

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

The following notes on fieldwork carried out in the county in 2014 have been compiled from notes provided by commercial archaeological organisations and local societies, and a list of projects provided by the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Historic Environment Records (HERs). The writer is grateful to those organisations and individuals for their assistance.

Nevertheless, the report 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 HERs maintained by Buckinghamshire County Council and Milton Keynes Council are the primary sources for more detailed information on sites and finds. For non-commercial enquiries both HERs are available online via the national Heritage Gateway, www.heritagegateway.org.uk

Nick Crank

KEY

For the sake of brevity, and in order to avoid repetition, the names of some of the contributing organisations have been abbreviated as follows:

AS	Archaeological Solutions
CA	Cotswold Archaeology
JMHS	John Moore Heritage Services
OA	Oxford Archaeology
TVAS	Thames Valley Archaeological Services

PREHISTORIC

Haddenham: Haddenham Airfield SP 7335 0900

In October, in advance of an application for outline planning permission for the proposed development of land to the south of Haddenham Airfield, Haddenham, The Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake a series of archaeological investigations. The study area was divided into seven areas, and three stages of investigation were carried out, including documentary and cartographic research, geophysical survey, and trial trenching.

Documentary and cartographic research, including a study of historic aerial photographs, showed that the site was located in agricultural land to the west of the village from at least the medieval period. Pre-enclosure maps, however, indicate that the medieval field system may have developed from late prehistoric co-axial fields.

The geophysical survey revealed a number of magnetic anomalies of possible archaeological origin, some of which could be identified as features relating to the past use of the site. A series of linear enhanced magnetic field anomalies may be of archaeological interest and are likely to relate to past agricultural practice. A circular anomaly on the southern side of the site was also considered to be of potential archaeological interest.

Trial trenching confirmed the presence of a small number of later prehistoric features in the centre of the site, including a linear ditch which was observed in three trenches and a pit. A number of post-medieval quarry pits were also revealed in the centre of the site.

Newport Pagnell, Kickles Farm SP 8632 4510

Trial-trench evaluation by MOLA Northampton in August, ahead of proposed development, confirmed the presence of a sub-rectangular

enclosure identified in a geophysical survey and recorded additional curvilinear ditches and pits. Sherds from three large thick-walled jars (two of scored ware), a large open bowl and a smaller bowl, formed a single dense deposit in the upper fill of a pit. They date to the earlier middle Iron Age, probably the 3rd century BC. Furrows indicative of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation were also present.

Wavendon: Eagle Farm North, MK Eastern Expansion Area
SP 9230 3880

Between November 2013 and February 2014, Border Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological field evaluation comprising 141 trenches on land at Wavendon adjoining the M1 motorway to the east and the A421 to the south, forming part of the Milton Keynes Eastern Expansion Area.

Archaeological remains were identified within 106 out of the 141 evaluation trenches, consisting of a large number of ditches and gullies together with a range of discrete features of varying form, date and function, including pits, postholes and a potential cremation pit containing fragmentary burnt bone. Several of these features were subject to further evaluation and the cremation pit was sampled in its entirety. Provisional assessment of pottery recovered from the majority of the features appeared generally to indicate a late Iron Age/early Roman date.

ROMAN

Calverton: Fairfield 11, MK Western Expansion Area
SP 805 389

Between March and April 2014, Border Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation comprising 12 trenches on the above site, which formed a component of the Milton Keynes Western Expansion Area (WEA). Most of the trenches were located to the north-east of a modern gas main extending north-west/south-east through the southern part of the field; with only a single trench lying to the south-west of the main. No archaeological features were identified in most of the trenches.

However, in two trenches in the south-east of the evaluation area a series of linear features and postholes were identified. These appeared to be connected with a roughly square enclosure oriented north-west/south-east which had previously been identified by a geophysical survey undertaken in 2007. The features uncovered represented the south and west arms of the enclosure, as well as several internal features. The recovered pottery was of a Late Iron Age to early Roman date, so it is likely that the enclosure represents a farmstead of Late Iron Age origin.

Creslow: Creslow Manor Farm
SP 8094 2225

In October OA South was commissioned by Buckinghamshire County Council to carry out an excavation at Creslow Manor Farm. The work was undertaken to investigate a potential burial assemblage, identified during a metal detecting rally. The findspot is located adjacent to a suspected Roman villa within an arable field that has previously produced a concentration of Roman finds.

The excavation revealed a late 2nd century AD wooden box burial (1.10m long by 0.70m width) with a rich assemblage of grave goods including 2 samian ware cups, 2 samian ware dishes, a pottery flagon, 2 glass vessels, a bronze jug with decorated handle, bronze patera, iron open or lamp holder, 2 unidentified lead objects and an urned cremation burial. The remains of the wooden box were identified as an outline of iron nails and organic deposits within the burial pit. The grave goods were found in-situ but had been disturbed by ploughing and potentially squashed by the use of heavy farm machinery.

The burial lies at the western edge of the distribution of a group of relatively rare cremation burials found across south-eastern Britain, containing glass and bronze vessels and lighting equipment, making the burial one of only a handful with a 2nd-century date. The present burial is an important addition to this body of evidence, containing a characteristic combination of object types, of which the decorated jug is individually the most significant, with a religious scene depicting human figures worshipping in front of an altar. Because of the apparently unique detail of this decoration it is a piece of national importance, enhanced by association with a securely dated burial context.

Cuddington: Hollywell Farm

SP 750 110

An excavation from January to March by TVAS in advance of construction of an equestrian school revealed finds and deposits with a wide chronological range. The earliest material was a small collection of prehistoric flintwork, including two microliths of Mesolithic date. The earlier Bronze Age was represented by a near-complete Bronze Age cordoned urn dated to the first half of the 2nd millennium BC, but this was not obviously associated with a cremation burial as might be expected. Most of the features date to the late Iron Age and early Roman periods, and included ditches and pits early in this period, with stone-built structures appearing in the 2nd century AD and lasting into the 3rd. The artefacts disposed of by the inhabitants are probably sufficient to indicate that this was part of a villa complex, possibly including a shrine or temple, though evidence for the latter is circumstantial. There was little sign of later Roman (4th century) occupation, though a single posthole appeared to belong to the Saxon period. A full publication report is in preparation.

Emberton: Land East of Rectory Farm

SP 9006 4953

An evaluation was undertaken by CA in May and June on the proposed site of a solar PV array. Cropmarks and a geophysical survey had previously indicated the presence of possible archaeological features within the site, including enclosures, trackway and linear features. The evaluation confirmed the presence of a rectilinear enclosure and recovered Roman dating evidence from this. It also exposed a possible trackway, a ditch and part of a circular enclosure, though these features were undated. There was no evidence for other possible archaeological features detected by the geophysical survey, suggesting that some of the anomalies were geological in origin.

The evaluation also recorded two further ditches which were not detected by the geophysical survey, one of which contained post-medieval material. A small number of furrows confirmed that the site was within a medieval ridge-and-furrow field system which had been almost entirely destroyed by post-medieval/modern ploughing.

Great Brickhill & Little Brickhill: Eaton Leys Farm

SP 888 329

Between February and September, a magnetometer survey of 109ha of land by MOLA Northampton at Eaton Leys Farm mapped much of the southern half of the Roman town of *Magiovinium* (SAM 1006943). The survey of the scheduled area was carried out under licence from English Heritage. There is an extensive roadside settlement comprising rectangular plots along the southern side of Watling Street. However, there is also a second row of ditched plots aligned west-east, with the two alignments converging to the east. The multivallate defences, comprising up to five concentric ditches, were a later addition which truncates the earlier town plan. A number of features of particular note include a monumental building close to the river Ouzel, a possible circular shrine, and probable industrial remains in the eastern extramural zone. The survey also shows a road emerging from the southern edge of the town defences. This forks, with one branch heading south, parallel to the river, with a detached suburb straddling the road 150m to the south, while the westerly fork must head to a nearby river crossing.

Interpretation of the survey results agrees with recent discussions of *Magiovinium*, which postulate a late 2nd to early 3rd century AD phase of defensive works and consequent suburban contraction. A separate area of probable Roman settlement was identified approximately 1km south of the town, comprising two adjacent rectilinear enclosures. Less substantial archaeological remains, of unknown date, were detected in the intervening area. Traces of medieval ridge-and-furrow and post-medieval field boundaries were detected across the entire survey area.

Imer: Land at Bumpers Farm

SP 7642 0614

In August CA carried out an evaluation to inform a planning application for the construction of a solar PV array. A previous geophysical survey had detected rectilinear enclosures and associated features at the south-eastern site boundary, and a lower-density of potential archaeological features elsewhere. The evaluation recorded a series of enclosures, ditches and pits, the majority of which

were concentrated near the south-eastern site boundary. The evaluation recovered pottery and animal bone assemblages typical of late Roman domestic refuse, suggesting that the enclosures within the south-eastern part of the site were part of a late Roman farmstead. The features in the north-eastern part of the site were probably on the periphery of this.

SAXON & MEDIEVAL

Aylesbury: New Road SP 6600 2150

In June CA carried out an evaluation prior to the submission of a planning application for residential development. The evaluation identified extant ridge-and-furrow earthworks of medieval/post-medieval date across most of the site. The earthworks were well-preserved, but the ridges had been cut by two post-medieval/modern ditches in the east half of the field. In addition, a modern intrusion in the north-east corner of the site may have been associated with a former 19th-century building shown on historic mapping.

Brill: The Green SP 6573 1380

A watching brief was conducted by JMHS at 18 The Green in August during the conversion of existing part of outbuilding into ancillary accommodation with new single-storey link to existing dwelling. A 13th-century or later pit, a modern demolition layer and an unidentified cut feature dating to the 16th century or later were observed and recorded.

Dorney: Church of St James the Less SU 9248 7900

A watching brief carried out by TVAS between March and August during refurbishment of the church tower and excavation of drainage revealed mixed layers of soil typical of a graveyard; within which were located a single skeleton and a disarticulated human skull. The earliest layer dated to the 15th century. Brick foundations to the chancel and south porch were also revealed.

Great Horwood: Willow Road SP 773 309

A detailed magnetometer survey of land south of Willow Road by MOLA Northampton in November identified medieval to early post-medieval remnant furrows of ridge-and-furrow cultivation.

Haddenham: Land to the North of Aston Road SP 7458 0833

In November OA South conducted a trial-trench evaluation of the site of a proposed housing development at Haddenham. Twenty-three trenches were excavated across the site. A single ditch of possible Bronze Age date was recorded in the north-eastern part of the site. Three parallel ditches in the western part of the site could be of prehistoric date, although no dating evidence was recovered from them. In general, the paucity of prehistoric finds indicates that the site is not located in the vicinity of any settlement activity of this date.

A sub-rectangular pit and associated postholes were found in the south-western part of the site. The form of the feature suggests that it is the remains of a sunken-featured building of early to middle Saxon date. Pottery, fragments of loom-weights, a fragment of spindle whorl and a bone pin were among the artefacts recovered from the feature. A pit containing Saxon pottery of similar date was also found further to the west within the site. The medieval agricultural landscape is represented by a low headland bank and associated ditch along with a number of field boundaries, one of which has been preserved as an extant public footpath. Remnants of medieval ridge-and-furrow agriculture were also present in the form of shallow furrows within some trenches. A number of quarry pits dating to the late medieval or post-medieval period, were present. It is thought that the pits were for the extraction of clay for the production of witchert, a building material long associated with Haddenham.

Long Crendon: The Square SP 6942 0867

Evaluation trenching by TVAS in September 2014 prior to construction of a new house at 1 The Square revealed two linear features and a pit of early medieval date.

Loughton: Little Loughton Manor

SP 8338 3778

An evaluation by CA in May 2014 was undertaken as part of a condition attached to planning permission for the erection of a new dwelling and associated structures. Little Loughton Manor was in existence by the time of the Domesday Survey. The manor farmhouse itself is a Grade II* listed building rebuilt around AD1500, replacing the earlier manor house on the site. Nothing is known of the medieval building, other than that it was probably moated. The evaluation recorded a series of ditches and postholes. These were mainly undated, but one of them contained medieval pottery. It is likely that these features relate to activity within the curtilage of the 15th-century manor house and its medieval antecedent, although their exact functions are uncertain. One trench contained a series of 'made ground' deposits to a depth of 1m below the present ground level. It is possible that these layers represent backfilling of moat earthworks associated with the medieval manor house.

Maids Moreton: Meadow Bank Guest House (formerly Buckingham Arms pub)

SP 7022 3554

During August, volunteers from Maids Moreton Archaeology Group, supported by three professional archaeologists, carried out trial trenching and excavation of a circular raised earthwork (HER 0043800), comprising a flat-topped mound of 40m diameter surrounded for about three-quarters of its circumference by a ditch. The date and purpose of the monument was unknown: the work was undertaken to resolve this. Geophysical surveys (resistivity and magnetometry) confirmed the outline of the ditch surrounding the site, and within the outlines of the ditch a roughly square area of rubble covering approximately 30 x 30 metres. Isolated pockets of high resistance probably conform with modern rubble spreads. One trench was excavated to profile the ditch and a second was opened on the top of the mound. The first confirmed that the ditch was re-cut on at least one occasion, and extended to a depth of at least 1.4 metres. Its full depth was not confirmed due to the high water table. In addition, stone rubble was found in the ditch. The trench across the mound located part of a soil-filled

pit, with pottery suggesting a date contemporary with the occupation of the site, and contained a thin layer of rubble with roof tiles.

Both trenches revealed a significant amount of domestic pottery fairly typical of sites in the region, indicating that the main period of activity was in 11th-12th centuries. Common local 13th-14th century wares, such as Brill and Potterspurty, were unusually scarce. The range of vessel types present consists entirely of jars, bowls and jugs, the first-named being by far the most common. The pottery evidence, geophysics, small finds and animal bones suggest domestic occupation, with a stone-built structure within the outlines of a moat. The position of Maids Moreton Mound adjacent to a very old track linking Buckingham with Towcester, its proximity to the parish of Stowe and documentary evidence of landholding links with post-Conquest lords of Stowe give food for thought. Excavation is planned for 2015 to further investigate this small but significant site.

Olney: 24 High Street

SP 889 514

A watching brief was maintained between May and September by Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd during groundworks for a new bungalow within the site of a former medieval burgage plot on the east side of the High Street, Olney. The burgage plots are understood to have been created in the 13th century. The main archaeological objective was to shed light on medieval activities within the burgage plot, and what they may reveal about the medieval economy of Olney.

The foundation trenches for the new building encountered a series of medieval to post-medieval pits. Three of the pits were rubbish-filled and dated to the 13th century. One of these, of substantial size and depth, may have been either a cess pit or a well. The medieval animal bone assemblage suggests that primary butchery and possibly skin-processing took place within the vicinity, as witnessed elsewhere in burgage plots in the High Street. A service trench dug along the east side of the burgage plot revealed a large stone- and clay-lined pit, used for a process that involved burning. The pit was possibly medieval date and lay partly below the remains of a possible post-medieval boundary.

A post-medieval cellar was also partly revealed, located about 50m east of the High Street dwelling.

It was built of brick and stone with an exterior clay lining.

Stoke Poges: Slough Cemetery, Stoke Road
SU 9775 8163

Evaluation trenching by TVAS in May in advance of an application to extend the cemetery revealed a range of archaeological features, including a pit complex of medieval date. A few sherds of Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery were also recovered.

Stone: Bishopstone Road
SP 785 122

Detailed magnetometer survey and trial trenching by MOLA Northampton during October and November ahead of residential development recorded boundary ditches defining plots of land fronting onto Bishopstone Road, all dated to the 11th and 12th centuries. The pits seen in the survey were originally quarries later used for disposal of domestic rubbish, which included two pieces of decorative bone strips of 13th century date, used to embellish wooden caskets or similar items.

Tingewick: Main Street
SP 660 327

In May a detailed magnetometer survey of 6ha of land on the eastern edge of Tingewick between Main Street and the A421 by MOLA Northampton detected a small group of undated ditches, widespread traces of ridge and furrow and a few other minor archaeological features. Areas of disturbed ground were detected in the south of the site, alongside the A421.

Tingewick: Main Street
SP 6603 3277

A trial-trench evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology in November was undertaken to inform an outline planning application for residential development. The evaluation recorded the remains of a medieval ridge-and-furrow agricultural system.

Weston Turville: Various Sites
SP 856 107 (centre)

Throughout 2013 a programme of test-pitting and sieving was undertaken at various locations in Weston Turville as part of the Weston Turville Big Dig, organised by the Weston Turville Historical Society. Twenty 1 x 1m test pits were hand-excavated at locations within the historic core of the village. The few finds of prehistoric, Iron Age, Roman and Saxon date recovered were mostly located in the southern part of the village (Church End), showing this to be the area of earliest settlement. In contrast, medieval and post-medieval finds, which formed the bulk of the material recovered from the test pits, was more widely located, indicating that later settlement had extended to the west (West End) and north-eastern (Brook End) parts of the village.

Wing: Various Sites
SP 883 228 (centre)

During 2014, excavation of nine 1m x 1.2m test pits was carried out in gardens throughout the village of Wing as part of the Wing Heritage Project. The test pits were excavated by hand under constant archaeological supervision and the excavated spoil was 100% sieved in search of dateable material.

The earliest finds include Roman pottery retrieved from TP18 (21 Leighton Road), TP20 (2 Warwick Drive), TP21 (10 Vicarage Lane) & TP22 (Jubilee Green), indicating that these test pits were located on the periphery of Roman settlement activity that may relate to settlement in the area of Stewkley Road, or to the known settlement activity to the south of the village at Park Gate.

The re-excavation of TP 5 (58-60 High Street), originally excavated in 2013, revealed the first solid evidence of Saxon settlement activity within the village, with the discovery of over 50 sherds of Late Saxon pottery including Thetford ware and St Neots Ware, all found within a possible pit or ditch. Three sherds of Saxo-Norman pottery were also recovered from TP 21 (10 Vicarage Lane).

Saxo-Norman pottery sherds were also discovered within TP24 and TP23 (Queens Head pub) indicating Saxo-Norman activity was in this vicinity. The finds include Stamford Ware and Cotswold Ware. A small NW-SE gully was identified at the base of TP24 and the Saxo-Norman

pottery found within this TP may be associated with the backfilling of this feature. The gully may form the boundary ditch between properties.

Medieval pottery was retrieved from eight of the nine test pits, indicating that settlement activity continued in close proximity to the church, High Street and Castle Mound during the medieval period. Medieval pottery recovered from TP 20 (2 Warwick Drive) along with a 14th-century horse harness pendant in the shape of a shield are the first indicators that medieval settlement activity was occurring in this part of the village.

Woolstone: Rectory Fields

SP 8746 3925

In September and October 2014, Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd investigated a site for three new houses in the historic core of Little Woolstone. The objective was to attempt to recover information that may contribute to the understanding of medieval and post-medieval land-use. Rectory Fields was formerly glebe land. It is situated on the north side of Mill Lane and about 100m northeast of the parish church (The Holy Trinity), which has its origins in at least the 12th century.

Occupation evidence was discovered which dates to the late Saxon or early Norman period. The earliest feature was a large 11th/12th-century midden, composed predominantly of hearth ash. It was cut through by two of a series of shallow linear features containing household waste of 11th/12th-century date. The original function of these features is unclear. The quantity and state of pottery sherds recovered denote that domestic habitation was close by. It is possible that the 11th-century occupation evidence relates to one of seven tenements recorded at *Ulsiestone* in 1086. Subsequent layers of buried soil suggest that the western half of the site was open ground, possibly pasture, in the 12th/13th century, and remained as such through to the 19th century. In contrast, there was a 13th/14th-century occupation layer in the eastern half of the site; where a succession of intercutting ditches also attested to continuation of land-use until the 17th/18th century. To date, the discoveries represent the most significant body of archaeological evidence for 11th to 14th-century domestic settlement in the historic core of Little Woolstone.

POST-MEDIEVAL AND UNDATED

Amersham: High Street

SU 9564 9698

Prior to an application for permission to build a new house at 80 High Street, a trial-trench evaluation in July by TVAS revealed only late post-medieval or modern pits.

Amersham: Whielden Street

SU 9572 9716

Historic building recording was undertaken by JMHS in May of 43 Whielden Street, which is Grade II listed. The building comprises five distinct phases. The earliest, dating to the early 17th century, is the construction of the building as a double-fronted structure with an outshoot turret at the rear. Phases 2 and 3 occurred in the 18th century, and comprised the addition of a wing on the southwest side of the building, probably in the middle of the 18th century, post-dating the map of 1742, and the reworking of the front and side of the building later in the 18th century. The bow window is a shop feature of the early 19th century. The northwest wing was added between 1876 and 1898.

Astwood: Dovecote Farm

SP 9460 4787

In May, Albion Archaeology carried out an historic building survey and impact assessment in support of a planning application for the conversion of a redundant farm building at Dovecote Farm.

Dovecote Farm is located to the north of Astwood village centre, some 500m north of the A422 main road. The buildings proposed for conversion were in the linear range on the northern side of the farmyard and comprised a 3-bay, timber-framed and open-fronted stock shed and an attached weather-boarded storage shed. The buildings were not listed but were considered to be within the curtilage of the listed early 18th-century farmhouse.

The 3-bay stock shed is defined by brick piers, supporting the open southern side. The rear wall of the building consists of a low brick wall below a timber-framed, weatherboarded, upper section. The roof has a pitch of approximately 45° and is covered in pantiles. It is supported by two king

post trusses, a queen post truss at its western end and by the timber-framed gable wall at the east end. A feed trough extends along the north wall of the building. The remains of wooden supports above the feed trough suggest the former location of hay racks.

The shed which makes up the eastern end of the range is timber-framed with weatherboard and a corrugated iron roof. The building is set on a low brick sill. There were no associated fixtures and fittings within the building.

Although the plan form, carpentry and use of timber would not be out of place in buildings of a later date, a number of factors indicate that the farm buildings may be contemporary with the house. In particular, the type of scarf joint used and the expanded jowls to the corner posts are reminiscent of earlier carpentry, suggesting an archaic survival not normally seen in 19th-century buildings, particularly those built during the 'Golden Age' of farming (post-1815). Open-fronted sheds are perhaps more typical of the post-1750 farmyards, where cattle housing was based on provision of shelter sheds around straw yards where manure would build up over the winter.

Brill: Temple Street

SP 6546 2141

In July AS carried out an evaluation of land at 23 Temple Street, prior to the determination of planning application for redevelopment of the site to provide a single dwelling. A single trench revealed no archaeological features, though the significant depth of layers (1m+) overlying the natural sand was suggestive of groundworks, most likely to represent landscaping, in the post-medieval period. A layer of compacted gravel and CBM fragments may have been the surface of a yard or path, whilst two medieval (mid 13th - 15th century) sherds of pottery were found.

Dagnall: Main Road North

SP 9898 1633

In March The Heritage Network carried out a watching brief at Dagnall Farm, to the west of Dagnall village. The watching brief focussed on a machine-excavated cable trench for a solar farm. A single undated cut feature which may represent

a field drain was exposed in the trench. No other features, deposits or finds of archaeological significance were encountered during the course of the groundworks.

High Wycombe: RAF Daws Hill

SU 8700 9150

Building recording was undertaken in January on the former air base by TVAS prior to demolition and redevelopment. RAF Daws Hill appeared to be a largely piecemeal development laid out to requirement, rather than organised plan. Apart from separating out the residential areas, leisure, work and school facilities were mixed within the technical area. There was little to identify it as an American air base except in the naming of roads, estates and school accommodation blocks.

Hulcott: All Saints Church

SP 8532 1668

A watching brief was undertaken by JMHS in August during the excavations of foundations during the repair and restoration of the boundary wall and lychgate of All Saints Church. The excavations revealed the possibility that the Victorian walls had either been built onto earlier red brick walls, or that there had been a later rebuilding of these walls with a concrete foundation built upon the lower four brick courses. No other finds and features were identified during the excavations.

Iver: Hollow Hill Lane

TQ 0219 8003

OA South conducted a watching brief during installation of a section of pipeline beneath the Grand Union Canal at Shreding Green, Iver. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the thrust pit and reception pit that were dug for the installation of the pipe, as well as the stripping of topsoil for the associated working area and a compound and temporary haul road. The only feature of possible archaeological origin that was exposed during the stripping was a gravel deposit that produced modern pottery and glass, and may have been associated with the construction of the canal.

Ivinghoe: High Street

SP 9432 1610

The chapel and Sunday School of Ivinghoe and Pitstone were recorded by TVAS in April prior to conversion to flats. They were a single build in the Italianate style of 1865. First-floor accommodation and entrance lobby may be later but still prior to 1879. The stalls in the chapel were also a later addition.

Lavendon: Bedford Road

SP 9198 5340

The 'Salt Box' is a plot of land off Bedford Road, on the eastern margins of Lavendon. Following an evaluation in 2013 (*Records* 55, 298), in December Albion Archaeology undertook a small open-area excavation on part of the site close to the street frontage.

Several features survived below extensive ground disturbance associated with the former use of the site. The earliest was a large pit that may have been dug to extract gravelly sand. A very small amount of possible Romano-British pottery was recovered from its fills. This cannot be used to date the feature securely, although the deposits were heavily mineralised, suggesting that they were of some antiquity. A wattle-lined pit identified in the evaluation produced a large fragment of 19th-century glass.

Lavendon: Northampton Road

SP 914 536

A watching brief was maintained in June by Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd at 33 Northampton Road during ground preparation for a single-storey rear extension to a Grade II-listed building in the historic core of Lavendon village. The two-storey stone-built house is undated, though was in existence in 1690.

A primary objective of the investigation was to detect evidence of medieval settlement in this part of Lavendon. The removal of topsoil from the back garden revealed wall foundations and floor deposits of an outbuilding whose origins appear to have been in the 16th/17th century. Two shallow pits were found beneath the outbuilding, which contained pottery sherds broadly of 13th-century date. The vessels comprised cooking pots, jars,

dishes and bowls, all of which were locally produced, and typical of domestic discard. It is considered likely that the site was occupied by a medieval tenement. The discovery is thus a positive contribution to knowledge of the distribution of settlement at Lavendon during the High Medieval period.

Lillingstone Lovell: Church Lane

SP 7129 4059

A possible well was the only feature observed in a watching brief by TVAS at Brooklands, Church Lane on footing trenches for a garage in June 2014: it contained a single sherd of early medieval pottery and a horse tooth. It is unclear if the well need be as early as the pottery suggests.

Long Crendon: Bicester Road

SP 6925 0877

Four evaluation trenches were excavated by JMHS in April at 17-19 Bicester Road. Two ditches and one posthole were found: these were related to the late 19th and 20th-century activity on site. No other archaeological features or finds related to medieval and/or early post-medieval settlement elements, including buildings shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map, were revealed during the evaluation.

Longwick: Barn Road

SP 7878 0467

In December Headland Archaeology conducted a trial-trench evaluation on land at Barn Road as part of a programme of works carried out in support of a planning application for residential development. Trial trenching revealed very little evidence for past activity, most of the trenches simply containing topsoil overlying subsoil above the natural deposit. The only features of archaeological interest were two later medieval or post-medieval field boundaries. These are identifiable on 19th century maps and may have later medieval origins, based on the recovery of later medieval tile from one ditch. This reflects the agricultural use of the land in this period.

Monks Risborough: Mill Lane

SP 8089 0494

In November Headland Archaeology conducted a trial-trench evaluation on land at Mill Lane as part of a programme of works carried out in support of a planning application for residential development. Trial trenching revealed very little evidence for past activity, supporting the results of the geophysical survey which did not identify any features of archaeological interest. Most of the trenches simply contained topsoil overlying subsoil above the natural deposit. The only feature of archaeological interest was a ditch representing the remains of a post-medieval field boundary, identifiable on 19th-century maps. A chalk-filled disused drain was also identified.

Newport Pagnell: High Street

SP 8758 4383

A watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February during groundworks associated with the residential redevelopment of the Old Chapel adjacent to the Congregational Church to the south of High Street. The remains of a possible post-medieval/modern brick wall were found to the north-east of the standing Old Chapel building. This wall was on the same alignment as the north-eastern wall of the standing building, and may be part of the now-demolished main body of the chapel.

Newton Longville: Whaddon Road

SP 8421 3143

In support of a planning application for residential development, between June and August Albion Archaeology carried out evaluation of a site off Whaddon Road, to the west of Newton Longville. The settlement originated in the medieval period as a polyfocal village consisting of several 'Ends'; one of which, Westbrook End, was located immediately to the east of the proposed development. Previous archaeological investigations in the village had revealed medieval occupation at the southern end of Westbrook End.

The works comprised desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and trial trenching. No archaeological remains pre-dating the post-medieval period were revealed by the geophysical survey or

the trial trenches. There was evidence for agricultural use of the site in the form of a deep subsoil and a field boundary ditch first shown on the 1844 tithe map. Two trenches contained modern demolition layers, possibly associated with the construction of bungalows and houses to the east of the site.

North Crawley: The Old Rectory

SP 9251 4468

A pair of outbuildings, 'Hay Barn' and 'Deer Barn', adjacent to The Old Rectory were recorded by MOLA Northampton in January and February prior to residential conversion. Both structures have 19th-century origins as hay barn and cart shed, continuing in use the cessation of agricultural activity at the property, with later small-scale alterations. The Deer Barn clearly incorporated the remains of an earlier structure, though it was not possible to determine its original form and function.

Princes Risborough: Sorting Office, Bell Street

SP 4875 0324

In April building recording was undertaken by Bancroft Heritage Services of the former Postal Sorting Office in Bell Street, prior to demolition. The building was probably constructed between 1936–40, as a local centre for the sorting and distribution of mail in the Princes Risborough area, and finally closed its doors in 2011. It comprised a two-storey structure of brick and concrete, with a flat roof and cellar, built in the architectural style known as 'Post Office Georgian'. The building appeared to have undergone relatively few structural alterations. In the late 1990s or early 2000s the first floor was effectively abandoned, and the building's functions were concentrated on the ground floor, which was then refurbished.

Quarrendon: Quarrendon Fields

SP 8010 1673

Between August and November Headland Archaeology carried out a strip-and-record excavation on land at Quarrendon Fields in response to a planning condition for the construction of a single wind turbine on the site. The work uncovered the remains of probable Iron Age / Romano-British activity, consisting of a single large ditch and

another linear observed in section. The remains of medieval agricultural furrows and a pit and tree-throw also potentially related to medieval agriculture were also uncovered.

Ravenstone: Common Street

SP 8402 5065

Planning consent was granted for a single-storey extension to Chestnut Cottage and conversion of the Grade II-listed barns to the north. In June, Albion Archaeology carried out a programme of historic building recording in advance of the conversion works.

Chestnut Cottage was converted into a one-bedroom residential dwelling in the late 1960s. The barns to the north of the cottage were used as garages and for storage. The two-storey coursed rubble stone and thatched barn is a Grade II listed building, dating to 1822.

The buildings form a U-shape around a yard open to the south. The north range consists of a barn aligned end-on to the street frontage. The east and west sides are single-storey ranges. The south end of the west range and all of the east range are in separate ownership and were not included in the survey. The barn has double doors in its south side and a blocked draught door in the north wall. A stone in the west gable carries the date 1822. The roof has a thatched western section and king post roof at the east. Internally, the barn is divided into two by a narrow, first-floor gallery, lit by an inserted window. Buildings in the western range comprise an open-fronted shelter shed, a tack room and stables. The west range is covered by a queen post roof.

Structurally the barn is the earliest building with the other ranges abutting it at straight joins. Details in the western range and the inserted first-floor window in the barn are consistent with the inscribed date. The eastern and western ranges may have been added in the early 19th century to an earlier barn to form the present courtyard arrangement.

The buildings represent a planned farmstead consisting of an integrated group of buildings in a regular courtyard arrangement. As such, they are a product of the age of agricultural improvement that began during the 18th century. The open-fronted shed in the west range is typical of post-1750 farmyards. This type of cattle housing was based

on the provision of shelter sheds around straw yards where manure would build up over the winter. Although far removed from the model farms of the great estates, this farmyard was clearly built with the degree of planning typical of that seen in most newly built or modernised farmsteads of this period.

Sherington: High Street

SP 888 463

Building recording comprising a photographic survey was undertaken by OA East of a barn located within The Manor courtyard, adjacent to extensive gardens that include a moated site. This showed evidence that the building had undergone a number of repairs and episodes of remodelling, reflecting its changing use over time.

Stantonbury: Land at Stanton Low Country Park

SP 8350 4260

In September 2014, Headland Archaeology conducted an evaluation of land at Stanton Low Country Park, Stantonbury, to inform and enhance the interpretation and presentation of the earthworks and associated archaeological remains at Stanton Low Country Park. This evaluation consisted of geophysical survey which identified the 17th century manor house and the layout of the associated gardens. This was tested by a trial-trench evaluation which uncovered structural remains of the 17th-century manor house and designed garden features associated with the house (fitting with the results from the geophysical survey), evidence for the demolition of the house and gardens, and evidence for earlier activity in this area. The trial-trench evaluation demonstrated that survival of the 17th century manor house and associated formal gardens is very good.

Stony Stratford: Vicarage Road

SP 4787 2406

Between April and August Bancroft Heritage Services undertook archaeological monitoring during redevelopment of 25-33 Vicarage Road. The site is located within the historic core of the medieval market town, and had the potential to reveal heritage assets of medieval and later

date. Observation of ground reduction and the excavation of footing pits and trenches revealed limestone footings beneath many of the walls of the 19th-century brick buildings on the site, suggesting either an earlier phase of stone buildings, or the selective use of structural materials for different purposes. It was also apparent that subsoil deposits on the site are of significantly greater depth than on nearby sites in the town. It is possible that this phenomenon is the result of disposal of spoil from development in the vicinity, though it could equally be of natural origin. Underlying natural deposits, typically comprising orange gravel, were not observed in the watching brief. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were noted.

Winslow: Station Road

SP 7700 2830

In December, building recording was undertaken by Bancroft Heritage Services of structures at 23 Station Road, in advance of residential redevelopment of the site. Three buildings were examined: the house, a service range to the rear, and a Nissen hut located by the rear boundary of the property.

The house was constructed in the 1870s, following the opening of the Bletchley-Oxford railway, and the construction of Station Road. As built it was a typical Victorian villa, with patterned brickwork, stone detailing and elaborate brick chimney stacks externally, and bespoke joinery internally, all typical of the period, suggesting that it was built for a reasonably prosperous individual. The adjoining two-storey service wing would have housed the household's transport: horses, trap and tack, with food and bedding for the horses.

Between c.1880 and 1899 the house was extended, with additions to the main part of the house and to the service wing to the rear. The service range was also extended during this period. The extensions to the house were constructed so as to blend seamlessly with the original structure, using identical brickwork, lintels, sills etc. Additional accommodation was provided, both for the family who owned the house, and for their household staff.

The final alterations were made to the house in the latter half of the 20th century. They appear to fall into two phases, the first possibly to provide suitable facilities for a veterinary practice which

may have been based there, and the second with adaptations for an elderly and infirm resident, including some reduction in the occupied areas of the house.

The Nissen hut was constructed c.1965–78. Its intended function remains uncertain, though the ample provision of windows on both sides suggests it was used as a workshop rather than for storage. It had not been used for many years, and was in an advanced state of collapse.

NEGATIVE

Amersham: Whielden Street

SU 9548 9763

Trial-trench evaluation at 70-78 Whielden Street in July by TVAS in advance of residential development revealed no deposits or finds of archaeological interest: parts of the site had been truncated.

Bierton: Badrick's Farm

SP 8371 1555

A watching brief in February and April by TVAS in advance of barn conversion and partial demolition recorded nothing of interest.

Bradwell: Bradwell Memorial Hall

SP 8318 3956

In August Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a watching brief during the hand-excavation of foundation trenches for a rear extension to Bradwell Memorial Hall. The hall, built in the early 1920s, is located within the north-western bounds of a motte-and-bailey earthwork known as Bradwell Castle Mound (National Monument No. 19002). There were no deposits earlier than the 19th/20th century. The results suggested that this side of the bailey was probably terraced prior to the construction of the hall.

Calverton: Whitehouse Farm

SP 810 372

In February and March Border Archaeology undertook an evaluation comprising twenty trenches within two adjoining fields located immediately south of Whitehouse Farm, Calverton, forming a component of the Milton Keynes Western Expansion Area (WEA). The evaluation

revealed no evidence of significant archaeological features or deposits.

Calverton: Fairfield 11, MK Western Expansion Area

SP 800 390

During January and February Border Archaeology carried out an comprising a total of 42 trenches within five fields forming a component of the Milton Keynes Western Expansion Area (WEA). The evaluation revealed no evidence of significant archaeological features or deposits.

Chesham: The Broadway

SP 9597 0177

A watching brief by TVAS in February at The Cock Tavern, 96 The Broadway, involved minimal below-ground disturbance, other than the digging of drainage trenches for new flats and an extension to the pub. No archaeological features or finds were observed.

Chinnor: Spriggs Holly Lane

SU 7657 9835

A trial-trench evaluation was conducted at Batt Hall, Spriggs Holly Lane by JMHS in September in advance of the proposed demolition of existing dwelling and erection of a new building. One trench was excavated to the east of the current house. No archaeological features were identified.

Emberton: Church Lane

SP 8854 4949

Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd undertook a watching brief during groundworks for an extension to a 19th century cottage at 8 Church Lane, within the medieval core of Emberton village and adjacent to the churchyard. Nothing of archaeological significance was present. The works revealed that the hill slope was terraced in the 19th century to enable the construction of cottages.

Frieth: Parmoor Lane

SU 7943 8943

Trial-trench evaluation by TVAS at St Benedict's, Parmoor Lane prior to erection of a new house

in May revealed that the site had been disturbed. Nothing of archaeological interest was observed.

Great Missenden: High Street

SP 8951 0127

In May AS carried out an evaluation at 73 High Street, prior to the determination of a planning application to redevelop the site to provide five terraced dwellings with associated hardstanding. The evaluation revealed no archaeological features. A residual sherd of late medieval pottery was found within modern made ground. Deposits located within the area of investigation were of modern origin or, in the case of the earliest deposit, undated.

Hanslope: Tathall End

SP 8222 4790

In October CA carried out a watching brief during groundworks associated with the Tathall End Flood Alleviation Scheme. The groundworks revealed redeposited soil from the re-cutting or cleaning out of a drainage ditch, along with the metallised surface of an earlier route of the farm track that runs alongside the ditch.

High Wycombe: Hughenden Manor

SU 859 957

Detailed magnetometer survey by MOLA Northampton at Hughenden Manor for the National Trust did not identify any archaeological features within the area of the proposed visitor car park. An undated surface scatter of burnt flint was observed in a field just to the west of the proposal area, but an extension of the survey across this feature proved uninformative. A watching brief during the construction of the car park verified the negative survey.

Long Crendon: Chearsley Road

SP 6992 0915

No archaeological features were identified in an evaluation trench opened by TVAS at 18C Chearsley Road in February in advance of an application for planning permission to build a new house.

Long Crendon: Church of St Mary the Virgin
SP 6995 0910

Nothing of archaeological interest was revealed in September during a watching brief on repairs to the chancel and new drainage and test pits by TVAS.

Marlow: The Compleat Angler Hotel
SU 8519 8606

One test pit within the footprint of proposed development, recorded by MOLA Northampton, revealed alluvial deposits overlain by several levelling layers probably linked to the construction of the hotel car park. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

Sherington: High Street
SP 8890 4623

A watching brief was undertaken by CA between October 2013 and August 2014 during groundworks associated with the construction of a new dwelling. The site is within the grounds of the Manor House, a Grade II-listed building constructed c.1770. This house replaced the original medieval moated manor house, the moat of which was retained in the landscaped gardens of the 18th-century building. This moat lies to the immediate west of the watching brief site, and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The watching brief identified no archaeological remains, but a post-medieval 'made ground' layer found immediately above the geological substrate indicated that the ground had been truncated.

Wing: Land at Moorlands
SP 8846 2338

An evaluation comprising two trial trenches was carried out by Wessex Archaeology on a 4.6ha site at Moorlands, Wing, in advance of a residential development. Most of the anomalies detected in a preceding geophysical survey were found to be geological in nature. The only other feature identified was a probable tree-throw hole.

Wolverton: Moon Street
SP 8190 4080

No archaeological features or finds were discovered in any of the trenches excavated across the proposed area for the school extension and car park by MOLA Northampton in October.

Woughton on the Green: The Green
SP 8790 3778

During November a watching brief was maintained by Bancroft Heritage Services as a condition of scheduled monument consent during the installation of a storm water drain along the south side of The Green at Woughton.

Excavations for the drain encountered only undisturbed ground and disturbances for modern buried services to the houses on the south side of the green. No deposits or finds of any archaeological significance were noted. From a survey of the village earthworks, it appears that the route followed by the drain crossed the rear (south) end of any crofts fronting the original lane crossing The Green. The impact of the drainage works upon the scheduled ancient monument is likely to have been low.

REPORTS NOT RECEIVED

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

Aston Clinton: Stablebridge Road – Excavation
 Berton: Gib Lane – Trial trenching
 Beaconsfield: Springfield Quarry – Excavation
 Burnham: Tithe Barn – Watching brief
 Great Horwood: Weston Road – Geophysical survey
 Newport Pagnell: Motel Building, NP Motorway Services – Building recording
 Stoke Goldington: Bulls Head Farm – Geophysical survey & trial trenching
 Stowe: Stowe School – Excavation
 Warrington: New Pastures Farm – Building recording
 Wavendon: Lodge Farm – Geophysical Survey