

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

The following notes carried out in fieldwork in the county in 2003 have been compiled from notes provided by commercial archaeological organisations, and lists of projects provided by the Milton Keynes and Buckinghamshire County Council's Archaeological Officers. The writer is grateful to those organisations and individuals for their assistance.

The report, nevertheless, is incomplete, since not all organisations appearing on the above lists have responded to requests for information. The regional journal *South Midlands Archaeology* should therefore also be consulted.

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. As in previous years, the precise location of certain discoveries, particularly those that might contain metal objects, has not been given in order to reduce the chance of looting.

Bob Zeepvat

Abbreviations

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| AA | Albion Archaeology |
| AS | Archaeological Solutions |
| ASC | Archaeological Services & Consultancy |
| CA | Cotswold Archaeology |
| NA | Northamptonshire Archaeology |
| TVAS | Thames Valley Archaeological Services |

PREHISTORIC

Calverton: Passenham Quarry SP 7786 3896

An evaluation was carried out by NA in advance of a proposed extension to Passenham Quarry. This confirmed the presence of features previously identified by aerial photography, earthwork and geophysical surveys. The earliest features were four ring-ditches situated upon a gravel island adjacent to the present river. The features survived as trun-

cated ditches cutting the natural gravels, and no internal features were found. However, the small number of flint artefacts recovered and their general morphology suggests that they are the ring-ditches of former Bronze Age round barrows. An undated sub-circular enclosure with internal features may be associated. To the south-east, on the edge of the floodplain, was an Iron Age/Romano-British settlement comprising a complex sequence of ditched enclosures. The presence of building materials, such as brick and hypocaust tile, along with coins and metalwork, suggests that this was a small but relatively well appointed 'settlement' or farmstead, utilising the slightly higher ground where it would have been less prone to seasonal flooding.

Denham: The Lea

TQ 0490 8600

The second phase of area excavation in advance of gravel extraction was carried out between April and August by CA. The excavation, covering a total area of c.1ha, examined two areas located immediately to the north of the 2001 excavation area (*Records* 43, 221).

The gravel is covered across the whole site by alluvium. All the features excavated in this phase of work, from the prehistoric through to the post-medieval, were cut into the upper surface of this alluvium, and it appears that by the Late Bronze Age the over-bank flooding of the River Colne to the east had ceased. No features were encountered on the gravel surface after the stripping of the alluvium. A small quantity of residual worked flint, including a single bladelet of probable Mesolithic date, was found in a number of the later features.

On the eastern side of the excavation area, a badly-truncated urned cremation burial of Early to Middle Bronze Age date was identified. To the north-east was the western part of a ring-ditch, most of which lay beyond the eastern edge of the excavation. No features were identified within it, but pottery dating to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age was recovered from the ditch fills. A

double-ditched feature identified during the first phase of excavation, probably a trackway, was found to continue as a single ditch, to the north-east. This appeared to be of mid to Late Bronze Age date. A number of contemporary ditches comprising a second probable trackway and a series of smaller enclosures were also found. Small quantities of coarse or fine calcined flint-tempered and organic-tempered pottery were recovered from these ditches. This pottery assemblage was comparable to that recovered from the earlier excavations, and is clearly in the same Middle to Late Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury tradition.

No activity dating to the Iron Age was identified during this phase of excavation. However, two further Romano-British enclosures were revealed on the same orientation as the enclosure identified during the first phase of excavation. One enclosure was double-ditched with a third, external ditch along its southern side. Later Romano-British activity was identified in the north-western part of the site. A pair of beam slots was found, probably representing the gable ends of a building. A hearth, with an associated square pit and shallow gully, was also identified to the south. Three wells were also found in this area, two of them cutting the earlier enclosure ditches. One was unlined, and had been deliberately infilled with clay. The second was deeper and had a lining constructed from large flint nodules within a clay matrix. The lining did not extend to the base of the well, and it is likely that the lower part of the lining was originally supported by a wooden framework. Another unlined well and a large pit were also identified.

Of particular interest was the identification of eight *bustum* burials. These burials result from the cremation of the deceased on a pyre, constructed above a rectangular pit. During the combustion process the cremated remains and the charcoal from the pyre fall into the pit. On completion of the combustion process the pit is backfilled. The burial pits varied in size but were all broadly rectangular, orientated north-east to south-west, exhibited discolouration of the natural clay through heating and contained quantities of charcoal and cremated human bone. Pottery from the burial pits suggested a date no earlier than the second-quarter of the 3rd century AD. *Bustum* burials are rare, but not unknown in south-east England.

Pitstone: Ashridge Estate

SP 952 129 – SP 955 155

An archaeological survey of land at Aldbury Nowers, Pitstone Hill and Down Farm was carried out by NA for the National Trust, as part of their larger study of the Ashridge Estate, which lies in both Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire. The principal monument within the study area is the Grim's Ditch, and the present study has clarified the arrangement of this feature. It comprises a mixture of a single bank and ditch, parallel lower and upper bank and ditch systems, and substantial open lengths between these single or double systems. There are also three Bronze Age round barrows and numerous quarry pits of uncertain date, but probably medieval or later. A chronology for the hollow way system has been suggested. The remnant and ploughed-out system of lynchets and field banks relate to the medieval field system and not an earlier Celtic field system. The woodland banks and ditches in Aldbury Nowers were also recorded.

Shenley Brook End: Kingsmead South

SP 8230 3380

An evaluation by TVAS of five fields, utilising fieldwalking and trenching, revealed two likely occupation sites from the Iron Age – both rather small, a Roman ditch, and an area containing several undated features, perhaps another prehistoric occupation site. Medieval and post-medieval finds from the fieldwalking probably reflect manuring practices and are not thought to be significant.

ROMANO-BRITISH

Amersham: Shardeloes

SU 9470 9780

In May ASC undertook an evaluation at West Lodge, Shardeloes, in advance of the construction of a house extension and detached garage. Four trenches were excavated. Three did not contain archaeological remains, but redeposited Roman building material was present in the fourth, on the site of the garage.

Broughton: Broughton Manor Farm
SP 902 393

In August and September, AS excavated fifty-eight trial trenches on land at Broughton Manor Farm. The investigation was undertaken in advance of proposed developments. Previous phases of investigation revealed a 'background level' of prehistoric flints, residual Roman tile and pottery, and medieval pottery. A ring-ditch was also recorded in the eastern part of the site by aerial photography. The trial trenches overlay the main cluster of finds and also the enclosures revealed during the field-walking and geophysical survey of the site. The evaluation revealed significant Romano-British occupation focused in the central northern part of the site. The finds assemblage indicates a rural settlement of the later 1st to mid 2nd century AD, with a smaller assemblage of later material, perhaps indicating contracting occupation into this period. Isolated evidence of later Bronze Age activity was identified, but trenching of the area of a possible round barrow to the south revealed no archaeological features to be present in this part of the site.

Broughton: Broughton Manor School
SP 9000 3970

In September, nine trial trenches were excavated by AS on land at Broughton Manor. The investigation was undertaken in advance of the proposed construction of a preparatory school. The site lies to the north of a larger evaluation by AS, reported above. The only features located in the current evaluation comprised a large pit in the north-western area containing middle Iron Age pottery, and two ditches and two gullies in the south-east corner of the site, recognised as a continuation of the extensive Romano-British enclosures revealed to the south.

Lathbury: Piglets Cottage
SP 8742 4516

A watching brief was undertaken by Archaeologica during redevelopment. Three ditches were identified, two of early Roman date, the other of later prehistoric or early Roman date. A fourth ditch also produced early Roman pottery and is most probably an extension of one of the above ditches. A limestone-filled pit was found to the south of the

ditches and may represent the dismantling of a building. A post-medieval mortar yard surface was also present.

Little Horwood: Wood End
SP 4874 2452

A watching brief was undertaken by Archaeologica during redevelopment. Four narrow ditches and possibly two pits of uncertain date were recorded. A scatter of Roman pottery was noted, and also Roman roof and floor tile, hinting at substantial 2nd-century activity in vicinity of the site. Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze age use of the site is attested by the find of a flint knife.

SAXON AND MEDIEVAL

Akeley: Chapel Lane
SP 7086 3777

An evaluation comprising six trenches was carried out prior to development at 'The Roses', Chapel Lane, by R.J. Ivens. The evidence suggests that the east part of the site formed part of the adjacent field, which may be of medieval origin, and that only slight and poorly preserved remains survive, consisting of possible medieval ditches and post-medieval ditches and trackway. The west part of the site was divided into plots in the 13th or 14th century: in fact there is evidence of two phases of such divisions. No structures of this period were identified and it is likely that their remains lie beneath the extant buildings bordering Main Street. Evidence was also revealed of a substantial boundary ditch of 11th or 12th-century date, possibly forming the rear of tenement plots running off Main Street, or the boundary to an open-field. It was also apparent in this area that the ground level has been significantly raised, possibly a deliberate measure to reclaim what must have been a low and rather wet part of the village.

Hogshaw: Claydon Road
SP 7373 2250

During July a watching brief and salvage recording were undertaken by ASC during the construction of a drive and provision of services for a development on Claydon Road. In the medieval period the north part of the site was a preceptory of the Order of the

Knights Hospitallers, and earthworks to the south indicated the possibility of contemporary settlement, possibly the deserted village of Hogshaw. A group of medieval buildings was located adjacent to Claydon Road. Two walls were observed in the northern part of the development: these may have belonged to buildings associated with the preceptory. Finds, including an assemblage of medieval pottery, were also recorded.

Latimer: Latimer Park House
SP 9986 9856

During October, AS undertook an evaluation of land at Latimer Park House. Six trial trenches were excavated in advance of proposals to demolish the existing house and construct a new one. The evaluation revealed features in the central part of the site. Finds from these pits and post-holes are indicative of a medieval date, though a number of features contained abraded Roman sherds, which may be residual. No substantial evidence of ancillary features associated with the well-known Romano-British villa complex was identified. Widespread evidence of landscaping/levelling for the creation of the present gardens was evident. Investigation of anomalies revealed during the previous phase of geophysical survey suggested they were of recent origin, for example water pipes.

Lavendon: Northampton Road
SP 9152 5360

A watching brief was undertaken by Archaeologica at 15–17 Northampton Road during redevelopment. A north-south ditch of medieval date was identified along the eastern edge of the site, cutting an earlier pit. Three further medieval pits were also uncovered in the course of the watching brief. The stone footings of a wall on the westernmost part of the site were also recorded. Pottery from the site dates from 11–13th century, most being of 13th-century date. The main period of activity on the site seemed to extend from the late 12th to the late 13th century, centred on the north-east part of the site, in the corner nearest the stream and Northampton Road.

Newport Pagnell: St John's Street / Silver Street
SP 8763 4389

An evaluation was carried out by Archaeologica prior to redevelopment. Three trenches were opened to the rear of 8 St Johns Street and 1 Silver Street. Medieval and post-medieval pits were revealed, with three cesspits, two of medieval date and one undated, and two refuse pits. Two or possibly three phases of medieval pits were identified. In addition, three 17th-century stone-lined drains were recorded, and an 18th-century structural wall. Medieval pottery was recovered from the layers sealing the cesspits. The range of pottery and tile indicated that a building of high status stood in the area in the 13th century, though not within the evaluation trench.

Olney: Cowper Tannery
SP 8870 5100

A watching brief was carried out by NA at the former Cowper Tannery in advance of housing development. Although there were small amounts of prehistoric flint, some Roman pottery and coins and a few Saxon features, the site was principally developed from the 11th century onward. Initially, a timber building and yard may have been set within a ditched enclosure. In the 12th century, a series of linear ditches divided the site into rectangular plots, probably a quarter and half-acre in extent, set beside a trackway. Features within the plots included an iron-smelting furnace, also with evidence of smithing, a well, and rubbish, cess and quarry pits. The boundary ditches were re-defined during the 13th century, and one boundary survived into the post-medieval period, when it was defined by a limestone wall. In the later medieval period there was little activity within the plots, but a 14th-century malting oven lay close to the Lime Street frontage. Between 16th and 19th centuries the site was divided into three plots containing rubbish pits, postholes, wells and cobbled surfaces.

Olney: 33 High Street
SP 8898 5151

A watching brief was undertaken by Archaeologica during redevelopment. Two phases of activity were identified. An east-west robber trench and associated gravel surface of medieval date were identified

on the north of the site, while to the south three medieval cesspits and a rubbish pit were identified. A contemporary wall running east-west was recorded. A substantial quantity of pottery was recovered. In this phase, pottery dating from the early 13th to the early 15th century was predominant. The second phase of activity dates from the 17th century onward and consisted of pits. Two possibly parallel ditches running north-south were also present, and were cut by the medieval features.

Olney: 106 High Street

SP 8897 5179

An evaluation was carried out by R.J. Ivens prior to development. Substantial remains of a post-medieval building, possibly a stable block, were revealed. A large stone-built, but robbed, drain was discovered, probably of post-medieval date, but possibly earlier. A scatter of medieval pottery indicates activity in that period but the only probable medieval feature was a possible cess pit. A single sherd of Roman pottery in a stratigraphically early gully, may suggest some utilisation of the area in the later 2nd century.

Penn: Tylers Green

SP 9070 9394

During July and August ASC undertook an excavation on the site of Rose Cottage, Elm Road, Tylers Green. This followed an evaluation carried out in 2002 (*Records* 43, 229), which revealed the presence of a well-preserved tile kiln, and associated evidence for tile production.

Five kilns were identified, examined and recorded. Initial specialist comment suggests that Kilns 1–3, all tile-built, were medieval in date. Kilns 4 and 5 were brick-built, and it is unclear whether these are late medieval or post-medieval. On the basis of ceramic evidence and archaeomagnetic dating, this group of kilns appears to have been built and used between the 14th and 16th centuries.

This group of kilns represent the first recorded structures belonging to the tile industry, known to have existed at Tylers Green from the medieval period onwards, and as such are of regional, if not national importance. The industry is best-known for producing decorated glazed floor tiles in the medieval period, examples of which were found during the excavation.

Other features recorded at the site included two drying rooms or workshops related to the kilns. A beehive oven and a single flue or oven feature, both thought to have been medieval industrial features related to the tile-making processes taking place at the site, were identified. A ditch and pit containing sherds of medieval pottery were also recorded. A 19th-century cesspit was found to cut the most recent of the kilns.

Walton: Walton Manor

SP 8891 3666

Between September and December AA carried out an evaluation and excavation in advance of building development. The site lay within the shrunken medieval village of Walton. Earthwork remains of crofts, hollow-ways, greens and fields were still extant prior to development in the 1970s, at which time limited salvage excavation was undertaken by the former Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit (Mynard 1994, *Excavations on Medieval Sites in Milton Keynes*, Bucks Arch Soc Monograph Series 6, 61–100).

The earliest dated features on the site were a possible late Iron Age posthole and an early Roman gully. Small amounts of residual, Iron Age, Roman and Saxo-Norman pottery were also found in later features. The main body of evidence related to the creation and remodelling of the croft's boundary ditches and internal subdivisions. A few pits and postholes were also present, but no buildings or structures could be defined. The recovered assemblage of animal bone and other domestic debris is indicative of medieval occupation, largely of 12th to 13th century date, with a small, 14th to 15th century component.

Worminghall: The Avenue

SP 6420 0860

An evaluation by TVAS comprising two trenches in advance of development at 'The Old Rectory' revealed two pits and a gully of medieval date and a second gully, probably Roman. A single sherd of post-medieval pottery was retrieved from the surface of one of the pits. A quantity of medieval pottery was retrieved from a buried soil sealing the pits. A subsequent watching brief revealed no archaeological features.

POST-MEDIEVAL AND UNDATED***Astwood: Turvey Road***

SP 4976 4857

Building recording was carried out by NA at 'The Bury' prior to the conversion of existing cottages into two dwellings, and a watching brief took place during the construction of site access works and the digging of wall and service trenches. The plan of the unaltered timber building was that of a three-bayed residence with parlour, porch, hall and service room on the ground floor, with a specially built bay for a stone and brick chimney stack. Several fixtures and door fittings, which appear to have been made especially for the building, suggest a 17th century date for the timber phase. Several survivals of daub, likely to have come from former wattle work within the structure, also suggest that the timber framing was standing before the brick infill was added. When two stone cottages were added prior to 1881, the timber building was divided into two separate cottages and its access and circulation arrangements were changed. All four cottages were decorated and equipped with the same fittings and all had attic rooms. A later lean-to building at the north side of the cottages, added by 1900, had required alterations and blocking of windows.

Aylesbury: Old Brewery Close / Walton Street

SP 8224 1338

An evaluation by TVAS at the junction of Old Brewery Close and Walton Street found that the site had been heavily truncated and disturbed during the 19th and 20th centuries. Some limited 19th century activity was located on the Walton Street frontage of the site. A single sherd of unstratified medieval pottery was recovered.

Bletchley: Wilton Road

SP 8651 3359

In December ASC recorded the remains of three structures on a site adjacent to Wilton Road, prior to redevelopment. These buildings were constructed in 1942 as part of the WWII Bletchley Park code-breaking and intelligence establishment, centred 200m to the north. Two structures formed part of a larger dormitory complex, of which one

block survives, albeit modernised, as the local driving test centre. The function of the third, smaller structure remains uncertain. The buildings formed part of the Post Office National Training Centre until they were demolished in the 1990s.

Bletchley: Church Green Road

SP 8634 3370

An evaluation was carried out by Archaeologica at 'The Old Rectory' prior to the construction of a large extension to the Rectory. Only evidence for small-scale post-medieval gravel quarrying was identified.

Great Horwood: School End

SP 7702 3121

In June ASC undertook an archaeological evaluation at School End, prior to the construction of a detached house. Two trenches were opened, revealing a group of features of 19th or early 20th-century date. These were probably associated with 19th century buildings known to have stood on the site.

Great Missenden: High Street

SP 8951 0121

Between July and September, ASC carried out an historic building survey of a group of buildings at 81–83 High Street, prior to their conversion into a museum and exhibition centre dedicated to the novelist Roald Dahl. Test-pitting undertaken on the site in 2002 has been reported on previously (*Records* 44, 152). The buildings were shown to have a complex history, commencing with a timber-framed two-storey range fronting the High Street in the 16th century, followed by later extensions to the rear of no. 81 in the 17th century, and to no. 83 in the 18th century. In the 19th century number 81 became the *Marquis of Buckingham Arms* hotel. At this time the street frontages were rebuilt in brick, and a brick range containing stables and a coach-house was built on the south side of the rear yard. In the late 19th century a flint and brick hall was added to the east end of the north range. Throughout the 20th century the interiors of both buildings have been altered, coinciding with changes of commercial use including a hotel, a bank (81), a shop, an office and a hairdresser's (83).

Halton: RAF Halton

SP 8848 0950

A building survey by TVAS recorded four surviving 'Anderson' type shelters at the Henderson Mess, prior to development. A subsequent watching brief failed to identify any archaeological finds or deposits.

Handy Cross: M40 Junction 4

SU 8530 9100

An evaluation was undertaken by CA on land at M40, Junction 4, in November, prior to road improvements. This revealed an undated ditch and an area of post-medieval infill probably relating to a pond or quarrying activity.

Little Horwood: Stearhill Farm

SP 8065 3120

A magnetic susceptibility survey was undertaken by NA on land at Stearhill Farm, as part of investigations in response to proposals for a golf course. The survey revealed linear trends, perhaps reflecting former agricultural regimes such as remnants of medieval ridge-and-furrow or post-medieval land drains. Two areas of enhanced data in the southern part of the study area, could denote the presence of archaeological remains.

Marlow: Spittle Street

SU 8485 8664

Following an initial desk-based assessment, in February two trial-trenches were excavated by AS on land at 3–7 Spittle Street. The evaluation was conducted in advance of proposed redevelopment of the site for office and residential use. The trenches revealed brick and chalk walls, and household and building debris, all dating to the post-medieval and modern periods. The remains of a potential structure as well as more fragmentary building remains, were recorded.

Mursley: North Salden Farm

SP 8240 2980

A watching brief was undertaken by ASC at North Salden Farm in April, during the construction of an extension to the farmhouse. The site is significant

because the farm stands on the site of the 16th century mansion of Sir John Fortescue. The watching brief revealed a post-medieval wall foundation on the north side of the site, reused as the footing of a later wall. The original foundation could date from the 16th or 17th century, and may have formed part of the Tudor house. A number of architectural fragments comprising fragments of window or door frames were found during removal of overburden across the footprint of the extension. These could have come from the Tudor mansion or an associated building. A single fragment from a possible earlier structure was also found.

Newport Pagnell: 29 High Street

SP 4395 8768

During October ASC carried out an historic building survey of 29 High Street, prior to conversion of its attic space for residential use. 29 High Street has undergone numerous changes since first constructed. A timber-framed north range which may have been built during the 16th century, was later re-built in brick. The expansion of the early house to the rear probably began in the early 17th century. A small extension was followed by the construction of a larger two-storey south range, during the 17th or early 18th century. In the 19th century the west elevation of the south range, and possibly the north range, was re-built in brick. During this period the south range may have formed two separate houses and the attic space was also subdivided to create several separate bedrooms. In 1903–04 the building was bought by the International Tea Company and a marble and glass shop front, which still survives, was inserted. The first-floor of the building was also lost as the height of the ground floor ceiling was raised. The shop was extended back into the south range during the 20th century, and the single-storey store at the rear of the south range was also constructed during this period.

Newport Pagnell: 47–49 High Street

SP 8766 4393

A watching brief was undertaken by Archaeologica during redevelopment. Much of the site was occupied by an extensive complex of cellars, probably forming two separate units. These had undergone a number of repairs, alterations or extensions. There was evidence of some undated occupation of the

site prior to the digging of the cellars, including a cesspit.

North Crawley: Folly Lane
SP 2445 4925

An evaluation was carried out by Archaeologica at 17 Folly Lane, prior to redevelopment. Trenching revealed two large pits, one filled in the course of the late 19th or early 20th century, cutting an earlier 19th-century pit.

North Marston: Portway
SP 7759 2263

In August, AS carried out an evaluation of 1 Portway, in advance of the construction of a bungalow and access. Two trenches were opened, revealing only post-medieval features, comprising a ditch, gully and cobbled surface.

Olney: Cowper Tannery Stables
SP 8874 5171

A full record of the 19th-century stable building at the former Cowper Tannery was made by NA before conversion into a single dwelling. The ground floor comprised stalls and a separate tack-room with a large hayloft over. Some original, but repaired, wooden fittings included stable doors, a stall and hayrack.

Olney: High Street
SP 8898 5151

A watching-brief was undertaken by Archaeologica during redevelopment at 64 High Street. A boundary ditch of early post-medieval date was identified.

Penn: Hammersley Lane
SP 9035 9370

An evaluation comprising two trenches was undertaken by TVAS at 'The Vicarage'. Three walls were encountered in one trench; these probably relate to a building shown on the 1874 Ordnance Survey map. Finds from the interior of the structure suggested a later date for the building, and some residual sherds of medieval pottery were also retrieved.

Ravenstone, Hanger Spinney
SP 851 522

A geophysical survey was carried out by NA in advance of the proposed extension of the woodland at Hanger Spinney. Possible ditches of unknown date were identified by the survey.

Shenley Brook End: Westcroft
SP 8261 3418

An evaluation was undertaken at Site 12, Westcroft, by ASC in November in advance of housing development. Six trenches were excavated in order to locate the site of a building and adjoining paddock marked on an estate map of 1801. Although no foundations were revealed, a spread of building rubble containing a few pottery sherds was recorded in the location indicated. From the pottery and building material present, the building was probably of 16th or 17th century date, and remained in use into the 19th century. Subsequent ploughing, and recent removal of topsoil from the site, probably destroyed any other evidence of the structure.

Shenley Church End: Shenley Wood
SP 8270 3592

Geophysical survey, comprising magnetic susceptibility and gradiometer survey, was carried out by NA over 22.5 ha at Shenley Wood, adjacent to the site of the deserted village of Westbury-by-Shenley. The magnetic susceptibility survey showed little variation in susceptibility levels. Subsequent detailed gradiometer survey revealed several possible ditches or furrows and a putative brick structure.

Sherington: 47 High Street
SP 8870 4650

In July AA undertook a watching-brief during ground reduction and excavation of foundation trenches for an extension to a row of 17th-century stone cottages on the west side of the High Street. Until recently this was an important route linking the market towns of Olney and Newport Pagnell. It was noted that the stone building originally had a western bay which was demolished and replaced by a brick-built Victorian extension. The surviving western gable of the stone building was timber-framed with brick infill, suggestive of an original

internal partition. The remains of an internal stone surface, appeared to be associated with the western bay. Other features observed during the groundworks included a stone-lined well and the truncated remains of a stone-lined, sub-rectangular pit, possibly a cess pit.

Simpson: Manor Farm

SP 8807 3606

An evaluation was carried out by Archaeologica prior to redevelopment on land to the rear of Manor Farm. It showed that the site had been extensively disturbed by the planting and clearance of large trees, and revealed evidence of a probable 18th century field ditch and a scatter of medieval pottery. The latter was all unstratified and probably derived from medieval manuring. Evidence of a large, partly-infilled ditch of uncertain date was noted along the north-eastern boundary of the site.

Stony Stratford: 95 High Street

SP 7852 4116

Phoenix Consulting undertook historic building recording of 95 High Street prior to renovation for commercial and residential use. The building originally formed part of the *Cross Keys Inn*, the oldest identifiable inn in Stony Stratford. The site was named *St. Peter's Keys* in the 15th century, and it is suggested that it was originally an ecclesiastical lodging house. It is thought that the *Cross Keys* was badly damaged by fire in 1742. The lower parts of its walls are believed to date from the same period as the carriage opening (c.1487), but it is suggested that the rest of the building was constructed after 1742. Four structures were recognized in the survey. Two were 20th-century additions, but much of the fabric of the others appeared to date from the 17th and 18th centuries. The rear extensions are described in the listing as 17th/18th-century date, but the massive size of the beams here suggests an earlier (probably Tudor) date for this part of the structure. The roof structure suggests a pre-18th-century date.

Stony Stratford: 106b High Street

SP 7858 4068

In March a watching brief was undertaken by AA during the excavation of foundation trenches and

associated ground reduction, for an extension to the rear of the 106b High Street. Observations revealed a masonry wall-foundation of post-medieval date, located on the north-western boundary of the development area. The remains of a modern brick-built structure were also recorded north-east of the existing house.

Stowe: Stowe Landscape Gardens

SP 674 383

As part of the ongoing restoration of the landscape and monuments at Stowe, an investigation was conducted by NA around the lakeside pavilions, and a watching brief was kept during tree planting in the Deer Park. Building recording during the removal of the present roof covering of the pavilions, revealed a variety of carpenters' and masons' marks which may relate to the alteration of the structures after they were relocated during 1764. Dendrochronology dating of some of the roof timbers did not conclusively establish the phasing of the present roof structure. It is thought that the decorated plaster ceilings of both pavilions were replaced during the 1970s, when previous restoration work was carried out under the tenure of Stowe School. A geophysical survey between the pavilions and outside the ha-ha, failed to establish conclusively the former positions of the buildings or the steps into the gardens. During tree planting in the Deer Park, all tree pits were examined as they were dug and a percentage were recorded in detail. No archaeological features or artefacts were found.

Tyringham: Tyringham Hall

SP 8548 4696

A watching brief was undertaken by Phoenix Consulting during excavations for a new swimming pool at Tyringham Hall. Aside from the identification of an undated past episode of landscaping toward the south-eastern end of the new pool, no archaeological features or finds were made during the on-site investigations.

Tyringham: Tyringham Hall Outbuildings

SP 8567 4704

Phoenix Consulting undertook historic building recording of outbuildings at Tyringham Hall prior to their conversion to residential use. The outbuild-

ings concerned are lean-to structures, built against the outer face of the perimeter wall of the Walled Garden. They were used for storage and propagation, and also housed the boiler. The earliest plan of a building for the site is Henry Provis's *proposal* for workshop buildings, dated October 1800. John Durham's 1837 estate plan and 1838 Tith Map show the site as already developed. Both buildings appear to have been standing in their present plan form by this time.

Weston Underwood: Weston House
SP 8675 5074

A building survey and trial excavation at Weston House was carried out by NA, prior to the construction of an extension to the south of the present house and a detached garage at the east of the property. The present building once formed part of the north-west service range to the now demolished main house, a substantial courtyard building dating from the 16th century with extensive additions in the 17th and 18th centuries. The core of the present house dates to the late 16th century and was later refaced along the east side in the early 18th century to balance with an opposing wing to the east of the former main house. Four additional rooms, linked by a corridor, and new staircase, were added under a gabled extension to the west side in the early 19th century. Part of an adjoining 18th century building was connected to the present house in the early 20th century. Cellars to the west and south of the 16th-century building contain a four-centred arched doorway. Trial trenches excavated to assess the survival of the original building layout, revealed a substantial stone-wall foundation flanked by a stone-lined culvert, indicating the original line of the 18th-century east wing.

Winslow: High Street
SP 7700 2770

In June ASC undertook an evaluation at 30 High Street, prior to the redevelopment of the site. Two trenches were excavated in a limited area to the rear of existing buildings. The only features revealed were of 19th-century date.

Wolverton: Manor Farm
SP 8072 4176

During April and May a watching-brief was maintained by ASC, on service trenches at Manor Farm. The buildings on the site were subject to a detailed survey in 2001 (*Records* 42, 158). The main trench ran from Old Wolverton Road to the south-east corner of the farm buildings, along the line of a proposed new access road. From this point, various spur trenches ran through the farmyards to the farm buildings. The main trench revealed only a single ditch about 50m north of Old Wolverton Road. At the entrance to the farm complex two north-south ditches were located. Within the confines of the farmyard, the trenches revealed a shallow layer of overburden above the natural limestone, and an east-west ditch near the southern limit of the farmyard. In late June a watching-brief was carried out during construction of the car park, east of the farm complex. The two ditches noted in earlier observations were seen to continue across the area. The base of an east-west wall, post-dating the ditches, was also identified.

Wolverton: Secret Garden
SP 8205 4128

As part of a community project involving local schools and volunteers, Phoenix Consulting are managing the excavation of part of a row of villas built by the LNW&R to house its employees in the mid 1800s. The villas were demolished in the 1960s and the site became overgrown, becoming known locally as the 'Secret Garden'. In the first season, excavations recorded the internal layout of the buildings, and differences in their construction and that of later railway housing elsewhere in Wolverton, were studied.

Worminghall: The Avenue
SP 6418 0841

A three-trench evaluation was carried out by TVAS at 18 The Avenue, adjacent to the Old Rectory site. Only one trench revealed deposits of archaeological interest. A ditch aligned NNW-SSE truncated the terminus of a gully; a possible tree bole was also encountered. No dating evidence was retrieved from any of the features.

NEGATIVE**Aston Abbots: 'Bull & Butcher'**

SP 8485 2008

In December an evaluation was undertaken by ASC Ltd on land to the rear of the *Bull & Butcher*, prior to housing development. Five trenches were opened: three of these were entirely blank, while the others contained only modern pits.

Bourne End: Wharf Lane

SU 8900 8732

Between March and May a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by AS at Bourne End Marina. No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered. Considerable modern disturbance was present across the site, especially the western part in which extensive late 19th / early 20th-century rubbish dumps were revealed.

Bradwell: Vicarage Road

SP 8321 3962

In April a watching brief was maintained by ASC on groundworks for an extension to the rear of 4 Vicarage Road. The property, a Grade II listed house of 18th century date, is located in the historic core of the village, close to the medieval castle mound. No archaeological features or finds were observed during topsoil stripping and the excavation of footing trenches.

Bradwell: Home Farm

SP 8325 3975

A watching brief was undertaken by Archaeologica during redevelopment. Nothing of archaeological significance was revealed.

Bradwell Abbey

SP 8268 3947

In February a watching brief was undertaken at Bradwell Abbey by ASC, during the cutting of trenches for a new gas supply to the former farm cottages. The area concerned is to the south-west of the main monastic complex. The watching-brief did not reveal the presence of archaeological features.

Buckingham: Ford Street

SP 6965 3379

Following an initial desk-based assessment, in September a watching-brief was undertaken by AS at Ford Street during the excavation of hand-dug test pits in advance of a flood alleviation scheme for the town. Though the site is located within the historic centre of Buckingham and a post-medieval well has been identified in the immediate area, few significant archaeological features were identified.

Buckingham: Lenborough Road

SP 6928 3321

During September a watching-brief was undertaken by ASC on an extension to the rear of *The Old Cross Keys*. Since about 1914 the building has been a private residence. Only modern service trenches and concrete footings were observed.

Calverton: Calverton House

SP 7890 3886

In October, ASC monitored groundworks associated with a flood alleviation scheme at Calverton House. Attention was focused on the area around two listed bridges, where overflow channels and closed culverts were being constructed. The only ground disturbance recorded was associated with the construction of the bridges.

Calverton: The Old Rectory

SP 7901 3894

In March, Phoenix Consulting undertook a strip-and-record exercise in the grounds of the Old Rectory, prior to an extension of the property. No features or artefacts of archaeological interest were identified during the investigations.

Castlethorpe: Hanslope Road

SP 7966 4460

A watching brief was undertaken by Archaeologica during redevelopment of land off Hanslope Road. A building with a clay floor was identified, orientated north-south. It had shallow limestone foundations and could have been a dwelling or an outbuilding. No direct dating evidence was found in association with the building. A substantial ditch running

approximately north-south was identified in the east part of the site. No finds were recovered from its fill, which had been partly truncated by a modern pipe trench. The ditch seemed to run parallel and to the south of the 19th century garden boundary.

Clifton Reynes: Sherwood Cottage
SP 9030 5130

A watching-brief was undertaken by ASC during the excavation of footings for an extension at Sherwood Cottage. Much of the site had been terraced during the late 20th century, and archaeological remains were not observed.

Great Horwood: Wood End
SP 7930 3070

A programme of test-pitting followed by a watching-brief, on groundworks for residential development, was carried out at 3 Wood End by ASC. The site had been truncated in the past and the ground partly built up with modern building rubble. At the northern end of the site a terraced section revealed a possible man-made feature, either a plough headland or boundary.

Great Linford: The Old Rectory
SP 8518 4214

Between October 2002 and March 2003 a watching brief was carried out by ASC during the residential redevelopment of the former stable yard at The Old Rectory. Observation of the footing-trenches for new structures on the site, did not reveal any features or finds of archaeological significance. Although the site lies within the historic core of the village, it seems likely that it remained undeveloped until the stable yard was established, probably in the mid to late 17th century.

Great Linford: Station Road
SP 8524 4259

In September, observations were made by ASC of footing trenches for a housing development at the former Cooper's Yard, Station Road. The site lies between the Grand Union Canal and the former Wolverton-Newport Pagnell branch line. In the 19th century a house stood near the south end of the site, and the stationmaster's house was located at its

north end. The watching brief did not reveal any features of archaeological significance.

High Wycombe: The Haystacks
SU 8670 9328

A watching brief was undertaken by TVAS at 22, The Haystacks during development. No archaeological features were encountered.

High Wycombe: Wycombe Marsh
SU 8875 9200

A watching brief was undertaken by TVAS at Wycombe Marsh during development. No archaeological features were encountered.

Lacey Green: Kiln Lodge
SP 8250 0030

A watching brief was undertaken by ASC during the excavation of footings for a garden building at Kiln Lodge, Kiln Lane. Excavations for six foundation pads were observed. Their depth was insufficient to reveal archaeological deposits, and the impact of the development on any archaeological remains was non-existent.

Lavendon: Abbey Farm Lodge
SP 9026 5334

A watching-brief was carried out by R. J. Ivens during groundworks for a new orangery. The site had been considerably disturbed by garden works, construction and drainage works associated with the existing house, and by earlier 19 or 20th century drainage schemes. No pre-modern deposits or artefacts were observed.

Lavendon: Northampton Road
SP 9150 5361

In April a watching-brief was undertaken by ASC during excavations for footings for an extension to 25a Northampton Road. No archaeological remains were found.

Mursley: Main Street
SP 8180 2850

Following an initial desk-based assessment, ASC

undertook an evaluation in July at Manor Farm, following proposals for residential redevelopment. The farmhouse, a Grade II listed building, has a 16th-century core and is believed to occupy the site of the medieval manor of Mursley. The farm buildings, of 19th century date, were in a poor condition and were demolished. Eight trenches were opened around the farmyard, but no significant archaeology was revealed.

Newport Pagnell: High Street
SP 8760 4390

A watching-brief was undertaken by Archaeologica during improvements to the High Street. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed.

Newport Pagnell: Union Street
SP 8770 4405

A watching brief was undertaken by Archaeologica at 1a, Union Street during redevelopment. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed.

Newton Blossomville: Manor Farm
SP 9228 5152

In May ASC undertook an evaluation of The Rick Yard, Manor Farm, prior to housing development. Three trenches were excavated within the footprints of the proposed buildings. No evidence for earlier occupation was revealed in any of the trenches, and it seems likely that the plot has always been open land.

Penn: Church Road
SU 9087 9337

A watching brief was undertaken by TVAS at 'Old Reading Room Cottage' during development. No archaeological features were encountered.

Penn: Witheridge Lane
SU 9185 9320

A watching brief was undertaken by TVAS at 'The Summit' during development. No archaeological features were encountered.

Shenley Brook End: Cranborne Avenue
SP 8252 3443

An evaluation was undertaken by ASC in November, on land adjacent to Cranborne Avenue in advance of housing development. Eighteen trenches were excavated to determine the extent of a previously-excavated, small late Iron Age enclosure (*Records* 44, 145). No archaeological features or finds were observed, confirming that the site was of limited size, located entirely within the road corridor.

Wavendon: Cross End
SP 9190 3710

A watching-brief was undertaken by ASC during the excavation of footings for an extension and associated works at 33, Cross End. Observations did not reveal anything of archaeological significance.

Wavendon: Crow Lane
SP 9296 3782

In January, AA maintained a watching-brief during excavation of foundation trenches for a new dwelling at 7, Crow Lane in Lower End, one of the medieval hamlets or 'ends' of Wavendon. All the previous buildings known to have occupied the site had been set back c.14m from the lane. No archaeological features were exposed. The area had been disturbed by groundworks associated with a bungalow that had previously occupied the site. Contrasting soil profiles suggested that most of this area had been levelled, probably removing all traces of the buildings shown on the 1880 Ordnance Survey map.

Weston Underwood: Whites Close
SP 841 520

An evaluation was undertaken by NA prior to the construction of a house at 'The Task', Whites Close. No archaeological features or artefacts were found in the evaluation trenches.

Woughton on the Green: Pinkard Court
SP 8730 3760

In July, ASC maintained a watching-brief on the excavation of a cable trench on the north side of the

green at Woughton, as a condition of Scheduled Monument consent. No features or finds, other than a single post-medieval “peg” roof tile, were identified.

REPORTS NOT RECEIVED

Fieldwork is also understood to have been undertaken at the following locations:

Aylesbury: TA Centre
 Bletchley: 39 Aylesbury Street
 Bourne End: Abbotsbrook
 Bow Brickhill: Belvedere Nursery
 Buckingham: Stratford House
 Chesham: Chessvale Bowling Club
 Denham: Minerals Area 4
 Dorney: Eton Rowing Lake

Ellesborough: Terrick
 Grendon Underwood: St Leonard’s Church
 Hogshaw: Fulbrook Farm
 Ludgershall: Old Rectory
 Olney: Oakdown Crescent
 Penn: Beam End Cottage
 Penn: Springfield, Church Road
 Penn: Tylers Green, Potters Cross
 Princes Risborough: Park Mill Farm
 Princes Risborough: School Access Track
 Radnage: Church of St Mary the Virgin
 Ravenstone: The Wheatsheaf
 Shenley Brook End: Oxley Park West
 Shenley Brook End: Shenley Wood sites B-E
 Stoke Hammond bypass (phase 1)
 Stowe: Stowe House
 Waddesdon: Aviary Gardens
 Wendover: Forest Close