

Maids Moreton Archaeology Group.

Excavations at Maids Moreton Mound August 2014.

Excavations were carried out by the volunteer force of Maids Moreton Archaeology group (supported by three professional archaeologists), of a circular raised earthwork on the site of Meadow Bank guest house (SP 70223554).

The earthwork is surrounded by a ditch for approximately three quarters of its circumference and was noted in the County Environment Record (0043800) although its date and the purpose of the flat top mound 40 m in diameter was in question.



Geophysical surveys were taken which confirmed the outline of a ditch surrounding the site and also an area of rubble within the outline of the ditch.

Two trenches were excavated; trench 1 to profile the ditch, and trench 2 excavated on the top of the mound. Trench 1 running across the ditch confirmed that it was re-cut at least once and extended to a depth of 1.4 metres. Trench 2 located part of a soil filled pit with pottery which suggested a date contemporary with the occupation of the site. Both trenches produced considerable amounts of pottery, in total 473 sherds were retrieved, comprising jars, jugs and bowls with jars being the most prolific. The range of fabric was typical of sites in the region and indicated that the main period of activity was 11th-12th century. More well known wares of 13th-14th century was noticeably scarce.

The evidence so far suggests that there was not a continuous medieval occupation of the site; however, there is a stone structure built within the outlines of the moat. Documentary evidence of land holding links with post Conquest lords of Stowe and its position adjacent to an old track way linking Buckingham and Towcester make this site an intriguing possibility for further investigation.

- The group hope to continue the excavation in the summer of 2015. If anyone is interested in volunteering on this exciting project please contact Dr Susan Fern on 01296 707481.

Susan Sorek