

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

These notes have been compiled by the Society, principally from notes provided by commercial archaeological organisations known to have carried out fieldwork in the county during 1999 (see last year's Introduction), with some additional information provided by Milton Keynes and Buckinghamshire County Councils' Archaeological Officers and other contributors. The compiler is grateful to these organisations and individuals for their assistance. Notes of fieldwork carried out by the compiler are recorded as 'compiler'.

The record is nevertheless incomplete since not all commercial organisations have responded to a request for information. The regional journal *South Midlands Archaeology* should therefore also be consulted. Changes within the County have also meant that a complete record of finds reported by private individuals (in particular by metal-detector users) is no longer available for inclusion, although records of some discoveries have been supplied.

The reader is reminded that the Sites and Monuments Records maintained by Buckinghamshire County Council and Milton Keynes Council are the primary sources for more detailed information on sites and finds. The compiler is always pleased to include records of significant finds for inclusion, from whatever source.

As previously, the precise location of some discoveries, particularly those which might contain metal objects, has not been given in order to reduce the chance of looting.

*Michael Farley*

## PREHISTORIC

### *Bierton with Broughton*

SP 837163

Cropmarks (?prehistoric) including a small sub-rectangular enclosure with central pit were photographed from the air. (compiler)

### *Cheddington*

SP 921165

Cropmarks of a sub-rectangular ditched enclosure with traces of an internal feature were photographed from the air adjacent to the hillfort at Southend Hill. It is possible that this is a cursus. (compiler)

### *Cholesbury*

SP 9290 0728

A watching brief carried out during erection of a footpath stile external to the northern defences of the Iron Age hillfort, for Buckinghamshire County Council Environmental Services, recorded no significant features apart from recent disturbance probably related to a former adjacent quarry. Two struck flints recovered during the work may have been by-products of the posthole digging. (compiler)

### *High Wycombe*

SU 856934

A gold-plated silver stater (van Arsdell type 52-3), an ancient forgery of c.60 BC, found in a back garden two years previously, was reported by Mr Simon Newman.

### *Hillesden*

SP 695276

Cropmarks of an arc of ditched enclosure, possibly with an inner ditch or bank, were photographed from the air. (compiler)

### *Marlow*

SU 8485

Fieldwalking by the Marlow Archaeological Society in September 1999 across a known ring ditch cemetery, produced finds of Bronze Age flint-work.

*Milton Keynes, Broughton Barn Quarry*

SP 9076 4056

A watching brief was undertaken by Andy Chapman of Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of GFX Hartigan Ltd prior to gravel extraction. It followed a detailed site evaluation by trial trenching. Two early Bronze Age cremations were located at the north-eastern end of the quarry in pits set 2.0m apart. In one a plain, undecorated urn was inverted over a deposit of cremated human bone, with a small collared urn as an accessory vessel. The second pit contained a deposit of pyre debris and a mass of cremated bone. Linear ditches of Roman date have been located in the north-western part of the quarry, but extraction has not yet reached the main area of known Roman activity. The watching brief will continue through 2000 and beyond.

*Newport Pagnell: Gayhurst Quarry* SP 8530 4460

An intensive watching-brief was carried out by Andy Chapman of Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of GFX Hartigan Ltd during soil stripping on areas between the seven Bronze Age round barrows, two Iron Age enclosures and two pit alignments excavated in 1998 prior to gravel extraction.

A further two pits of probable Bronze Age date containing un-urned cremation deposits were located. They lay 2.0m apart and 20m from one of the previously excavated barrows. In addition, a 130m length of a previously unknown pit alignment was identified. Later recutting as a continuous ditch had obscured the nature of its origin. The final stage of observation and recording will be undertaken in 2000.

*Stone*

SP 7910

Cropmarks of a ring ditch and possible trackway were photographed from the air. (compiler)

*Stone*

SP 7811

A quarter stater (the reverse similar to van Arsdell

type 1790, the obverse possibly of a previously unknown type) was discovered Mr T. Clark.

*Willen: Downs Barn*

SP 8617 4004

An excavation by Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust on behalf of McCann Homes revealed a section of a curvilinear ditched enclosure of Late Iron Age date. Post-dating the enclosures was a rectangular stone slabbed area of uncertain use [see full report this *Records*].

*ROMANO-BRITISH**Broughton, Milton Keynes*

SP 8940 4020

A programme of archaeological evaluation comprising earthwork and geophysical survey together with targeted trial trenching was carried out by Peter Masters and Alex Thorne of Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of English Partnerships, on land to the north and west of Broughton Rectory. Ditches of a Roman field system and a series of medieval boundary ditches were located, but no evidence of any associated medieval village settlement was detected. The majority of the earthworks within the area were shown to relate to extensive quarries of post-medieval to recent date.

*Great Missenden: Prestwood* (NGR withheld)

Two Roman coin hoards were discovered by various members of the Weekend Wanderers metal-detecting group during a rally at Prestwood. This 'club' operates on a weekly gate-fee basis over much of southern England and over 100 people were present at the time of discovery. The two finds were made in adjacent fields. Today the findspots lack any obvious geographical feature which might indicate why they were deposited and there is no other known occupation of this date in the area. In this respect they are similar to the Chalfont St Peter hoards published in *Records* 37 (1995).

At a subsequent Inquest both hoards were declared Treasure. The contents were described by staff of the British Museum. Prestwood A consisted of 110

denarii, date range 31BC-AD 220; and Prestwood B of 736 silvered bronze AD 307-317.

# SAXON AND MEDIEVAL

## Amersham

### Haddenham

SP 7209

A possible hoard of 31 bronze coins, also other metalwork, was found by Mr Warren Jackman.

An Anglo-Saxon silver buckle was found by Mrs Tracy Jenner during a metal-detector rally in September 1999. Declared Treasure at an Inquest on 5 September 2000.

### Olney: Lavendon Road

SP 980523

An archaeogeophysical survey by Bartlett-Clark Consultancy, for the Oxford Archaeological Unit, of the field immediately to the south of the Ash Furlong Roman settlement (a scheduled ancient monument) showed that the field had been extensively disturbed, probably by quarrying.

### Ashley Green

SP 9804

The County Museum reports the deposit of two pieces of decorated floor tile found by Ms Hannah Brown in a field said to have been utilised for dumping spoil from excavation of the moat at Grove Farm.

### Stoke Mandeville

SP 8310

Finds of Roman pottery including greyware, Oxford ware and possibly colour-coat, five coins and a brooch fragment were reported by Mr Jim Croxford.

Oxford Archaeological Unit carried out a watching brief on an electricity cable trench and sub-station at Boarstall Tower in July and August 1999 (report not to hand).

### Boarstall

SP 622142

### Stowe

see Post-Medieval and Undated

### Castlethorpe: 10-12 South Street

SP 7989 4435

Mr Paul Woodfield carried out rescue recording of a previously unrecorded 4-bay medieval house which was in the process of being altered. The three trusses were collared, with two having arch bracing and the third soulaces. In addition the soulaced truss had notch lap joints and 'tosh' pegging which suggested a late 14th-century date.

### Waddesdon

SP 7516

Fieldwalking by the Society on a previously identified site produced large quantities of 2nd to 3rd century pottery and some brick and tile, probably from a small farmstead.

### Castlethorpe: Maltings Field

SP 7990 4420

Earthworks survey and trial trenching by Archaeological Services and Consultancy for Hancock Associates prior to a housing development. The site is located on the north side of the West Coast railway line and c.300m south-east of Castlethorpe motte and bailey castle. The principal feature on the site was a hollow way, which extended from the medieval village of Castlethorpe and was probably the main route from Castlethorpe to the village of Cosgrove prior to the construction of the railway in the 19th century. A headland with well-defined ridge and

### Weedon

SP 8015

Roman pottery and tile, including greyware jars, colour-coat and possible mortaria sherds and bronze coins of the 2nd to early 4th centuries were found by Mr T. Clark.

furrow lay to the east of the hollow way. Seven trial trenches were cut across the hollow way and headland. The base of the hollow way was c.750mm below the surrounding ground level and was c.12m wide. Traces of rough cobbling were found in the hollow way, but no other archaeological features were recorded.

*Castlethorpe: 6 The Chestnuts* SP 7970 4440

Evaluation by Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd for Hancock Associates prior to construction of a bungalow. The site is adjacent to the motte and bailey castle. The evaluation was carried out in order to ascertain whether the outer earthworks of the castle extended across the site. No archaeological features or finds were recovered.

*Medmenham* SU 8068 8380

A watching brief took place at the site of Medmenham Abbey during extensive modernisation at the house. The first phase of work involving construction of an internal strengthening wall in the south wing, encountered seven east-west burials. Six burials could be sexed. Four were female and two male. Mr T. Anderson who kindly examined the bones has noted a 'surprisingly high incidence of pathology'. According to a proposed reconstruction of the abbey plan published by the Reverend Plaisted, the abbey cloister lay on the west side of the existing house and the church lay south of the cloister fronting the Thames. The burials should, therefore, theoretically lie within the southern cloister walk. The absence of any structural evidence in the trench and the number of females present suggests that the plan may require revision. The monitoring of new service trenches will continue into 2000. (compiler)

*Newport Pagnell: 72 Silver Street* SP 8771 4396

Prior to the demolition of this property, a survey and evaluation was carried out by Paul Woodfield on behalf of the owner. The small amount of surviving timber-framing suggested that the building incorporated fragments of a three-bay hall house

but this was not conclusively proved. Regrettably the evaluation excavation was unable to provide any further information on the development of the building.

*Newport Pagnell: 30-32 High Street*

SP 87708 43977

The Heritage Network Ltd undertook a watching-brief of the excavation of a light well on behalf of Mr J. Inchbald. This revealed a probable cess pit with 11th-14th century pottery in the fill, which included Hertfordshire Greyware and one sherd of St Neots-type ware.

*Olney: Dagnall House, Stanley Court*

SP 8886 5129

Archaeologica on behalf of the Peter Collins Group PLC watched groundworks to an extension of Dagnall House. A substantial stone wall approximately 2.5m wide and 1.5m deep, running in an E-W direction and constructed of roughly hewn stones was discovered. This was probably medieval. A post-medieval well and pit were found.

*Olney: 8/9 Rose Court*

SP 891510

A watching-brief by Archaeologica of a restaurant extension on behalf of Auburn Properties Ltd found evidence for a 12th-century pit, medieval building and a sunken structure of the 11th-14th centuries. The medieval building pre-dated the bur-  
gage plot boundary.

*Shenley Church End, 5 Oakhill Road*

SP 8310 3652

During construction of a new house, Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd carried out a watching brief for the owners. The site is located opposite the parish church, in an area of village earthworks. No archaeological features were observed, but a few sherds of medieval pottery were recovered.

*Wing: Old Schoolhouse*

SP 8807 2254

An open area excavation was undertaken by Mark Holmes of Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of Stephen Parkin prior to the construction of new housing at the site of the former Victorian School. It followed the location of burials in evaluation. The development site lies immediately to the south of the parish church of All Saints, a former Saxon minster church.

The earliest evidence comprised a small quantity of early/middle and middle Saxon pottery, although this material appears to be residual in later contexts. The excavation recovered a total of 77 inhumation burials, indicating that the church cemetery had previously occupied the land to the south of its current boundary. The burials were in rows and probably represent an expansion of the cemetery in the early 11th century AD. A boundary ditch encircled the graveyard; it had been filled in the 12th century and this part of the cemetery probably went out of use at the same time. Subsequent secular use can be dated to the 13th–14th centuries. It comprised a small structure containing a pitched-tile hearth or oven. There were associated ditches, pits and a well, but the focus of activity probably lay further east, towards the street frontage.

*POST-MEDIEVAL AND UNDATED**Aylesbury*

SP 818138 (area)

A watching-brief was carried out for Buckinghamshire County Council Environmental Services, during excavations for rising bollards within Aylesbury town centre. The holes were of limited extent and within existing carriageways but several were sited in archaeologically sensitive areas. In the event no significant archaeological deposits were recorded, apart from a possible pit of medieval or later date. The work has, through negative evidence, indirectly assisted in defining the course of the Iron Age hillfort ditch, within whose circuit the old part of the town now lies. (compiler)

*Biddlesden*

SP 653394

Mr A. Armishaw reported the presence of a well-preserved World War Two bombing-range quadrant

tower. Information from Graham Cadman of Northamptonshire Heritage.

*Bradenham*

SU 8287 9707

Following a geophysical survey, a week-long excavation was undertaken at Bradenham Manor by the National Trust with the aid of volunteers. A substantial brick footing found close to the south-west corner of the present house of the 1650s indicates that the south front is considerably reduced from its original length. Evidence from the excavations and the geophysics tentatively suggests that this 16th-century building may have been arranged around a central courtyard. Dating of the garden terrace proved difficult but it would appear that it was recut in the 18th century.

*Chesham*

SP 957012

Building recording by Dr James Moir of Chiltern Open Air Museum at 72 Germain Street in June 1999 suggests that the building dated from c.1700 and, with adjacent buildings, demonstrated a sequence of development southwards along Germain Street.

*Great Missenden: St Peter and St Paul*

SP 9005 0015

In 1999, several pieces of loose worked stone, some of which were in very poor condition and contaminated with fuel oil, were found in the boiler room of the parish church. They include part of a 12th-century font bowl; an 11th–12th(?) century free-standing piscina; parts of a screen, reredos or other ornamental feature with arch-and-gable niches; a corbel featuring a male head; mullions and an arch-springer, possibly from a sedilia; a piece of ornamental cornice; a female figure (minus head) and sundry other items. Subsequently in 2000, repair work was carried out on the church tower involving, *inter alia*, the replacement of some of the ashlar surface. Within the rubble core were found: a piece of internal ornamental feature covered with red paint with traces of yellow and blue; a section of a large (?13th-century) window mullion; a piece of late-medieval roll-moulded

crenellation and two pieces of round free-standing column.

The 'boiler room' group are interpreted by Mr M. Davis as being native to the church whereas the 'tower' group are thought to have been recycled as hardcore from nearby Missenden Abbey.

*Great Missenden: Missenden Abbey* SP 897010

Mr M. Davis notes the presence of a piece of window mullion by the driveway of the Missenden Abbey Management Centre. Its shape and style suggest a late-medieval oriel window or an octagonal structure of slender construction.

*Haddenham* SP 7310

Cropmarks, including a rectangular enclosure, were photographed from the air. (compiler)

*Chesham Bois* SU 953998

Building recording and analysis carried out at Mayhall Farmhouse by Ms J. Cormier revealed evidence of a former timber-framed hall house, possibly demolished in the 18th century. The current building is thought to be a later cross-wing, possibly of the mid-16th century. Painted wall panels of 16th or 17th-century date survive. Evidence for a smoke bay or wicker chimney was also identified.

*Medmenham* SU 821863

An extensive complex of probable World War One practice-trenches in Pullingshill Wood was reported to the compiler by Julia Carey of Buckinghamshire County Council.

*Middle Claydon* SP 7192 2533

The National Trust archaeologist monitored sewer pipes trenches at Claydon House. Deep silts may be responsible for subsidence beneath the former ball-room, demolished in 1792. The silts, which contained pottery from the 10th-13th centuries, appear

to indicate the presence of previously undetected stew ponds - perhaps even a moat - surrounding the medieval house.

*Newport Pagnell: Cedars Combined School*  
SP 8740 4370

In advance of the construction of a new classroom building, Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd carried out an evaluation for Milton Keynes Council. A single trench was excavated within the footprint of the proposed building: with the exception of the footings of a 19th-century school toilet block, the only feature of archaeological interest was a single post-medieval pit. The site is located close to the Coachmakers Arms, which dates to the 16th century.

*Newport Pagnell: James Yard* SP 8740 4390

During construction of a car park, Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd carried out a watching brief for Milton Keynes Council. The site is that of a former brewery, close to the historic core of the town. No archaeological remains were encountered.

*Newport Pagnell: Riverside House* SP 8770 4380

During construction of an extension to a house, Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd carried out a watching brief for the owner. The site is adjacent to the Iron Bridge, built in 1810, and close to the presumed line of the town's Civil War defences. No significant archaeological features or finds were present.

*North Crawley: Gumbrills Farm* SP 9290 4540

During construction of a house, Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd carried out a watching brief for Barretts of Aspley. The house being constructed on this site was located on the site of the previous farmhouse, which had burned down some years previously. No features or finds of archaeological significance were noted, and the structural remains of the previous farmhouse showed it to be a brick building of probable 19th-century date.



*Quarrendon*

SP 794157

The cropmarks of a small sub-rectangular enclosure adjacent to the scheduled earthworks were photographed from the air.

Oxford Archaeotechnics, revealed three areas of possible archaeology west and south-west of Mursley. Further work, in the form of geophysics, a watching brief and selective excavation, is planned during construction of the pipeline in 2000.

*Soulbury*

A watching brief was carried out by the Oxford Archaeological Unit at All Saints Church (report not to hand).

*Olney: Hoppers Hill*

SP 88818 52046

An evaluation by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of Orchard Executive Homes found a large amount of disturbed ground to the west of the filled-in Horse Pond which could indicate quarrying.

*Stowe: Stowe Landscape Gardens*

SP 675373

National Trust archaeologists have carried out archaeological excavations, geophysics and building recording on four major restoration projects at Stowe in 1999 – the Fane of Pastoral Poetry, Lord Cobham's Monument, the Gothic Umbrello (Conduit House) and Wolfe's Obelisk. Trial excavations around the Gothic Umbrello in the Fallow Deer Park have produced Roman pottery thought to originate from a kiln discovered by excavations in 1990 in the Bourbon Fields. The pottery has been analysed by Paul Booth of the Oxford Archaeological Unit. It appears to have a fabric known as 'pink grog ware'. This has been found over a large area of Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Hertfordshire, but the site of its production had not previously been identified. Reconciling its production to Stowe represents an important development and a report is forthcoming on the discovery of the kiln and the various forms of pottery which it produced.

*Quarrendon*

Fieldwalking by Foundations Archaeology and geophysical surveys by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford were carried out across a proposed development area at Berryfields Farm in 1999 (report not to hand).

*Thornton: St Michael and All Angels*

SP 751363

A watching brief by John Moore Heritage Services within the churchyard during excavation for new drainage revealed nothing of significance.

*Swanbourne, Mursley, Drayton Parslow, Stewkley, Wing*

SP 8160 2920 to SP 8750 2160

Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd carried out a desk-based assessment and geophysical survey on the Winslow Zone Main Trunk Renewal Pipeline for Anglian Water Services Ltd, prior to construction of a 14km water pipeline. The assessment revealed that the route would pass close to a cropmark of Iron Age or Roman date near Wing Airfield, and that it would traverse areas of well-preserved ridge and furrow at Stewkley and Mursley. The geophysical survey, carried out by

*Weedon*

Fieldwalking by Network Archaeology and a geophysical survey by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford were carried out across a proposed development area at Weedon Hill in 1999 (report not to hand).

*West Wycombe: West Wycombe Park*

SU 828947

West Wycombe House was rebuilt in the 1750s around an existing Queen Anne house. A watching brief carried out by National Trust archaeologists after plywood panelling was removed from two of the first-floor bedrooms revealed two complete schemes of early 18th-century panelling. In one of the rooms the panels have clearly been re-arranged

but nevertheless it was clear that the panels had been designed for these two rooms. They represent a significant discovery, firstly because they confirm the two rooms as forming part of the Queen Anne building and secondly because they define the decorative scheme of both rooms.

*West Wycombe*

SU 829947

Watching-briefs were carried out by the National Trust during repairs at 41 Church Street and 25 High Street. Dendro sampling at 25 High Street has provided a felling date for the timbers. Although a single tenancy the dated building is one of a pair, being butted against the frame of an earlier building. Dendrochronology failed to date the earlier structure but it seems reasonable to assume a 15th century date. The roof of 41 Church Street, a

timber-framed building dating from the 17th century, contains an interesting cruck truss.

*Wolverton: McConnell Drive*

SP 8200 4120

Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd carried out an evaluation for Rotch Investments (MK) Ltd prior to construction of a new warehouse following a fire.

Six trenches were excavated: two to examine the site of the second Wolverton Station, constructed in 1841, and four to ascertain the presence or absence of suspected Roman occupation. All trace of the station appeared to have been removed by a series of inspection pits beneath the running lines in the former carriage shed (later the warehouse, destroyed by fire in Summer 1999). No trace of Roman occupation was found.