim report can be produced.

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Abingdon, 99 Radley Road, (SU 5044 9773)
Sarah Coles

A watching brief revealed nothing of archaeological interest.

Bicester, Graven Hill to Ambrosden replacement water pipeline and tank (SP 590 204 to SP 602 193)
Stephen Hammond

A watching brief revealed only two undated ditches.

Kirtlington, Long Kensome, South Green (SP 5009 1964)
Pamela Jenkins

Medieval pits and a wall or foundation were observed in a soakaway during a watching brief. A coin, perhaps an Edward I penny, was retrieved from the spoil heap.

Oxford, Trajan House, Mill Lane, Osney (SP 5040 0595)
Jo Pine

A three-trench evaluation uncovered a 16th century cobbled surface, other surfaces, postholes and a ditch of 13th century date, and post-medieval (16th-17th century) pits and floor surfaces, and a later post-medieval wall. It is possible that the earlier features may be part of the hypothesized Great Court of Osney Abbey.



Fig 33. Part of a typical roof truss.

Oxford, Halifax House, South Parks Road
(SP 5170 0695)
Sian Anthony

A complex of late prehistoric and Roman field systems, including ditches, gullies, pits and postholes, was excavated in advance of development. Scattered finds attest to prehistoric occupation for the Mesolithic period onwards, but the earliest features were a Bronze Age pit and ditch,

adding to evidence of this period in the immediate area. Iron Age features included ditches and pits, and by the 1st century AD, a new layout of ditches attests to reorganization of the landscape. This system was redefined along similar lines before another new layout was imposed, probably around the end of the 1st century. Later Roman finds were very few. Full publication will follow shortly.

Sonning Common, Johnson Matthey Technology Centre, Blount's Court (SU 71350 80570)
Steve Ford

No archaeological features or finds were recovered in a watching brief.

South Stoke, Ivor Barn, Woodstock Road
(SU 6162 8381)
Pamela Jenkins

No archaeological finds or deposits were encountered in a watching brief.

Waterperry, Waterperry House, Brewery Yard
(SP 695 0628)
Peter Reeves

A suite of rooms situated between the Jacobean and 18th century parts of the house were photographically recorded prior to construction of a lift shaft. The area of the survey was all of late 19th or more likely early 20th century build.

Wallingford, 60 High Street (SU 6055 8952)
Steve Ford

A substantial chalk-built wall of uncertain date, and stray finds of medieval pottery were observed in a watching brief.



Fig 34. Type 2 scarf joint in wall-plate.

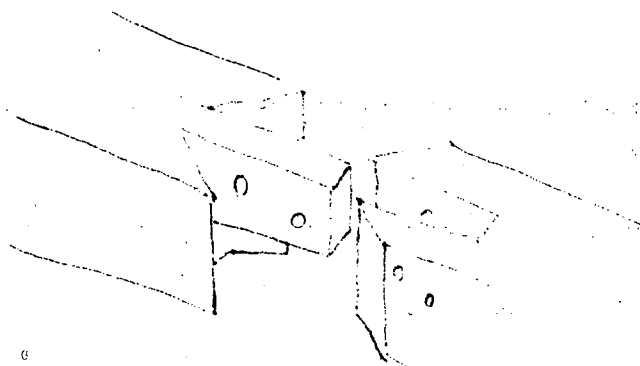


Fig 35. Type 2 scarf joint in wall-plate (exploded – conjectural).

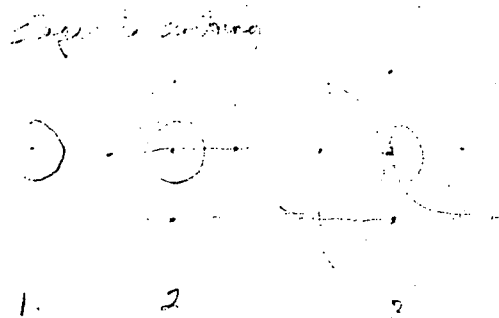


Fig 36. Conjectural development of scribed mark on truss C (Heather Horner).

Wallingford, land to the rear of the Old Post Office, Church Lane

Stephen Hammond and Andy Taylor

A variety of medieval and post-medieval deposits were encountered during the excavation of foundation pads, adding to the information recorded during an earlier evaluation (*SMA* 34). Most of these were left preserved *in situ*, as the foundation depth did not threaten them. A complete absence of finds from the 14th to 16th centuries reinforces the impression that this site witnessed a decline, consistent with most of the rest of the town in this period.

Wallingford, 6A St John's Road (SU 60593 89103)

A second stage evaluation (first stage in *SMA* 34) again revealed a ditch aligned east-to-west, and a dump of clean clay interleaved with gravel, which seems to have been deposited after the ditch had passed out of use. Again these features cannot be dated (a single fragment of medieval tile and two fragments of animal bone were the only finds) but they are no longer thought so likely to be elements of the Saxon *burh* defences, although this interpretation is not wholly precluded.

Wallingford, 33 Croft Road (SU 6040 8935)

Pamela Jenkins

A substantial ditch and bank were observed in a watching brief. Aligned north-to-south, it is possible that these relate to the Anglo-Saxon *burh* defences, but no dating evidence was retrieved. A further ditch or pit was also partially

observed; this contained animal bone and charcoal remains undated.

Woodstock, land at the rear of the Punchbowl Inn, Oxford Road (SP 44650 16725)

Andy Taylor

No archaeological finds or deposits were encountered in a watching brief.

Publications:

Ford, S and Howell, I, 2004, 'Saxon and Bronze Age settlement at the Orchard site, Walton Road, Walton, Aylesbury, 1994' in S Ford, K Taylor and I Howell, 2004, *The archaeology of the Aylesbury-Chalgrove pipeline and a Saxon site at The Orchard, Walton*, TVAS monograph 5, 60–88

Pine, J, 2004, 'Excavation of part of a 3rd-century Roman settlement and later Roman road at Stowford Road, Barton, Oxford', *Oxoniensia*, LXVIII (for 2003), 263–77

Pine, J and Ford, S, 2004, 'Excavation of Neolithic, late Bronze Age, early Iron Age and early Saxon features at St Helen's Avenue, Benson, Oxfordshire', *Oxoniensia* LXVIII (for 2003), 132–78

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Wendlebury (Alchester fortress): two tombstones, the first known life story of a pre-medieval inhabitant of Oxfordshire (SP 571 203) and a geophysical survey south of the town (centred around SP 572 200)

Eberhard Sauer

The tombstones from the town wall foundations

Only briefly mentioned in the last issue (*SMA* 34, 2004: 83), the 2003 season has yielded one most exceptional discovery: we found a tombstone, broken into 20 recovered fragments, embedded in the rubble foundations of the Alchester town wall (Fig 37). The fragments were spread over an area of 2.03m (north-south) by 3.14m (west-east) and their individual discovery, recording and recovery took 19 working days between 27 August and 14 September 2003.

The road leading through the gate survived. The gate opening was 2.95m wide, corresponding roughly to ten Roman feet. There were no traces of a widening of the foundations (if one excludes a single irregular 0.4m wide and 2.20m long buttress on the outside [west] of the town wall from 2 to 4.4m north of the gate opening). This suggests that the gate had not been provided with any massive flanking towers which would have required wider foundations than the town wall (whose width was on average c 3m).

Since fragments of the tombstone were found in the buttress and main foundations alike (though the three largest were deliberately placed in the buttress), we may conclude that they are contemporary. Sections through the foundations and the buttress further demonstrated that they had been built at the same time and that we are not dealing with any later modification. Preliminary investigations of finds embedded in an artificial berm for the town wall suggest

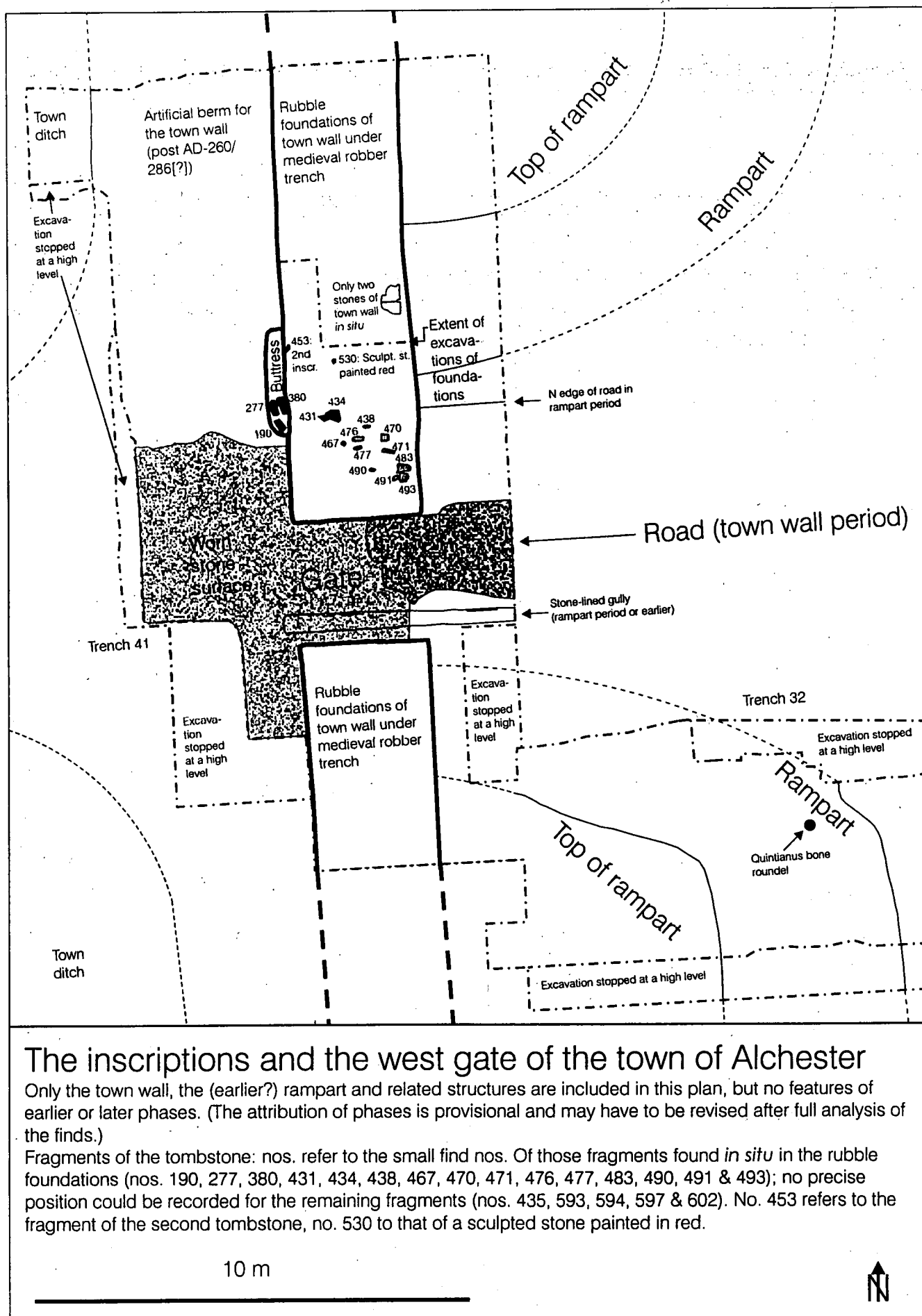


Fig. 37. The rubble foundations of the Alchester town wall and the findspots of the inscription fragments as well as of the inscribed bone counter found in 2002 (SMA 33, 2003: 102-3 with Fig 25).

the location of this letter and parallels suggest strongly that this is the first letter of the dedication formula *Dis Manibus*, 'to the souls of the departed', whether in full or abbreviated *D[M]*. It was thus an epitaph, incised into a slab of uncertain date within the early to high imperial period.

By contrast, almost the whole text of a second epitaph remains (Fig 38):

Latin text (and line numbers)

- 1 *Dis Manibus*
- 2 *L(ucius) Val(erius) L(uci filius) Pol(lia tribu)*
- 3 *Gemi-*
- 4 *nus For(o) Germ(anorum)*
- 5 *vet(eranus) Leg(ionis) [I] Aug(ustae)*
- 6 *an(norum) L h(ic) s(itus) e(st)*
- 7 *he(res) c(uravit)*
- 7 *e(x) t(estamento)*

Comments

The first 'S' in line 1 and the 'L' for 50 in line 5 are largely destroyed, and the restoration of the 'L' is not absolutely certain, but highly probable.

Translation

'To the souls of the departed: Lucius Valerius Geminus, the son of Lucius, of the Pollia voting district, from Forum Germanorum, veteran of the Second Augustan Legion, aged 50 (?), lies here. His heir had this set up in accordance with his will.'

The life story and historical context

We can be certain that Lucius Valerius Geminus retired after the Roman invasion of Britain and probably no later than the withdrawal of the military garrison from Alchester in the late AD 50s or the beginning of the AD 60s, at the latest. Legionaries normally retired not before their early forties, at the earliest, but he equally could have been in his mid or late forties when leaving active service. Even though only the upper serif of the Latin numeral giving his age has been preserved on the recovered fragments, it is almost certain that it was an 'L', the Latin numeral for 50. There is not enough space for 'LV' for 55 or 'LX' for 60, indicating that he probably indeed died around the age of 50. If so, he must have died between the AD 40s and the AD 60s (or, at the very latest, the beginning of the AD 70s). His date of birth, half a century earlier, must have been some time between the last decade of the 1st century BC and around AD 20 (at the very latest). His home town was a small community in north-western Italy, called Forum Germanorum, 'the market place of the Germans'. Nobody knows the reasons for the enigmatic reference to Germans in the name of this town in northern Italy. It is even possible, though less likely, that the abbreviated name should be restored to Forum Germanici, 'the market place of Germanicus'. As he probably retired within a decade or two after the Roman

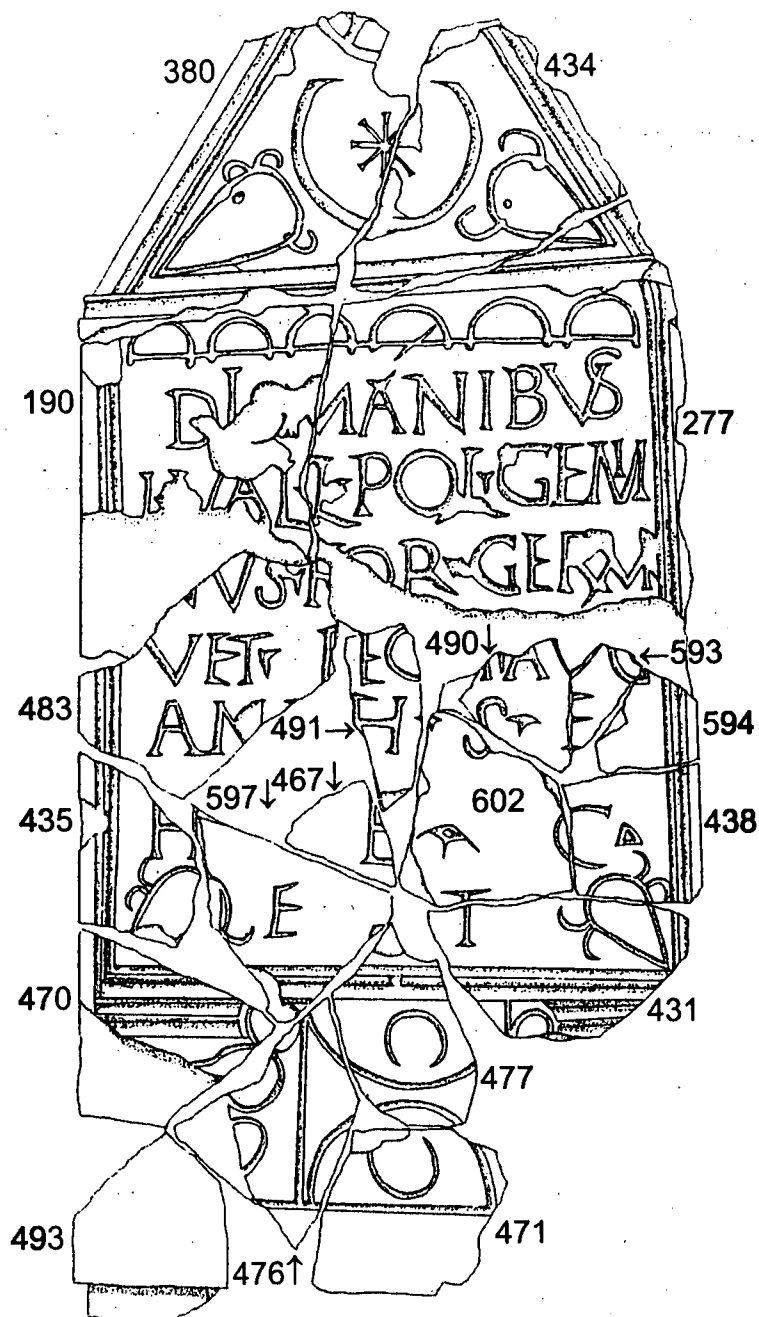


Fig. 38. The tombstone, drawn by Daniel Prior. The findspots of the numbered parts are plotted on the plan (Fig 37): 15 were found *in situ*. Five small fragments from the early stages of the excavation, before we had realised that the rubble foundations of the town wall were full of such remains, were found amongst the spoil.

that it was constructed no earlier than the late 3rd century. It thus seems to be later, and cut into, the late 2nd century rampart.

The re-use of earlier stone monuments is a widespread phenomenon across the Roman Empire in the later 3rd and 4th centuries. The same section of wall, just north of Alchester's west gate, also yielded an additional fragment of a second tombstone plus a piece of a sculpted stone painted red. Prior to 2003, only three inscriptions on stone, or fragments thereof, had ever been found in the area of Oxfordshire (RIB 235, 240; Hassall 2001), the two new specimens increase the total to five.

Of one of the two Alchester inscriptions, merely one fragment with parts of a single letter, a 'D', was found. Yet,

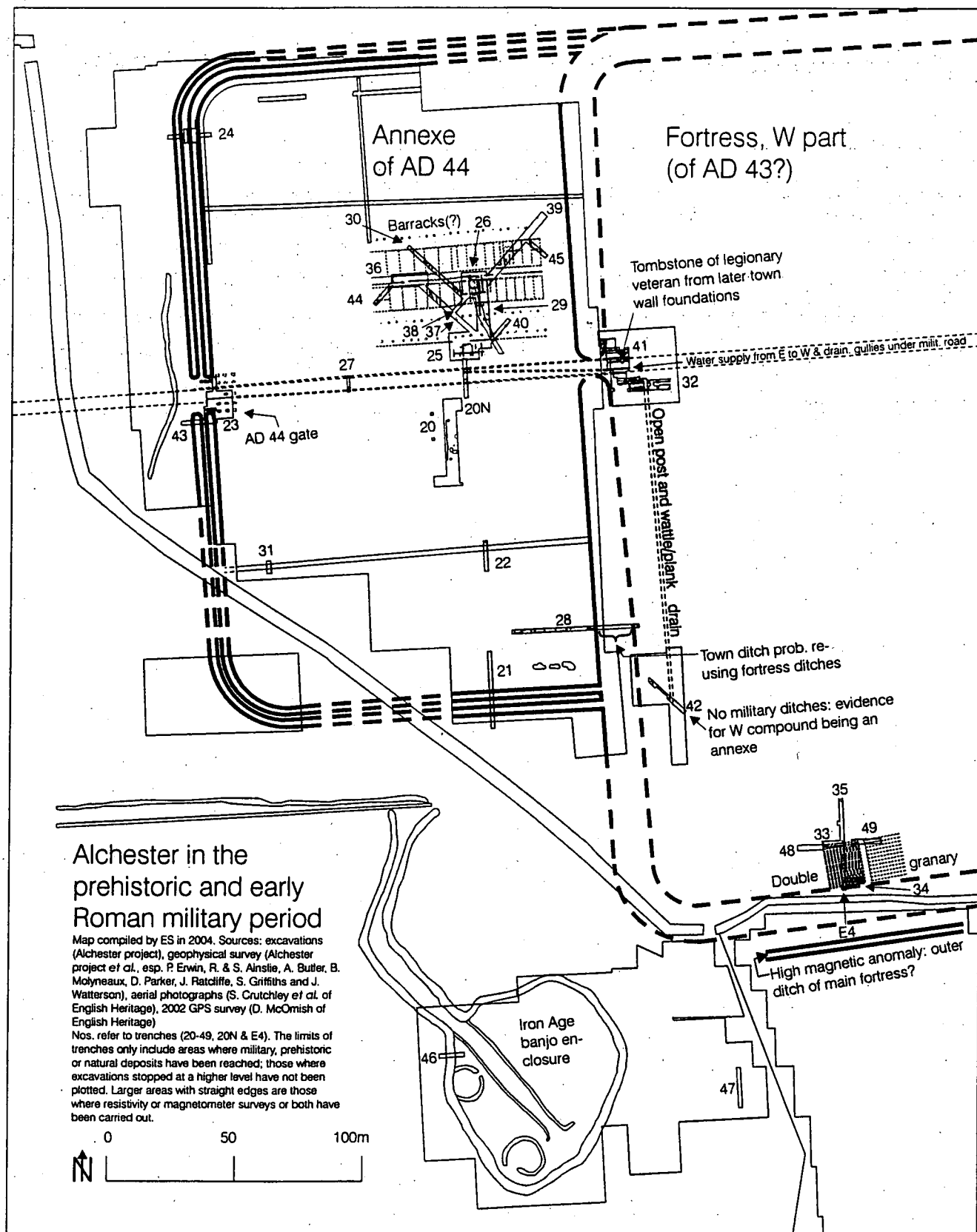


Fig. 39. Updated plan with the location of the linear high magnetic anomaly and the north-western limits of the geophysical survey.

commemorated at Alchester, but that it had been the main base of the Second Augustan Legion from the AD 40s to the late AD 50s or early AD 60s, and thus Vespasian's base during his stay in Britain:

Its size, with the annexe probably 14-15ha, almost as large as the Exeter fortress (the next base of the legion), was far too big for a smaller detachment. It could, and probably did, house most, or all, of the legion.

With the annexe being firmly dendro-dated to October AD 44 to March AD 45 (*SMA* 31, 2001: 72), we know that Alchester was occupied during Vespasian's term of office in Britain (AD 43-c AD 47).

No other large military base of the AD 40s has been found further south (let alone any with positive evidence for the legion). Lake Farm in Dorset is later on the basis of coin evidence, Hod Hill is far too small, there are no certain traces of military structures at Dorchester in Dorset or at Silchester. (The latter is no longer believed to contain a military headquarters.) There is not enough evidence for a permanent base at Chichester, notably not for its defences.

If we hypothesised that Alchester was a vexillation fortress, ie a fortress with half or less than half of the legion, supplemented by auxiliaries, then there should be another such fortress in the area. No legionary commander could have effectively commanded a unit split into weak contingents, stationed days apart.

All other certain legionary veterans from Britain, 12 in total, were buried at the base of their legion or a veterans' colony. Unless Alchester should form the only known exception to the rule (which is not impossible, but unlikely), it must have been the main base of the legion and thus Vespasian's base.

Our conclusions, entirely unexpected prior to the surprise discovery of 2003, thus has to be that Alchester was in all probability the base established and occupied for several winters by one of the most famous persons in ancient history, Vespasian. As is well known, he was to become emperor a generation later, from AD 69

to 79. The long-lived theory that he had exclusively operated near the South Coast seems very unlikely now, and there was never strong evidence to support it. The only certain geographic term any source mentions in the context of Vespasian's activities (other than him taking part in the initial march on Colchester), is the Isle of Wight, which he had conquered (Suetonius, *Vespasian* 4.1). Yet, it seems perfectly possible that this island was taken immediately after the original landing of one of the three contingents of the invasion army. If so, it would not provide us with any clue as to the area of responsibility assigned to Vespasian and his legion, after the joint forces of the invasion army had captured Colchester in summer AD 43. Even if, however, the Isle of Wight was only brought under Roman control some time after the fall of Colchester, it still would have been perfectly within the reach of a legion stationed at



Fig. 40. The resistivity survey south of Alchester. Blocks are 20m x 20m.

invasion of Britain and as the normal period of service amounted to a minimum of 25 years, we may conclude that he joined the Second Augustan Legion prior to the Roman invasion of Britain. This legion was then stationed at Strasbourg. It was from here that its most famous commander, Vespasian, led the unit to the Channel coast and during the invasion of Britain. Lucius Valerius Geminus was one of the soldiers, who fought under his command. Eventually he retired and, rather than return to Italy after a quarter of a century's absence, he decided to stay in the newly conquered province. The person or persons closest to him, his heir or heirs, had equally settled at Alchester. They may have been one or more family member(s) or comrade(s).

There are several indications to suggest that it was no coincidence that Lucius Valerius Geminus was

Oxfordshire

Alchester. The same is true for the Dorset hillforts. We cannot be sure whether they were amongst the over 20 native strongholds, *oppida*, Vespasian was said to have conquered, but, if so, they certainly would not have been too far to be conquered in a summer campaign by a legion based at Alchester. Whether or not Vespasian's operations extended into the territory of the Durotriges in Dorset and Somerset, there is no necessity any longer to continue to search for Vespasian's legionary base south of the Thames, where generations have searched for it in vain. In the light of the new evidence, it seems more likely that it was north of the Thames, at Alchester.

The geophysical survey

In 2004 the Alchester project carried out extensive resistivity and magnetometer surveys covering most of the western half of the meadow south of the town, as well as smaller areas in the east of the field south-west of the town. The main aim of these surveys was to establish whether or not there were any military ditches in this area. The position of the granary (Fig 39), cut by the later town wall foundations (SMA 34, 2004: 80 Fig 15), indicates almost certainly that the southern ditches of the main fortress must be outside the circuit of the later town walls. The two linear low resistance features, previously tentatively identified as possible south ditches of the fortress (SMA 34, 2004: 79 Fig 14), were picked up again (fig 40), but the southern one does not continue to the west beyond a T-junction with a north-south running linear feature, while its northern counterpart continues in a straight line, and does not curve to the north. The hypothesis that they might form part of a military double-ditch at the south side of the fortress can thus no longer be maintained. However, a straight linear positive magnetic anomaly was detected (Fig. 39), running from SP 457136 220051 to SP 457214 220062 (either point coinciding with the edge of the area explored by magnetometer survey). It would be in a perfect position for the outer ditch of the main fortress, but the question whether this is the correct interpretation or whether it may be a later ditch (eg of the Roman civilian period), can only be resolved by excavation. Because there is a stone bank, lining the brook, immediately north of this magnetic anomaly, it was impossible to verify whether or not there was a second, parallel, linear anomaly north of it (as one would expect in case of a military double ditch). The observation that it showed up clearly in a magnetometer survey may indicate a ditch with ceramic building material in its fill. If so, at least the uppermost ditch fill must date to well within the civilian period, as no ceramic building material was used in the military phase. However, this observation is compatible with the theory of a construction in the military as well as in the civilian period. In the latter case, it is possible that the southern ditches of the main fortress were slightly further north in the area of the Gagle Brook or the stone bank south of it, where they would be undetectable. Alternatively, they could have been incorporated in, and thus have been partially or completely destroyed by, later civilian ditches or the bed of the Gagle Brook. A range of other straight linear low resistance (Fig 39) and high magnetic anomalies were detected between the brook and the railway. Some of them may be Roman drainage ditches, property boundaries or ditches lining

minor side roads, as is suggested by the fact that their alignment is parallel, or at a right angle, to that of the Alchester-Dorchester road and to the Roman town walls. The date of some linear features at an oblique angle to the above is less certain. None of these other features has the appearance of a military double-ditch which thus, almost certainly, was towards the north end of the meadow, whether or not the above-mentioned high magnetic anomaly was part of it.

Acknowledgements

We are indebted to the Miller family for their kind permission to excavate and to carry out this survey, their help, support and enthusiasm, as well as to our generous sponsors: the British Academy, the Marc Fitch Fund, the Royal Archaeological Institute, the Roman Research Trust, the T.W. Greene Fund of the Craven Committee, the Administrators of the Haverfield Bequest and the Association for Roman Archaeology. Without the diligent and hard work of numerous participants in the excavations, none of this would have been possible.

A dedicated team took part in the survey, most notably Roger and Sally Ainslie of Abingdon Archaeological Geophysics, Seren Griffiths and James Ratcliffe, who also processed the results.

Trench 41, where the inscription was found, was professionally supervised by Steve Boscott, Gill Cox, James Ratcliffe and Steve Usher-Wilson. Steve Boscott, Deepinder Cheema, Ralph Brown, Bob Hooke, Andrew Horrell, Daniel Prior and Josefine Rohs found fragments of the tombstone. Deepinder Cheema and Paula Bryars spent several days looking at thousands of stones from all sides, to make sure that we did not miss any fragment, and found indeed some important smaller missing parts whilst doing so.

References

Hassall, M W C 2001: 'Inscription', in Booth, P M, Evans, J and Hiller, J, *Excavations in the Extramural Settlement of Roman Alchester, Oxfordshire, 1991*, Oxford Archaeology Monographs 1, Oxford, 253.

RIB = *The Roman Inscriptions of Britain*.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

The Ridgeway and Vale Project: Excavations at Marcham/Frilford 2004.

C. Gosden, G. Lock and P. Daly (with contributions by Richard Bailey, David Bukach, Hannah Fluck, Jane Harrison, Zena Kemash, Mike Langford, Paula Levick, Helen Lewis, Jędrzej Majewski, Sheila Raven, Jane Smallridge, Peter Warry, Carole Wheeler, and Steve Yates)

Introduction to the Ridgeway and Vale Project

The background to the project and site has been detailed in previous interim reports in South Midlands Archaeology (Lock *et al.* 2002; Lock *et al.* 2003; Lock *et al.* 2004).

As in previous years the excavation acts as a training excavation for Oxford University students, and is

committed to education in the widest sense. Education Officers were on-site throughout the month of excavation and gave tours to many visitors including groups from local schools and community organizations. Various activities were organized for National Archaeology Day when c 2,000 people visited the site and talks are given throughout the year.

The 2004 excavation season

The 2004 excavations had five main goals: 1) further investigating the large circular structure which involved extending existing trenches, as well as opening a significant area running from the wall and bank into the centre of the feature [Trenches 1, 8b, 9, & 17]; 2) further investigating the structures in Trench 18; 3) locating the entrance to the temple *temenos* wall [Trenches 15, 19, & 22]; 4) clarifying the nature of the eastern end of the large rectangular structure in Trenches 2 and 23; and 5) continuing with the programme of environmental work. In addition, one trench [21] was also excavated across a palaeochannel running south from the circular structure and this revealed archaeological features of Romano-British date, but unknown type. As part of this, work resumed in a number of existing trenches, with extensions made to facilitate our research goals, as well as in several new trenches. In all areas, the initial stripping of turf and/or removal of backfill was assisted by machine shovel, with work continuing by hand once archaeological deposits were reached. The 2004 field season focused largely upon the Romano-British components of the site, and little if any prehistoric material was encountered. This report will briefly present an overview of the progress made for each trench and discuss the results.

The Temple Precinct and Associated Structures (Trenches 15, 18, 19, & 22)

The presence of the Romano-British Temple in the garden of the Noah's Ark public house has long been established (Bradford and Goodchild 1939). However, until our excavations little has been known about the wider temple precinct and immediate environs. Geophysical survey and excavations in previous seasons have demonstrated the presence of a number of Romano-British structures lying in close proximity to the east of the temple, as well as several segments of the *temenos* wall which demarcates the area of the temple compound. Investigations in this area during the 2004 season focused upon further understanding the nature of the structures around the temple, establishing their relationship with the temple, and finding the formal entrance to the temple complex. These are discussed by trench, starting with the search for the entrance.

In 2003, geophysical survey work was carried out along and around the eastern edge of the *temenos* enclosure to establish the location of the east wall of the temple precinct. The northern boundary wall had been detected in two places during the 2002 excavations (trenches 6 and 16 - Lock *et al.* 2003). The survey showed a number of anomalies which were considered worth investigating. To do so, three small trenches were opened in 2004. Trench 19 produced no evidence of archaeological activity to explain the anomalies on the survey; Trenches 15 and 22 were more productive.

Trench 15

Trench 15 was opened as a long narrow slot designed to cut across the precinct wall. While an area of cobbling was encountered in the area exposed, the wall itself was not found. The trench was extended to the south, increasing its size to 15m x 13m, and linked it to Trench 18. In the extension to Trench 15, the remains of the *temenos* boundary were apparent as a ghost wall or robber trench 1.2m wide, with the wall stopping just south of the initial boundaries of the trench. It seems that first slot went straight through the entrance to the precinct, and therefore missed the walls.

Just inside the temple enclosure was evidence of a room joining the precinct wall. The exact purpose of this extension is not known. Outside the temple enclosure a single wall extended to the east possibly indicating that there had been a structure on this side of the entrance.

There was evidence of substantial gravel metalling to the south of the building in the temple enclosure. There was also evidence of extensive cobbled surfaces outside the enclosure. This surface might be part of a path that led from the gate. Tesserae, glass, copper fragments, large tiles, and large nails of a type used with substantial timbers were recovered from the area. A coin of Domitian (AD 81-96) was sealed in the top of an earlier ground surface, below where the floor of the room would have been. Furthermore, the remains of an almost complete Saverlake-ware pot of the first to early 2nd century AD was found sealed within the cobbling outside the temple entrance. Therefore it would be reasonable to place the construction of the temple precinct somewhere between AD 81 to about AD 120.

The 2004 excavations have resolved some of the questions about the entrance into the precinct, but by no means all of them. Further work needs to be carried out in the area in 2005.

Trench 18

Trench 18 was re-opened and extended in continuation of work begun in 2002 and 2003 (Lock *et al.* 2002; Lock *et al.* 2003). The main aims of the 2004 investigations were 1) to finish the excavation of the building in the southern half of the trench ('southern building') with particular emphasis upon understanding the spatial layout in plan, and the vertical sequence of floor surfaces evident both inside and outside the structure; 2) to establish the relationship between the 'southern building' and the temple *temenos* wall; 3) to relate the 'southern building' with the open 'courtyard' between the two buildings in the trench; 4) and to uncover the full floor plan of the structure in the northern half of the trench ('northern building'). The 2004 excavations were successful in all four of these main aims.

'Southern Building'

The entire floor plan of the southern building was uncovered, using an excavation strategy that allowed us to both reveal the extent of all structural components, and sample the deposits without having to fully excavate the entire structure. As can be seen in (Fig 41), the building runs east/west and consists of two 'rooms'. The two main walls [18006] and [18123] both lie on natural, but that does not always mean on solid bedrock, as the underlying limestone

MF 04 'Southern Building'
Trench 18

Oxfordshire

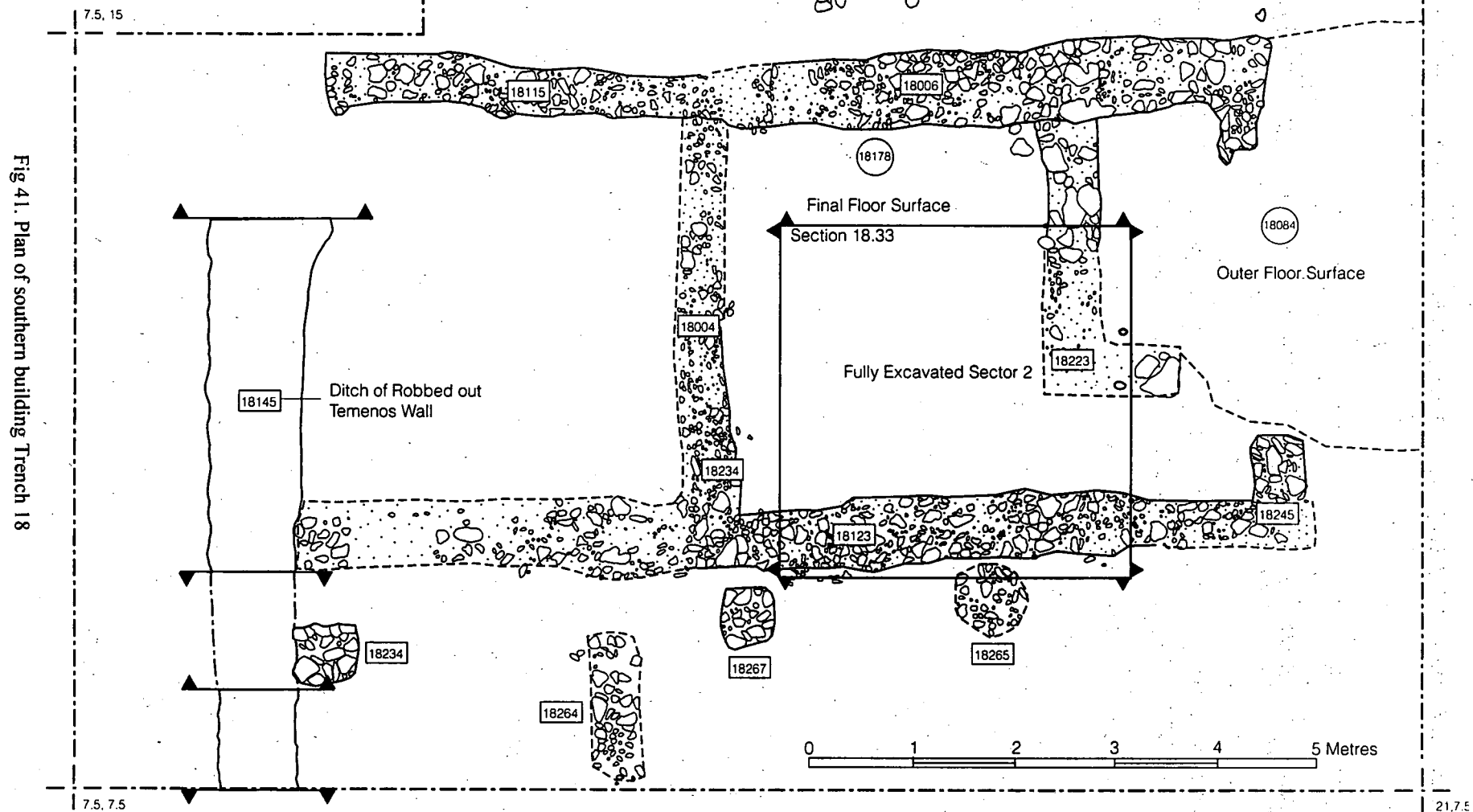
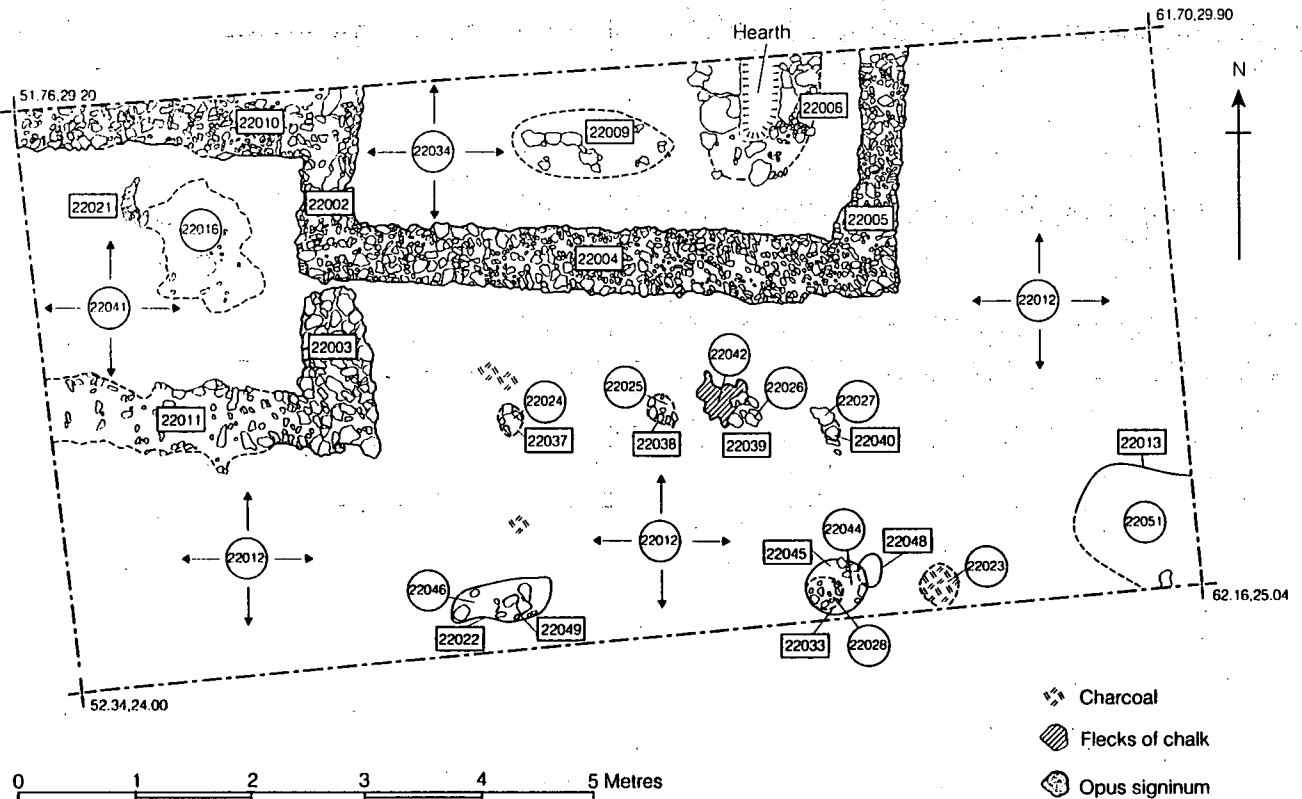


Fig 41. Plan of southern building Trench 18



is rather irregular and undulating. A further wall [18004] seems to be a later addition which runs north/south and divides the building into an east and west room. As was suggested in the 2003 report, there is no evidence for a substantial eastern wall to the structure. This has been further reinforced by the discovery of a slight 'vestibule' consisting of a partial wall just inside the east opening. This feature seems to have divided the outside and inside of the structure, and the sequence of constructed floor surfaces associated with each area (18084).

Detailed excavation, coupled with micromorphological investigation within the eastern room has shown that there was a complex sequence of laid and constructed floor surfaces. While it is hoped that the on-going programme of micromorphology will add substance to the interpretation of this sequence, the initial field observations suggest that the accumulated deposits represent a combination of both well constructed floor surfaces, as well as patches of material that might have been used to level out worn areas, or laid as part of a series of minor renovations.

The south-western part of the trench was extended 3m to the west to determine what relationship, if any, existed between the southern building and the temple precinct. Fortunately, there turned out to be a very clear and indisputable direct physical relationship between the temple temenos boundary and the building. Excavations revealed the ditch of the robbed out temenos wall [18145] (which is consistent with what was found in Trench 15 discussed above), which prior to destruction served as the western wall of the building. The western ends of the walls of the southern building clearly butted back onto the *temenos* wall.

Immediately south of the building, a wall, several possible hard clay floor surfaces and three well-built 'pads' of small stones were found [18234, 18267, 18265]. The shape and location of these could suggest that they were part of the building, but of a more ornamental than structural nature; possibly the base foundation for standing pillars or statues.

'Courtyard'

During the 2004 season the excavation of the area between the two buildings was completed. It seems that the courtyard doesn't reach as far as the walls of the buildings, but rather is surrounded by its own boundary. On the northern and southern sides the walls are evident. The eastern side wall is more ephemeral in keeping with the pattern established with the stone structures; its layout and circumstantial evidence suggest that this was perhaps a wooden fence rather than a stone wall. The western courtyard wall has not been uncovered as yet, and like the structures, most likely extends under the western bulk of Trench 18. As the walls are low and not well grounded, and there are no clear associated post-holes, it seems most likely that the area was not roofed. The earliest Roman layer is a floor consisting of gravel, containing fine pottery (including parchment ware and terra sigillata), some vessel glass, bone, and shell fragments. Overlying this floor level were two possible middens which may have been contemporary with each other, but composed of different materials.

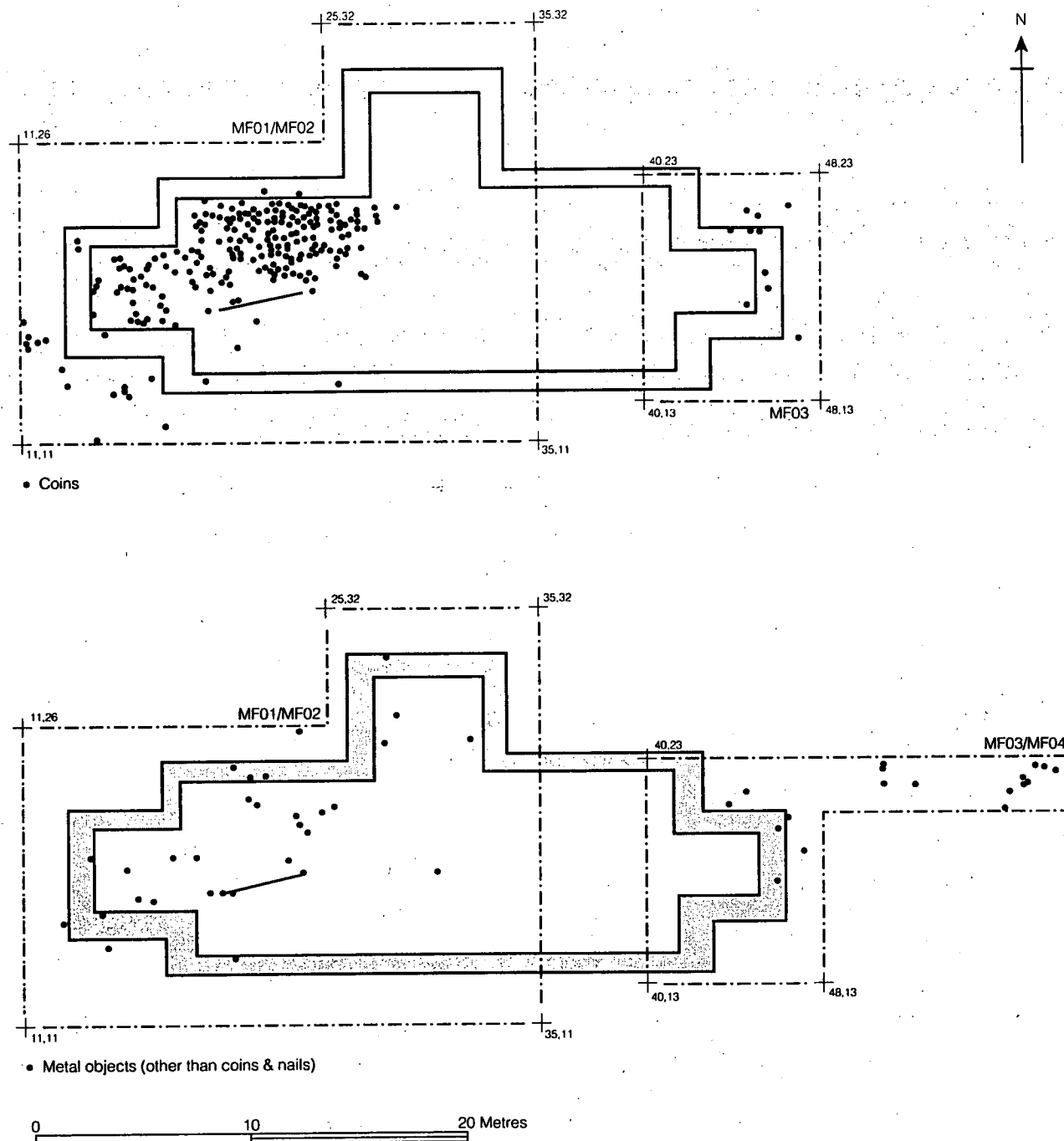


Fig 43. Distribution of coins and of metal objects other than coins and nails in Trench 2

‘Northern Building’

As the 2004 priority was to complete the excavations of the southern building, only limited excavation was conducted in the northern building. We restricted efforts to the removal of several layers of building material that covered the main walls. The floor plan consisted of three main walls which were well-mortared. As with the southern building, there was no evidence for a substantial eastern wall, leading us to conclude that neither structure possessed one, and both were part of a similar logic of construction. The deposits covering the walls consisted mainly of a mix of mortar and large limestone blocks, and are almost certainly the destruction rubble of the building. This material was laid directly on top of a cohesive and substantial very dark floor surface which covered the interior of the building. Interestingly, a hearth was found overlying this floor

surface, but the exact relationship of between the two is as yet unknown.

Trench 22

Trench 22 uncovered part of the remains of a two-cell building (Fig 42). The main and earliest phase of the structure was a square room which contained a well-preserved oval hearth [22006]. Beneath the hearth, a series of stake-holes, cut from various levels, was found. The second room, which was rectangular in shape, was butted against the west wall [22002] of the first room. On the south side of the first room there was a series of post-holes, recognised from the remains of their stone packing [22037-22040]. This may have supported a veranda. A series of ephemeral features was found to the south of the veranda, some of which seem to be the

stake-holes of a fence line. Due to the number of cuts in the area it is possible that this boundary had been replaced at least three times. Due to the paucity of material culture recovered, significant dating evidence for this building was not obtained, nor was its use determined. However, it should be noted that at least two other similar hearths were found in near-by Trenches 12 and 18.

Further work

We can say that we are dealing with two buildings, probably open-fronted to the east, but butting the temenos wall to the west, with a courtyard between. In 2005 the excavations at the northern building will be completed, further exploring the possible floor surfaces; the trench will be extended to determine the relationship with the building and the temple temenos; and the stone surfaces that have been discovered in previous seasons to the east of the building will be excavated, with a sampling strategy developed to determine how far to the east these extend, and to see if some connection can be established between the Trench 18 structures, and the large rectangular building investigated in Trench 2.

The Rectilinear Building (Trenches 2 and 23)

Extensive excavations during the previous three seasons have almost completely exposed the layout and floor plan of the large rectilinear structure located between the temple and the circular feature. In 2004 the decision was taken to reopen only the eastern extension of the rectilinear building in Trench 2 to look at the building itself and to establish if any link existed with the circular structure. In 2004 attention focused both on the interior to see what further clues there might be to the building's structure and function, and on the extra-mural cobbled surface which extended eastwards beneath the unexcavated area. It was thought this cobbled surface might form a link to the circular structure sited to the north – northeast. A small extension trench measuring 10m x 2m was therefore opened in week 1 extending eastwards from the northeast corner of the main trench to examine the extent and direction of the cobbled surface. A further 10m x 3m trench - Trench 23 – was then laid out at roughly a 45 degree angle to it in the direction of the circular structure.

Trench 2

The extra-mural cobbling to the east of the main building was separated from it by a shallow gully running the full length of the eastern side. At this extreme south end the continuation of the gully to the west showed the narrow wall at the south-east corner of the main building to be entirely separate. Whether this wall formed part of an ancillary building or dated from a separate building phase was not clear, but it was well built with a finished end.

Attention then turned to the east end of the building itself. The foundation levels of the walls were of a similar construction and dimension to those in the rest of the building, although more massive here than elsewhere. The walls to the north and the east were extensively robbed out, but a line of mortar to the south and west respectively indicated the inner face of the walls had been mortared. This mirrors evidence found last year in the central/western

sector of the building. The robbed out remains of the east wall were of particular interest since its relationship to the cobbling implied a possible entrance way.

Work on the interior of the building began with excavation of the spread of burnt limestone revealed last year and interpreted as a possible hearth sited almost centrally in the eastern extension, possibly a later episode. The interior of the building was largely sterile of finds except for the odd fragment of pot, bone or tile. There was no evidence whatsoever of the huge burning so apparent in the central/western sector of the building nor the rich tile/jaw bone/pot material so distinctive in the north-western sector.

During the final week excavation concentrated on the central area and it was here below the hearth and bedded directly into the bedrock, that a linear feature was found - in parts fragmentary, formed by small stones tightly compacted in a sand and grit matrix. Its orientation and size suggests that it was a load-bearing wall. No feature of a similar nature has been found in any other part of the building, although a building of this size must have had some internal supports. A diagnostic rim sherd dating to the 2nd century AD was recovered from where the linear was bedded into the bedrock and may provide an initial date for this feature. In common with the rest of the building, no recognisable floor surface was discovered even though the trench was excavated down to bedrock in places.

The cobbling at the eastern end of the building did not, at first sight, appear to be a surface upon which one could easily walk, being formed from large irregular limestone blocks. However, with smaller stones on top it would have created a level surface. It extended eastwards into the newly opened extension trench and can be seen as an extension of it.

However, as excavation continued eastwards, a lower layer comprising much smaller limestone fragments with tile and bone between them was uncovered. This continued for about three quarters the length of the extension trench where the cobbling broke down into random pockets of irregularly placed limestone blocks. It was anticipated that the cobbling immediately adjacent to the building would reveal a similar lower layer of cobbles but when a sample 1m square was lifted, an entirely different underlying 20cm layer of pea gravel was exposed, which did not extend into the gully. This could have been a levelling surface upon which a floor might be laid.

The full extent of the cobbling is unknown without further excavation but is only found at the east end of the building and might have formed a path, with at least three phases. A number of small finds were recovered including some coins which appear to date to the late 4th century above a lower level. This pathway (if it is a path) might be a late feature in the history of the site.

Trench 23

This 10m by 3m trench was placed at approximately 45 degrees to the extension trench running in the direction of the circular structure, Figure 4. The intention was to reveal any connection the cobbled surface might have with the arena's perimeter. The upper topsoil was stripped by machine and the lower topsoil taken off by hand. Apparent limestone rubble was revealed almost immediately in the extreme south western corner nearest Trench 2 extension

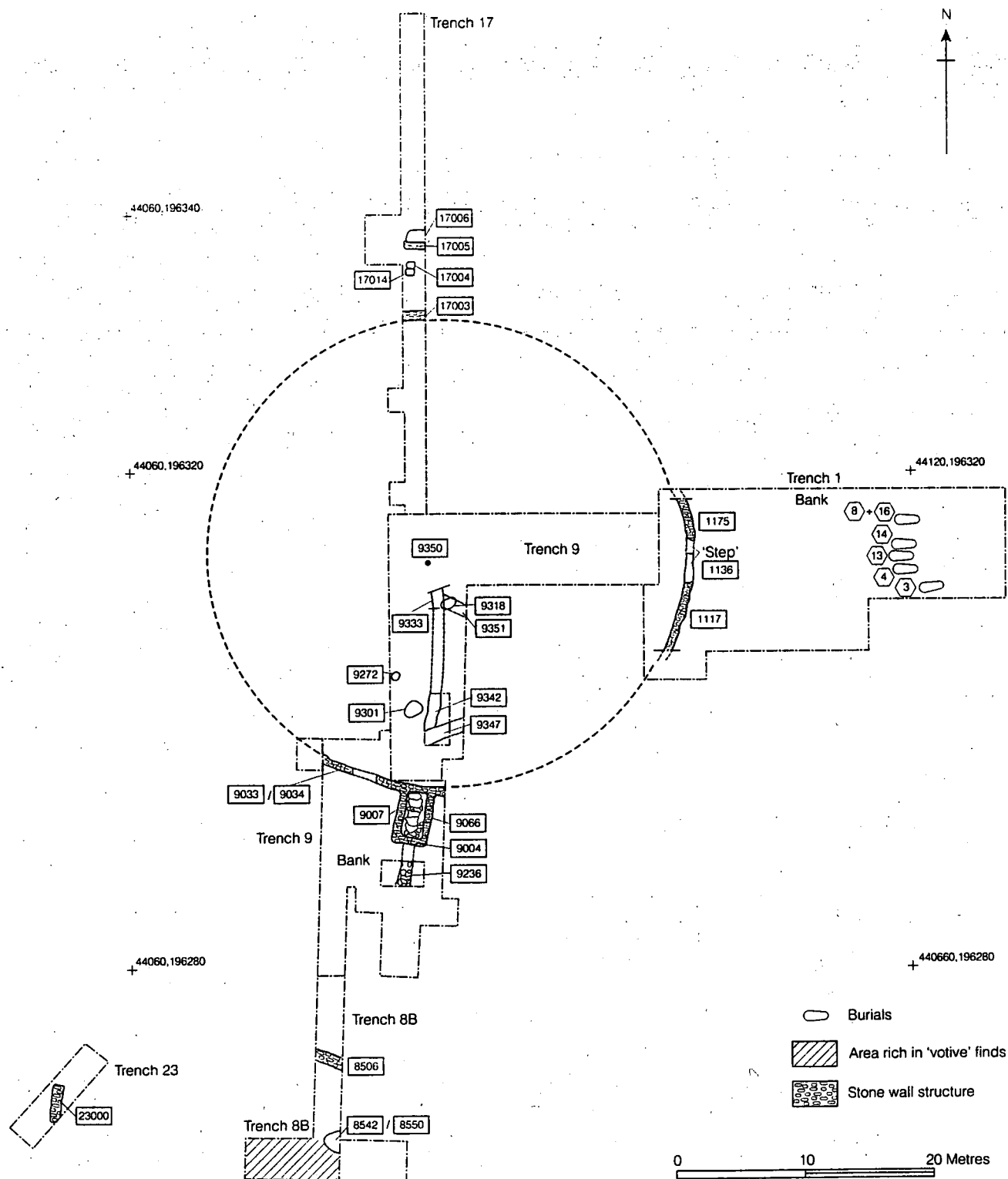


Fig 44. Schematic plan of Trenches 1, 8B, 9, 17 and 23: the 'amphitheatre'.

and a few 4th century coins were recovered from the lower topsoil. However, on excavation the limestone blocks further to the east revealed themselves as an extremely well constructed single length of wall (23000) running south-west to north-east. The orientation of the wall is at odds with both the building in Trench 2 and the amphitheatre and its purpose is currently unknown. Extension of the trench to the north and south in 2005 should reveal whether it forms part of a building or perhaps

some type of boundary feature. Its placement between the rectilinear building and the amphitheatre is suggestive and it has the distinction of being the best constructed wall yet found on the site.

The 2004 excavation produced both supporting evidence for previous interpretations and threw up some surprises. The symmetry of the wall positions, the consistency of their width and the massiveness of the lower foundations onto bedrock supports the argument that this was an important

building. The difficulty remains in discerning its primary and possibly secondary phases. Large sectors of the building interior have been generally sterile and this has been borne out by examination of the finds distribution from the last four years, Fig 43 shows coins and metal objects other than coins and nails. The results are striking and show the main area of activity as predominantly the western sector, but it also emphasises how consistently these finds, mostly coins, respect both the walls and the beam slot. This argues for both being present before this deposition. The distinctive context of tile/animal jawbone/pot, from which the finds in the western sector came, is not present in the eastern extension or elsewhere. The finds from the east are generally to be found outside the walls. If, then, the positioning of the finds in the western sector suggests secondary use, the building is largely sterile of finds in its primary phase.

The complete lack of small finds and very limited amounts of pottery and bone fragments found in the central, northern and southern sectors of the building might support a hypothesis that the original building had a suspended floor which prevented finds from dropping to the ground, particularly as no evidence of any other type of floor was found. Such an interpretation would be supported by the discovery of the central linear feature in the east end and by the fact that the distribution of metal objects largely matches that of the coins.

The Circular Structure/Arena (Trenches 1, 8b, 9, & 17)

Larger-scale excavations than previously were carried out on the large circular structure during the 2004 season, Fig 44. The main trenches from previous seasons were reopened and a number of significant extensions were made. Efforts were made to better understand the construction of the walls and bank at the north and east ends of the feature, as well as to uncover the floor surfaces and drainage features encountered in previous seasons by opening a large section of the interior.

Trench 1

Trench 1 was located on the suspected eastern entrance of the arena. In 2001-3 a stretch of arena wall was uncovered with a two metre wide deliberate break in the top courses at the most easterly point. A matching break in the bank extends east beyond the wall. Excavation in 2004 uncovered more information about the nature of this break in both the wall and the bank which is increasingly inconsistent with an entrance to the arena at this point. New interpretations suggest that rather than an entrance, the gap may relate to a platform, or viewing point above the floor of the arena. The eastward extension of the trench was halted by the unexpected discovery of a group of burials at the rear of the bank.

Investigations behind the lower part of the wall in 2003 revealed a series of rubble deposits which were interpreted as a possible ramp and entrance associated with the break in the encircling bank. Despite further investigation in this area, convincing evidence for entrance structures, either in wood or stone, has yet to be discovered. No evidence has been found for steps, or a slope, reaching from the lower wall to a surface within the arena (unprecedented in amphitheatre design), or for a practical way of negotiating

the vertical and horizontal gap between the steep slope in bedrock and the lowered section of arena wall [1136] and the arena floor. Excavation in 2004 of the northern half of this 'entrance' area has raised a third possibility: that rather than providing a physical entrance into the arena this area provided a visual entrance with a flat surface/platform/viewing point overlooking the arena. There are indications from cuts in the bedrock and construction of the wall at this point that at some point there would have been some sort of platform positioned across the width of the gap and extending back behind the wall for over a metre. If we consider the possibility of a stage or podium at this point rather than an entrance this could explain why we have found no evidence of structures that would have enabled entrance into the arena. The break in the bank behind would then serve as an approach to the rear of the platform.

Investigations of the wall provided further evidence for multiple phases in the configuration of this part of the arena wall and bank. The wall may always have included a lower eastern section but it was reconfigured at some stage when the wall ends were built up and heavily re-mortared (Possibly to support a platform as discussed above). The top few courses below the gap were also re-mortared in the same way to create the 'step' between the wall ends. Interestingly in this mortared surface of the 'step' we found a footprint (toes pointing west toward the arena), probably of a child or woman. Dating of any phase remains difficult, but contexts associated with the final phases of the arena's use have included several late 4th century coins in good condition.

Bank

The 2004 excavations revealed much more about the nature of the bank in the eastern side of the arena. The break in the bank is far wider than previously thought and considerably wider than the geophysical survey suggested and the bank to the southern side of the gap is problematic. The gap appears to be 'fan shaped', narrowing to a focused point by the 'step'. The bank was clearly never meant to support rows of seating, or even sufficient grassed slope for a sizeable audience. The profile of the bank is whale-backed in shape and does not appear to have undergone as much erosion as previously thought. The steep profile of the front of the bank appears to have been preserved almost intact with the back sloping gently to meet the natural ground level. A certain depth, though no more than 0.5m, has been disturbed from the very top of the bank, probably through agricultural practices. The shape of the bank means that anyone approaching the arena would see nothing of the interior until it was revealed quite suddenly as they reached the top of/gaps in the bank.

In the gap in the bank towards the eastern limit of the trench a thin gritty surface was identified. This appeared to be in line with the break in the bank and could be traced in section to about half way between the back of the bank and the arena wall where it appeared to have been truncated by more recent activity. The stratigraphic relationship with the bank material is unclear, however it does appear to continue up to the rear of the bank and could be contemporary with one of the phases of the bank, possibly representing some sort of construction surface or a 'path' surface for access to the gap

Oxfordshire

in the final phase of use of the arena. In most instances the grave cuts for most of the burials were only clearly identified where they cut this gravel layer.

Burials

Six near complete, articulated adult skeletons, all aligned east-west, were found in the east of Trench 1 either immediately outside or just into the top of the bank (Fig 44). Very little dating evidence was found but they are believed to be of late Roman date from a combination of a lack of grave goods, the prone position of one of the bodies, the east-west alignment and a single corroded Roman coin found within the fill on one grave cut.

Clear cuts were found for only two of the graves; the most northerly contained two skeletons on top of each other, while the neighbouring burial had stone markers positioned around the head and feet. Three further burials were marked by only traces of grave cuts; one of these was prone, a position often interpreted as being associated with wrongdoing in Late Roman practice. All of the grave cuts were extremely shallow. The most southerly burial had no trace of a grave cut and may have been laid on the gravel surface discussed above and then covered. There were also remains of an infant although no grave cut could be identified and these were unarticulated and poorly preserved. All of the skeletons show signs consistent with being bound/wrapped in shrouds before burial (although no shroud pins were found): the feet bones were extended, shoulders hunched and hands tucked up around the necks.

All but the most southerly skeleton, which lined up with the break in the bank, seemed to have been dug into the bank to some degree and to have been buried at the end of the use of the arena or shortly thereafter. This raises the intriguing possibility that the burials may have been associated with a ceremony marking the closure of the arena. The extent of the burial ground is unknown and it may be that these inhumations represent the western edge of a larger cemetery continuing to the east. The other possibility is that a similar arrangement of inhumations continues along the edge of the bank to the south. The burials do not appear to continue to the north.

Trench 9

Excavations in Trench 9 in 2004 represented the first large-scale investigations of the interior of the circular structure. A complex drainage network was partially uncovered and formed the earliest archaeology identified in the season. This drainage network was sealed by a 0.2m – 0.4m thick sand deposit that was bedded to the east on a hardcore rubble deposit. Natural water channels cutting through the sand deposit mark the end of the functioning of the drainage network, probably in the 4th century AD. At this point the interior of the circular structure seems to have become a boggy, pond-like area used for the dumping of rubbish as evidenced by the late clay layers and the numerous artefacts retrieved from them.

Trench 9 was an L-shaped trench located inside the 'arena' area of the 'amphitheatre' structure; it extended 22.5m north from the previous seasons' Trench 9 and 23 m west from wall [1175/17] of Trench 1 (Fig 44). The earliest features recorded during this season were recorded in two

slots in the north-south leg and comprised a drainage network extending north from the drain [9236] exposed further south during 2003, which seems to postdate the construction of the arena wall. The main drain [9342/9333] was oriented on a north-south alignment, but seems to have had a slightly meandering course. Both sections of these drains revealed possible feeder drains from the east [9347 into 9342 and 9351 into 9333]. None of these features was fully excavated, but some tentative suggestions concerning the construction technique of the drain are possible.

Dry stone construction seems to have been used along the drain's course. Limestone slabs varying in size capped the drain. The drain seems to have been constructed by the digging of a trench through probably natural clay, but no cut was seen through these deposits. It is possible that these clays represent natural palaeochannel deposits.

To the west of drain [9342], however, a series of dark blackish brown sandy patches was revealed in the clay layer; it is not clear what created these patches, whether they relate to the drain or whether they represent an earlier phase of activity in this area. The vertical sides of the drain were constructed by stacking smaller horizontal limestone slabs on top of each other; five courses to the west and three courses to the east, creating a channel 0.4m wide. Excavation of the exterior walls of [9342] suggest that the drain was constructed from the inside and that these courses were pressed into the soft clay on either side of the cut, thus explaining the lack of any visible cut for the drain. The base of the drain was not seen at any point in the 2004 season, though part of the eastern side of drain [9342] seems to have been placed directly on top of bedrock.

A stone feature in the centre of the arena was first exposed, though not recognised, during excavations of an evaluation trench in 2003 and may have been the northernmost extent of drain [9342/9333], but no clear channel was revealed during excavation. The linear feature cut the possibly natural layer and was filled by layers of limestone slabs laid horizontally as well as mid greyish/yellowish brown sandy clay layers. The feature seems to be associated with wooden stake [9350] that was exposed during the 2003 season and radiocarbon dated to 1910 ± 60 BP (Beta – 182615), which calibrates to 30 BC – AD 245 (at two standard deviations), which probably puts the date within the early Romano-British period (Plate 1). Wooden stake [9350] was 0.45m long and circular in cross-section at the top (50mm in diameter) tapering to a rectangular cross-section at the bottom (20mm x 10mm). The stake was driven into a laminated natural clay layer and may have been driven from a higher level, but no relationship was recorded in the 2003 evaluation. The angle at which the stake was driven seems to reflect that of the sides of the cut for the central stone feature which suggests that the stake was connected with its construction, but the exact relationship between the two features is to be further examined.

Two other possible drain features with similar limestone capstones were recorded in plan in the slot through the east-west section of Trench 9 and seem to be running on a north-south alignment. The proximity of one to wall [1175/17] raises the possibility that this drain runs inside the perimeter of the 'arena' as has been observed at other Romano-British amphitheatres, for example Silchester (Fulford 1989). This drain was overlain by a deposit of

rubble: this layer was not fully excavated in the 2004 season. A c 0.2m thick deposit of mid brownish yellow to mid brownish grey sand overlay the rubble deposit. It is possible that the rubble formed hardcore bedding for sand, which may then arguably be a floor surface within the 'arena'. It is also noteworthy that a possible mortar moulding butting against the arena wall overlay the rubble deposit. No rubble deposit has so far been identified in the north-south area of Trench 9.

A clear stratigraphic relationship was provided by the section through pit [9318], in which it is obvious that structure [9333], that ran under cut [9318], must have existed before the pit was cut through sand. This pit was filled with a homogenous, organic dark brownish black deposit in which several pieces of preserved wood were found as well as some oyster shell, which points to a Roman date. The pit seems to have been filled in one event prior to the deposition of the overlying clays (see below), but its exact function is unclear. A circular posthole [9272] was cut through sand layer and a fragment of a glass vessel was recovered from its fill pointing to a Roman or post-Roman date. No evidence was found of the post, which given the good wood preservation at this level suggests that it was removed before the posthole was filled. Stones at the base of the secondary fill may have functioned as post-packing.

Natural series of water channels also seem to have cut through the sand deposits. These irregular linear features were on a northwest-southeast alignment. All of these features had a single dark greyish brown sandy clay fill. No finds were retrieved from these fills, but medium-sized limestone pieces were found which seem to be too large to have been carried by the water in the channels and it is more likely that they have sunk into the soft clay fills and derive from the dumping episodes into the overlying clay layers (see below). Two linear features in the east-west leg also seem to have been natural water channels and were very similar in nature to those in the north-south section.

A series of clay layers overlay the features cut into the sand deposits. All of these deposits were very rich in artefacts (pottery, animal bone, ceramic building material, coins, a 2nd-century AD zoomorphic brooch) and had a high number of rubble inclusions. The pottery seems to date from the 4th century and provides a terminus ante quem for the deposition of sands. These clay layers seem to have formed during the same episode or series of episodes that mark the end of the life of the circular structure with its original function. The number and nature of the finds within these deposits suggests that the circular feature was used as a dumping ground in the 4th century. This was overlain by a 0.5m thick medieval/post-medieval plough soil, which was in turn overlain by modern topsoil.

Further Work

The 2004 excavation season has raised several further questions that need to be addressed in the subsequent season(s) of work in order to answer the central excavation question: what was/were the function(s) of the large circular structure? This year's excavations have provided a useful relative chronology for the life of the circular structure, but more absolute dating is required in particular pertaining to the date of the drain structures and their relationship with the construction of the 'arena' wall, the date of the

overlying sand deposits and the date when the drainage network fell into disrepair. Full excavation of several sections of the drain network, including the channel fills, should help solve this as well as clear up questions concerning the construction technique of the drain. We also need to find out what the drainage network is draining, how much is being drained and for what purpose. The drains in the east-west leg that seem to run north beyond the centre of the 'arena' area make it increasingly unlikely that it is just the central area that is being drained. In connection with this, it is necessary to work out how the drains in the east-west leg relate to and potentially connect with those found in the north-south leg of the trench. Other questions over the drainage system include: how many drains exit the circular structure; to where does the network drain outside the structure; are there any feeder drains coming from the west and if not, why not?

The purpose of the sand deposits discovered this season also requires further investigation. If the sand deposit is acting as a floor surface as suggested by the hardcore bedding in the eastern area, why do we not seem to find this hardcore deposit in the southern area? How far does the hardcore rubble deposit extend to the north and south? If the rubble deposit does not act as a bedding deposit for a sand surface, what is its purpose? If the sand is not a floor surface, what is its purpose and why does it not extend into the central area of the 'arena'?

Trench 17

Initially excavated last season as part of the Trench 9 extension, Trench 17 was re-opened to confirm the presence of features lying to the north of the circular structure, Fig 44. As outlined in last season's report on Trench 9, excavations originally uncovered the north extent of the arena wall along with a second wall crossing the trench from east to west to the north of the arena wall. Further work this season has revealed details on the construction of the arena wall and the second wall [17005], as well as several other features.

Beginning from the southern end of the trench and moving northwards, the arena wall [17003] was found to consist of at least three components. The first is the wall itself, which contains a series of regularly spaced limestone blocks arranged to form a smooth surface on the south-facing side upon which a mortar surface was applied. The mortar used on the arena-facing surface of the wall is the same as those seen in Trenches 1 and 9, consisting of a light yellow sandy mortar upon which red painted lines, possibly added to mimic finer stone or brick construction, was applied. The north face of the arena wall appears to also have been built to form a regular surface, although excavation between the wall and bedrock was limited in scope. Between these two faces is a fill of rubble and mortar, and the visible stones along the top of the exposed wall suggest that at least some of these internal stones may have been placed at angles or vertically within the wall packing in order to better consolidate the wall. The wall itself has been constructed very near the bedrock, with the top of bedrock used to help mark the top of the wall itself.

The western end of a second wall was also uncovered [17005], extending east-west across the trench some 5m north of the arena wall. Unlike the arena wall, this structure was constructed using drystone as well as mortar. The wall

Oxfordshire

consists of two courses of drystones arranged in a distinctive herring-bone pattern followed by a 10cm thick layer of mortar which appears to consolidate an upper course of flat stones, much of which has been lost to ploughing. The wall itself appears to have been built on a slight angle, sloping slightly downward from north to south. The western corner of the wall consists of a single, much larger block of limestone with packing stones placed near vertically around its outer edge and a coursing of flat stones to support its base. Extending north from this second wall is a layer of rubble mixed with mortar and yellow sandy clay [17006]. The rubble and mortar appears to rest atop the sandy clay layer, and extend some 7cm north of the second wall and into the eastern trench edge. Given that the topmost course of the second wall appears to have been removed by ploughing, it is quite possible that these deposits represent scattering of material from the wall.

At least one, possibly two, square 60cm x 60cm stone structures were also found between the arena wall and second wall, lying approx 1m south of the second wall at the interface of topsoil and lower soil [17014], [17004]. If these features are considered alongside the presence of the northern wall and mortar surface above the bedrock extending from the arena wall, it is possible that these features together form part of a deliberate platform overlooking the north side of the arena. Further excavation is therefore necessary to confirm this hypothesis.

The northern half of the trench was opened in order to explore any possible bank material, but unlike the eastern and southern halves of the circular structure, no clear bank deposits were found. A thin lens of yellow sandy clay mixed with small stones was found some 10m north of the north baulk and this may form part of multi-phased activity associated either with the circular structure or with nearby, as yet unknown structures.

Trench 9 Drain

Excavation of the drain south of the walled enclosure [9007] (or 'royal box') was continued this season in order to better understand the phasing of construction of the drain, the enclosure and the bank. A cut into underlying sterile yellow sand was found last season and this was followed in order to trace the extent of drain construction and its relationship with neighbouring layers and structures. The cut was made to take in the drain with the upper stones of the drain resting on the surface of the sterile yellow sand. Furthermore, as it extends northwards toward the south wall of the enclosure, the cut widens considerably both eastwards and westwards. Interestingly, it was found that the cut to place the drain appears to have been made at the same time as the cut to lay the south wall of the 'royal box', as only one cut event is apparent in the associated fill material. In considering the sequence of structures along the south end of the circular structure, it thus suggests that the addition of the drain and enclosure occurred at the same time, and that the break evident in the arena wall over the drain as it extends into the 'royal box' is therefore also likely to be part of the same single construction event.

Understanding the relationship between the drain cut, its fill and any bank construction, however, remains unclear. Large quantities of yellow sandy clay cap the drain and extend eastward beyond the trench edge. This layer, as well

as considerable amounts of other darker tips cover the cut in a slope downwards from south to north, as part of a deliberate attempt to completely cap the drain hole. The relationship between the bank and the drain needs clarifying to see whether the bank existed before a gap was cut in it to take the drain. However, it seems clear that the gap in the bank is much smaller on this south side, than that found to the east.

Trench 21

Trench 21 was located in the middle of the palaeochannel running south from the circular structure and was dug to explore the nature of the channel deposits. However, a number of cobbled surfaces were uncovered adjacent to a large ditch, pit or well. This might be a causeway with adjacent ditch, but further excavation is needed in 2005 to ascertain the date and function of these features.

In addition, a number of deposits were examined on the banks of the River Ock on the southern boundary of the field and these appear to range in date between early prehistoric and the medieval period, including Romano-British finds. Further dating and field recording is necessary to uncover the nature and extent of these complex deposits. A programme of geomorphological and micromorphological sampling was carried out, which will be reported in more detail elsewhere.

Discussion

A number of issues have been clarified through work in the 2004 season. The buildings in Trench 18 seem to be broadly contemporary with the *temenos* wall and were open at their eastern end. They might have been small public buildings of some kind, such as shops. They lay immediately south of the entrance into the *temenos*, although this entrance has probably been extensively robbed and will need careful excavation in future years. This may have been laid out in the later 1st century AD. The relationship between the *temenos* area and the large central rectangular building is still unknown and will need investigation in future years, although we know that at least one discrete building existed in Trench 22.

The situation at the eastern end of the large rectangular building has been clarified. The distribution of finds at the western and eastern ends of the building is very different, with many more coins and other finds in the west. Whether these relate to the primary phase of the structure's use or some late re-use is still unknown, although we suspect the latter possibility. The finds distributions show a more dispersed scatter outside the west and east ends, lending support to these two areas as likely entrances.

Further, reference to the Romano-British temple (sited to the north east) and excavated in the 1930s records a substantial entrance pathway to its east, comprising three consecutive layers of metalling overlain by a thin dark soil from which 78 4th/5th century coins were recovered (Bradford & Godchild 1939, 31-2).

"It is difficult to believe that these coins from the temple pathway owe their origin purely to normal losses by worshippers going to and from the Temple, more especially in view of the absence of coins on the surface of the first and second paths. One is indeed tempted to suggest some ritual

significance, although its exact nature is a matter of pure conjecture. A possible analogy is provided by the temple in Insula XVI at Verulamium, where the black layer sealed by the 5th century reconstruction contained equally numerous Theodosian coins. Whether the pagan ritual of the latest period involved the frequent handling or offering of coins is a question which deserves consideration" (Bradford & Goodchild 1939,32-3).

The evidence begins to suggest that more of the site than just the rectilinear building were in use in the late to post-Roman period. There is good evidence for a late 4th century pagan revival in the west of Britain that produced temples such as Maiden Castle, Nettleton, Uley and Lydney (Rahtz & White 1979). Some of these sites are connected with significant deposits of coins assumed to have had some ceremonial purpose. Such an end date seems to correlate with the latest deposits from within the circular structure and probably also the burials found on the eastern side of the circular structure. At the least we can say that there was large-scale depositional activity in the 4th (and possibly into the 5th) century and that this represents the last large-scale deposition on the site, running in parallel with the cemetery excavated in the 19th and 20th centuries.

There is clearly going to be a complex relationship between the rectangular building and the circular structure, as the cobbled spreads to the east of the rectangular building and the well-constructed wall in Trench 23 indicate, as well as the wealth of small finds found in Trench 8b in previous years. Larger-scale excavation in 2005 will attempt to untangle some of these relationships.

The situation within the circular structure is gradually becoming clearer, although there are still significant unknowns. The drain system is complex, being found together with probable natural channels, and was cut into probable natural clays within the palaeochannel. On the eastern side these clays and the drains were overlain by a cobbled layer which was in turn overlain with sand. This is the best possibility we have found so far for an interior surface, an arena. It has so far only been found in this eastern quadrant and it might be no coincidence that this is also the area where a platform might have been set into the arena wall. These two elements suggest that the eastern quadrant was at least one focus for activity. There is a wide gap in the bank here behind the wall and it is still not clear if this was original or part of a later phase. The significance of the eastern quadrant is reinforced by the discovery of six late burials let into the gap in the bank. These might be roughly contemporary with an upper clay layer within the 'arena' which probably represents a post-use phase of silting in the interior into which the fourth century finds were deposited. The radiocarbon determination from a wooden stake in the middle of the circular structure might indicate a 1st century phase of early use, which, if confirmed, would show that the structure was in use through most of the Romano-British period. The existence of low walls and post pads on the northern side of the structure, back from the walls might indicate another support for a wooden structure. We have suspected that the rectangular enclosure on the south side might also have supported such a structure. The relative lack of bank on the north side might be due to fact that the natural ground surface is higher there, obviating the need for a bank. More

investigation will take place next year in this area. On the south side work continued on the deposits above the drain to the south of the rectangular structure. There is evidence here that the drain and the rectangular structure were constructed at the same time, which might also be broadly contemporary with the arena wall. The other key relationship here, between the bank and the drain, needs further work to elucidate more clearly.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Will and Janey Cumber for endless and varied support. Thanks also to John Duffield for logistical support, Debbie Day for catering, Michael McKeon and Mike Langford for infrastructure and all supervisors, students and friends who were involved in the Project. Funding was provided by the Roman Research Trust, the Cumber Family Trust and Oxford University.

References

- Bradford, J.S.P. and Goodchild, R.G. 1939. Excavations at Frilford, Berks, 1937-8. *Oxoniensia*, 4, 1-80.
- Fulford, M. 1989. *The Silchester Amphitheatre. Excavations of 1979-85*. London: Britannia Monograph Series 10.
- Gosden, C. and Lock, G. 2003. Frilford: A Romano-British ritual pool in Oxfordshire? *Current Archaeology*, No.184, Vol. XVI No 4, pp. 156-9.
- Lock, G., Gosden, C. Griffiths, D., Daly, P., Trifkovic, V. and Marston, T. 2002. Hillforts of the Ridgeway Project: excavations at Marcham/Frilford 2001. *SMA*, 32, pp.69-83.
- Lock, G., Gosden, C. Griffiths, D. and Daly, P. 2003. Hillforts of the Ridgeway Project: excavations at Marcham/Frilford 2002. *SMA*, 33: 84-91.
- Lock, G. and Gosden, C. (with D. Bukach, P. Daly, D.Griffiths, P.Levick, J. Majewski, S. Raven, P. Warry, C. Wheeler, and S. Yates) 2004. The Ridgeway and Vale Project: Excavations at Marcham/Frilford 2003 – interim report. *SMA* 34: 84-94.
- Rahtz, P. & White, L. 1979 The End of Roman Temples in the West of Britain in Casey, P.J. (ed.) *The End of Roman Britain: 183-204* Oxford: BAR 71.

WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY

Thame: 9-10 High Street, (SP 70560 05950)

An historic assessment was undertaken on the Grade II listed properties at 9-10 High Street, Thame. No 9 is probably of 16th-17th century date, with an early 19th century brick facade, while No 10 is apparently of mid 19th century date.

The two properties are situated on medieval burgrave plots – long narrow strips of land, designed to allow numerous shop frontages on a street – which probably date to the late 12th century. Several changes to the boundaries have taken place, the most damaging of which occurred when a housing estate and car park was constructed across the south end of six burgrave plots in the early 1980s.

The study of over 100 years of local maps showed that the site has changed gradually over this period. Several small outbuildings have come and gone at the rear of No 10 and, between 1972 and 1991, a rear wing was added and

Index

extended across the back of No 9, up to the boundary with No 10. This rear wing was also sketched and photographed. A small area of historic brick and stonework was noted in the fabric of the wing, surrounded by 1970s brickwork.

Long Hanborough: The Malt House, Millwood End, (SP 41500 14500)

An historic site assessment of the land and gardens of the Malt House (Listed Grade II) was carried out. The Malt House is described as having 15th century origins as a plague house but archaeological investigations in 1991 revealed nothing and it was concluded that the site had no archaeological potential. The study of local historic maps showed that the site remained little changed until the early 1990s when several outbuildings that appear on late 19th and early 20th century maps were demolished. This allowed the gardens to be enlarged to the west by taking in an adjoining property, and the entrance to the Malt House to be realigned.

Index

Note: references in italics denote illustrations.

A509 Isham Bypass, Nhants; Iron Age and early-middle Saxon 35-6

Abingdon, Oxon

- Bronze Age; Vineyard, former Red Lion 48
- Roman/Saxon; Bath Street, former Horse and Jockey 48
- medieval/post-medieval; Vineyard, former Red Lion 48
- other sites: Larkhill House, Cemetery Road 67; 99 Radley Road 87

air raid shelter, WWII; Daventry, Nhants 37

Akeman Street as Roman frontier 43-5, 43-4

Alchester, Oxon

- Roman military base 44, 89-94: annexe 93; dendrochronology 93; geophysical survey 92-3, 94; granary 92, 94; linear high magnetic anomaly, possible outer ditch of main fortress 92-3, 94; as Vespasian's base 93-4
- town wall: legionary tombstone fragments from foundations 89, 90-1, 91, 92, 93-4; painted sculptural fragment 90, 91; west gate 89, 90

amphitheatres, Roman (*see also* Marcham/Frilford (Roman religious centre, circular structure/arena)): Banbury, Oxon (putative) 61-2; Silchester, Hants 103

archaeomagnetic dating; Harrold, Beds 3

Ardley, Oxon; Corner Garage, medieval 67

arrowheads

- flint
- Neolithic leaf-shaped; Little Wittenham, Oxon 69
- Bronze Age tanged and barbed; Round Hill, Oxon 61
- iron, undated; Dunstable, Beds 7

Asthall, Oxon; Roman military base 44

Aston Clinton, Bucks; Buckland Wharf Pipeline, Iron Age and post-medieval 16

auger, medieval iron spoon-bit; Little Wittenham, Oxon 74

Aves Ditch, Oxon; possible Iron Age date 44

aviary, 19th-century; Old Warden, Beds 10

awl, prehistoric polished bone; Dorney, Bucks 27

axe, Bronze Age; Banbury, Oxon 62

Aylesbury, Bucks

Kings Head 18

Kingsbury Square; medieval or earlier 11

Aynho, Nhants; St Michael's churchyard 41

bakehouses

medieval; Marston Mortaine, Beds 10

C18/19 village; Chastleton, Oxon 54

Banbury, Oxon 61-4, 63

prehistoric 62, 63, 64

Neolithic; Horton General Hospital 64; St Mary's church 64

Bronze Age; St John's Hospital, South Bar 64

Roman 61-2, 63, 64; Broughton Road 64; High

Street 64; Pike Farm 62, 64; Wykham villa 64

Saxon 63, 64; Castle site 64; Market Place 64;

settlement pattern 64

post-medieval; Malthouse Walk 67

Fine Lady tradition 62

Giants Cave Good Friday fair 62

see also Calthorpe; Crouch Hill; Drayton;

Easington; Grimsbury; Hardwick; Neithrop;

Pinhill; Wykham

Baptist church; Towcester, Nhants, C19 41

barley, early Iron Age; Little Wittenham, Oxon 72, 77

barns *see under* Ewelme; Haddenham; Hanslope; Radley

Barton-le-Clay, Beds; The Rectory, Church Road;

prehistoric, and Saxon to post-medieval 5

Bedfordshire 1-11

Beesley, Alfred 61

Begbroke, Oxon; Coach House, 25 Spring Hill Road 48

Bicester, Oxon

Eastern Perimeter Road, Bicester Park; Iron Age ditches, Roman farmstead 66, 67, 68

Graven Hill to Ambroseden replacement water pipeline and tank 87

Skimmingdish Road 67

Biddenham, Beds

Bromham Road; Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Ages 5-6

Great Denham Village Medical Centre, Biddenham Loop; late Bronze/early Iron Age settlement, medieval activity 4

Bierton with Broughton, Bucks; Bierton House, Aylesbury Road, late Bronze Age to Saxon 16

Blackthorn, Oxon; Elm Tree Farm, Station Road 48

blade, Mesolithic/early Neolithic flint; Cardington, Beds 11

Bledlow cum Saunderton, Bucks; Cherrymead, Bledlow Road 16

Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, Oxon; Kitchen court and parkland 84

Bletchley, Bucks; Stoke Road canal footbridge 11

- boar, wild; early Iron Age, Little Wittenham, Oxon 71
- bone, animal
 prehistoric; Chipping Norton, Oxon 68
 Neolithic; Dorney, Bucks 27
 Iron Age: Isham Bypass, Nhants 35-6; Little Wittenham, Oxon 69, 71, 72, 77
 Iron Age/Roman; Rothwell, Nhants 33
 Roman: Little Wittenham, Oxon 74; Marcham/Frilford, Oxon 97, 103
 Saxon; Isham Bypass, Nhants 35-6
 medieval: Eaton Bray, Beds 5; Little Wittenham, Oxon 74
- bone objects (*see also* awl; combs; gouge; pins; whistle)
 early Iron Age; Little Wittenham, Oxon 72, 77
- boundaries (*see also* ditches; field boundaries)
 post-medieval slot; Wing, Bucks 14
- Bow Brickhill, Bucks; Belvedere Nurseries, Roman and post-medieval 20
- bracelet, Roman copper alloy; Round Hill, Oxon 62
- Bradenham, Bucks; RAF High Wycombe 33
- Braybrooke, Nhants; Old Rectory, C17-20 36
- bricks, Roman; Shefford, Beds 3
- Brill, Bucks; 28 Temple Street, medieval and post-medieval 32
- bronze casting, Roman; Piddington, Nhants 42
- brooches, Roman: Marcham/Frilford, Oxon (zoomorphic) 103; Round Hill, Oxon 61; Wigginton, Oxon (enamelled) 87
- Broughton, Bucks; Broughton Farm, ridge and furrow 32
- Broughton, Oxon; Castle site, prehistoric flints, Roman small site 59, 60, 61
- Buckingham
 medieval: Stratford House, Stratford Road 21-2, 21-2; urban expansion and contraction 21-2
 post-medieval: Stratford House, Stratford Road 21-2, 21-2; 12-18 Stratford Road 21
 Fingest, Chequers Public House 23
- Buckinghamshire 11-33
- Bucknell, Oxon; Sewage Pumping Station 48
- building materials, Roman (*see also* bricks; plaster; tesserae; tiles): Little Wittenham, Oxon 77; Marcham/Frilford, Oxon 103; Monks Risborough, Bucks 31
- buildings, unspecified
 Roman; Irchester, Nhants (rectangular) 39
 medieval: Marston Mortaine, Beds 10; Milcombe, Oxon 51; Oxford 51
 medieval/early post-medieval; Abingdon, Oxon 48
 post-medieval: Houghton Conquest, Beds 10; Oxford 51; Stanton Harcourt, Oxon 52
 C16; Northampton 39
 C19; Northampton 35
- burgage plots: Eynsham, Oxon 49-50; Thame, Oxon 105-6
- burh defences, Saxon *see under* Oxford; Wallingford
- burials *see* cemeteries; churchyards; cremations; graves; inhumations
- Burton Latimer, Nhants; Polwell Lane, C19 quarry railway 37
- button, Georgian metal; Tylers Green and Penn, Bucks 16
- Calthorpe, Banbury, Oxon; prehistoric to Saxon 62, 63, 64
- canals
 Grand Union: Northampton Arm, Rothersthorpe Lift Bridge GN5 39; Simpson, Bucks 14
 lock, C19; Culham, Oxon 68
- Canons Ashby House Nhants; gardens 37
- carbonised plant remains
 Iron Age: Isham Bypass, Nhants 35-6; Little Wittenham, Oxon 72, 77
 Saxon, early-middle; Isham Bypass, Nhants 35-6
- Cardington, Beds; RAF airfield, prehistoric, late Iron Age/Roman, post-medieval and WWII 5, 10-11
- castles *see under* Banbury; Castlethorpe; High Wycombe; moats; Oxford
- Castlethorpe, Milton Keynes, Bucks; 7b North Street, castle moat, C19 allotments 18
- cattle bones, Iron Age; Little Wittenham, Oxon 71, 77
 skull deliberately deposited in double inhumation 72, 74, 75
- cellars
 Roman; Little Wittenham, Oxon 72, 74, 75
 Saxon; Oxford 83
 medieval; Oxford 51, 83
 C17; Oxford 46
 C18-19; Daventry, Nhants 37, 38
- cemeteries (*see also* churchyards)
 Roman: Kempston Box End, Beds 3-4, 4; Towcester, Nhants 41; Wigginton, Oxon 87
 medieval; Goring on Thames, Oxon 50
- cereals, Iron Age charred; Little Wittenham, Oxon 72, 77
- cess pits
 early-middle Saxon; Wolverton, Bucks 19-20, 20
 Saxo-Norman: Kennington, Oxon 50; Wolverton, Bucks 20, 20
- Chalgrove, Oxon; Manor House 46
- channels, post-medieval stone, on wooden piers; Oxford 84
- chapels
 medieval; St John's Hospital, Northampton 39-40
 C19 Baptist; Towcester, Nhants 41
- charcoal
 Mesolithic; Dorney, Bucks 29
 Saxon charcoal burials; Wallingford, Oxon 66
- charm, post-medieval good luck; Shefford, Beds 6
- Chastleton, Oxon; C18-19 village bakehouse 54
- Chelveston, Nhants; St John the Baptist church 37
- Chesham, Bucks; village bakehouse 54
- Chichester, W Sussex; Roman period 93
- Chilterns; woodland earthwork enclosure, Tylers Green and Penn, Bucks 14, 15, 16
- Chilton, Oxon
 Diamond Buildings project; Iron Age farmstead 49
 Rutherford Appleton Laboratory; late Iron Age/Roman settlement 48-9

Index

- Chipping Norton, Oxon
 83 Burford Road 68
 87-9 Burford Road 67-8
 4 Market Street, post-medieval 49
 Primsdown Industrial Estate, prehistoric 68
- Cholesbury, Bucks
 Moat House 11-12
 Overburms 11
- Church & Co. shoe factory, Northampton 34
- churches
 medieval *see under* Chelveston; Henley; Northampton; Oxford; Soulbury; Welford
 C15 *see under* Flitton
 C19 Baptist *see under* Towcester
 C19 restoration *see under* Soulbury; Welford
 undated *see under* Haversham; Iver; Pitstone
- churchyards *see under* Aynho; Henley; Oxford; Monks Risborough; Princes Risborough; Quainton; Wallingford
- Cirencester, Glos; Roman period 44, 44, 59
- cob building, C19; Rowstock, Oxon 84
- coffin nails, Roman: Dorney, Bucks 27; Kempston Box End, Beds 3
- coins
 Dobunnic silver quarter stater; Round Hill, Oxon 61
 Roman
 Constantine, 61
 Domitian; Marcham/Frilford, Oxon 95; Round Hill, Oxon 61
 Domitian to Antoninus Pius; Round Hill, Oxon 61
 Tetricus to Constantine; Banbury, Oxon 64
 3rd century radiate; Round Hill, Oxon 61
 4th-century: Kempston Box End, Beds 3; Marcham/Frilford, Oxon 100, 101, 103
 Unspecified: Little Wittenham, Oxon 74; Marcham/Frilford, Oxon 102; Piddington, Nhants 42; Wigginton, Oxon 87; Wolverton, Bucks 19
 as votive offerings at temples 104-5
 medieval: Edward I; Kirtlington, Oxon 87
 1770 farthing; Dunstable, Beds 7
- cold frames, C19; Coleshill, Oxon 54
- Coleshill, Oxon
 Coleshill Walled Gardens, C19 glasshouses and cold frames 53-4
 Coleshill Auxiliary Bunker, World War II 54
- Colmworth, Beds; Burnix Close, Church Road, medieval 6
- combs, late Saxon/Saxo-Norman bone; Wolverton, Bucks 20
- cores, flint; Dunstable, Beds (undated) 7
- cottages
 medieval; Horley, Oxon 64, 65, 66
 C18: Kingwood Common, Oxon 68; Northampton 39
 C18-19: Daventry, Nhants 37, 38; Horley, Oxon 65, 65-6; Little Horwood, Bucks 13
- cremations, late Bronze/early Iron Age unurned; Biddenham, Beds 6
- Crouch Hill, Banbury, Oxon 63
 Neolithic 62
 Roman 64
- crucible, middle Iron Age; Kings Sutton, Nhants 33
- crucifix, Saxon mother-of-pearl; Wallingford, Oxon 66
- Cuddington, Bucks; Cowley Farm, Aylesbury Road, prehistoric and Roman 17
- Culham, Oxon; Culham Lock 68
- Cumnor, Oxon; Cumnor Place Cottage, Abingdon Road, C17 49
- Daventry, Nhants
 Borough Hill hillfort 37
 Old Abbey Centre; Saxon, medieval, C18-19 37, 38
 Old Abbey School; WWII air raid shelter 37
- Deanshanger, Nhants; Kingsbrook School, Roman villa 38
- dendrochronology
 Roman; Alchester, Oxon 93
 post-medieval; Aylesbury, Bucks 18
- Denham, Bucks; Sanderson site, Oxford Road, early Mesolithic, and palaeoenvironmental material 17-18
- dental health, late Roman; Kempston Box End, Beds 4
- Destailleur, Gabriel-Hippolyte 19
- Didcot, Oxon; Orchard Centre 49
- Dissolution of monasteries 9, 51
- ditches
 prehistoric: Barton-le-Clay, Beds (boundary) 5; Bierton with Broughton, Bucks 16; Shortstown, Beds 5; Weedon Bec, Nhants (boundary) 41
 Neolithic: Banbury, Oxon 62; Biddenham, Beds (boundary) 5-6
 Bronze Age: Banbury, Oxon 62; Biddenham, Beds 5-6; Great Barford Bypass, Beds (drainage) 10; Oxford 88
 Iron Age: Aston Clinton, Bucks 16; Bicester, Oxon (late, boundary) 66, 67; Biddenham, Beds 6; Chilton, Oxon (middle, farmstead enclosure) 49; Great Barford Bypass, Beds (drainage) 10; Harrold, Beds 1; Oxford 88; Salford, Beds (early, boundary) 1, 1; Shenley Dens Farm, Bucks (early) 14; Woburn, Beds (middle) 9
 late Iron Age/Roman: Cardington, Beds (parallel) 11; Rothwell, Nhants 33; Water End, Beds 10
 Roman: Bow Brickhill, Bucks 20; Cuddington, Bucks (boundary) 17; Dorney, Bucks 27; Dunstable, Beds 8; Great Barford Bypass, Beds (drainage) 10; Little Wittenham, Oxon 79, 82; Raunds, Nhants 35; Shefford, Beds (settlement enclosure) 3; Towcester, Nhants (boundary) 41; Wexham, Bucks 32
 Saxon: Drayton, Oxon (early-middle) 49; Kempston, Beds (late, boundary) 10; Monks Risborough, Bucks (late) 31; Wallingford, Oxon (burh) 53; Wolverton, Bucks (late, boundary) 20, 20

Index

- medieval: Ardley, Oxon (boundary) 67; Colmworth, Beds (early, boundary) 6; Drayton, Oxon (boundary) 49; Eaton Bray, Beds (boundary) 5; Eynsham, Oxon (boundary) 49-50; Great Barford Bypass, Beds (drainage) 10; Marston Mortaine, Beds (boundary) 10; Padbury, Bucks 14; Shabbington, Bucks (enclosure) 31; Terrick, Bucks (boundary) 31; Water End, Beds (drainage) 10; Wendover, Bucks (boundary) 31; Wolverton, Bucks (boundary) 20, 20
 post-medieval: Aston Clinton, Bucks 16; Bow Brickhill, Bucks (boundary) 20; Buckingham (boundary) 21-2, 22; Drayton, Oxon (boundary) 49; Dunstable, Beds 7; Great Barford Bypass, Beds (drainage) 10; Marston Mortaine, Beds (boundary) 10; Oxford 52; Shortstown, Beds 5; Simpson, Bucks 14; Terrick, Bucks (boundary) 31; Water End, Beds (drainage) 10; Wolverton, Bucks (boundary) 20, 20
 undated: Hanslope, Bucks 32; Radley, Oxon (field boundary) 52
 dog burial, Roman; Shefford, Beds 3
 Dorchester, Dorset; Roman period 93
 Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxon
 8 Wittenham Lane 49
 Queen Street; St Birinus School 49, 68
 Watling Lane 49
 Dorney, Bucks; Eton Rowing Course 23-4, 25-30, 26, 28
 Mesolithic flints and charcoal 29
 Neolithic 25; Grooved Ware pit 26, 27
 late Bronze Age crouched inhumation 28, 29
 middle Bronze Age enclosure and field system 23, 25, 27, 28, 29; small trapezoidal enclosure 27, 28, 29-30
 Iron Age enclosed settlement 23, 25, 26
 Roman enclosed settlement 23, 25, 26, 27; inhumation 26, 27
 environmental material 23, 29
 gravel terrace 25
 palaeochannel 23, 25, 29
 radiocarbon dating, late Bronze Age inhumation 29
 Dorton, Bucks; Ashfold School, medieval to C16 17
 drainage system, Roman; Marcham/Frilford, Oxon 100, 102-3, 104, 105
 Drayton (near Abingdon), Oxon; High Street Sewer, Roman, Saxon and medieval 49
 Drayton by Banbury, Oxon 63; Mesolithic flints, Withycombe Farm Roman settlement 64
 Dunstable, Beds
 prehistoric: Priory Middle School 6-7; West Street, Victoria Allotments 7
 Iron Age; West Street, Victoria Allotments 7
 Roman: Church Street, Ashton St Peters Lower School 11; Grove House Gardens 7; High Street South, The Little Theatre 8; Priory Middle School 6-7; West Street, Victoria Allotments 7
 medieval: Church Street, Ashton St Peters Lower School 11; Grove House Gardens 7; Priory 8; Priory Middle School 6-7; West Street, Victoria Allotments 7
 post-medieval: Church Street, Ashton St Peters Lower School 11; Grove House Gardens 7; Priory, post-Dissolution demolition 8-9; Priory Middle School 6-7
 C19: 26 Burr Street 8; High Street South, Little Theatre 8
 other sites: 17 High Street North 4; 40 Luton Road 4-5; 184 West Street 7-8
 Dyke Hills, Oxon; valley fort 70, 74
 Easington, Banbury, Oxon; prehistoric to Saxon 62, 64
 Eaton Bray, Beds; Poplar Farm, High Street, medieval ditch 5
 Ellesborough, Bucks; Coombe Hill 18
 Emberton, Bucks; 16, Olney Road 12
 enclosures
 prehistoric; Weedon Bec, Nhants (subcircular) 41
 Neolithic; Banbury, Oxon (causewayed) 62, 64
 Bronze Age: Banbury, Oxon 62; Dorney, Bucks (middle, large) 23, 25, 29, 23, 27, 28, 29, (middle, small trapezoidal) 27, 28, 29-30; Little Wittenham, Oxon (late, hilltop) 69, 70, 76
 Iron Age: Banbury, Oxon (later) 62, 63, 64; Kempston Box End, Beds (late, ditched) 3, 4; Little Wittenham, Oxon (middle, roundhouse) 79, 82
 late Iron Age/Roman; Harrold, Beds (ditched system) 1, 2, 3
 Roman: Banbury, Oxon (small circular) 64; Harrold, Beds 2, 3; Irchester, Nhants (ditched) 39; Little Wittenham, Oxon 79, 82; Milton Keynes, Bucks 33; Shefford, Beds (late, system) 3
 medieval; Harrold, Beds 2, 3
 undated: Luton, Beds 10; Tylers Green and Penn, Bucks (woodland earthwork) 14, 15, 16
 environmental material (*see also* carbonised plant remains; timber, waterlogged)
 Late Devensian-Early Holocene; Denham, Bucks 17-18
 early Holocene; Dorney, Bucks 23, 29
 Eton Rowing Course *see under* Dorney, Bucks
 Ewelme, Oxon; Fords Barn, C17/18 68
 Eynsham, Oxon
 4 Oxford Road, Willow Bank; medieval 50
 High Street, The Shrubbery; Saxon and medieval 49-50
 Eythorpe, Bucks; Beachendon Farm 12
 factories, C19: Northampton 34; Rothwell, Nhants 33, 35
 farmsteads
 Neolithic and Bronze Age; Banbury, Oxon 64
 Iron Age: Banbury, Oxon 64; Chilton, Oxon (middle, enclosed) 49
 Roman; Bicester, Oxon 66, 67
 post-medieval; Milton Keynes, Bucks 19
 field boundaries and systems
 prehistoric; Chipping Norton, Oxon 68

Index

- Bronze Age: Dorney, Bucks (middle) 23, 25, 27, 28, 29; Great Barford Bypass, Beds 10;
- Iron Age: Great Barford Bypass, Beds 10; Kempston Box End, Beds (late) 3, 4; Oxford 88
- Roman: Cuddington, Bucks 17; Drayton, Oxon 49; Dunstable, Beds 7; Great Barford Bypass, Beds 10; Little Wittenham, Oxon 79, 82; Oxford 88; Salford, Beds 1
- Saxon, early-middle; Wolverton, Bucks 19-20, 20
- medieval: Colmworth, Beds 6; Great Barford Bypass, Beds 10; Water End, Beds 10
- post-medieval: Great Barford Bypass, Beds 10; Water End, Beds 10
- Finstock, Oxon; Holy Trinity church, Roman pit 68
- fish bones
 - early Iron Age; Little Wittenham, Oxon 71
 - medieval; Little Wittenham, Oxon 74
- fishpond, medieval; Rothwell, Nhants 33
- flakes, flint
 - prehistoric; Henley on Thames, Oxon 50
 - undated; Dunstable, Beds 7
- flint, burned
 - prehistoric; Haddenham, Bucks 30
 - undated; Dunstable, Beds 7
- flint, worked (*see also* arrowheads; blade; cores; flakes; scraper)
 - prehistoric: Banbury, Oxon 64; Haddenham, Bucks 30; St Helen Without, Oxon 52
 - Mesolithic: Banbury, Oxon 62, 64; Denham, Bucks 17-18; Dorney, Bucks 29
 - Neolithic: Banbury, Oxon 62, 64; Broughton, Oxon 61; Wolverton, Bucks 19
 - Bronze Age: Abingdon, Oxon 48; Banbury, Oxon 62, 64; Broughton, Oxon 61; Princes Risborough, Bucks 31; Salford, Beds 1; Wolverton, Bucks 19
 - Iron Age/Roman; Rothwell, Nhants 33
 - undated: Dunstable, Beds 7; Wakerley, Nhants 35
- Flitton, Beds; church of St John the Baptist 9
- food processing, Roman large-scale; Piddington, Nhants 42
- footprint in mortar, Roman; Marcham/Frilford, Oxon 101
- fortress, Roman *see* Alchester, Oxon (Roman military base)
- Fosse Way; relationship to Akeman Street 44, 44
- foundation deposit, post-medieval; Shefford, Beds 6
- Fritwell, Oxon; Wheatcroft, North Street 50
- Frocester Court, Gloucester; Roman mosaic 59
- frontier, Roman, Akeman Street as possible 43-5, 43-4
- furnaces
 - Iron Age smithing, bellows hole; Little Wittenham, Oxon 77
 - Roman, lining of; Piddington, Nhants 42
- furrows, plough (*see also* ridge and furrow)
 - medieval: Great Barford Bypass, Beds 10; Little Wittenham, Oxon 79; Milton Keynes, Bucks 13; Salford, Beds 1, 1; Water End, Beds 10
 - post-medieval: Great Barford Bypass, Beds 10; Little Wittenham, Oxon 79; Water End, Beds 10
- garden features
 - post-medieval: Chipping Norton, Oxon 49; Stanford-in-the-Vale, Oxon 52
 - C16/17; Canons Ashby House, Nhants 37
 - C17; Cumnor, Oxon 49
 - C18; Stowe Landscape Gardens, Bucks 19
 - C18/19: Canons Ashby House, Nhants 37; Northampton 34-5
 - C19: Coleshill, Oxon 53-4; Penn, Bucks (shed) 30; Waddesdon Manor, Bucks 19
- geomorphological sampling; Roman, Marcham/Frilford, Oxon 104
- Germany; Roman *limes* 44
- glass, Roman: Little Wittenham, Oxon 74; Marcham/Frilford, Oxon 95, (vessel) 97, 103
- glasshouses, C19; Coleshill, Oxon 54
- Glendon, Nhants; Coach House Barns, medieval burials 38
- Glympton, Oxon; Slape Hill, Woodleys Estate 68
- Goring on Thames, Oxon; Mill Cottage, Church Approach; medieval nunnery cemetery 50
- gouge, early Iron Age bone; Little Wittenham, Oxon 77
- Grand Union Canal
 - Northampton Arm; Rothersthorpe Lift Bridge GN5 39
 - Simpson, Bucks 14
- grave, post-medieval brick-lined shaft; Quainton, Bucks 31
- Graven Hill to Ambroseden replacement water pipeline and tank, Bicester, Oxon 87
- Great Barford Bypass, Beds; Bronze Age to post-medieval 9-10
- Great Denham, Beds; Village Medical Centre, late Bronze/early Iron Age and medieval 4
- Great Kimble, Bucks
 - Manor Farm 32
 - Pulpit Hill, Iron Age earthwork enclosure 14
- Great Linford, Bucks; Coopers Wharf, C19 warehouse 12
- Grims Dyke, North Oxfordshire; date 44
- Grimsbury, Banbury, Oxon; prehistoric to Saxon 62, 63, 64
- grinding stones (*see also* millstone; querns)
 - Iron Age; Little Wittenham, Oxon 77
- gullies
 - Iron Age; Kings Sutton, Nhants 33, 34
 - Roman; Towcester, Nhants 41
 - medieval: Colmworth, Beds 6; Penn, Bucks 32
- Haddenham, Bucks
 - Baghill Farm; barn 30
 - Clacken Arches Farm, Scotsgrove Hill; prehistoric flints 30
- hall, late Saxon timber; Oxford 83
- hall building, C15 *see under* South Leigh
- Hanslope, Bucks
 - 12 High Street 32
 - Stocking Green Farm; C19 barn 12
- Hardwick, Banbury, Oxon; prehistoric to Saxon 62, 63, 64
- Harlestone Quarry, Nhants; undated pit alignment 38-9
- Harrold, Beds; former Bridgman Joinery Works, late Bronze Age to post-medieval 1, 2, 3

LORNA'S APPLE WUFFINS



1/4 C SHORTENING OR MARGERINE
3/4 C WHITE SUGAR

1/2 TSP VANILLA

LEGG BEATEN

1 C ALL PURPOSE FLOUR

1 TS BAKING SODA

1/4 TSP SALT

1/2 CINNAMON

1/4 TSP NUTMEG

1 1/2 C CHOPPED APPLES

1 TBS SP CREAM

CREAM SHORTENING and sugar.

ADD VANILLA and BEATEN

EGG. STIR TOGETHER DRY

INGREDIENTS and add,

STIRRING JUST TO MOISTEN.

ADD APPLES and CREAM CHEESE.

FILL GREASED MUFFIN CUPS and

BAKE 350° for 20-25 MIN

BUTTER IS VERY THICK and

THESE DO NOT RISE HIGH

BUT ARE MOST DELICIOUS

18-p Muffin

- Harwell, Oxon; Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, late Iron Age/Roman settlement 48-9
- Haversham, Milton Keynes, Bucks
Hill Farm; Roman features, undated well 18
Hill Farm House 12
St Mary's church 12
- hay rick post-pad; Dunstable, Beds 7
- hearths
early Mesolithic; Denham, Bucks 17-18
Roman; Marcham/Frilford, Oxon 98, 99
medieval/early post-medieval; Abingdon, Oxon 48
- Henley on Thames, Oxon
former Brewery, Thame Side; post-medieval features 50
former Brewery, New Street; prehistoric flint 50
Hart Street, church of St Mary the Virgin and Chantry House; medieval inhumations 50
- High Wycombe, Bucks
Castle Mount, High Wycombe Museum; post-medieval 32
Project Phoenix 30
RAF High Wycombe 33
- Higham Ferrers, Nhants; Chichele College 39
- Hillesden, Bucks; Jubilee Farm 30
- hillforts *see* Holcot; Little Wittenham; Sewell
- hoard, late Saxon/Saxo-Norman smith's; Wolverton, Bucks 20
- Hod Hill, Dorset; Roman military base 93
- Holcot, Nhants; ringwork, possible hillfort 42
- holloway, medieval; Ardley, Oxon 67
- Horley, Oxon
Box Cottage; medieval and C18-19 cottages 64-6, 65
Hillside Farm, Wroxton Lane 50
- horn cores, post-medieval foundation deposit; Shefford, Beds 6
- horse mandibles
Iron Age; Little Wittenham, Oxon 77
post-medieval foundation deposit; Shefford, Beds 6
- horseshoes
Roman or later; Round Hill, Oxon 61, 62
18th-century 'tongue' type; Dunstable, Beds 7
- hospital, C19-20; Northampton 34, 36
- Houghton Conquest, Beds; High Street, medieval moat, post-medieval building 5, 10
- houses
Roman; Round Hill, Oxon 61, 62
C15; South Leigh, Oxon 45-6, 45-7
C16-17; Thame, Oxon 105-6
C17-20; Braybrooke, Nhants 36
C19; Oxford 52; Thame, Oxon 105-6; Towcester, Nhants 41
- Hughenden Manor, Bucks; church of St Michael and All Angels 18
- Hunsbury Hill, Nhants; Roman iron ore quarrying 42
- hypocausts: Swalcliffe Lea, Oxon 54, 55, 57, 58, 59
- inhumations (*see also* cemeteries; churchyards; graves)
Bronze Age; Dorney, Bucks (late, crouched) 28, 29
Iron Age; Little Wittenham, Oxon (crouched) 72, 73, 74, 75, (early) 72, 77, (of man and possibly excarnated woman, with animal skulls) 72, 74, 75
Roman: Dorney, Bucks (in coffin) 27; Little Wittenham, Oxon (early) 72, (with pottery over pelvis) 74; Marcham/Frilford, Oxon (late) 100, 101; 102, 105, (prone) 102; Towcester, Nhants 41
Saxon: Abingdon, Oxon (early) 48; Wallingford, Oxon (including charcoal and ear-muff) 66
medieval: Glendon, Nhants 38; Goring on Thames, Oxon 50; Oxford 51, 83; Wallingford, Oxon 66
post-medieval; Oxford (probably executed prisoners) 83
- Irchester, Nhants; Roman town 39
- iron objects (*see also* arrowheads; auger; nails; spears)
Roman and medieval; Little Wittenham, Oxon 74
- iron production (*see also* slag)
middle Iron Age; Kings Sutton, Nhants 33
Roman; Piddington, Nhants 42-3
undated; Wakerley, Nhants 35
- Isham Bypass, Nhants; Iron Age and Saxon occupation 35-6
- Iver, Bucks; St Peter's church 30
- Kempston, Beds
Kempston Box End Quarry; Iron Age fields, Roman cemetery 3-4, 4
1 King William Road; late Saxon features 10
- Kennington, Oxon; The Onion Patch, Kennington Road, Saxo-Norman and later 50
- Kettering, Nhants
Montague School 39
SP 861 811; flint and Iron Age pottery 41
- key, fob watch; Dunstable, Beds 7
- kilns (*see also* ovens)
middle Iron Age; Kings Sutton, Nhants 33, 34
late Iron Age/Roman; Kempston Box End, Beds 3, 4
Roman; Irchester, Nhants 39
- Kings Sutton, Nhants; 16-18 Wales Street, Mesolithic/Neolithic and Iron Age 33, 34
- Kingwood Common, Oxon; Cherry Croft Cottage, C18 68
- Kirtlington, Oxon
Long Kensome, South Green; medieval 87
Park Farm 50
- kitchens
medieval; Marston Mortaine, Beds 10
post-medieval detached; Stanton Harcourt, Oxon 52
C17 basement; Oxford 46
- knife, Roman; Kempston Box End, Beds 3
- Lake Farm, Dorset; Roman military base 44, 93
- land reclamation, medieval; Tetsworth, Oxon 53
- Lavendon, Bucks
35 Castle Road 12

Index

- 15 High Street 32
- 50 High Street 12
- lead or pewter working, Roman; Piddington, Nhants 42
- Leland, John; on Castle Hill, Little Wittenham, Oxon 74
- limes, German 44
- Lincoln, Bishops of, and Banbury, Oxon 64
- Little Brickhill, Bucks; Willow House 12
- Little Horwood, Bucks
 - Pond Farm, 1 Wood End 18
 - 2 Wood End; C18-19 cottage 13
- Little Wittenham, Oxon 69-82
 - Castle Hill and area 69-75, 70-3, 75-6, 78; Mesolithic, Neolithic and early Bronze Age 69; late Bronze Age enclosure 69, 70, 71, 72, 74, 76; Iron Age hillfort 69-74, 70-3, 75-6, (defences) 69-71, 71-2, (interior) 71-4, 71-3; Roman activity 74; medieval and post-medieval activity 72, 74-5, 76; geophysical survey 69, 71; location 70
 - Hill Farm 69, 70; middle Iron Age roundhouse enclosures, Roman field and enclosure system, medieval or post-medieval furrows 79, 82; geophysical survey 79, 82
 - Hill Farm area; settlement outside hillfort, 69, 70, 77, 78, 79, 80-1; Iron Age settlement 69, 77, 78, 79-81; Roman settlement and enclosure 69, 77, 78, 79-81; medieval field boundary 77; geophysical survey 69, 77, 78
 - Time Team and 77
 - Wittenham Clumps 70; post-medieval plantation 75, 76
- Llantwit Major, Glamorgan; Roman mosaic 59
- lock, C19 canal; Culham, Oxon 68
- Long Crendon, Bucks
 - 25 High Street; medieval and post-medieval 17
 - Game Keep, High Street 17
 - The Manor, High Street 17
- Long Hanborough, Oxon; The Malt House, Millwood End 106
- loomweights, early Iron Age; Little Wittenham, Oxon 77
- Ludgershall, Bucks; Brooklands Farm, Wotton End, medieval 17
- Luton, Beds
 - Butterfield Green; undated enclosures 10
 - Youth House, St Mary's Road 11
- Lydney, Glos; late Roman temple 105
- Maiden Bower hillfort, Sewell, Beds 9
- Maiden Castle, Dorset; late Roman temple 105
- manorial site, late Saxon defended; Banbury, Oxon 64
- Marcham/Frilford, Oxon
 - Roman religious centre 94-105
 - circular structure/arena 100, 101-5; drainage network 100, 102-3, 104, 105; interior 100, 102-3, 105; bank 100, 101-2, 105; burials in bank 100, 101, 102, 105; drain south of 100, 104, 105; eastern viewing platform (formerly 'eastern entrance') 100, 101, 105; possible northern viewing platform 100, 104; relationship with rectilinear building 98, 99-100, 100, 104-5; sand deposits 102, 103; walled enclosure in southern bank ('royal box') 100, 104, 105; walls 100, 101, 103-4, 105; wooden stake in centre 100, 102, 105
 - cobbled surface south of circular structure 104
 - geomorphological sampling 104
 - geophysical survey 95
 - hearths 98, 99
 - large rectilinear building 98, 99-101, 104-5; extra-mural cobbling, and relationship with circular structure 98, 99-100, 100, 104-5; finds distribution 98, 99, 101, 104
 - micromorphological sampling 104
 - middens over Roman floor level 97
 - palaeochannel south of circular structure 95, 104
 - public buildings (Trench 18) 95, 96, 97-8, 99, 104
 - radiocarbon dating 102, 105
 - religion; coins as votive offerings 104-5
 - temenos* wall 95; public buildings abutting 95, 96, 97-8, 99, 104
 - temple complex 95-101, 96-8, 104-5
 - two-cell building (Trench 22) 98-9
 - well-constructed wall (Trench 23) 100, 100, 105
 - waterlogged timber 100, 102, 103, 105
 - River Ock, prehistoric to medieval deposits on banks of 104
- market place, Danish type; Banbury, Oxon 64
- Marlow, Bucks; Ferry Nab, Ferry Lane, Medmenham, medieval 32
- Marston Mortaine, Beds; Lower Shelton Road, Iron Age, medieval and post-medieval 10
- Medmenham, Bucks *see under* Marlow
- Merton, Oxon; Manor House Nursing Home, Saxon and medieval 51
- metalworking (*see also* slag)
 - Iron Age; Kings Sutton, Nhants 33; Woburn, Beds 9
 - Roman; Piddington, Nhants 42-3
 - undated; Wakerley, Nhants 35
- microlith, Mesolithic; Little Wittenham, Oxon 69
- micromorphological sampling; Marcham/Frilford, Oxon 104
- middens
 - early Iron Age; Little Wittenham, Oxon 77
 - over Roman floor level; Marcham/Frilford, Oxon 97
- Milcombe, Oxon; Old Chapel, medieval and C19 51
- military bases, Roman 44, 93
 - see also* Alchester
- millstone, Roman; Dorney, Bucks 27
- Milton, Oxon; Chestnuts, School Lane, Saxon and Saxo-Norman 51
- Milton Keynes, Bucks (*see also* Castlethorpe; Haversham; Snelshall; Tattenhoe)
 - Denbigh 18
 - Hazeley Secondary School; Roman and medieval 13
 - V4 Watling Street 13

moats

medieval: Castlethorpe, Milton Keynes, Bucks (castle) 18; Houghton Conquest, Beds 10; Newport Pagnell, Bucks 13; Oxford (castle); post-medieval canalisation 83
C17-18; Wheatley, Oxon 53

monastic sites

Dissolution 9, 51
Dunstable, Beds 8-9
Goring on Thames, Oxon 50

Monks Risborough, Bucks; St Dunstan's churchyard, Roman and Saxon 31

mortar, Roman: Marcham/Frilford, Oxon (with footprint) 101; Shefford, Beds 3

mortar-mixer, Saxon builders'; Wallingford, Oxon 66

mosaics, Roman (*see also* tesserae): in extensions to existing rooms 59; Saltire Group 59; Swalcliffe Lea, Oxon 54, 55-8, 59; Wigginton, Oxon 87

motte, medieval; Oxford 83

mould, Iron Age igneous rock; Little Wittenham, Oxon 69

Nadbury, Oxon; Iron Age village 64

nail cleaner, Iron Age copper alloy; Little Wittenham, Oxon 77

nails, iron (*see also* coffin nails, Roman)

Roman, structural: Round Hill, Oxon 61, 62; Marcham/Frilford, Oxon 95

Saxon, late/Saxo-Norman; Wolverton, Bucks 20

needle, Iron Age bone; Little Wittenham, Oxon 77

Neithrop, Banbury, Oxon; Saxon 64

Nettleton, Wilts; late Roman temple 105

Newport Pagnell, Bucks

Caldecote Farm Cottage, Willen Road 13

Ironbridge Works, Tickford Street 13

Moat Cottage, Caldecote; medieval moat 13

Northampton

medieval: St John's Hospital Chapel 39-40; St Peter's church 40; Regent Street 39; 46-50 Sheep Street, former Swan Garage 39

post-medieval: 46-50 Sheep Street, former Swan Garage 39

C18: Delapre Abbey 34-5; 46-50 Sheep Street, former Swan Garage 39

C19: Delapre Abbey 34-5; 12 Duke Street, Church & Co. shoe factory 34; Rothersthorpe Lift Bridge GN5 39; St Edmunds Hospital; workhouse and hospital 34, 36; 21 St James Road 35

The Green 40

Speed's map (1610) 35

Old Linslade, Beds; Old Linslade Manor, Acoustic Bund 5

Old Stratford, Nhants; Towcester Road 33

Old Warden, Beds; Swiss Gardens, C19 aviary 10

Olney, Bucks

20 Bridge Street, former Bell Inn 32

28 West Street 13-14

Oundle, Nhants

Laxton Grammar School 40

71 West Street; late medieval 40

ovens

Roman: Dorney, Bucks 27; Harrold, Beds 2, 3; Irchester, Nhants 39

late Saxon/Saxo-Norman; Wolverton, Bucks 20, 20

Oxford

Mesolithic, Bronze and Iron Ages and Roman; South Parks Road, Halifax House 88

Saxon; burh defences, castle site 83

medieval: Ashmolean Museum 80, 83; Castle 83, 84; cloth industry 51; Golden Cross Inn 46; Mill Lane, Osney; Trajan House 87; Osney Abbey 87; Paradise Street 51, 84; St Clement's church 83; St Ebbe's Church Centre 51; 65-7 St Giles 83; St Hilda's College 83; 69 Woodstock Road 51-2

post-medieval: Ashmolean Museum 80, 83; Castle 83; cloth industry 51; 72-4 Old Road, Headington 52; Paradise Street 51; Pitt Rivers Museum 80; 65-7 St Giles 83; St Hilda's College 83

C16: Castle 83; Dissolution of the monasteries 51; Mill Lane, Osney 87; St Thomas' parish 51

C17: Castle 83; Kettell Hall, Trinity College, Broad Street 46, 47-8; Mill Lane, Osney 87; 69 Woodstock Road 51-2

C18: Castle 83; Cowley House 83; Paradise Street 84; St Hilda's College 83

C18-19; 65-7 St Giles 83

C19: Paradise Street 51; Pitt Rivers Museum 80; 316 Woodstock Road 52

other sites: Barton, (Fox Inn) 84, (North Way, former Bernwood School site) 51; Cowley, Brasenose Centre, Brasenose Driftway 51; Jesus College 83; John Radcliffe Hospital 84; Magdalen College 51; Manzil Way 84

Oxfordshire 43-106

oyster shells, Roman; Marcham/Frilford, Oxon 103

Padbury, Bucks; Manor Farm, medieval 14

painted decoration, C15; South Leigh, Oxon 46, 47

Penn, Bucks

Glenmore, Church Road; medieval gully 32

Gulzar, Southview; C19 30

Old Horse and Groom, Elm Road; medieval, C19 31

Rayners Cottage 14

Piddington, Nhants; metalworking at Roman villa 42-3

pilgrim badge, possible; scallop shell, Wallingford, Oxon 66

Pillerton Priors, Oxon; Roman mosaic 59

Pinhill, Banbury, Oxon; Hanwell Fields Farm, prehistoric 62, 63, 64

pins, early Iron Age

bone; Little Wittenham, Oxon 72

bronze swan's neck; Little Wittenham, Oxon 77

pipes, clay tobacco: Buckingham 22; Dunstable, Beds 8; Northampton 39; saggars, Northampton 39

pit alignments

Iron Age: Raunds, Nhants 40

undated; Harlestone, Nhants 38-9

Index

pits (*see also* cesspits; pit alignments; quarries and quarry pits)
 Neolithic: Banbury, Oxon 62; Dorney, Bucks (Grooved Ware) 26, 27
 Bronze Age: Harrold, Beds (late) 1; Little Wittenham, Oxon (late) 69, 70; Oxford 88; Salford, Beds (early) 1, 1
 Iron Age: Chilton, Oxon (middle, grain storage) 49; Harrold, Beds (early) 1; Kempston Box End, Beds (late) 3, 4; Kings Sutton, Nhants (middle) 33, 34; Little Wittenham, Oxon (early) 71-2, 72-3, (middle, with human remains) 72, 73, 74, 75; Marston Mortaine, Beds (middle) 10; Oxford 88; Salford, Beds (early) 1, 1
 Roman: Bow Brickhill, Bucks 20; Dunstable, Beds 11; Irchester, Nhants 39; Little Wittenham, Oxon 79; Milton Keynes, Bucks 33; Wexham, Bucks 32
 Saxon: Daventry, Nhants (late) 37; Drayton, Oxon (early-middle) 49; Eynsham, Oxon 49-50; Harrold, Beds 2, 3; Kempston, Beds (late) 10; Wolverton, Bucks (late) 20, 20
 medieval: Abingdon, Oxon 48; Buckingham 21-2, 22; Drayton, Oxon 49; Dunstable, Beds 6-7; Eynsham, Oxon 49-50; Harrold, Beds 2, 3; Kirtlington, Oxon 87; Little Wittenham, Oxon 72, 74, 76; Long Crendon, Bucks 17; Oxford 51; Preston Capes, Nhants 40; Shabbington, Bucks 31; Stanford-in-the-Vale, Oxon 52; Stanton Harcourt, Oxon 52; Wallingford, Oxon 53
 post-medieval: Brill, Bucks 32; Chipping Norton, Oxon 49; Dunstable, Beds 6-7; Long Crendon, Bucks 17; Stanford-in-the-Vale, Oxon 52; Wallingford, Oxon 53
 C19; Little Horwood, Bucks 18
 undated: Aylesbury, Bucks 11; Hanslope, Bucks 32
 Pitstone, Bucks; St Mary the Virgin church 31
 plant remains *see* carbonised plant remains
 plantation, post-medieval; Wittenham Clumps, Little Wittenham, Oxon 75, 76
 plaster, Roman painted wall: Shefford, Beds 3; Swalcliffe Lea, Oxon 54, 57, 59; Wigginton, Oxon (decorated) 87
 plough headland, post-medieval; Radley, Oxon 52
 ploughsoils
 medieval: Eynsham, Oxon 49-50; Little Wittenham, Oxon 74-5; Wendover, Bucks 31
 post-medieval: Chipping Norton, Oxon 68; Little Wittenham, Oxon 74-5
 pond, post-medieval garden; Coleshill, Oxon 53
 post-built structures
 Iron Age: Little Wittenham, Oxon (early/middle) 77, 79, 80-1; Salford, Beds (early) 1, 1
 Roman; Shefford, Beds 3
 Saxon: Salford, Beds 1, 1; Wolverton, Bucks (late) 20, 20
 postholes
 Bronze Age: Dorney, Bucks (middle) 27; Harrold, Beds (late) 1; Little Wittenham, Oxon (late) 77

Iron Age: Dorney, Bucks 25; Harrold, Beds (early) 1; Kings Sutton, Nhants (middle) 33, 34; Little Wittenham, Oxon (early) 77; Rothwell, Nhants 33; Salford, Beds (early) 1, 1
 Roman: Marcham/Frilford, Oxon 103; Rothwell, Nhants 33; Wexham, Bucks 32
 Saxon, late; Kempston, Beds 10
 medieval/post-medieval; Dunstable, Beds 6-7
 undated; Kempston Box End, Beds 4, 4
 post pad for hay rick; Dunstable, Beds 7
 posts, wooden
 early/middle Bronze Age oak; Stanwick, Nhants 40-1
 Roman; Marcham/Frilford, Oxon 100, 102, 105
 Potterspury, Nhants; 1 Woods Lane, undated well 42
 pottery
 prehistoric: Barton-le-Clay, Beds 5; Wakerley, Nhants 35
 Neolithic
 Grooved Ware; Dorney, Bucks 26, 27
 Peterborough ware; Banbury, Oxon 62
 Beaker period; Salford, Beds 1
 Bronze Age
 early: Little Wittenham, Oxon 69; Salford, Beds 1
 middle: Dorney, Bucks 27; Wexham, Bucks 32
 late: Bierton with Broughton, Bucks 16; Great Denham, Beds 4; Harrold, Beds 1; Little Wittenham, Oxon 69, 72, 76; Wexham, Bucks 32
 unspecified; Dorney, Bucks 30
 Iron Age
 early
 black burnished with white inlay; Little Wittenham, Oxon 71-2
 haematite-coated; Little Wittenham, Oxon 71
 unspecified: Great Denham, Beds 4; Harrold, Beds 1; Little Wittenham, Oxon 69, 71-2, 77; Salford, Beds 1
 middle: Chipping Norton, Oxon 68; Kings Sutton, Nhants 33; Little Wittenham, Oxon 72, 79; Marston Mortaine, Beds 10; Stonesfield, Oxon 53; Woburn, Beds 9
 late: Chipping Norton, Oxon 68; Dunstable, Beds 7; Kempston Box End, Beds 3
 unspecified: Bierton with Broughton, Bucks 16; Dorney, Bucks 25; Dunstable, Beds 7; Isham Bypass, Nhants 35-6; Kettering, Nhants 41; Raunds, Nhants 40; Rothwell, Nhants 33
 Roman
 coarse wares, late; Broughton, Oxon 59

Index

- grey ware: Banbury, Oxon 64; Broughton, Oxon 59; Eynsham, Oxon 50; Round Hill, Oxon 61
- grog ware; Broughton, Oxon 59
- limestone tempered; Round Hill, Oxon 61
- mortaria; Broughton, Oxon 61; Piddington, Nhants 42
- Nene Valley colour-coated: Broughton, Oxon 61; Round Hill, Oxon 61
- Oxford colour-coated; Broughton, Oxon 61
- Oxford mortaria; Broughton, Oxon 61
- Oxford red wares: Broughton, Oxon 59; Round Hill, Oxon 61
- parchment ware; Marcham/Frilford, Oxon 97
- Rhenish; Dunstable, Beds 7
- samian: Banbury, Oxon 64; Broughton, Oxon 61; Dunstable, Beds 7; Marcham/Frilford, Oxon 97; Round Hill, Oxon 61
- Savernake ware; Marcham/Frilford, Oxon 95
- shell tempered; Broughton, Oxon 59
- Spanish amphora; Broughton, Oxon 61
- white wares; Round Hill, Oxon 61
- other and unspecified: Abingdon, Oxon 48; Aston Clinton, Bucks 16; Banbury, Oxon 64; Bierton with Broughton, Bucks 16; Bow Brickhill, Bucks 20; Broughton, Oxon 59, 60, 61; Dunstable, Beds 6, 7, 8; Haversham, Milton Keynes, Bucks 18; Little Wittenham, Oxon 74, 77, 79; Marcham/Frilford, Oxon 99, 103; Milton Keynes, Bucks 13; Oxford 52; Princes Risborough, Bucks 31; Raunds, Nhants 35; Rothwell, Nhants 33; St Helen Without, Oxon 52; Shefford, Beds 3; Wakerley, Nhants 35; Witney, Oxon 53; Wolverton, Bucks 19; Worminghall, Oxon 87
- Saxon
 - early to middle: Isham Bypass, Nhants 35-6; Little Wittenham, Oxon (handmade) 74; Merton, Oxon 51; Milton, Oxon 51; Salford, Beds 1
 - late: Daventry, Nhants 37; St Helen Without, Oxon 52
 - unspecified: Bierton with Broughton, Bucks 16; Little Wittenham, Oxon 79
 - Saxo-Norman: Milton, Oxon 51; Quainton, Bucks 31
- medieval
 - limestone tempered cooking ware; Horley, Oxon 66
 - Potterspury ware; Horley, Oxon 66
 - Wallingford ware; Little Wittenham, Oxon 74
 - unspecified: Brill, Bucks 32; Buckingham 21-2; Dorton, Bucks 17; Dunstable, Beds 6, 7, 8; Eaton Bray, Beds 5; Little Wittenham, Oxon 74; Ludgershall, Bucks 17; Merton, Oxon 51; Padbury, Bucks 14; Preston Capes, Nhants 40; Quainton, Bucks 31; St Helen Without, Oxon 52; Stanford-in-the-Vale, Oxon 52; Stony Stratford, Bucks 32; Wakerley, Nhants 35; Wallingford, Oxon 88; Witney, Oxon 53; Worminghall, Oxon 87
 - post-medieval: Dorton, Bucks 17; Dunstable, Beds 7, 8; High Wycombe, Bucks 32; Horley, Oxon 66; St Helen Without, Oxon 52; Stony Stratford, Bucks 32; Wakerley, Nhants 35
 - Preston Capes, Nhants; Preston Capes Manor, medieval 40
 - Princes Risborough, Bucks
 - St Mary's churchyard, Church Street 17
 - Stocken Farm, Lacey Green 32
 - Whiteleaf Hill; Bronze Age and Roman 31
 - pyre debris, Roman; Wexham, Bucks 32
 - Quainton, Bucks; church of the Holy Cross and St Mary; Saxo-Norman and medieval 31
 - quarries and quarry pits
 - Roman: Bow Brickhill, Bucks 20; Finstock, Oxon 68; Little Wittenham, Oxon 72, 74, 75; Shefford, Beds 3
 - medieval: Abingdon, Oxon 48; Daventry, Nhants 37, 38; Dunstable, Beds 11; Little Wittenham, Oxon 74, 76; Oundle, Nhants 40
 - post-medieval: Raunds, Nhants 35; Salford, Beds 1
 - C17-19; Wolverton, Bucks 20, 20
 - C19; Burton Latimer, Nhants 37
 - undated, medieval or later; Kennington, Oxon 50
 - querns
 - early Iron Age; Little Wittenham, Oxon 77, (rubber) 69
 - late Saxon/Saxo-Norman; Wolverton, Bucks 20
 - radiocarbon dating
 - late Bronze Age; Dorney, Bucks 29
 - Roman; Marcham/Frilford, Oxon 102, 105
 - Radley, Oxon
 - Peach Croft Barn, C18 timber-framed barn 84-6, 85-9
 - 26 Stonhouse Crescent; post-medieval ploughing 52
 - rail track, C19 quarry; Burton Latimer, Nhants 37
 - Raunds, Nhants
 - Warth Park; Iron Age pit alignment 40
 - Wellington Road tannery; Roman, post-medieval 35
 - raven bones, early Iron Age; Little Wittenham, Oxon 71
 - Ravensburgh Castle, Herts; hillfort 9
 - religion, late Roman pagan 104-5

Index

- ridge and furrow
 medieval: Ludgershall, Bucks 17; Milton Keynes, Bucks 33; Tattenhoe Park, Milton Keynes, Bucks 19
 post-medieval: Radley, Oxon 52; Tattenhoe Park, Milton Keynes, Bucks 19
 undated: Broughton, Bucks 32; Penn, Bucks 31
- ring ditch, prehistoric; Stanwick, Nhants 40-1
- ringwork; Holcot, Nhants 42
- road, Roman *see* Akeman Street
- Rothwell, Nhants; Old Shoe Factory, Gordon Street, Iron Age/Roman, medieval and C19 33, 35
- Round Hill, Oxon; Roman settlement 61, 62
- roundhouses
 Iron Age: Banbury, Oxon 62, 63, 64; Kings Sutton, Nhants 33, 34; Little Wittenham, Oxon 77, 79, 80-1, 82
 Roman; Irchester, Nhants 39
- Rowstock, Oxon; Rowstock Cottage, C19 cob building 84
- saggars, C17 clay tobacco pipe; Northampton 39
- St Helen Without, Oxon; Sunningwell Road, manuring scatters 52
- Salford, Beds; Whitsundoles Farm, Bronze Age to post-medieval 1
- Saltire Group of mosaicists 59
- scallop shell, possible pilgrim's badge; late Saxon, Wallingford, Oxon 66
- scarf joints, C18; Radley, Oxon 85, 86, 85-9
- Scott, George Gilbert; Northampton Union Workhouse 34
- scraper, flint; undated, Dunstable, Beds 7
- screen, C15 wooden; South Leigh, Oxon 46, 46
- sculptural fragment, Roman painted; Alchester, Oxon 90, 91
- settlement
 late Bronze/early Iron Age; Great Denham, Beds 4
 Iron Age: Kings Sutton, Nhants 33, 34; Little Wittenham, Oxon 69, 77, 78, 79-81; Salford, Beds 1, 1
 late Iron Age/Roman: Chilton, Oxon 48-9; Harrold, Beds 1, 2, 3
 Roman: Dorney, Bucks 23, 25, 26, 27; Little Wittenham, Oxon 69, 77, 78, 79-81
 Saxon: pattern, Banbury area 64; Salford, Beds 1, 1
 medieval: Dunstable, Beds 11; Northampton 39
- Sewell, Beds; Maiden Bower hillfort 9
- Shabbington, Bucks; The Bungalow, Ickford Road, medieval 31
- Sharnbrook, Beds; 2 Church Street 5
- sheep bones
 early Iron Age; Little Wittenham, Oxon 71, (skull in double inhumation) 72, 74, 75
 medieval; Little Wittenham, Oxon 74
- Shefford, Beds
 10 Northbridge Street; medieval and post-medieval 6
 Shefford Lower School; Roman settlement 3
- shell fragments, Roman; Marcham/Frilford, Oxon 97, 103
- Shenley Dens to Oakhill Reinforcement Main, Bucks; Iron Age 14
- Sherington, Bucks; Mercers' Farm 32
- shoe manufacture, C19; Church & Co factory, Duke Street, Northampton 34
- Shortstown, Beds; former RAF Cardington, prehistoric, late Iron Age/Roman, post-medieval and WWII 5, 10-11
- Silchester, Hants; Roman town 93, 103
- Silsoe, Beds; 38 Newbury Lane 6
- Simpson, Bucks; Poplars Farm, post-medieval ditch 14
- slag
 Iron Age: Kings Sutton, Nhants 33; Little Wittenham, Oxon 77
 Roman; Piddington, Nhants 42
 late Saxon/Saxo-Norman; Wolverton, Bucks 20
 undated; Wakerley, Nhants 35
- sling-shot, early Iron Age clay; Little Wittenham, Oxon 72
- Smith, Worthington G. 8, 9
- smoke hood, C15; South Leigh, Oxon 46
- Snelshall, Milton Keynes, Bucks
 Snelshall East, Site C; Roman and medieval 33
 Snelshall West, Site C 13
- Sonning Common, Oxon; Johnson Matthey Technology Centre, Blount's Court 88
- Soulbury, Bucks; All Saints church, C19 renovation 31
- South Leigh, Oxon; Church Farm, C15 hall building 45-6, 45-7
- South Stoke, Oxon
 Ivol Barn, Woodstock Road 88
 Manor Farm 45
- spears, late Saxon/Saxo-Norman iron; Wolverton, Bucks 20
- Speed, John; map of Northampton (1610) 35
- spelt wheat, early Iron Age charred; Little Wittenham, Oxon 77
- spindlewhorls, early Iron Age; Little Wittenham, Oxon 77
- stake, Roman wooden; Marcham/Frilford, Oxon 100, 102, 105
- Stanford-in-the-Vale, Oxon; Grange Nursing Home, Church Green, medieval and post-medieval 52
- Stanton Harcourt, Oxon; Stanton Harcourt Manor, medieval and post-medieval 52
- Stanwick, Nhants; Stanwick Quarry, Neolithic and Bronze Age 40-1
- statue, Roman votive; Wigginton, Oxon 87
- Steeple Aston, Oxon; The Beeches, Heyford Road 53
- stone, Neolithic perforated; Banbury, Oxon 64
- Stone, Percy G. 50
- Stonesfield, Oxon; 16-19 Coombe Road, Iron Age pottery 53
- Stony Stratford, Bucks; 75 High Street, medieval and post-medieval 32
- Stowe Landscape Gardens, Bucks; C18 gardens 19
- straw splitter, undated; Dunstable, Beds 7
- Streatley, Beds; Streatley House 5
- sunken featured buildings: Harrold, Beds 2, 3; Salford, Beds 1, 1; Wolverton, Bucks 19-20, 20
- surface, medieval limestone; Oundle, Nhants 40
- Swalcliffe, Oxon

- Iron Age village 64
 Swalcliffe Lea Roman villa 54-9, 55-8; mosaics 54, 55-8, 59
 sword, Bronze Age; Banbury, Oxon 64
 tablet, Roman fired clay; Little Wittenham, Oxon 74
 Tadmorton Heath, Oxon; Iron Age village 64
 Tattenhoe Park, Milton Keynes, Bucks; Iron Age, Roman, medieval and post-medieval 19
 teeth, Roman; Kempston Box End, Beds 4
 temple complex, Roman (*see also under* Marcham/Frilford) Wigginton, Oxon 87
 tenements, medieval/post-medieval; Oxford 80, 83
 terraces, medieval cultivation; Milton Keynes, Bucks 33
 Terrick, Bucks; Grove Farm, medieval/post-medieval 31
 tesserae (*see also* mosaics): Banbury, Oxon 64; Marcham/Frilford, Oxon 95
 Tetsworth, Oxon; 58 High Street, medieval 53
 Thame, Oxon
 burge plots 105-6
 9-10 High Street; C16/17 and C19 105-6
 Ryecotewood College; C19 workhouse 84
 7 Upper Street 53
 threshing area/storage bin, Roman stone-lined; Harrold, Beds 2, 3
 tiles
 Roman
 flue; Shefford, Beds 3
 roof; Round Hill, Oxon 61; *tegulae*, Shefford, Beds 3
 stamped; Piddington, Nhants 42
 stone roof; Shefford, Beds 3
 unspecified: Little Wittenham, Oxon 74, 79; Marcham/Frilford, Oxon 95; Shefford, Beds 3; Wolverton, Bucks 19
 medieval roof; Stony Stratford, Bucks 32
 post-medieval
 peg-; Dunstable, Beds 7, 8
 unspecified C19: Dunstable, Beds 8; Wakerley, Nhants 35
 undated peg-; Dunstable, Beds 7
 timber, Roman waterlogged; Marcham/Frilford, Oxon 100, 102, 103, 105
 timber framed building, C18; Radley, Oxon 84-6, 85-9
 scarf joints 85, 86, 85-9
 timber marks 85-6, 86, 89
 Time Team television programme, and Little Wittenham, Oxon 69, 77
 token, undated trading; Dunstable, Beds 7
 tombstones, Roman legionary; Alchester, Oxon 89, 90-1, 91, 92, 93-4
 tools, early Iron Age bone; Little Wittenham, Oxon 77
 Towcester, Nhants
 Radstone Technology Park, Water Lane; Roman inhumation cemetery 41
 Watling Street; Baptist Chapel and Manse, C19 41
 town, Roman *see* Irchester, Nhants
 trackways
 Bronze Age; Dorney, Bucks 27
 Roman; Harrold, Beds 2, 3
 post-medieval; Dunstable, Beds 6, 7
 tree-throw holes, Bronze Age; Dorney, Bucks 29
 Tylers Green and Penn, Bucks; Common Wood, earthwork enclosure 14, 15, 16
 Uley, Glos; late Roman temple 105
 United States Air Force; restoration of church tower at Chelveston, Nhants 37
 urban planning, medieval; Buckingham 21-2
 V4 Watling Street at Milton Keynes, Bucks 13
 Valerius Geminus, Lucius; tombstone, Alchester, Oxon 91, 93-4
 valley fort, late Iron Age; Dyke Hills, Oxon 70, 74
 Verulamium; temple in Insula XVI 105
 Vespasian, Roman emperor 93-4
 villas, Roman *see under* Deanshanger; Swalcliffe; Wigginton; Wykham
 villages
 Iron Age; Banbury, Oxon 64
 late Saxon; Banbury, Oxon 64; Wolverton, Bucks 20, 20
 disappeared and shrunken medieval; Ardley, Oxon 67; Glendon, Nhants 38
 Waddesdon Manor, Bucks; C19 garden features 19
 Wakerley, Nhants; SP 946 980, prehistoric to medieval 35
 Wallingford, Oxon
 Saxon: burh defences 53, 89; 16 St Georges Road 53
 late Saxon; St Martin's churchyard 66
 medieval: areas abandoned in C13 53, 89; Church Lane 89; 60 High Street 88; St Martin's churchyard 66; The Studio, Thames Street 53
 post-medieval: Church Lane 89; The Studio, Thames Street 53
 undated: 33 Croft Road 89; 60 High Street 88; 6A St John's Road 89
 walls
 Roman footings; Towcester, Nhants 41
 medieval: Kirtlington, Oxon 87; Marlow, Bucks 32; Stanford-in-the-Vale, Oxon 52
 post-medieval: Fritwell, Oxon 50; Horley, Oxon 64-5, 66; Stanford-in-the-Vale, Oxon 52
 Wantage, Oxon; The Pantiles, Portway 84
 warehouse, C19; Great Linford, Bucks 12
 Water End, Beds; late Iron Age to post-medieval 10
 water supply, C18 garden; Stowe Landscape Gardens, Bucks 19
 waterhole, Roman; Dorney, Bucks 27
 waterlogged timber, Roman; Marcham/Frilford, Oxon 100, 102, 103, 105
 Waterperry, Oxon; Waterperry House, Brewery Yard, C19-20 88
 Watling Street at Milton Keynes, Bucks 13
 Weedon Bec, Nhants; prehistoric settlement 41
 weir, medieval limestone; Oxford 84

Index

- Weldon, Nhants; Chapel Road 33
- Welford, Nhants; St Mary's church, medieval or C19 masonry 42
- wells
- Iron Age; Kempston Box End, Beds 3, 4
 - Roman; Bicester, Oxon 66, 67
 - late Saxon/Saxo-Norman; Wolverton, Bucks 20, 20
 - medieval; Daventry, Nhants 37, 38
 - C19; Dunstable, Beds 8
 - undated stone-built: Haversham, Milton Keynes, Bucks 18; Potterspury, Nhants 42
- Wendlebury, Oxon *see* Alchester, Oxon
- Wendover, Bucks; Little Hampden Close, medieval and post-medieval 31
- Wexham, Bucks; All Souls' Farm Quarry, Bronze Age and Roman 32
- wheat, middle Iron Age charred; Little Wittenham, Oxon 72
- Wheatley, Oxon; Holton House (Wheatley Park School), C17-18 moat 53
- whistle, post-medieval bone; Buckingham 22
- Whiteleaf Hill, Princes Risborough, Bucks; Bronze Age and Roman 31
- Wigginton, Oxon; Roman villa 87
- Wight, Isle of; Romans and 93-4
- Wilcote, Oxon; Claudian pottery 44
- Wing, Bucks; Mill Motors, Church Street, post-medieval 14
- wire, Roman bronze; Round Hill, Oxon 61, 62
- Witney, Oxon; Cogges Hill Road, Roman and medieval 53
- Wittenham Clumps, Oxon *see under* Little Wittenham
- Woburn, Beds; Woburn Safari Park, middle Iron Age 9
- Wolverton, Bucks; Wolverton Mill, Great Monks Street, Neolithic/Bronze Age, Roman, Saxon to post-medieval 19-20, 20
- woodland clearance, prehistoric; Dunstable, Beds 6
- Woodstock, Oxon
- Blenheim Palace; Kitchen court and parkland 84
 - Oxford Road, Punchbowl Inn 89
- Wootton, Nhants; Roman iron quarrying 42
- workhouses, C19 *see under* Northampton; Thame
- World War II features *see under* Coleshill; Daventry; Shortstown
- Worminghall, Oxon; Thomley Hall Farm, Roman and medieval 87
- writing tablet case, Roman wooden; Bicester, Oxon 66, 68
- Wroxeter, Shropshire; Roman mosaic 59
- Wykham, Banbury, Oxon 63
- prehistoric 62
 - Roman villa 64

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) 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.

5. When the article is submitted please ensure that all text (including captions) and pictures are included and clearly labelled.

6. The preferred method for receiving text is as a Rich Text File (rtf extension) on a 3.5" IBM format disk or CD. Text may be sent by email to bhorne@globalnet.co.uk with a subject of "SMA contribution". Please do not email large files such as pictures and documents with embedded pictures. If you are unable to comply with the above please contact the Editor. (Barry Horne - 01525 221219 eve, 01908 652301 day 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. Illustrations which are supplied ready to use should be no more than 173mm x 255mm.

8. Proofs will not be sent to contributors.

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

BJH

7th April 2005