

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES FROM BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM

These notes include archaeological discoveries reported during 1981 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. Findspots are recorded under civil parish.

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. Abbreviated grid references have unfortunately to be given for some sites to prevent looting.

Numbers in brackets are accession numbers of material at the County Museum. The County Museum Archaeological Group is abbreviated CMAG and the Chess Valley Archaeological and Historical Society as CVAHS.

Michael Farley

## PREHISTORIC

### *Amersham*

Field walking by CVAHS located the following:

- (a) SU 9815 9805 (area) 33 flakes of Neolithic-Bronze Age date.
- (b) SU 986 983 (area) 36 flakes, a scraper, and a core of Neolithic - Bronze Age date.
- (c) SU 980 988 (area) 52 flakes, 2 scrapers, a retouched blade and a fabricator.

### *Aylesbury*

See Saxon and Mediaeval

### *Biddlesden*

SP 631 387

A looped bronze palstave with three ribs below the stopridge was found by Mr. J. Stanton.

### *Biddlesden*

SP 6365 4000

A ring-ditch and possible enclosure were photographed from the air by Mr. G. Foard.

### *Bierton-with-Broughton*

See Romano-British

### *Bledlow-cum-Saunderton*

SU 816 982

A previously unrecorded round barrow was dis-

covered. A rounded flint scraper was collected from the surface. (505.1981)

### *Chalfont St. Giles*

(a) SU 9735 9170

(b) 9735 9175

Two scrapers and several flakes of Neolithic-Bronze Age date were found by Mr. and Mrs. G. Cooper at (a) and a flake at (b) and reported by Mrs. B. Stainton.

### *Chalfont St. Peter*

SU 9811 9051

Fifteen Neolithic flakes and a core were found by Mr. G. Cooper and reported by Mrs. B. Stainton.

### *Chalfont St. Peter*

TQ 0075 9195

A Palaeolithic axe (Wymer Type E) was found by Mr. B. Wood and brought to the attention of the Museum by Mrs. H. Bridbury, Mrs. M. Putt and Mrs. B. Stainton, who has provided a drawing.

### *Chalfont St. Peter*

TQ 018 899 (area)

The butt-end of a Mesolithic tranchet axe, two scrapers and a number of flakes were found by Mrs. H. Bridbury.

*Chesham* SP 976 025 (area)  
Over thirty Neolithic-Bronze Age flakes were located by CVAHS during fieldwalking.

*Chesham* SP 976 023 (area)  
Some twenty Neolithic - Bronze Age flakes were located by CVAHS during fieldwalking.

*Cuddington* SP 7558 1191 (area)  
During fieldwalking by CMAG, Mesolithic blades and a microlith, also Neolithic - Early Bronze Age flakes, a scraper, flake knife, etc., were collected. (107.1981)

*Cuddington*  
See also Romano-British

*Dinton* SP 7638 1169 (area)  
During fieldwalking CMAG located the following spread over a wide area: 13 blades, Mesolithic; a polished Neolithic flint axe fragment and a transverse arrowhead; 104 flakes and 5 scrapers of Mesolithic - Bronze Age date; a barbed and tanged arrowhead. (254.1981)

*Dinton-with-Ford and Upton* SP 7579 1221 (area)  
During fieldwalking CMAG located a blade core, blade and ?microburin of Mesolithic date, also 9 flakes of Neolithic - Bronze Age date. (127.1981)

*Great and Little Kimble* SP 83 05  
A Late Bronze Age socketed sickle with ribbed blade was found protruding from leaf-mould, possibly disturbed by burrowing animals, by Mr. B. Payne who presented it to the Museum. (540.1981)

*Great Linford (Pennyland)* SP 862 411  
The third and final season of excavation on the Pennyland Iron Age site directed by R.J. Williams for MKDC, took place over a period of three months. The major objective was to define the eastern limit of both Iron Age and Saxon settlement.

Iron Age: The density of features decreased as the ground dropped away to the east at the edge of the low spur overlooking the Ouzel valley, coinciding with a change from gravel and head deposits to a clayier subsoil. Four further penannular house drainage gullies (nos. 8-11) were

excavated. Number 10, with an unusually deep (0.85 m.) gully, may have formed a focus for the group. Two parallel ditches may represent a droveway. Three four-post structures were identified, also three grain storage pits.

Saxon: A rectangular post-hole building, previously identified, was shown to be contained within a rectangular ditched enclosure. At the eastern limit of the site a waterlogged wattle-and-timber-lined well was discovered. Finds from the well silt were minimal but the base of a wooden ladder had survived. Several hundred post-holes were excavated, most of which are considered to be of Saxon date. The plan of one post-built structure was discernible and a length of post-built fence located.

Preliminary analysis of finds from the *grubenhäuser* indicates that several may be of very early Saxon date, although pottery associated with the first post-built structure shows a distinct trend towards middle Saxon forms.

#### *Great Missenden*

During fieldwalking CMAG located the following:

- (a) SP 8889 0273 (area) 10 flakes and a rounded scraper. (101.1981)
- (b) SP 8825 0303 (area) 9 flakes, a rounded scraper, a core; also a piece of *tegula*. (100.1981)
- (c) SP 8868 0229 (area) 1 ?Levallois flake, 4 blades and a notched piece - Mesolithic: 1 rounded scraper, 2 cores, 27 flakes - Neolithic - Bronze Age: 11 Romano-British sherds and a piece of flue tile. (102.1981)
- (d) SP 8901 0285 (area) 14 flakes of Neolithic-Bronze Age date. (80.1981)

#### *Haddenham*

SP 7515 0845  
During fieldwalking Mr. B. Blake located 2 rounded scrapers, 11 flakes of Neolithic-Bronze Age date and 10 Romano-British sherds.

#### *High Wycombe*

SU 81 94  
A number of Late Iron Age coins including several of Cunobelin, also Roman coins were found, and have been identified by Dr. D. Nash with whom full records rest. The coins have been dispersed amongst a number of finders.

- Iver** TQ 0397 8336 3 cores of Neolithic - Bronze Age date. (636.1981)  
Excavation by D. Allen for the County Museum and DoE on the line of the M25 and on the bank of the Colnebrook sought a Mesolithic horizon described by Lacaille at Sandstone. Mesolithic flints were encountered but their environmental context had been damaged by plough and through drying of the associated peat. (439.1982)
- Latimer** SP 990 028  
A possible Palaeolithic flake was found during fieldwalking by CVAHS.
- Little Missenden**  
During fieldwalking CMAG located:  
(a) SU 9095 9915 (area) 8 blades, Mesolithic; 31 flakes, 3 rounded scrapers of Neolithic - Bronze Age date. (595.1981)  
(b) SU 9194 9862 (area) 22 flakes, 2 rounded scrapers of Neolithic - Bronze Age date. (614.1981)  
(c) SU 9165 9870 (area) 3 blades and 3 snapped blades, Mesolithic; 50 flakes, a scraper and
- Old Wolverton** SP 803 415  
A silver-coated bronze contemporary forgery of a *styca* was found by Mr. J. Adams.
- Radnage** SU 774 977  
A first-century brooch (Camulodunum type IIIA) was found by Mr. A. Fuller.
- Seer Green** SU 9734 9232  
A rounded flint scraper of Neolithic - Bronze Age date was found by Mr. G. Cooper and reported by Mrs. B. Stainton.
- Simpson**  
See Saxon and Mediaeval
- Woolstone-cum-Willen** SP 861 400  
A gold quarter-stater of Cunobelin was found by Mr. A. Eisener.  
See also under Romano-British.

## ROMANO-BRITISH

- Bierton-with-Broughton** SP 8270 1580 (area) 158-9 were discovered by Mr. T. Clark.  
During systematic fieldwalking, Mr. P. Miles located scatters of Iron Age and Romano-British sherds, also a few Early - Middle Saxon grass-tempered sherds.
- Cuddington** SP 75 11  
During fieldwalking, CMAG located 16 Neolithic - Bronze Age flakes, also an extensive Romano-British scatter including over 400 sherds. (128.1981)
- Dorton** SP 681 128  
A few Romano-British sherds were found by Mr. O.J.M. Lee. (213.1981)
- Drayton Beauchamp** SP 90 10  
Two coins, of the third and fourth century, were found adjacent to each other by Mr. R. Reed.
- Ellesborough** SP 84 05  
A first-century brooch and denarius of A.D.
- Great Linford/Stantonbury** SP 844 413  
Excavation continued at Stantonbury on the site discovered in 1975, the work being directed by R.J. Zeepvat for MKDC with assistance at the outset from the schools of Stantonbury Campus. The initial building was rectangular, 6.5 x 10 m. internally, with massive footings capable of supporting two storeys. Inside were two axial piers. A single-room extension was added to the east and a bath suite added to the north wall. The suite contained a *frigidarium* at the east (with a cold bath on its north side), *tepidarium* and *caldarium* with western stoke room. Two boundary walls leading east and south from the building contained patches of yard surface and other features. One of the boundary walls crossed a first - second century ditch. The whole suggests a Romanised native farm built in the late second century, although the initial rectangular core with internal piers is as yet without parallel. A spread of mortar

covering much of the interior of the original rectangular building contained much evidence of burning, including some slag, suggesting an industrial function in the late fourth - fifth century.

*Great Missenden*  
See Prehistoric

*Haddenham*  
See Prehistoric

*High Wycombe*  
See Prehistoric

*High Wycombe* SU 83 94  
Third - fourth century coins and a tag-end of Middle - Late Saxon date were found by Mr. F. Freeman. (BCM)

*High Wycombe* SU 82 95  
A hoard of 87 coins of the mid-fourth century was found by Messrs. Fuller, Durham, Gray, Hodges and Trenfield; also a second century bow-brooch by Mr. Meeks.

*Princes Risborough* SP 82 04  
A second-century Romano-British enamelled plate-brooch was found by Mr. R. Sears.

*Simpson*  
See Saxon and Mediaeval

*Winslow* SP 781 276  
Romano-British sherds were found by Mr. D. Shelley.

*Winslow* SP 772 271  
Romano-British sherds were found by Mr. D. Shelley.

*Woolstone-cum-Willen* SP 8665 3945  
A site identified by R.W. Griffiths in 1967 was fieldwalked by R.J. Williams and a geophysical survey undertaken by I. McIntyre of Bradford University for MKDC. An excavation was then carried out by R.J. Zeepvat, who machine trial-trenched an area 60 x 80 m. before examining in detail an area 20 x 30 m. which lay at the centre of the finds scatter. The earliest features uncovered were a group of four early first-century pits, two containing almost complete examples of Belgic pots. A shallow north-west to south-east ditch was also of this date. Superimposed on these were a number of ditches with pottery of predominantly late first - second century date. A large waterlogged pit and associated ditch produced a quantity of animal bone, predominantly fourth-century pottery, and a coin of Constantine I.

Despite the abundant refuse recovered, no structural evidence of occupation was recovered and the pattern is of a sequence of field boundaries in use from before the Conquest to the end of the Roman period.

## SAXON AND MEDIAEVAL

*Aylesbury* SP 81835 13821  
Excavations were carried out by D. Allen for the County Museum and DoE in advance of development of a town centre site. An Iron Age ditch and two pits were the earliest features. Fifteen inhumation graves were excavated, thought to date to the Late Saxon-Early Mediaeval period. None had grave-goods or were coffined. One skull had a sword-cut. Quantities of disturbed human bone were encountered over the whole site in later features indicating an extensive disturbed cemetery. There were a number of large rubbish or cess pits of thirteenth century and later date, many

containing Brill pottery. The ground continued to be used in a similar manner in the post-mediaeval period until in the late eighteenth century the first buildings were constructed. An interim report is available from the Museum. (381.1982)

*Bierton-with-Broughton*  
See Romano-British

*Bletchley (Simpson)* SP 8843 3569  
A Late Iron Age, Roman and Early Saxon site was discovered by R. Williams during construction work on the Caldecotte Lake.

*Bradwell Abbey* SP 826 396  
Excavations by R.A. Croft for MKDC exposed the western end of the Priory church. The north wall survived to a height of approximately 0.75 m. above the church floor level. The discovery of a column-base pit corresponding with the fourteenth century respond visible on the east end wall of the chapel, confirmed the position of the north arcade of the nave. The south wall of the church had been extensively robbed; its position and alignment were shown by earlier excavations. A thick layer of brown sandy loam covered most of the internal area of the church. This contained few stones larger than 0.10 m. but finds included tile, oyster shell, lead comes, mortar and plaster lumps, and mediaeval window glass, and the whole could be interpreted as a deliberate post-dissolution attempt to level up the site and to landscape the remaining walls into a positive garden feature. Window glass, both painted and unpainted, was one of the commonest finds this year. Other finds included fragments of floor tiles of

Little Brickhill and Penn types.

*Chepping Wycombe/High Wycombe* SU 898 929

A dense scatter of roof tile located by M. Green was systematically investigated by Mr. and Mrs. S. Cauvain with members of CMAG. The whole is suspected to be a mediaeval tile production area.

*High Wycombe*  
See Romano-British

*Mursley* SP 83 29  
A bent St. Edmund memorial penny was found by D. Critoph.

*Nash/Whaddon* SP 7910 3405 - 7955 3365  
A series of banks and probable fishponds forming a line of waterfalls were found by R.A. Croft. They may be referred to in the 1493 Whaddon Chase bounds '... from Whirleditch to the waterfalles ...'.

#### POST-MEDIAEVAL AND UNDATED

*Bierton-with-Broughton* SP 8369 1679  
A farmstead, no longer extant, but shown on Bryant's map of 1824, was re-located with house platforms and associated well.

*Bletchley (Simpson)* SP 8850 3596  
A. Cox reported waterlogged timbers protruding from a river bank which were investigated by R.J. Williams for MKDC. They probably formed part of a collapsed sluice gate, perhaps of sixteenth - eighteenth century date. Two brick-built piers nearby may represent a bridge base or small wharf associated with Simpson manor house.

*Bow Brickhill (Caldecotte)* SP 8904 3499  
M.R. Petchey continued an excavation for MKDC on the site of Caldecotte watermill, this year examining the landward part of the structure

containing the miller's house. The ground floor level of the building was approximately 2 m. above water level and was presumably carried on over the stream as the first floor of the mill structure — the level of the mill machinery. The structure proved to be of two phases, as was the mill structure examined last year. The first phase had ironstone footings and to the north lay a pebble yard. Finds from the yard suggest a date in the late seventeenth century. The second phase was preceded by complete destruction of the earlier building and the second phase building had in turn largely been destroyed by ploughing.

*Wicken (Northants)* SP 7618 3755  
Three fragments of ancient human skull were dredged from the Ouse and reported by F. Wesley. (217.1981)