

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES FROM BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM

These notes include archaeological discoveries reported during 1992 and a few earlier finds. The results of some fieldwalking not yet processed will be included at a later date. 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 been recorded, nor single Roman coin finds, nor field scatters of medieval pottery unless of sufficient quantity to indicate settlement. Bracketed numbers indicate that the material is with the County Museum (BCM). The County Museum Archaeological Group is abbreviated as CMAG. Ab-

breviated grid references have unfortunately had to be given for some sites to prevent looting. The use of this list as a guide for metal detecting inhibits future publication of information, something that is in nobody's long term interest.

During the year new discoveries were made during assessments for the widening of the M1 and M25 motorways in the county. An evaluation of the proposed Tingewick bypass was also undertaken. The County Council's scheme to improve the A421 road between Buckingham and Milton Keynes led to further discoveries. These are listed individually below.

Andrew Pike

## PREHISTORIC

- |   |              |   |                           |
|---|--------------|---|---------------------------|
| <i>Beaconsfield</i>   | SU 9255 8855 | <i>Halton/Wendover</i>  | SP 88 07                  |
| A polished axe in white flint was found by H. Crane.  |              | Part of a late Bronze Age socketed sickle or reaping hook was found by Paul Smith.  |                           |
| <i>Bledlow-cum-Saunderton</i>   | SP 7959 0002 | <i>Hambleden</i>  | SU 790 847                |
| Part of a neolithic flint axe was found by B. M. Read.  |              | A small ring ditch showing as a cropmark was recorded on air photographs taken by RCHM (E).   |                           |
| <i>Chetwode</i>   | SP 641 302   | <i>Hanslope</i>   | SP 789 451 and SP 787 447 |
| A possible ring ditch showing as a cropmark was recorded on air photographs taken by RCHM (E).          |              | Two square enclosures showing as cropmarks were recorded on air photographs taken by RCHM (E).  |                           |
| <i>Emberton</i>   | SP 891 503   | <i>Hillesden</i>  | SP 6873 2920              |
| A double rectangular enclosure showing as a cropmark was recorded on air photographs taken by RCHM (E). |              | A possible enclosure and ring ditch with associated field system showing as cropmarks were recorded on air photographs taken by RCHM (E). |                           |
| <i>Gerrards Cross</i>   | TQ 0156 8936 | <i>Lavendon</i>   | SP 9073 5371              |
| Flint flakes, a rounded scraper, a retouched blade and a retouched flake were found by Bob Flynn.       |              | A square enclosure showing as a cropmark was recorded on air photographs taken by RCHM (E).   |                           |
| <i>Gerrards Cross</i>   | TQ 0022 8846 | <i>Penn</i>   | SU 9093 9368              |
| An unlooped bronze palstave of Bronze Age date was found by J. Rowley.                                  |              | Part of a copper alloy leaf-shaped spearhead of late Bronze Age date was found by B. M. Read.   |                           |
| <i>Great &amp; Little Kimble</i>  | SP 8138 0922 |   |                           |
| A flint barbed-&-tanged arrowhead, length 29mm, was found by Ed Kendrick. (1992.147.1)                  |              |   |                           |

*Princes Risborough* SP 8138 0376  
Parts of a human skeleton were found by Raymond Barnard during gardening. Possibly prehistoric from a ploughed-out round barrow, in view of the many prehistoric burials in the same general area.

*Stone* SP 779 120 (*centre*)  
An evaluation of part of the St John's Hospital site found part of an early neolithic pit containing pottery, and flint blades and flakes. (BCM)

*Turweston* SP 5839 3661  
A side-looped, socketed spearhead of Bronze Age date was found by Gary Croucher during sewer works.

*Wendover* SP 861 071 & 861 071  
A visit to Bacombe Hill during scrub clearance showed that the round barrow here was either a bowl or bell barrow. A second barrow (pond barrow?) was provisionally identified nearby.

#### ROMANO-BRITISH

*Buckingham* SP 7000 3250  
During development of an industrial estate in the 1980's David Shelley noted a number of pits and ditches. Pieces of broken kiln bar suggest a possible Roman kiln site. A Roman brooch was also found. (1992.68)

*Buckingham/Thornborough* SP 7233  
'Hoard' of 102 Roman bronze coins, including Gallienus, Victorinus, Tetricus, Claudius II Diocletian & Carausius found in a river bed by David Shelley. Nearby Gordon Heritage found a Roman iron hipposandal and a spearhead of possible Saxon date. (1992.60.1-2)

*Drayton Beauchamp* SP 89 13  
Iron Age and Roman grog-tempered and other sherds were found in a ploughed field by Mrs Val Kempster. (1992.59)

*Gayhurst* SP 842 456  
A scatter of limestone building material and pottery was noted during a survey in connection with the widening of the M1 motorway.

*Hughenden* SU 836 969  
Pieces of iron slag together with fragments of hearth/furnace lining were found by Trevor Hussey within a previously recorded enclosure. A Roman date is suggested. (1992.4.1-15)

*Oldbrook, Milton Keynes* SP 85 37  
A small scatter of Romano-British material was re-

vealed during preparation of a site for housing and a watching brief during development undertaken. The extent of the site could not be defined but did not appear to be large and no building material was discovered. (BCM)

*Quarrendon* SP 7815  
A number of third and fourth-century coins, 5 Roman brooch fragments, part of a copper alloy seal box & 2 military belt fittings were found by D. Critoph. (1992.108.1-8)

*Shalstone* SP 6437  
A metal detector survey by David Shelley over an area where G. Purefoy had noted Roman pottery produced about 50 coins of the third and fourth century in a confined area.

*Stoke Hammond* SP 87 30 10  
Belgic/early Roman sherds were found near a previously recorded cropmark of a possible enclosure. (1992.94.1-5; 1992.146)

*Thornborough* SP 726 332  
Re-alignment of the A421 led to a small excavation of a Romano-British site at Bourton Grounds, under Philip Carstairs' direction. A 2m wide trench adjacent to the present road revealed traces of at least two stone buildings together with a series of enclosure (?) ditches, of late pre-Roman Iron Age to fourth-century date. (BCM)

#### SAXON AND MEDIEVAL

*Aylesbury* SP 82 15  
A few Saxon grass-tempered sherds were found by Tom Clark. (1992.58)

*Burnham* SP 9308 8048  
During building work at Burnham Abbey Mr & Mrs Don Miller recorded the base of a medieval chalk

wall; the chalk blocks had been set in mortar and laid in courses. The wall probably represented one of the claustral buildings.

*Ellesborough* SP 834 071

A mount, probably of fourteenth-century date and used for decorating leatherwork was found by N. Handscombe. It has fleur-de-lys devices, perhaps the arms of "France Ancient".

*Gerrards Cross* TQ 0120 8838

A piece of over-fired roof tile and a glazed and vitrified brick picked up by Bob Flynn might indicate the site of a tileworks recorded in the area in A.D. 1315.

*Hanslope* SP 8233 4655 (centre)

A series of rectangular ponds astride a stream were identified during a survey in connection with the widening of the M1 motorway. A hollow way and other earthworks were also noted.

*High Wycombe* SU 892 929

A complete copper alloy Saxon buckle with decoration on buckle and pin was found and reported to Wycombe Local History and Chair Museum who have since acquired it.

*High Wycombe* SU 8703 9285

A documentary study of the remains of St John's Hospital was undertaken, prior to a scheme to upgrade the presentation and condition of the monument.

*Lavendon* SP 9153 5387

Medieval pottery, including a jug handle probably from the Lyveden or Potterspury kilns, was found by T. Rackham of the County Engineer's Department. (1992.110)

*Milton Keynes Village* SP 88 39

During extension of a car park, a large number of inhumations was revealed, adjacent to an area where burials of apparently mid Saxon date were recorded by Dennis Mynard in 1967. Over sixty articulated individuals were recorded under Jo Lawson's direction, together with much disarticulated bone. The cemetery had clearly been in use for a considerable period. There were no grave goods, but scraps of pottery recovered from the cemetery soil indicate that burials took place from the mid to the late Saxon

period until perhaps the twelfth century. (BCM)

*Penn* SU 9242 9443

A windmill mound first noted in 1989 (see *Recs* 31, 237) was sectioned by Mr and Mrs Stan Cauvain. The tile and pottery found suggests a fourteenth century date for its construction. (1992.64)

*Shalstone* SP 641 363

House platforms were noted by David Shelley. Medieval pottery and hammered silver coins were also found.

*Shalstone* SP 641 361

Medieval pottery including Potterspury and Brill wares was found by David Shelley together with pennies of John and Edward I. (1992.114.1-106).

*Stowe* SP 678 372

A tenth-century strap tag of copper alloy with decorative panel of interlace between 'snout' and fan was found by P. Wescombe. (1992.93.1)

*Tattenhoe* SP 82 32

An excavation of a small Saxon inhumation cemetery was directed by Andrew Hunn. The site was discovered by Gordon Heritage and George Foster during realignment of the A421. Five individuals were found in association with grave goods of seventh-century date. The condition of the skeletal remains was very poor and location of burials was much helped by the metal detectorists. One burial assemblage comprised a necklace of silver wire loops, a silver pendant, glass and amethyst beads and a bronze pin. Iron spears and knives from other inhumations bore mineralised traces of the organic components (straw and textiles) of the surfaces upon which the inhumations had originally lain. The cemetery was small but may have extended further to the south or been partly removed by ploughing. (1992.96.1-2)

*Tingewick* SP 6570 3243

A survey in connection with the proposed Tingewick by-pass located a hollow way and house platforms.

*Wendover* SP 87 07

Part of a gilded disc, possibly from a late Saxon disc brooch, was found by Paul Smith.

*Wolverton* SP 803 407

An excavation was undertaken at the Post Office

Training College at Wolverton Mill, Milton Keynes, financed by the Royal Mail and directed by Philip Carstairs. Previous investigations in the 1970s indicated the presence of archaeological features and an evaluation in 1991 demonstrated the site's extent. Work in 1992 exposed a complex of ditches defining the perimeter of a large enclosure, approximately 150 x 160m in size. The principal feature was a ditch

about 2.5m wide, with smaller parallel "satellite" ditches on either side. Two other ditches on the inside of the enclosure and one outside were also located. The mid-Saxon date was confirmed by the artefacts within the features, which included sand-tempered Ipswich type pottery and shell-tempered Maxey type fabrics, quernstone fragments and a bone comb. (BCM)

#### POST-MEDIEVAL AND UNDATED

- Aston Clinton* SP 8867 1167  
A brick domed icehouse in good condition, within the former Rothschild Estate of Green Park (Aston Clinton Park) was recorded following information from B. Harrison.
- Aylesbury* SP 8139 1369  
A survey and documentary research of the Oxford Road watermill, probably on the site of the Domesday mill and the later medieval Spital Mill was undertaken by Ivor Westmore following a threat of demolition. The present brick mill building is of late nineteenth century date. At present its destiny is unknown.
- Aylesbury* SP 8275 1440  
Building works at the prison uncovered what was probably the grave of an executed prisoner of the last century. Other human bones are said to have been found.
- Bledlow-cum-Saunderton* SP 769 050  
Remains of a few houses, together with brick and tile in adjacent fields, indicate the site of the hamlet of Lockington which is shown on eighteenth and early nineteenth century maps and were drawn to the attention of the County Museum by R. A. Kidd.
- Bletchley* SP 8654 3425  
Trial trenching by Philip Carstairs for Messrs. Lawson-Price was undertaken in Bletchley Park. Previous work by Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit had located Romano-British activity. The trial trenches revealed traces of several ditches, few of which contained much Romano-British material, suggesting that these features were on the periphery of the main settlement. A "corn drier" flue was also located. A large ditch backfilled in the post-medieval period was also located as were the foundations of some of the former Government Code and Cypher
- School buildings dating to the Second World War. (BCM)
- Buckingham* SP 688 315  
Part of a rectangular enclosure with internal features was recorded on air photographs taken by RCHM (E).
- Creslow* SP 8067 2208  
A rectangular enclosure showing as a cropmark was recorded on air photographs taken by RCHM (E).
- Great & Little Hampden* SP 848 Q26  
Remains of a domed brick icehouse were recorded near Hampden House, perhaps the icehouse built in 1760 at a cost of £32 mentioned in the Hampden Estate Papers.
- Hulcott* SP 8539 1673  
A nineteenth-century complex of brick farm buildings was recorded and photographed before its conversion to dwellings.
- Great Woolstone* SP 8783 3835  
A gold mourning 'finger' ring with silver cup held between scallop shells was found by D. Williams. An inscription on it dates it to 1740.
- Stone* SP 778 121 (*centre*)  
The Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England) carried out a full photographic survey of St John's Hospital (the former County Lunatic Asylum) following its closure in 1991.
- Stone* SP 7856 1225  
Metal detecting by Tom Clark located a quantity of smelting slag and a roughly formed cast-iron slab. A blacksmith's workshop in the area is indicated. (BCM)
- Stowe* SP 674 374 (*centre*)  
Survey work by Angus Wainwright for the National

Trust discovered the extant base of the Stowe Pyramid, dating from 1726. Also investigated was the central floor of the Saxon Deities, found to have been constructed from the "floor" of the Thornborough Roman barrow, excavated by the Duke of Buckingham. The site of the Great Basin and surrounding area was also investigated.

*Wing*

SP 885 225

A pair of embanked rectangular fishponds, with two outlets, was recorded on air photographs taken by RCHM (E), at Ascott. The ponds are probably associated with earthworks of the terraces and formal gardens of the seventeenth-century Ascott House.