

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES FROM BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM

These notes include archaeological discoveries reported during 1984 and a few earlier finds not previously noted. Discoveries by the Milton Keynes Archaeological Unit (MKAU) are included by courtesy of D. C. Mynard, and fuller accounts of these sites appear in *South Midlands Archaeology* (CBA 9). 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 medieval pottery unless of sufficient quantity to indicate settlement, nor single Roman coin finds. Abbreviated grid references have unfortunately to be given for a number of sites to prevent looting.

Numbers in brackets are accession numbers of material at the County Museum. The initials BCM indicate that the material is in the Museum, but no accession number has yet been allotted. The County Museum Archaeological Group is abbreviated to CMAG.

Michael Farley

PREHISTORIC

Bledlow-cum-Saunderton SU 81269974-81389975
A double-platform core and two flakes of Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date were found by Mrs J. Taylor.

Burnham SU 92008162 (approx.)
Ten flakes of Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date and a blade (Mesolithic) were found on an allotment by Mr E. L. Fitch.

Burnham SU 92628178
Mr E. L. Fitch found in a garden six flakes, two core trimmers, and a utilised flake, of Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date, also a blade core made on an unidentified vitreous substance.

Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards SP 91650710
A Palaeolithic flint axe, pointed with a slightly rounded butt (Wymer type F), in fairly fresh unrolled condition, was found by Mrs L. A. Strong.

Edlesborough see Roman.

Great and Little Kimble SP 8206
A Dobunnic silver coin inscribed EISV, found by Mr D. Critoph, was recorded by Dr L. Sellwood.

High Wycombe No NGR
Members of South Bucks Metal Detector Club recovered the tip of a socketed bronze axe, several staters, a Romano-Celtic mount, and Roman coins. Details of the findspot unfortunately cannot be published.

Lacey Green SP 80500145 (area)
During systematic fieldwalking by CMAG, sixty flakes, three scrapers, and two cores were collected from one field. The finds were very dispersed but indicated Neolithic/Bronze Age utilisation of the area. (381:1983)

Long Crendon SP 6909
Observation of a waterpipe revealed Iron Age and Romano-British occupation. Full report in this volume of *Records*, pp. 92-101.

Long Crendon SP 697091
An Iron Age weaving comb found by Mr S. Donaldson in 1982 is illustrated in this volume of *Records*, p. 99. (116:1984)

Mentmore SP 9121
A pipeline cut in 1982 exposed an ?Iron Age pit containing two struck flints and two flint-gritted sherds, also a Romano-British ditch and pit containing pottery and animal bone. From the topsoil came a flint blade (?Mesolithic), Romano-British pottery, and a few pieces of Romano-British tile. (BCM)

Pitstone SP 94901520 (area)
During systematic fieldwalking in 1982, CMAG located fifty-five flint flakes and six scrapers of Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date. Three of the scrapers were found in close proximity. (382:1983)

Shenley Brook End SP 83483568
An unlooped low-flange palstave with central rib below the stop-ridge was found by Mr A. Chiarello in his garden. However, the findspot is not definite as topsoil had been brought in from an unknown location some years earlier. (62:1984)

Slapton see Roman.

Stokenchurch SU 770961-775963
Over a hundred flakes, three cores, a reworked Neolithic axe, and fire-fractured flints were recorded during systematic fieldwalking by Mr P. Carstairs. (280:1984)

Weston Underwood SP 871518
A ring ditch and ?part of an enclosure were photographed from the air as a cropmark by Mr G. Foard during 1983.

Wolverton (Bancroft) SP 825405
On the hilltop above Bancroft villa (see Roman) a second season of excavation was carried out adjacent to the Roman mausoleum. South-west of the mausoleum a small cremation cemetery containing seventeen burials mainly of first-century date was discovered. Eight contained grave goods, the richest having five pottery vessels, one iron and four bronze brooches, a stud, a nail cleaner, a key, and two melted glass beads. Others contained samian bowls, a flagon, and a *terra rubra* girth beater.

North-west of the mausoleum a first-century enclosure ditch attached to the silted-up Iron Age enclosure was completely emptied and a late Roman coffin burial discovered dug into its western side.

North of this, evidence of a substantial circular timber building was discovered, part of which had been located in 1983. The building consisted of an outer semicircular drainage gully with a projected diameter of 20.5m and three concentric inner rings of posts, part of the central ring being of palisade construction. A 2m wide entrance on the east side overlooked the valley. In the centre was a pit filled with fire-reddened clay containing a heavily burnt saddle-quern. A number of post holes contained quantities of unabraded pottery, considered to be of late Bronze Age date. Structures of this size and date are rare. To the north-east of the building, and of similar date, was a circular pit sited in the centre of a roughly-metalled hollow.

Also examined were penannular house-gullies probably of Iron Age date and a further length of the large north-south ditch running between the shrine and mausoleum, of post-Roman date.

ROMANO-BRITISH

Amersham SU 9598
A bronze bow brooch, with head loop and crude lozenge-shaped relief design on the bow with traces of enamel inlay, was found by Mr P. Melling.

Edlesborough SP 9618
Two U-shaped ditches 0.7m wide and a pit were recorded in a pipe-trench in 1982. Although a few sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from the sections, flint gritted (?Iron

Age) pottery was also present. (BCM)

Great Linford SP 85334030
On a site first recorded in *Records* Vol. 25 (p. 171, incorrectly cited as Stantonbury SP 84334030) small curving ditches were noted and several sherds of Roman pottery picked up by R. A. Croft and R. J. Williams of MKAU, following machine stripping.

High Wycombe see Prehistoric.

Ivinghoe SP 9519
A pit containing four Romano-British sherds and a hob-nail was recorded in a pipe-trench in 1982. (BCM)

Ivinghoe SP 9419
Some twenty cut features including ditches and pits, eleven of which contained Romano-British sherds, were recorded in a pipe-trench in 1982. (BCM)

Little Horwood SP 7829
Mr D. Shelley located a spread of Romano-British pottery mostly in 'soapy' N. Bucks fabric; a third/fourth-century date is probable.

Long Crendon see Prehistoric.

Mentmore SP 8921 (area)
A pit containing Romano-British sherds, and a number of other cut features were recorded in 1982 in a pipe-trench. A scatter of Romano-British sherds was recovered from the surface. (BCM)

Mentmore see Prehistoric.

Pitstone SP 9614
An extensive scatter of abraded Romano-British pottery was found by Mrs J. Burrows.

Slapton SP 9320-9319
A scatter of Romano-British pottery including third-century wares was recorded during topsoil stripping of a pipeline during 1982. When cut, two V-shaped ditches containing Romano-British sherds were recorded, also a V-shaped pit containing Iron Age sherds and a struck flake. (BCM)

Stantonbury SP 83604322
A protective dyke dug between the ARC lakes and the Ouse was checked by R. J. Williams for MKAU. In the sides of a narrow trench linking lake and dyke a stone layer covering an area 5m across was recorded at a depth of 2-2.5m. A fragment of tegula and a sub-floor tile were found within the stone layer, and a large piece of squared jointed timber came from the spoil heap. The whole may be a Roman riverside revetment or bridge, associated with the nearby Stanton Low settlement.

Stantonbury see Great Linford.

Wolverton (Bancroft) SP 827403
Excavation directed by R. J. Zeepvat for MKAU continued during 1984 on the environs of the villa and around the outbuildings (buildings 2-4) discovered previously. Two new structures (buildings 8 and 9) were located and the suggestion of a third to the north of building 3. All except building 8 appear to date from the second century. The complex of farm buildings can be seen to spread northwards along the valley side and also down the Bradwell Brook.

Trial trenching 30m north of the excavated area, on the site of a circular parch mark shown on aerial photographs, produced evidence of a stone structure, and a further building was located close to the brook north-east of building 9 beneath a waterlogged peat deposit. Earlier ditches and pits were also examined; some of the latter may have been dug to obtain stone for the production of lime.

Most of the structural evidence of the 1984 excavation appears to be contemporary with occupation of the aisled building (7) excavated in 1983, and a picture is emerging of a scattered complex of farm buildings linked by areas of limestone cobbling. Building 3 may be a granary or byre; the circular building 4 follows a traditional local form; building 9 (26 × 10m) with a single aisle was probably a barn although a drain suggests animal stalling on the west side. Building 8, constructed in the fourth century, contained a channelled hypocaust. Quantities of tesserae and wall plaster suggest

that it was a small well-equipped dwelling, perhaps for a farm manager or bailiff. *Wolverton (Bancroft)* see also Prehistoric.

SAXON AND MEDIEVAL

- Bletchley* SP 86303378
A watching brief was carried out by R. J. Williams for MKAU during reflooring of St Mary's Church, Bletchley. On the south side of the chancel one small area of medieval floor-tile impressions survived. A number of unstratified tiles were found including Little Brickhill, 'Wessex type' stabbed series, and inscribed fragments with brown lettering. A number of brick vaults thought to be eighteenth-century were also recorded.
- Great Missenden* SP 89750100
Following rescue excavation at Missenden Abbey in 1983, opportunities arose to investigate the standing building during a refurbishment programme. The work was carried out by P. Yeoman for the County Museum. Various areas were examined, proving that the existing house contains the claustral range of this small Augustinian Abbey. Medieval architectural features were uncovered, and of particular note were three windows with pointed arches and splayed reveals, which originally looked from the dorter into the cloister garth. Considerable information has also been recorded concerning the development of the house after its dissolution in 1538.
- Sewer trenches were cut across the east part of the conventual church immediately north of the house. Within these, parts of the chancel walls and floors were recorded, with buried walls surviving to a height of 1m. The south-east corner of the church was examined and was found to have been extended to the east; an event probably associated with the addition of a Lady Chapel recorded in 1268. This investigation will continue in 1985.
- Hedsor* SU8586
A cast bronze saucer-brooch of sixth-century date, whose decoration consists of two crouching beasts contained within three perimeter grooves, was found by a member of South Bucks Metal Detector Club. (92:1984)
- Ivinghoe* SP 949164
The name 'Windmill Furlong', it has been suggested by Messrs Hawkins and Levy, could indicate the site of a mill whose existence is referred to in the Winchester Pipe Rolls on 1217 and 1218.
- Leckhampstead* SP 728375
Earthworks at Middle End, visible on aerial photographs and on the ground, reported by A. Chadburn, probably represent village shrinkage and include the site of the manor house known as 'The Toy'.
- Old Wolverton* SP 8040
A cast copper-alloy Saxon disc brooch was found by Mr Smith of Wolverton and donated to MKAU. The brooch, gilded on the face, would originally have contained four wedge-shaped inlaid garnets alternating with smaller rectangular garnets around a central circular inlay. Infill panels contained style I animal ornament.
- Penn* SU 909939
Mrs D. Waterton located a late medieval/Tudor pottery industry producing wares in a bricky fabric with brown/black glaze. Some 'Potter Row' type rims were also present. From the same site came pieces of five medieval impressed tiles, one of which may be a waster. Some material with BCM, some with Mr M. Green. (83:1984)
- Preston Bissett* SP 65832976
Sherds of medieval cooking pot, largely from two vessels, were found by Mr P. Cornwell on removing concrete from a farmyard.
- Shenley Brook End* SP 82963564
An MSC project directed by M. R. Petchey with P. Sewter for MKAU commenced examination of a settlement lying on the south side of a hollow way between Shenley Brook End and Westbury Farm. One of four platforms is

currently being excavated. The platform is defined on three sides by ditches and traces of two buildings have so far been uncovered. A causeway crosses the boundary ditch near the south-west corner of the toft and a heavily metalled path runs from here to building 1. An intensive fieldwalking programme has also located the site of up to six further ploughed out platforms north of the hollow way; their former presence is indicated by spreads of building material.

Wendover SP 87150737
When a septic tank was dug on the eastern margin of, but within, St Mary's churchyard, an occupation horizon and/or pit containing large sherds of medieval cooking pot was exposed. This, with finds previously recorded in the vicinity of Heron Cottage, may indicate a continuous spread of medieval occupation lying beside the stream which was subsequently taken in by the cemetery. (BCM)

POSTMEDIEVAL AND UNDATED

Biddlesden SP 670409
A square enclosure (?earthwork) was photographed from the air by Mr G. Foard in 1983.

were observed in a pipe-trench cut in 1982. Undated.

Hanslope SP 82544589
An earthwork, approximately triangular, enclosing a spring and recorded on an air photograph may be an embanked fishpond, or possibly a former garden feature of Hanslope Park.

Newport Pagnell SP 889422
A possible sub-circular enclosure was photographed from the air as a cropmark by Mr G. Foard in 1983.

Ickford SP 65560672
A possible fishpond adjacent to a stream on the Ickford/Shabbington boundary was identified by Mr and Mrs Bunce.

Wendover SP 85970922
Roadworks during 1937 uncovered two or more skeletons whose discovery was reported in the *Bucks Herald* for 12 November 1937, but has not apparently been recorded in print elsewhere. Copies of photographs taken at the time were recently deposited at BCM. No grave goods were recorded.

Leckhampstead SP 72763785
A rectangular terraced feature on a steep hill, partially ditched, recorded by A. Chadburn, may be the site of a structure.

Wing SP 86762409-86802396
A group of eleven ditches 0.4-0.6m deep were recorded in 1982 in a pipeline trench. Undated.

Mentmore SP 90132156-90312151
A series of eight U-profile features c.0.7m deep