

EXCAVATIONS AT MAGIOVINIUM, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, 1978-80

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First published in print in Records of Buckinghamshire volume 29 in 1987.

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APPENDIX: A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF MAGIOVINIUM

EASY ON-LINE ACCESS TO FIGURES AND PLATES:

This report runs to a total of 137 printed pages, which makes it too large for publication on-line as a single digital file. The report has therefore been split into eleven separate sections. Each can be downloaded separately and saved locally.

The report contains 56 drawings ('figures') and 12 photographs ('plates'). For ease of access these have all been saved into a single file titled 'Magiovinium – figures and plates'. The reader should open (or download) this file when reading any of the report's 11 sections. Individual illustrations referenced in the text can then be found by searching for 'Figure XX' or 'Plate XX', where 'XX' is the number of the figure or plate you wish to view.

The full details for academic source references given in the text can be found in the 11th and last section of the report: 'A bibliography of Magiovinium'.

APPENDIX: A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF MAGIOVINIUM
by Andrew R. Pike

1. *Itinerarium Provinciarum Antonini Augusti* [Antonine Itinerary], probably written some time in the 2nd century A.D., lists *Magiovinto*, *Magiovinio* in three of the Itineraries (471, 476, 479) (see A. L. F. Rivet, 'The British Section of the Antonine Itinerary', *Britannia* 1 (1970) 34-82).

2. W. Camden, *Britannia* (1586) and subsequent editions). Mentions Magiovinium, identifying it with *Madning mony*, *Madning-boure*, *Madin boure* (i.e. Maiden Bower, Beds).

3. Early commentaries on the Antonine Itinerary (W. Burton 1658, P. Wesselingio 1735) follow Camden (2 above) in placing Magiovinium at Maiden Bower, but also suggest Ashwell, Herts.

4. J. Horsley, *Britannia Romana, or the Roman Antiquities of Britain* (1732) 422. Traces the Antonine Itinerary along Watling Street. He considers Stony Stratford 'which has generally had one of the stations in the Itinerary allotted to it. The situation by a river, where Watling Street crosses it, and some

Continued on the following page...

coins found thereabout, are the strongest arguments for it. It is too near to Towcester to be made another mansion in the Itinerary. Probably the Romans might have some small guard here. Our distance along the military way carries us beyond it. If we adhere to the present numbers and order of the itinerary, sixteen of its miles, as in the 6th and 8th itinera, or seventeen measured, according to Ogilby, from Towcester to Brickhill; a mite less than this will bring us almost back to Fenny Stratford, and I confess I am here inclined to pay so much regard to authority and etymology as to suppose a transposition of names in this *iter*, and to place Durocibrivae here near the water, and Magiovinium at Dunstable, where there is a chalky hill and no river near it.' [In the Itineraries themselves he describes Magiovinio (MP XXVIII) as being at Fenny Stratford.]

5. [Browne Willis MS 98 fo. 35v and MS 100 fo. 133v, Bodleian Library, Oxford, c.1740,] Refers to Horsley's account (4 above) of Fenny Stratford being a Roman town. Willis says he has had about 100 Roman coins brought to him which were found there. The next station beyond Dunstable must lie on the north side of the river where all maps place it. it cannot be at Stony Stratford which is doubtless a new town, and Old Stratford is at too wide a distance to answer to the Roman stadia.

Willis does not consider there is enough evidence to establish the Roman town of Lactorodum's site at Stony Stratford. All maps place it on the north side of the river which excludes its being in Buckinghamshire. Some authorities place it at Old Stratford, Northants. But the distance from Dunstable is too great whereas Fenny Stratford is the correct distance. As well as the 100 Roman coins, other Roman remains have been found there. No coins have been found at Stony Stratford.

6. W. Stukeley, *Account of Richard of Cirencester* (1757) 41, 68, 85. The itineraries attributed to Richard of Cirencester are in fact a contemporary forgery by C. J. Bertram, who deceived Stukeley. Magiovinium is equated with Dunstable, and Lactorodum [sic] with Stony Stratford.

7. W. Stukeley, *Itinerarium Curiosum* (1776). In recording his travels in England in 1725, Stukeley identifies Magiovinium with Dunstable.

8. Society of Antiquaries of London, *Minute Book*, vol. 25 (1793-6). The proceedings for 27 March 1794 included the exhibition to the Society by Walden Henry Hanmer, Esq. of a bronze bust of Roman workmanship, recently found together with a ring and several Roman

coins 'in a field near Fenny Stratford in Bucks in the parish of Little Brickhill by the side of the Watling Street.'

9. T. Reynolds, *Commentary on the Itinerary* (1799). Identifies Magiovinio as lying near Fenny Stratford, perhaps at Bletchley or Sympson, although he notes that no Roman remains have been found at either place. He believes the site might be at Water Eaton [which is, of course, adjacent to the actual site!], Durocibrivis is identified with Dunstable and Maiden Bower is interpreted as a precursor of either Magiovinium or Dunstable.

10. [H. Hatcher,] *Commentary on Richard of Cirencester's Itinerary* (1809). Hatcher's edition of the Itinerary (see also 6 above) places Magiovinium at 'Old Fields', south of Fenny Stratford.

11. D. and S. Lysons, *Magna Britannia* 1 (pt. 3, Buckinghamshire) (1813) 483, 485, A communication is published from the Bishop of Cloyne who mentions Magiovinium, twelve miles from Dunstable 'which will fall certainly within the limits of Buckinghamshire' at Fenny Stratford, quarter of a mile from the village 'at the Auld fields on a small elevation on the south side of the rivulet, where coins and foundations of buildings have been dug up there in abundance, Browne Willis [the 18th-century Buckinghamshire historian] had many of the former in his possession.'

12. H. Brandreth, 'Observations on the Roman Station of Magiovinium', *Archaeologia* 27 (1838). Considers the available evidence, together with suggestions of Magiovinium being at Maiden Bower, Totternhoe Castle and Dunstable. Place-name evidence is summarized with the suggestion that Magiovinium may have been at or near Well Head, Dunstable, although no definite conclusion is reached.

13. G. Lipscomb, *History and Antiquities of the County of Buckingham* 4 (1847) 29-30. The first detailed county history to be published merely quotes Lysons (11 above) in its discussion of Magiovinium,

14. Society of Antiquaries of London, *Proceedings* 1 (1843-9). Communications by Charles Roach Smith and Edward Pretty suggest that Magiovinium was 'at or near Fenny Stratford where numerous Roman coins and other Roman remains had been found in the vicinity, particularly near the While Hart Inn [now Dropshort Farm]. On one field the figure of an eagle was found.'

15. J. J. Sheahan, *History and Topography of Buckinghamshire* (1862) 25, 532. In his general survey of the county Sheahan, who relied much on earlier printed sources, confirms the siting of Magiovinium as being at Dropshort. He adds that there are no traces remaining but Roman remains are frequently discovered here, the last in 1857, and that coins of Nero, Claudius, Caesar Augustus, Constantine, etc., are in the possession of Mr John Morris of the White Hart Inn, Fenny Stratford.

16. Society of Antiquaries of London, *Proceedings* (2nd series) 2 (1861-4) 60. Notes the exhibition to the Society in February 1862 of a small intaglio and portions of a fibula and *armilla* from the site of 'a Roman station near Fenny Stratford, considered by some antiquaries to be the site of Magioventum'

17. *Associated Architectural Societies Reports and Papers* 11 (1871) xliv-xlvi. A paper by Dr Prior summarizes existing information and suggestions of the siting of Magiovinium. Careful study of the Antonine Itinerary which places Magiovinium as xii Roman miles from *Durocbrivae* and xvii from *Lactodorum* (Towcester) firmly locates it on Watling Street, by Dropshort Farm. There there is a field called Chester's Piece where Roman remains—a brick, pottery and coins—exist in great profusion. During the last twenty years at least a thousand Roman coins have been found, as well as rings, gems, weights and bronzes. Foundations, probably those of the north wall of the station, were traced across the field, though the ground was not opened for more than a foot or so in depth. The Roman station was probably eight acres or more in extent.

19. *Victoria History of the Counties of England: Buckinghamshire*, vol. 2 (1908) 2-5; vol. 4 (1927) 275. Summarizes the principal writings on Magiovinium to date and concludes that the station has now definitely been proved to be at Dropshort, Little Brickhill, and not at Fenny Stratford.

20. Society of Antiquaries of London, *Proceedings* (2nd series) 24 (1911-12) 35-7. Professor F. Haverfield notes a small piece of samian ware from Fenny Stratford (type 29) in Little Brickhill parish close to Dropshort House. Several other Roman remains have been found here. He also notes that Messrs W. Bradbrook and J. Berry made a small excavation in a grass field close to the Ouzel and south of it and of Watling Street where they found painted wall plaster, tesserae and tiles. Here lie the 'Auld-fields' described by Lysons (11 above). He believes Magiovinium stood close to Dropshort and

hopes that Berry and Bradbrook will find the site of actual houses.

21. W. Bradbrook, *History of Fenny Stratford, Bucks* [reprinted from the *Leighton Buzzard Observer*, 16 May-19 December 1911] Bradbrook is certain that Magiovinium does not lie in Fenny Stratford but in the parishes of Little and Bow Brickhill, bounded on the north by the Ouzel and on the south by Galley Lane and the Bow Brickhill road, Dropshort was probably just outside the line of the north wall or boundary. He summarizes earlier writers' comments on the Roman station and mentions his own finding of a path or roadway 2½ ft below the surface at the orchard at Dropshort, together with much pottery and animal bone.

22. *Records of Buckinghamshire* 10 (1912) 149. Notes the acquisition of coins found on the site of Magiovinium—broken denarius of Heliogabalus, three indecipherable Roman bronze coins—by Buckinghamshire County Museum in 1911.

23. Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Buckinghamshire* 2 (1913) 174. Notes the 1911 excavations at Dropshort (20 above). No remains now visible above ground except stray tiles, potsherds, etc., each side of Watling Street, south of Fenny Stratford and Dropshort hamlet. The entry concludes: 'If the fields were excavated or prepared for building, larger discoveries would follow, and the site should be carefully watched; it ought to be scientifically explored.'

24. J. P. Wyness, *A Watling Street Village—Little Brickhill, Bucks* (1933) 11-12. (A series of articles reprinted from the *North Bucks Times*, September-December 1933.)

25. R. C. Morell, *Bow Brickhill, Buckinghamshire* (1934) 7-12. These two parish histories summarize existing information and mention the finding of Roman pottery at the site during road widening operations in 1933. Previous finds including samian, Belgic and the common Castor ware are noted, together with bowls, amphorae, etc. Morell notes the finding, in 1934, of a 2nd-century A.D. glass bead which he illustrates, and lists as other recent finds fibulae, a bronze bracelet, and a 3rd-century intaglio with the device of Jupiter holding a sceptre. He also illustrates five Roman coins—of Trajan, Postumus, Victorinus, and Constantinus, and mentions a cabinet of coins presented by Browne Willis in the 18th century to Oxford University, known as the Numismata Willisiana and which apparently includes coins from this site.

26. I. D. Margary, *Roman Roads In Britain* 1 (1955) 156-8, The alignment of Watling Street and its relationship to Magiovinium is discussed.
27. *Bletchley and District Archaeological Society Bulletin* 1 (1955). This typescript sheet describes excavations from March 1955 by O. Tapper to determine the centre of Magiovinium. His work concentrated on the 'Bathing station site' at Fenny Stratford. The first trench uncovered a human skeleton of unknown date. Other trenches located forty coins, ranging in date from A.D. 260 to 380, pottery (including amphorae, samian and Castor wares), roof and flue tiles, wall plaster and tesserae. Tapper proposes to open up more of the site where aerial photographs suggest the presence of foundations of quite a large building. Preliminary work on the skeletons suggests a Saxon context.
28. *Bletchley and District Archaeological Society Bulletin* 2 (1956). Survey of the Roman pottery from Magiovinium by M. Carter.
29. C. W. Green, 'Romano-British Sites and their Communications; The Ouse Valley', *Records of Buckinghamshire* 16 (1956) 99-103. Possible lines of Roman roads in North Bucks are discussed, including those converging on Magiovinium from Irchester and Buckingham. Green mentions recent excavations on the fringe of the site which only located collections of coins, pottery and bones, with evidence of Saxon and later habitation much mixed up among them.
30. B. A. Kettle, 'Preliminary Report of History of Magiovinium, Fenny Stratford, Bucks' [typescript c.1957, at Bucks County Museum, Aylesbury]. The principal writings on Magiovinium are summarized, together with archaeological work at the site. The 1955/6 excavations (27 above) are described and criticized, since the 'finds' were dispersed to the various homes of members of the Society and no report was made. Mention is also made of a number of unofficial 'digs' on the site. Kettle describes new trenches opened on the Bathing station site, again revealing much pottery—some of which was mediaeval. By the end of 1956, thirteen skeletons had been removed from the Bathing station site. A report on the skeletons by Mr T. Gardner is appended.
31. *Bletchley District Gazette*, 12 August 1961. Records the unearthing of a skeleton, thought to be 1,000 years old, during excavations by a Bletchley archaeological group. Finds included much pottery, a bronze brooch, bone needles and pins, coins, and a silver ligula. The site under excavation was believed to lie outside the Roman settlement, being used as an early Saxon burial ground. The actual settlement is believed to lie astride Watling Street and under Dropshort Farm.
32. T. Gardner, 'Notes and Observations on Burials from "Bathing Station" Site, Fenny Stratford, Bletchley, Bucks' [typescript c. 1961, at Bucks County Museum, Aylesbury]. A report is made on the twenty-six burials discovered so far from the site. Some children are included. No precise dating is possible, though a wide date range, from the 5th to 10th centuries A.D. is postulated.
33. H. W. Pengelly, *The Bletchley Archaeological and Historical Society Bathing Station Excavations 1964. Report* (c.1964), A building of stone and timber was excavated, together with a shallow, flat-bottomed ditch. Five further burials were found, bringing the total so far to forty-four. Separate reports on the pottery, small finds, animal remains, plant remains and coins are appended.
34. Viatores, *Roman Roads in the South-East Midlands* (1964) 273, 311. The routes of the Roman roads from Dorchester-on-Thames to Alcon bury House (Beds) and Fenny Stratford to Buckingham are described in relation to Magiovinium. 'Until more research has been done on the site of Magiovinium, it will not be clear whether this road left the Roman station by an independent river crossing on its west side, or from Watling Street north of the Ousel Bridge.'
35. *Records of Buckinghamshire* 17 (1963-5) 204, 303, 411, Excavation at the Bathing Station site by the Bletchley Archaeological and Historical Society are noted in 1963, 1964 and 1965, Rubbish pits, rubble foundations, late Roman walks, late 3rd-4th century coins, Romano-British sherds, animal bones and a further five graves, three cut into a late Roman floor, were found.
36. R. W. Griffiths, 'Fenny Stratford Hoard, Found 9th July 1962', *Wolverton and District Archaeological Society Newsletter* 11 (1967) 27-8. The finding of a hoard of some 251 coins of 4th-century date is described, found in association with a 4th-century building, probably a temple. The hoard had indications of being in a bag when concealed—a metal clasp being found with them. Skeletons of the same date were also found on the site, buried just before destruction of the building.
37. *Records of Buckinghamshire* 18 (1967) 165, 166.
38. D. R. Wilson, 'Roman Britain in 1967', *Journal of Roman Studies* 58 (1968) 192. A note records the

finding, by members of the Bletchley Archaeological and Historical Society during laying of a gas pipe in 1967, of a hoard of 296 Roman silver denarii, subsequently declared to be Treasure Trove. Also a group of five Romano-British tools associated with a hearth, and two cobbled areas, two pits and a ditch containing 2nd-century A.D. pottery and animal bones. Further sherds and a piece of whetstone were found subsequently. The coins were declared Treasure Trove. Five were bought by the British Museum. The remainder, and the tools, are in the Bucks County Museum.

39. M. H. Crawford, 'Bletchley Treasure Trove of Roman Imperial Denarii', *Numismatic Chronicle* (7th series) 9 (1969) 113-32. The coin hoard (noted in 37-8 above) is listed and fully described. It was found at the junction of Watling Street and Galley Lane. The latest dated coin is of A.D. 183. Condition of the coins ranges from worn to excellent with the early coins generally being in poor condition and the later ones in good condition.

40. D. R. Wilson, 'Roman Britain in 1969', *Britannia* 1 (1970) 288-9.

41. *Records of Buckinghamshire* 18 (1970) 439-40. These two notes both record rescue excavations in 1969 by the Bletchley Archaeological and Historical Society during widening of Watling Street in the vicinity of Magiovinium. Remains of timber and stone buildings of the 2nd-4th centuries were found, and also a mid-1st century A.D. timber building. The south-eastern ditch of Magiovinium, containing a fill of building debris and some late 3rd to 4th-century pottery, and showing evidence of a palisade, was located.

42. C. Green, 'Upper Ouse Valley: The Roman Scene', *Wolverton Historical Journal* (1970) 55-9. Green considers Magiovinium and other Roman sites in North Bucks and South Northants. He believes Magiovinium to have been a small, insubstantially-built town with a straggling suburbia to the west.

43. D. R. Wilson, 'Roman Britain in 1970', *Britannia* 2 (1971) 268. Notes a sewer-trench parallel with Watling Street intersecting more than 100 Roman features including the north-west and south-east defences of Magiovinium. A floor associated with 3rd-4th-century pottery was also found.

44. *Records of Buckinghamshire* 19 (1971) 94 and Pl. VIII. A cropmark on an air photograph is recorded as probably a 'fort'.

45. *Records of Buckinghamshire* 19 (1972) 219, 2nd-4th-century A.D. pottery, building debris, the base of a pseudo-Venus pipe-clay figure and an inhumation, found on the Bathing station site in 1971 when a sewer trench was dug, are noted.

46. D. C. Mynard, 'Archaeology in North Bucks 1970/71', *Milton Keynes Journal of Archaeology and History* 1 (1972) 5, 6, 16. The excavations at the Galley Lane crossroads (40-1 above) are noted, together with a well-cambered late 1st or early 2nd-century road,

47. W. H. Manning, 'Ironwork Hoards in Iron Age and Roman Britain', *Britannia* 3 (1972) 224-50. The group of tools (37-8 above) found in 1967, which contained two lugged axes, a chisel and large spoon-bit is discussed in context with other hoards. It might be earlier than other known hoards in Southern Britain, perhaps of the 1st or 2nd centuries.

48. *Records of Buckinghamshire* 19 (1973) 346. Roman pottery from the forecourt of the Pullman Café is noted.

49. J. Bertram, 'Magiovinium 1974' [typescript 1974, at Bucks County Museum, Aylesbury]. Summarizes the results of a watching brief in November 1974 when field drains were being laid in the field east of the bridge carrying Watling Street over the Ouzel. The boundary of Magiovinium, a deep ditch probably revetted with stone, was located. Outside the ditch little trace of occupation towards the south was found, but towards the east a consistent scatter of pottery and some building material was located. Inside, two buildings were identified, with a third standing virtually in the ditch.

50. *Records of Buckinghamshire* 20 (1975) 137. Notes the observing by P. Westcombe of a recently recut ditch on the south side of Watling Street and within the town of Magiovinium when four walls were recorded. Unstratified pottery included a pre-Flavian samian rim of Drag. 24/25. The watching brief by J. Bertram (49 above) is also noted,

51. *Bletchley Archaeological and Historical Society*, 'Representations to F. H. Clinch . . . concerning the London and Holyhead Trunk Road (Diversion through Milton Keynes) Order 197' (n.d.). This objection to the proposed A5 Diversion summarizes the available information on Magiovinium and considers that the proposed road would interfere with the outlying post of the town, which is unique in Southern England by being hitherto virtually untouched.

52. *The Times*, 11 July 1975 (article by M. Horsnell).
53. *The Daily Telegraph*, 21 July 1975 (article by C. Dover). Both newspaper articles (52-3) summarize the growing archaeological resistance to the proposed A5 diversion.
54. 'An Excavation at Dropshort Farm, Summer 1975: A report on the trial excavations of Magiovinium made along and beside the line of the proposed A5 Diversion' [typescript 1977, at Bucks County Museum, Aylesbury]. The record of an inconclusive excavation which had to be left uncompleted, with little post-excavation work undertaken. Under the general direction of Dame Kathleen Kenyan, the site was supervised by Miss D. M. Hudson, Mrs A. P. Tapper and Mr N. Farrant.
- Three main periods were established; (i) Roman timber-framed buildings parallel to a north-south road of the 1st century A.D., which were burnt down; (ii) two parallel ditches dug diagonally across the site, cutting remains of earlier timber-framed buildings, probably for drainage or boundary purposes and silted up in early 2nd century; (iii) a stone structure later erected across some of these earlier features. The early buildings are interpreted as being part of a larger plan, perhaps part of a fort for the XIV legion.
- A note on pottery recovered from the excavation by H. Pengelly is appended, as are two statements from Dame Kathleen Kenyan and N. Farrant pointing out the threat to Magiovinium from the proposed A5 diversion.
55. A5 Action Council, 'Magiovinium and the A5' [typescript, n.d.]. Summarizes the evidence for Magiovinium and the destruction that the proposed new road would wreak. The inaccuracy of the scheduling of the site is stressed.
56. *The Times*, 18 May 1977 (article by P Howard).
57. *The Guardian*, 5 September 1977 (article by G. Linscott). Both articles (56-7) reiterate the threat to a hitherto virtually undisturbed Roman town and point out that a much larger than the officially scheduled part of the site should be considered.
58. C. Woodfield, 'A Roman Military Site at Magiovinium?', *Records of Buckinghamshire* 20 (1977) 384-99. A water-pipe trench laid in 1976 clipped the corner of a 5½ acre ditched enclosure south-east of Magiovinium. The profile and construction of the ditches indicate, though not conclusively, that it is military work, and finds suggest construction in the Neronian period, probably related to military consolidation after the Boudiccan rebellion. The military structure was apparently deserted in the Flavian period, and deliberately backfilled, in the area sectioned at least. There are indications of either alterations to the main enclosure, or possibly a second ditched enclosure on the same site. Civilian occupation of the site from the conquest, or just before, to the 2nd century is also attested.
59. S. S. Frere, 'Roman Britain in 1976', *Britannia* 8 (1977) 400. Notes the discovery of two possible Roman fort ditches [described in 58 above].

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