

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES FROM BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM

These notes include archaeological discoveries reported during 1979 and a few earlier finds not previously noted. Discoveries in the Milton Keynes Development Corporation (MKDC) area are included by courtesy of D. C. Mynard and fuller accounts of these sites appear in the *CBA Group 9 Newsletter*. The assistance of many informants is gratefully acknowledged: other discoveries are by Museum staff. The compiler would be pleased to learn of any errors or omissions.

Some selection of material has been necessary; single struck flakes for instance have not normally been included, nor field scatters of mediaeval pottery unless of sufficient quantity to indicate settlement, nor single Roman coin finds. The threat of looting by metal detector users continues unabated and has made abbreviated grid references necessary for certain categories of site. Cropmarks have normally been recorded under the 'Undated' section although it is likely that many are later Pre-historic or Romano-British in date.

Numbers in brackets are accession numbers of material at the County Museum; BAFC indicates material at Bradwell Abbey Field Centre. The County Museum Archaeological Group is abbreviated as CMAG.

Michael Farley

## PREHISTORIC

### *Bierton*

See Romano-British.

### *Bow Brickhill* SP 8989 3515

A scatter of worked flints including two microliths and an end-scraper were found by Mr. R. J. Williams of MKDC.

### *Bow Brickhill*

See Romano-British.

### *Burnham* SU 9292 8271

Four struck flakes and a blade with retouched back, were found by Mr. G. Cooper in 1978. (521.79).

### *Burnham* SU 92 84

A single ring-ditch was photographed from the air by Mr. C. Stanley.

### *Chalfont St. Peter* SU 9993 9062 (area)

A quantity of struck flints was collected by Mr. R. Flynn from vegetable plots centred on the NGR given, during 1977. The finds included several cores and scrapers of Neolithic – Bronze Age date. (299.1980).

### *Chicheley* SP 8971 4548

A ditch, 1.30 m. wide x 1.20 m. deep, was recorded in a newly-dug road-ditch. It contained three flint flakes. (523.79).

*Chicheley* SP 8967 4531

A ditch about 0.4 m. wide was recorded after topsoil stripping for the Newport Pagnell by-pass. Destroyed shortly after discovery, a few Middle Pre-Roman Iron Age sherds were recovered from its surface. (522.79).

*Denham* TQ 0473 8668

A polished Neolithic stone axe was found by Mr. Philip Jones.

*Dorney* SU 93 79

A ring-ditch and rectangular enclosure not previously recorded here, were photographed from the air by Mr. C. Stanley in 1974.

*Gerrards Cross* (See below)

Systematic fieldwalking by Mrs. H. Bridbury with the Chalfont St. Peter and Gerrards Cross History Society during 1977-9, produced struck flakes and a few implements of Neolithic – Bronze Age date in areas centred TQ 0161 8776 and TQ 0152 8791.

*Great Linford* SP 862 411

An Iron Age and Saxon settlement was discovered at Pennylands as a result of housing development and topsoil stripping. Rescue excavation was carried out by Mr. R. J. Williams for MKDC. At least eleven sunken-featured structures and possible post built structures overlay an extensive Middle Iron Age settlement consisting of at least two ditched enclosures. Six roundhouses defined by gullies and a large group of storage pits were present.

Iron Age enclosure 1 was 24 m. x 48 m. and sub-rectangular. There were no contemporary internal features. Enclosure 2 also sub-rectangular, 30 m. x 21 m., also lacked internal features. Over thirty-six storage pits, mostly of bee-hive shape, clustered around the western side of enclosure 1.

The Saxon sunken-featured structures were all aligned roughly east-west with the exception of numbers 1 and 2. One contained over thirty fired and unfired annular clay loomweights. The dispersed pattern of the structures suggests that halls may also have existed although none were discernible. Other Saxon finds from the site included spinning and weaving equipment, grass-tempered and other pottery, some stamped, suggesting a sixth-century date for the settlement.

*Great Missenden*

Fieldwalking by CMAG during 1979 produced several finds. Grid references are normally to the centre of fields walked in strips. See also under 'Romano-British' and 'Mediaeval'.

(a) SP 9065 0090

Seventeen flakes and a rounded scraper of Neolithic – Early Bronze Age date. (534.79).

(b) SP 9095 0075

A large round-ended scraper and a scatter of flakes. (544.79).

(c) SP 9247 0081

A roughly flaked Palaeolithic axe, a Mesolithic blade-core, a rounded scraper and fifty flakes of Mesolithic – Early Bronze Age date. (307.79).

(d) SP 9083 0110

A leaf-shaped arrowhead, flint flakes and mediaeval pottery. (392.79).

(e) SP 9069 0156

A transverse arrowhead, six scrapers, a fragment of ?chipped Neolithic axe, ninety flakes and four blades, of Neolithic – Early Bronze Age date. (545.79).

(f) SP 9150 0100

A Mesolithic blade and one flake, a few Romano-British sherds and mediaeval pottery. Collected during 1978. (251.79).

*Haddenham* SP 7380 1020

A probable ring-ditch with two small enclosures adjoining was noted on a photograph taken by Professor J. K. St. Joseph.

*Haddenham*

Continuing fieldwalking by CMAG during 1979 in this parish produced discoveries additional to those noted in previous issues of *Records*, and in particular emphasised the dense prehistoric utilisation of the area. NGR's normally refer to centres of fields which have been walked in strips.

(a) SP 7375 0970

A dozen flakes, a round-ended scraper and a core of Neolithic – Early Bronze Age date. A few Romano-British sherds were also present. (542.79).

(b) SP 7236 0905

Thirty-four flakes, seven blades, a scraper and six cores of Mesolithic – Early Bronze Age date. (579.79).

(c) SP 7449 0842

A broken barb-and-tang arrowhead, also a sparse scatter of Neolithic – Bronze Age flakes. (583.79).

(d) SP 7333 0991

Twenty-five Mesolithic – Early Bronze Age flakes and blades, one core, one round-ended scraper and a late Neolithic transverse arrowhead. (10.1980).

(e) SP 7280 0975

Thirty-one flakes of Neolithic – Early Bronze Age date, two cores and a round-ended scraper. (611.79).

(f) SP 7260 0919

Twenty-three flakes, a core and a round-ended scraper of Neolithic – Early Bronze Age date. (612.79).

*Ivinghoe* SP 9278 1750

A possible ring-ditch was noted on a photograph taken by Professor J. K. St. Joseph.

*Lacey Green* SP 810 006

A ring-ditch was noted on a photograph taken by Professor J. K. St. Joseph.

*Lathbury* SP 87 45

Mr. K. Field photographed from the air additional ring-ditches in a complex he had recorded in previous years.

*Lavendon* SP 911 545

A ring-ditch was photographed from the air by Mr. M. R. Petchey.

*Long Crendon* SP 6990 0916

A small excavation was carried out during 1979 by Mr. R. Cowell on a site previously identified by Mr. M. E. Davies. A report appeared in *Records* 20, 1978.

*Newport Pagnell* SP 8948 4345

A buried surface containing Middle Iron Age pottery was exposed in the sides of drainage ditches cut during construction of the Newport Pagnell by-pass. (542.1980).

*Radnage* SP 7912 9666

An ovoid stone mace-head, flat on one side, of Late Neolithic – Early Bronze Age date, found by Mr. M. Jeffries a few years previously, was recorded. Drawing at the County Museum.

*Ravenstone* SP 8535 4895

A pit-alignment was photographed from the air by Mr. K. Field and one pit excavated during quarrying.

*Seer Green* SU 9677 9191

A round-ended flint scraper of Neolithic – Early Bronze Age date, was found by Mrs. D. M. Cooper in 1978. (520.79).

*Sherington* SP 8916 4762

A round-ended flint scraper of Neolithic – Early Bronze Age date was collected. (388.79).

*Sherington* SP 8951 4670

A round-ended flint scraper of Neolithic – Early Bronze Age date was collected. (387.79).

*Stokenchurch*

An unabraded Palaeolithic hand-axe of Wymer's type JG (*Lower Pal. Arch.*) was found by Mr. B. Walker near Stokenchurch.

*Stone* SP 7860 1275

A rounded scraper of Neolithic – Early Bronze Age date was found by Mr. G. Lamb. (142.79).

*Tyringham-with-Filgrave* SP 874 499

A ring-ditch was photographed from the air by Mr. K. Field.

*Tyringham-with-Filgrave* SP 851 474

A ring-ditch was photographed from the air by Mr. K. Field and by Mr. M. R. Petchey.

*Weston Underwood* SP 866 499 (approx.)

A pit-alignment was photographed from the air by Mr. K. Field.

*Wolverton* SP 7858 4101

A small flint scraper was found by Mr. R. J. Williams of MKDC.

*Wooburn* SU 910 896

A Palaeolithic axe with ochreous patina, ?slightly rolled, of Wymer type J (*Lower Pal. Arch.*), found in the 1950s, was reported by Mr. R. Watts who owns it. Drawing at the County Museum.

## ROMANO-BRITISH

*Aylesbury* SP 8196 1394

Two Romano-British ditches, also mediaeval pits and wells, were recorded during redevelopment, not far from the presumed course of Akeman Street. (332.1980).

*Aylesbury* SP 828 142

A first century bow-boocho of form similar to Hod Hill type C65, was found by Mr. Anthony Wild.

*Biddlesden* SP 63 39

A bronze coin of Constantine 307 - 337 was found by Mr. Whyton.

*Bierton* SP 837 152

The investigation by Mr. D. Allen of a multi-period site, previously sampled in 1975, took place on behalf of the Department of the Environment and Buckinghamshire County Museum, in advance of housing development.

The site produced early material, including flint flakes, scrapers and a leaf-shaped arrowhead, but it was not until the late Iron Age that occupation certainly began. Postholes, pits and gullies survived from this period to provide the plans of domestic structures, principal among which was a probable roundhouse of c. 12.0 m. diameter, enclosed by a complex system of banks and ditches. The excavated area revealed only a fraction of this settlement pattern. Small finds included brooches and a British *potin* coin.

In the Roman period, palisades and a stone wall replaced the Iron Age ditches, but perpetuated some of their alignments. Traces of minor buildings of stone and timber were discovered, but they were not the source of the large quantities of painted wall-plaster and substantial number of *tesserae* found. These, and the general abundance of Roman material, most of which unfortunately came from disturbed contexts, suggest that a major building existed in the immediate vicinity.

No structural features of Dark Age date were found, although sherds of grass-tempered pottery, and fragments of clay loom-weight were present. In the mediaeval period a circular structure, probably a dovecote, existed on the site, and other features of this date included boundary ditches, hearths and wells.

A substantial building encroached upon the northern part of the site from Tudor times onwards, being constructed originally of stone and later refashioned in brick. To its south lay an extensive cobbled area, and to the east a circular oven and rectangular pitched tile hearth, which were probably housed in a half-timbered structure. In its final form the main building contained a large cellar, from which a drainage tunnel ran eastwards for at least 15.0 m. Finds from the cellar fill suggest a mid-eighteenth-century date for the demolition of the building, confirmed by the fact that it does not appear on a detailed Enclosure map of Bierton dated 1780.

D.A.

*Bletchley* SP 8870 3375 - 8878 3368

Quantities of Roman material were dredged from the river adjacent to Magiovinium and are reported by Mr. R. J. Williams of MKDC.

*Bow Brickhill* SP 8907 3545

Continuing excavation at Caldecotte by Mr. M. R. Petchey for MKDC exposed further areas of the field system of first - second-century A.D. date. Traces of a preceding Iron Age field system were also recorded. Semi-circular gullies defined two huts of the Roman period and a possible smelting hearth was also identified. In a second area a number of features containing hand-made pottery of Saxon type and a post built structure were located.

*Clifton Reynes* SP 936 494

Discovery by Mr. P. Smith in 1977 of an area of dark soil and clay debris including a clay bar, accompanied by some Romano-British pottery, may indicate a pottery kiln or an industrial area.

*Gerrards Cross* SU 9922 8751

Following discovery of much Romano-British pottery in a garden, excavations by Mrs. B. Stainton and Mr. C. Stanley exposed a pottery kiln with intact perforated floor. A magnetometer survey indicated the existence of a second kiln in the same garden. (*CBA Group 9 Newsletter* 10, 1980, 15 - 19).

*Haddenham* SP 72 09

Romano-British pottery including twenty-seven rims were collected during fieldwalking by CMAG. (579.79).

*Loughton* SP 828 389

Excavation of a Roman farmstead at Wymbush took place under the direction of Mr. R. J. Zeepvat for MKDC. Identified in 1973, trial trenching had been carried out in 1975. The site is located on boulder clay. The whole site may be related to Bancroft Villa, which lies nearly 2 km. to the north. Two buildings were excavated. Building 1, situated on a slight terrace, had been severely damaged by ploughing and robbing. In its last phase it was 22 m. x 11 m. with a corridor. Built of stone, the building had a tile roof, and in the central room a floor of *opus signinum*. Fragmentary wall plaster decorated in at least six colours was present. Building 2, perhaps an open-fronted barn, was very fragmentary. It had a limestone-rubble floor. A gravel yard surface was partly enclosed by the two buildings. Ditches lay to the west of the buildings, one containing a hoard of bronze coins of A.D. 330 - 349.

*North Marston* SP 7630 2104

A trench cut for a drain across the presumed course of a minor Roman road exposed a small patch of gravel 0.4 m. below present road level, probably the road surface.

*Sherington* SP 8961 4482

After topsoil stripping, three sides of a rectangular enclosure were recorded. The feature has not been dated but sparse Romano-British pottery was present in the top of the fill. (320.1980).

*Stantonbury* SP 8429 3990

A Romano-British T-shaped corn-drier built of flat limestone slabs was excavated by Mr. R. J. Williams for MKDC before its destruction. The few finds from the oven broadly suggest a third – fourth-century date. No associated features were recorded, but the oven lies north-west of the Wood Corner farmstead.

*Weston Turville* SP 850 130

Romano-British sherds including twelve rims, one a third-century flanged dish, were found by Mr. T. Headley during preliminary groundwork on a building site.

*Weston Underwood* SP 86 49

Indications of a Romano-British structure were observed by Mr. K. Field.

## SAXON AND MEDIAEVAL

*Bierton*

See Romano-British.

*Bow Brickhill* SP 9008 3521.

A piece of mediaeval stone mortar was discovered by Mr. R. J. Williams of MKDC.

*Bradenham* SU 826 981

Further work was carried out by Mr. D. Barker (following *Records* 20, 1977) and subsequently the site was surveyed by Anne Cookson. A report on these mediaeval earthworks appears in this volume of *Records*.

*Broughton* SP 894 404

A complete mediaeval jug was found by Mr. R. Gillham. (383.79).

*Buckingham* (See below)

During construction of the Buckingham Link road in 1978 a house platform was cut through and a short length of associated limestone footing exposed at SP 7092 3322. Mediaeval pottery was collected from the site by Mr. K. J. Woolley, who also partially excavated a mediaeval pit in the same area. From the pit and the topsoil strip of the area, pottery of St. Neots type, Potterspury ware and sherds from a Cotswold type straight-sided cooking pot were recovered. Subsequently construction of the Home Farm Link to the north of the previous site, exposed a limestone rubble surface with sparse mediaeval sherds, presumably the floor of a building. No trace was seen of Bourton House (demolished 1642) which is suspected to be in the area. (568.78, 516.79, 322.1980, 323.1980).

*Chicheley* SP 8947 4407

A ditch containing shell-tempered Middle – Late Saxon pottery was recorded after topsoil stripping for the Newport Pagnell by-pass. (319.1980).

*Chilton* SP 6841 1049

A segment of lava quern or millstone, probably mediaeval, was found by Mr. W. Cooper. (241.79).

*Fingest and Lane End* SU 7761 9127

A house-platform indicating the site of the former manor house was recorded.

*Gerrards Cross* SU 9765 8825 area

An excavation directed by Mrs. B. Stainton and Mr. C. Stanley with local societies in a field adjacent to Moat Farm, located flint walling, roofing tile and mediaeval pottery, including 'scratch-marked' wares. (*CBA Group 9 Newsletter* 10, 1980, 19 - 21).

*Great Linford* (a) SP 8556 4195 (b) SP 8561 4198

Two small developments uncovered late mediaeval stone scatters, one of which (b) survived as a slight platform, and were recorded by Mr. R. J. Williams for MKDC.

*Great Linford*

See Prehistoric.

*Great Missenden*

See Prehistoric.

*Great Missenden* SP 9120 0100 area

During fieldwalking by CMAG, thirteenth – fourteenth century sherds were collected, including sixteen rims. A few flint flakes were also present and a Neolithic transverse arrowhead. (541.79).

*Haddenham* SP 7416 0793

An excavation by Mr. B. Blake adjacent to the churchyard exposed a boundary wall, and a large undated pit. Superficial finds from the site included three Early – Middle Saxon grass-tempered sherds, a St. Neots sherd and later mediaeval material.

*Hanslope* SP 765 468

An extensive scatter of mediaeval and post-mediaeval pottery from ploughed-out village earthworks was recorded at Green End, by Mr. R. J. Williams and Mr. R. A. Croft in course of detailed study of the parish.

*Loughton* SP 8288 3807

The field name, Windmill Hill Furlong, led to identification of a probable mill mound, by Mr. R. A. Croft of MKDC.

*Milton Keynes* SP 8914 3889

Part of a thirteenth century sandy ware cooking vessel was recovered from a shallow ditch exposed in a house footing trench, by Mr. R. J. Williams for MKDC.

*Tattenhoe* SP 8284 3393

Decorated glazed mediaeval floor tiles were collected by Mr. R. J. Williams of MKDC, and may indicate the site of the manor house.

*Twyford* SP 6655 2623

Village earthworks were noted on an aerial photograph.

*Wendover* SP 8711 0748

A hole dug adjacent to a vegetable patch by Mrs. M. Hall struck a layer of undressed flints set on a slight chalk-cut platform. A quantity of thirteenth – fourteenth-century cooking pot sherds were amongst the flints. Included amongst the finds were six Early – Middle Saxon grass-tempered sherds and seven of St. Neots type; also a chalk spindle whorl. (517.79).

*Wolverton* SP 8067 4196

A fragment of gritstone quern found by Mr. R. A. Croft lends support to Sheahan's comment that a watermill lay in the field called 'The Grange'.

*Woolstone-cum-Willen* SP 8758 3896

A number of mediaeval stone fish basket weights were found downstream from Little Woolstone fishponds and are reported by Mr. R. J. Williams of MKDC.

*Woolstone-cum-Willen* SP 8756 3928

Excavations were carried out inside the church by Mr. R. A. Croft for MKDC. Seven phases of construction were provisionally distinguished. Phase one, a single cell 6.7 m. x 3.8 m., perhaps pre-Norman, cut substantial occupation debris which in turn sealed a Roman ditch. Additions took place in phases two and three at the end of which the entire church was demolished. Re-building took place in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. A stone coffin with scratched gaming board on its surface was discovered buried in the nave. Further alterations were made in the succeeding centuries.

*Woolstone-cum-Willen* (See below)

The presence of ploughed-out house platforms was confirmed at SP 875 390 and mediaeval material recovered from crofts which backed on to the river at SP 8755 3900. Traces of Roman and possible Saxon occupation were noted at SP 875 391, and a small scatter of worked flints including a number of punch-struck blades and a blade core at SP 8752 3903. The finds were recovered by Mr. R. J. Williams for MKDC.

*Woughton-on-the-Green* SP 8829 3779

A piece of gritstone quern found in association with a leat by Mr. R. A. Croft of MKDC may indicate a mill site.

## POST-MEDIAEVAL AND UNDATED

*Aylesbury* SP 8174 1377

A quantity of clay pipe fragments discovered during alterations to 13 Castle Street were brought to the attention of the County Museum by Mr. A. Edmonds. A small excavation by Mr. J. Moore (see report this issue of *Records*) exposed traces of a kiln which had operated in the late seventeenth century. (526.79).

*Bierton*

See Romano-British.

*Bledlow-cum-Saunderton* SP 7788 0406

Mr. W. Foreman carried out a measured survey of the former Bledlow paper mill during 1978. Copy at BCM.

*Bourstall* SP 6332 1149

A small enclosure visible as a cropmark, photographed by Professor J. K. St. Joseph, was recorded.

*Brill* SP 6520 1404

A quantity of eighteenth-century pottery, including wasters, suggesting a kiln in the vicinity, was recovered by Mr. and Mrs. Smith from foundations, and reported by Mr. M. E. Davies. (303.79).

*Burnham* SU 93 87

Parts of two rectangular enclosures visible from the air as cropmarks were photographed by Mr. C. Stanley.

*Burnham* SU 92 84

A rectangular enclosure visible as a cropmark was photographed from the air by Mr. C. Stanley.

*Dorney* SU 93 77

The cropmark of a large rectangular enclosure was photographed from the air by Mr. C. Stanley.

*Great Linford* SP 8521 4225

A stone-lined drain was recorded near the manor house by Mr. R. J. Williams for MKDC.

*Lillingstone Lovell* SP 720 422

A rectilinear cropmark was photographed from the air by Mr. G. Foard.

*Little Marlow* SU 87 91

A rectangular enclosure visible as a cropmark was photographed from the air by Mr. C. Stanley.

*Long Crendon* SP 7047 0663

Part of a human cranium of some antiquity was dredged from the Thame and discovered by Mr. D. A. Chapman. (178.79).

*Stoke Goldington* SP 847 484

Mr. K. Field photographed from the air a rectangular enclosure showing as a cropmark.

*Taplow* SU 91 81

A trapezoidal enclosure with a rectangular enclosure adjacent and associated linear features, visible as a cropmark, was photographed from the air by Mr. C. Stanley.