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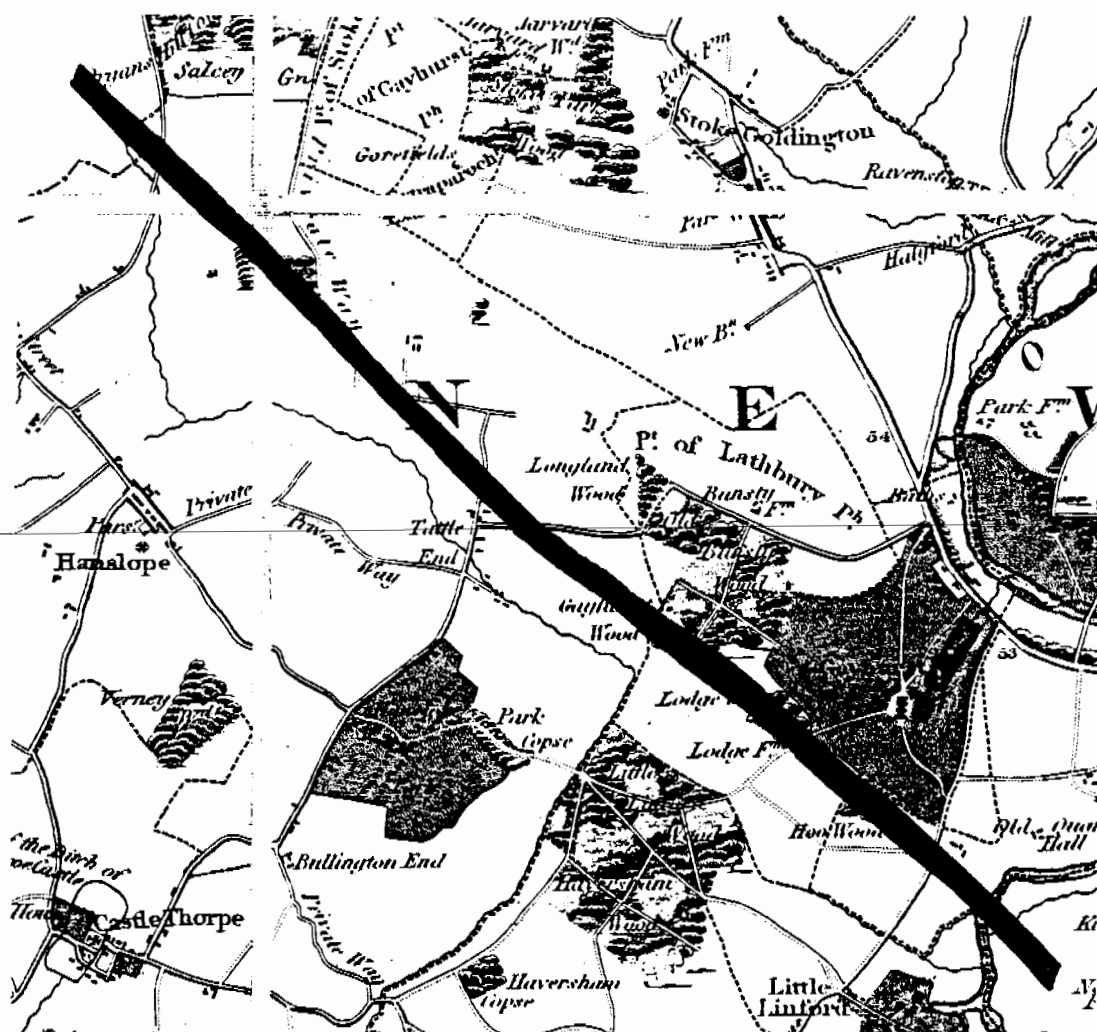
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**M1 WIDENING: JUNCTIONS 10-15  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
STAGE 3A (FIELDWALKING)  
(BUCKINGHAMSHIRE)**

**EVALUATION REPORT**



**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE**

**FOR**

**ACER CONSULTANTS LTD AND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT**

**FEBRUARY 1993**

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Note:

This report should be read in conjunction with the companion volumes: **Data Supplement Volume and Figures.**

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Front Cover: The northern part of the assessment area in 1824, from A Bryant *A Map of the County of Buckingham from an actual survey in 1824*, published 1825.

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"the common people for the most  
part are in great fear when  
survey is made of their land".

From Edward Worsop *A Discoverie  
of sundrie errours and faults  
daily committed by Lande-  
meeters, ignorant of Arithmetike  
and Geometrie* (1582)

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*Note: Additional data is presented in the companion volume to this report, the Data Supplement Volume, and the volume of Figures.*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report has been commissioned by Acer Consultants Ltd. on behalf of the Department of Transport. It is a sequel to the report *M1 Widening: Junctions 10-15 Archaeological Assessment Stages 1 and 2 (Buckinghamshire)* (hereinafter BCM 1992) submitted in November 1992.

As with stages 1 and 2, this work has been undertaken by the archaeological contracting units of the three counties concerned. Liaison between the three organisations has been maintained during this stage of work in order to continue to provide a unified approach towards the methodology of fieldwork and subsequent analysis.

Introductory comments regarding the present context of assessment of road schemes will be found in BCM 1992. The model programme proposed there consists of seven stages:

1. Desktop Study (review of existing data held in the County Sites and Monuments Record)
2. Initial Assessment (Documentary study and initial rapid field study)
3. Detailed Assessment (Fieldwork including systematic fieldwalking, topographic and geophysical survey and trial excavation)
4. Site Investigation (detailed excavation of those sites which it is not possible or desirable to protect)
5. Watching Brief (during initial stages of construction)
6. Archive and Publication (synthesis and dissemination of results)
7. Monitoring of long-term secondary effects of road construction on the archaeological resource.

For logistical reasons, it is often necessary to sub-divide stage 3 into further sub-stages:

- 3a Fieldwalking and topographic survey
- 3b Geophysical survey
- 3c Trial excavation

In the context of this model, the work presented in this report is stage 3a.

The objectives of this study are:

- a. To define (or, in the case of sites previously identified, refine) the known extent of the

archaeological deposits within those parts of the area defined by Acer which had been identified during the previous stages of assessment as being suited to investigation by means of fieldwalking

- b. To make a preliminary assessment of the character, date and significance of such deposits, and the possible impact of the proposed motorway improvements
- c. To produce a free-standing report summarising the above.

The report is presented together with a supplementary paper, the field data supplement volume, which is a revision of the Stage 1 and 2a data supplement volume in the light of the results of the present study.

The stage 3b (geophysical) survey commenced as this report was being completed. It has not been possible therefore to review the data presented here in the light of the geophysical data, but on the other hand the data in this report will be of use in helping to target areas for particular attention during stage 3b.

Every effort has been taken in the preparation and submission of this report in order to provide as complete an assessment as possible within the terms of the brief, and all statements and opinions are offered in good faith. The County Museum Archaeology Section cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for any loss or other consequences arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this report and any supplementary papers howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived, or as a result of unknown and undiscovered sites or artefacts.

#### Acknowledgements:

We are particularly grateful to the landowners and tenants along the route who kindly gave permission to walk across their land.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

The data presented in this report (apart from that derived from BCM 1992) has been compiled from the results of systematic fieldwalking and earthwork survey.

### Fieldwalking:

Structured fieldwalking involves the recovery of artefacts from the ground surface. In order for such artefacts to be visible, it is usually essential that the bare earth is visible, and this means that the technique is applicable only to arable land where crop growth is not advanced. Some results are also obtainable from land which has recently been set-aside. Particular factors affecting the quality of data recovery are discussed further below in the evaluation of reliability of data.

The methodology adopted during the present programme of work is as follows:

Land-use was identified during the stage 2 initial field reconnaissance. Landowners and tenants whose land was in a suitable condition for fieldwalking were contacted in order to obtain permission for access. This was only refused in one case (Field nos 1006-7; 1011-12); in one other instance we had been advised by Acer that a favourable response was unlikely to be forthcoming (field 1051), but this was not a field recorded as being under arable cultivation during the stage 2 survey.

Since the resources necessary to fieldwalk the entire area were clearly unlikely to be forthcoming, it was decided to examine a 10% sample initially, based on 20m squares, with more intensive collection being undertaken only where there was reason to suppose that such additional work would produce additional data. Transects were walked at 20m intervals, normally parallel with the motorway boundary fence except at slip-roads, overbridges &c. From the centreline of each transect it was possible to scan 1m either side in detail, so that a 2m strip (ie 10%) in the centre of a 20m square was being walked.

Owing to the undergrowth and occasional dumps of litter in the vicinity of the motorway fence, the innermost transects were located 5m from the fence line, the subsequent transects being at 25m, 45m and so on.

The study area defined by Acer was of variable width, and the number of transects therefore varied, but was never less than two and in many locations three. Because of the methodology adopted, it was sometimes necessary to walk a transect which was itself *outside* the study area in order to sample a 20m square which lay in part *within* the study area. Similarly, the areas sampled also included part of the verges of the motorway.



Each transect was subdivided into 20m lengths ("stints"). Artefacts from each stint were bagged separately.

Where areas of particular interest were identified by walking as described above, they were walked at greater frequency by examining intermediate transects which were subdivided into 10m stints. This was effective in defining the limits of finds concentrations more precisely.

Certain categories of artefact were excluded from collection: post-medieval pottery, tile and glass, unworked stone, modern metal, nails and unworked animal bone. Particular concentrations of such material were however noted in the field.

Other categories were defined as being worth recording but not retaining thereafter: unstamped clay pipe stems, brick, undiagnostic glass, and shell. Burnt flint was to be counted and weighed but not kept unless also worked.

Any finds of intrinsic importance (eg coins) were to be located by their distance from the start of the stint

Soil discolourations and spreads of building rubble were noted and sketch plotted in the field.

For recording purposes, the field was the largest collection unit - this unit was subdivided into sub-units according to transect and stint. Each find was therefore identified according to Field/ transect/ stint. The field numbers were those allocated during the Stage 2 survey.

All artefacts were subsequently washed and placed in bags labelled according to field/ transect/ stint.

All artefacts collected in each stint were listed. These stint lists were then amalgamated to provide a record of artefacts from each field. The artefact records per field are included in the data supplement volume, but the records for each stint are only retained in the project archive.

The following classes of finds were plotted @ 1:2500 for each field: Flint implements and debitage, Romano-British, Saxon and medieval pottery, all pottery classes which were indeterminate in date but nevertheless either Romano-British or Medieval. Plots were made per field. Where significant concentrations occur these have been presented in the data supplement volume accompanying this report; in certain instances plots from adjacent fields are presented on the same drawing for the sake of clarity, particularly where archaeological sites cross modern field boundaries.

Significant concentrations of finds were often self-evident, but there were also cases where a more rigorous definition needed to be sought. There is scarcely a field in Southern Britain which is devoid of one scrap of pottery and the odd worked flint. Such "background noise" is due to a variety of factors (such as the nature of "off-site" activity, manuring,

casual rubbish discard), but some form of filtering of the data needs to be applied in order to define concentrations of artefacts which are likely to reflect former discrete episodes of activity. This is particularly necessary where the overall rate of artefact recovery is low.

It was initially decided to define significant concentrations as being those instances where artefact quantities were in excess of two standard deviations of the value derived for each field. In practice however this was found to be unsatisfactory, as field sizes varied considerably, and the overall incidence of finds within the study area was low. Instead, each field was divided into blocks of 100m transect length (so, for example, where there were three transects a total of fifteen 20m stints would be included, equivalent to an area inspected of  $15 \times 20 \times 2 = 600\text{m}^2$ ). For each 100m block a value of finds per  $100\text{m}^2$  walked was derived. (In our hypothetical example, if there were four flint flakes, the value per  $100\text{m}^2$  would thus be 0.66). By calculating values for each area walked in this way, a mean value and a standard deviation were arrived at, and concentrations greater than twice the standard deviation were defined as being significant.

Where significant concentrations were defined, new numbers ("CAS numbers") relating to the County Sites and Monuments Record were allocated and the new data added to the database which had been set up during the stage 1 and 2 assessment. In many instances the data for sites already known to exist had been refined by this fieldwork and analysis (in particular information relating to spatial extent). This data has also been used to produce the maps accompanying this report.

### Earthwork survey:

Two earthwork sites had been previously identified. These were:

- a) CAS 5870 (survey records nos 1078, 1080), a complex of earthworks and ponds, was discovered during stage 2 work and therefore completely unsurveyed.
- b) CAS 2553 (survey record no 1053) is a complex of ring ditches and enclosures visible for the most part only on aerial photographs. During the stage 2 work, very slight low earthwork features were noted which were apparently associated with two of the ring ditches.

CAS 5870 was surveyed to a scale of 1:2500. The results are shown in the data supplement volume. The area around CAS 2553 however was so waterlogged that survey was impractical; one of the features noted during stage 2 lay outside the modified study area whilst the other had become virtually imperceptible without the stubble cover present when it was first noted.

### 3. EVALUATION OF THE RELIABILITY OF FIELD DATA

#### Strategy

Fieldwalking involves the systematic collection of artefacts visible on the surface of ploughed fields with the purpose of identifying archaeological sites and providing information on them such as their extent and date. In order to assess the reliability of such field data, factors affecting each aspect of the process need to be taken into consideration.

Systematic collection strategies involve either examining the entire surface of the field or a quantified sample of it. In the case of this survey a measured sample strategy was adopted, partly for expediency and partly because of the linear nature of the threat to potential archaeological sites. The 2m wide transects 20m apart provided a coverage equivalent to 10% of the surface of the area examined. While this approach provides a rapid and cost effective coverage of a large area, there is a possibility that a site smaller than 20m in diameter could be missed if it fell between two transects.

#### Visibility

The collection of the artefacts requires that they are visible to the fieldwalkers. Brightly coloured objects are more obvious than earth coloured ones. This may lower the visibility of prehistoric and Saxon pottery which is usually grey-brown. In addition, the incidence of naturally occurring flint in the ploughsoil (which may in turn be partly derived from river gravels) may make the recognition of worked flint difficult, although in the case of the present survey the presence of naturally occurring flint was not nearly as much of a problem as it is in areas such as the Chilterns.

Other factors such as crop growth or fallen leaves along a hedgerow or beside a wood may also physically obscure the visibility of artefacts.

Not only can crop growth restrict the visibility of artefacts but also the general condition of the ploughed fields. Ideally a field will be ploughed, harrowed and subject to moderate weathering as these processes tend to separate out larger objects such as stones and artefacts from the soil matrix, leaving them clearly visible on the surface. However heavy rain can re-cover them with silt; unharrowed ploughed fields, while not ideal, can be walked. Although results are not directly comparable with fields in better condition, archaeological sites are identifiable under such conditions. Set-aside fields present greater problems; where the surface of the field is still visible, artefacts can be collected from the surface, but lush vegetation growth can completely obscure the soil and any artefacts resting on it. In addition the long term weathering processes and worm action may result in fewer artefacts remaining on the ground surface. The results

of walking set-aside are definitely not reliable especially where vegetation is dense; the absence of artefacts from such fields is not evidence of the absence of sites which could have been located under better conditions.

Other factors may also obscure the visibility of archaeological artefacts: alluviation in river valleys may cover over sites with sufficient depth of sediment so as to prevent normal ploughing from bringing buried artefacts up to the ground surface. Colluviation (hill-wash) may also bury sites in valleys and on slopes as soil from higher up the slope is pushed gradually downhill by centuries of ploughing.

### "Invisible" sites

While the presence of artefacts on the surface of ploughed fields can be good evidence of the presence of archaeological sites, the absence of artefacts cannot be taken to demonstrate the absence of sites. In addition to those factors which inhibit the recognition of sites which are inherently visible, there are also certain types of site which are not, or very rarely, visible as artefact scatters. Because of their durable nature flint tools and flakes and Romano-British, Medieval and Post-Medieval pottery survive well in ploughed fields; such categories of material were usually disposed of by their users in sufficient profusion for significant quantities to be easily visible as archaeological sites. This means that early Prehistoric, Romano-British, Medieval and Post-Medieval sites are highly amenable to being located in a fieldwalking survey. However sites of other periods, such as the Bronze Age, Iron Age and early Anglo-Saxon period are less visible because the pottery used is much more fragile and less likely to survive centuries of ploughing. The use of flint is very rare during the later prehistoric periods (late Bronze Age and Iron Age). In addition sites of these periods are unlikely to have stone buildings which would leave visible traces in the form of rubble scatters.

### Reliability of present study

The data gathered during the M1 survey is potentially subject to all of these biases. Medieval and Romano-British sites were far and away the most easily located and defined because of the profusion of pottery and the presence of quantities of building stone. Almost no artefacts were found however whilst fieldwalking a known important prehistoric site (CAS 2553/field survey record no. 1053); one reason for this may be that there is a considerable depth of alluvium over the site, which lies in the flood plain of the River Ouse. But elsewhere prehistoric sites were also hard to locate and define. At this stage it is difficult to state whether this is a reflection of the true state of affairs, i.e. that prehistoric sites in the region are sparse, or whether it is a bias due to the methods of survey carried out this far, and that sites are present but not visible.

The results from the fields which are set-aside are far less reliable owing to the greatly reduced visibility of the ground surface. Fields where the vegetation was so dense that nothing could be seen were not walked; the condition of the set-aside varied from fields where much of the surface was visible, to fields where visibility was restricted to small areas. Where artefacts were found in fields of set-aside it is likely that many more would have been found had conditions been better. In no case where crops were growing was there any difficulty in seeing the ground surface.

In summary, where fields were ploughed, the reliability of evidence as to the presence of Roman, Medieval and Post-Medieval sites is very good; for prehistoric sites results are likely to be far less reliable owing to problems of poor survival of pottery in ploughsoil and alluviation. Where fields were set aside, the evidence is far less reliable although artefacts should be seen as an indicator for the presence of sites. Whether fields were harrowed and weathered may have made a difference to the number of finds from each type of field but not to the identification of sites. While field walking can provide evidence as to the surface distribution of artefacts and building stone, or a plan of soil stain, it cannot provide evidence as to the extent of buried archaeological features associated with the artefacts. It is likely that features such as ditches, trackways and pits may extend beyond the identified limits of the artefact scatters.

#### 4. IDENTIFICATION OF AREAS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

##### Introduction

The sites and areas of archaeological interest defined below have been divided into periods (Prehistoric, Roman, Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval). Certain sites have been occupied during several periods resulting in artifacts of different dates being found together in the same place. The data has also been summarized on a field by field basis from south to north in section 5, the gazetteer of archaeological sites.

##### Prehistoric

###### Site Definition

It is difficult to define prehistoric sites based only on finds of flint flakes without geophysical survey or trial trenching. Concentrations of flint flakes are usually defined as being archaeological sites. As a result of widespread activity during the prehistoric period, and uncertainty as to the disposal practice to which waste flint was subjected, it is not clear how concentrations of flint flakes relate to the settlement pattern. However, it is normally assumed that flint concentrations or scatters correspond to the locations of prehistoric activity, particularly settlement or the procurement of flint for tool production.

Occasional flakes of flint were found along the whole length of the road corridor; these are probably the result of a low level of activity or waste disposal practices and may be described as the "background noise" of nearby settlement or other activity. Within this low level of activity, it was difficult to identify significant concentrations of flint as the density of flakes in these was also relatively low. Significant concentrations were defined as being areas where the density of flint was more than two standard deviations greater than the mean density for the project area (see methodology section).

###### Results Summary

The mean density of flint for all arable fields walked was 0.23 flints per 100m<sup>2</sup> of field surface examined. One standard deviation was 0.334; two standard deviations above the mean was 0.90 flints per 100m<sup>2</sup>. The table below lists all the fields which contained significant areas where the flint density was greater than 0.7. Where scatters crossed field boundaries, the fields have been grouped together (table 1). Plots of the scatters are included in the Data Supplement Volume.

Only four areas of the corridor had flint denser than 0.9, these are in bold type in table 1. Other areas where the flint density was high included fields 1032 and 1078. In one other case an area contained 0.83 flints per 100m<sup>2</sup> (field

| Field number | Stint numbers | Density of flint per 100m <sup>2</sup> |
|--------------|---------------|--|
| 1033         | 0-5           | 0.78                                   |
| 1033         | 6-10          | 0                                      |
| 1032         | 10-15         | 0.41                                   |
| 1032         | 16-20         | 0.78                                   |
| 1032         | 21-25         | 1.46                                   |
| 1056         | 0-5           | 0.08                                   |
| 1056         | 6-10          | 0.09                                   |
| 1056         | 11-15         | 0.33                                   |
| 1056         | 16-18         | 0.91                                   |
| 1058         | 0-5           | 0.75                                   |
| 1058         | 6             | 0                                      |
| 1076         | 0-5           | 0.75                                   |
| 1059         | 0-5           | 1.63                                   |
| 1059         | 6-10          | 0.43                                   |
| 1059         | 11-15         | 0.48                                   |
| 1059         | 16-20         | 0.13                                   |
| 1059         | 21-23         | 0.33                                   |
| 1078         | 0-5           | 0.71                                   |
| 1078         | 6-7           | 0                                      |
| 1086         | 0-5           | 0                                      |
| 1086         | 6-10          | 0                                      |
| 1086         | 11-15         | 0                                      |
| 1086         | 16-20         | 0.45                                   |
| 1086         | 21-23         | 1.76                                   |

Table 1. Significant densities of flint recovered.

1001, stints 16-18), but this is probably a statistical aberration as the area examined was small (120m<sup>2</sup>) and only one flint was found.

One of the drawbacks of using a method of detecting flint density which relies on only a 10% sample of the field being walked rather than the whole is that small scatters can be "lost" in the surrounding area; this is particularly so when the results are then calculated for an area of 100m in length. The density of flint in field 1078 at 0.71 flints per 100m<sup>2</sup> does not fall in the range of greater than two standard deviations from the mean, although 9 flakes were found in the west part of the field measuring 800m<sup>2</sup> giving a density of 1.13. The reason for the site getting "lost" is that the area of the field from which the calculations were based included two transects to the east of the site on which no flint was found; these diluted the concentration sufficiently to push it below the 0.9 threshold.

### Conclusions

From this analysis four main concentrations of worked flint can be defined, with a fifth, thin, concentration in field 1078. The most extensive is situated in the northern part of field 1059, where it is most concentrated in stints 0-5, but it extends thinly through stints 6-15. It is probable that this scatter extends into Hoo Wood. Since Hoo Wood has been emparked and wooded since at least 1229, it is possible that the part of the site in this area has not been subject to heavy ploughing and may be better preserved. Close to this site on the brow of the hill overlooking the Ouse is another scatter of flint which was detected in fields 1056, 1058 and 1076. These two scatters are close to the extensive cropmark site in field 1053 and may be related to it.

Further to the south, in fields 1032 and 1033 close to the Ouzel River, one dense and one thin scatter have been identified. They are close to known cropmark sites (CAS 1386, 1387, 2050 and 2052), although it is not known whether they are contemporary with them. Due to the lack of comparable data from the vicinity of these scatters, it is not possible to assess whether the concentrations lie at the heart of a site or on its periphery.

To the north of the Ouse, a small scatter is located in field 1086 overlooking a small stream. The site seems to extend southward from the stream for 50m. 0.8km downstream from this scatter, a thin scatter was located in field 1078, in an area where a medieval building was also located.

The date of these prehistoric sites is difficult to assess with such small samples of material available for examination. However based on an analysis of the breadth:length ratios it is suggested that the sites in field 1059, fields 1056, 1058 and 1076, fields 1032 and 1033, and field 1086 are of late Neolithic or early Bronze Age date. The site in field 1078 could be somewhat earlier, dating from the Neolithic.



As far as could be ascertained from the data, there did not appear to be a significant difference between the density of flint recovered from either north or south of the Ouse, indicating that neither area was particularly favoured for prehistoric settlement. Little of the gravel terraces in the river valleys were available for walking, and deep alluvium was a problem in the areas that were, as it may have masked any flint scatters present. The absence of any obvious later prehistoric sites (late Bronze Age and Iron Age) may be due to their very low visibility, given the sampling level of this fieldwalking survey. Flint technology produces large quantities of waste flakes which are virtually indestructible, and broken tools which are not reusable, whereas metal tools are easily recycled and rarely discarded. Thus the change to using metals rather than flint together with the fragility of the poorly fired pottery which rarely survives in ploughsoil makes such sites almost invisible to fieldwalking.

## Romano-British Period

### Site definition.

Romano-British sites are generally more easy to identify and define by fieldwalking than prehistoric sites, because of the durability of the pottery and the tendency to build in stone if it was available. The spreading of rubbish and manure over fields as part of Roman agricultural practice has led to pottery being scattered a considerable distance from the domestic sites at which they originated. Such practices may have been carried out in prehistoric times as well but because of the poor survival of the pottery in general, the overall settlement/activity pattern as defined by the spatial distribution of material is less likely to be distorted.

The mere presence of Roman pottery is therefore not sufficient to confirm the presence of an archaeological site; what is necessary is some additional evidence in the form of a profusion of building materials such as tile or stone, a well defined concentration of pottery and perhaps a marked soil discolouration. From a combination of these factors the presence of a site can be ascertained with a reasonable degree of confidence. The presence of peripheral features on such sites and their extent is more difficult to determine by fieldwalking alone. To detect these geophysical survey and/or trial trenching are necessary; most Roman sites are not limited only to the obvious area of pottery in the ploughsoil. Non-domestic activity (such as cemeteries and industrial sites) may result in assemblages with particular characteristics; cemeteries may be harder to recognise than metalworking sites producing quantities of slag.

### Results Summary

The largest of these sites, the "Ringcell Field" site CAS 4769, field survey record number 1089, (the most visible remains lie just outside the road widening corridor) was a

large and important farmstead with a mosaic floor. Between 1975 and 1986 the locations of several different buildings within the site were observed; the site itself measures at least 80m by 80m with another building located 50m north of the main concentration of artefacts. The field was set aside during the fieldwalking so that the extent of this site, and consequently the impact of the motorway widening proposals upon it, could not be determined. Several sherds of pottery were found in patches where vegetation did not obscure the ground surface. In addition, moderate quantities of building stone were observed in the field on the other side of the stream, field number 1090, together with several sherds of Roman pottery; it is likely that part of the site extends into this area, although because the field was set-aside the ground surface was not sufficiently clear to be absolutely certain. Geophysical survey may clarify the situation.

One of the other Romano-British sites in the widening corridor, CAS 4841 field survey record number 1068, seemed also to be extensive and made up of at least two buildings, or groups of buildings. The northwestern part of the site had been documented previously, but during the field walking it was possible to determine the boundaries of the pottery and building stone scatter and a marked soil stain with more precision. It seems that much of this part of the site lies just outside the proposed line of the motorway, although it is almost certain that archaeological features extend into the corridor. The southeastern part of the site which had not previously been recorded also contained pottery and building stone but no obvious soil stain and lay within the proposed widening area. In addition to these two main foci of activity, an area of tile and a dark soil stain were observed to the north of the known site, although the tile seems unlikely to be Roman and the area may be a filled-in pond of recent date.

In contrast, the Romano-British site in fields 1075 and 1076 (CAS 5882), appears to have been very small, being no more than 40m in diameter. It consists of a small scatter of pottery in an area of discoloured soil adjacent to a small stream/drain. A moderate quantity of building stone had recently been brought to the surface by the recutting of this ditch. There is some difficulty in separating coarse Romano-British pottery from the Saxon and Medieval pottery also present in this area. However the presence of a multi-period site at this location would not be unlikely. The proximity of this site to the alleged route of a Roman road (CAS 2974) warrants further investigation. The site seems to be right up against the road from Gayhurst to Little Linford which is within the proposed area of construction work.

Two other apparent scatters of Romano-British pottery are also intermingled with medieval scatters, which is possibly an indication that the same sorts of locations were used for settlement during both periods. The first of these was at the northwestern end of field 1086, CAS 5884, where a small scatter of Roman pottery overlooking the small stream may be indicative of another small settlement. The site lies within

the widening corridor. The second site (CAS 5869), which is in field 1061, presents similar problems as the Roman pottery lies together with a scatter of medieval pottery and large quantities of building stone; presumably the Roman site was later built over again in the medieval period. The scatter of stone in the field is roughly figure-of-eight shaped; it may consist of two overlapping scatters, one of these being the site of a Roman building and the other a Medieval one. The site extends right up to the existing motorway and lies within the widening corridor.

### Conclusions

The Romano-British sites varied from what were apparently small isolated rural features to substantial sites with several buildings and an extent of over 50m. The settlement pattern of dispersed farmsteads found in this area is not unusual, although the site at Ringcell Field, CAS 4769, field survey record number 1089, is probably more extensive and of higher status than most farmsteads in the area. As a group the sites are important as they may represent the spectrum of Roman sites in the rural settlement pattern of the region, from large to small. They have potential for providing useful comparative data for sites of different type and status in the same region.

Romano-British sites in arable fields are usually easily located by field walking as the pottery is common and survives well in ploughsoil, except where sites are covered in deep alluvium. However fieldwalking cannot always determine the precise boundaries of settlements; peripheral features and activities, evidence for which may survive below the ploughsoil, are not be visible on the surface. All of the Romano-British sites which were found during the survey were located north of the Ouse. The absence of obvious sites south of the Ouse is noteworthy and it may be that sites exist in those areas where fieldwalking was not undertaken.

### **The Saxon Period.**

#### Site Definition

Sites from this period are difficult to locate during field walking owing to the fragility of the pottery, and tendency not to build in stone. The presence therefore of any concentration of Saxon pottery is significant.

#### Results Summary

Only one Saxon site was discovered during the survey, in field survey record number 1075. Here a group of Saxon pottery sherds was found adjacent to a small stream in an area where both Roman and Medieval pottery were also found. The site has intrinsic importance in that Saxon sites are less common than those from other periods, and its juxtaposition with medieval

pottery suggests the possibility of continuity of settlement. The site seems to be right up against the road from Gayhurst to Little Linford which is within the proposed area of construction work.

### Conclusions

Other than the one site identified above, there is the possibility that other Saxon sites underlie some of the Medieval sites, although no pottery has been found. Occasional isolated sherds of Saxon pottery were found elsewhere in the project area; the importance of these is hard to assess.

### The Medieval Period

#### Site definition

Like Romano-British sites Medieval sites are generally more easy to identify and define by fieldwalking than sites of other periods, because the pottery is more durable and the tendency was to build in stone if it was available, at least in the higher status sites. Manuring of fields may also have led to pottery sherds being scattered a considerable distance from the domestic sites at which they originated, distorting the picture.

The presence of low levels of Medieval pottery is therefore not sufficient to confirm the presence of an archaeological site; what is necessary is some additional evidence in the form of a profusion of building materials such as tile or stone, a well defined concentration of pottery and perhaps a marked soil discolouration. From a combination of these factors the presence of a domestic site can be ascertained with a reasonable degree of confidence. The presence of peripheral features on such sites and their extent is more difficult to determine by fieldwalking alone. To detect these geophysical survey and trial trenching are necessary.

#### Results Summary

The southernmost site encountered, CAS 5882, in fields 1075/1076 consisted of a small scatter of medieval pottery in association with building stone, adjacent to a small stream and a field boundary. The site was probably a small farmstead; however the presence of both Romano-British and Saxon pottery on the site may indicate that it is a more significant area of settlement. The site seems to be right up against the road from Gayhurst to Little Linford which is within the proposed area of construction work.

Just to the north of this site lies Hoo Wood, CAS 5856, field survey record numbers 1060,1059,1076, which has been identified as a medieval wood which was emparked in 1229 (Cantor and Hatherly 1977, 442). The wood as it stands today

is surrounded by a substantial bank and ditch. The northern part of this may be the original medieval park boundary dating from 1229. The south edge of the wood was also surrounded by a ditch which is probably later in date. Based on the location of an old parish boundary, the orientation of former ridge and furrow shown in RAF aerial photographs, and soil changes observed in the field, the park and wood probably were formerly more extensive. However during the medieval period part of the park was turned into arable land, and the remaining part embanked. The proposed widening will destroy a significant part both of the surviving wood and the area formerly enclosed within the park boundary.

Just on the north side of Hoo Wood, in field 1061, a substantial scatter of building stone and Medieval and Roman pottery was located (CAS 5869). This presumably represents the site of a Roman building which was later built over again in the Medieval period. The scatter of stone and Medieval pottery was an extensive one, running for about 100m along the edge of a small stream towards Gayhurst House as far as a small pond. This site may have been part of the Medieval village of Gayhurst whose precise location has yet to be determined. The site extends right up to the existing motorway and the densest part of the pottery and stone scatter lies within the widening corridor.

Just to the north of Dairy Farm in field number 1067 a rectangular enclosure (CAS 5881) within a field of ridge and furrow was recorded; it appeared to extend into Stocking Wood. As it lay about 40m outside the area of proposed widening it was not examined in great detail. It is presumably medieval in date.

A complex of features was identified in the immediate vicinity of Tathall End during the field survey. The features are not easy to interpret, and are almost certainly the result of more than one period of activity. The principal elements are as follows:

In field 1078 a dense scatter of building stone, some of it reddened by burning, and Medieval pottery lies just above the stream. The farmer reported that local folklore recorded this field as being the site of "Tot Hall". Tothall Manor is known to have existed from the early thirteenth century (VCH Bucks 4, 352-354); the mansion had long gone by the mid nineteenth century when Sheahan writing in 1862 said "Here [Tothall End] was a mansion, the stabling and out-offices of which were pulled down only a few years ago." (Sheahan 1862, 540). The field name recorded in 1779 was Abbey Close, which might record the former presence of a major building, although the ecclesiastical connection is open to question. The proposed route of the new course of the Hanslope to Gayhurst road which by-passes the village crosses right through the site.

Also in this field at its eastern boundary, and in the adjoining fields is a string of ponds along the stream.

These are possibly Medieval or Post-Medieval fishponds, although they lack the characteristic dams and embankments, as well as the rectangularity of plan, which such features usually exhibit. The effort and resources involved in constructing and maintaining fishponds is usually indicative of the wealth and power associated with manorial or ecclesiastical sites, but such a connexion cannot be proved in the present instance. A sluice on one of the ponds is shown on the first edition of the Ordnance Survey, although none is visible today. A number of the ponds have been filled in recently and the stream diverted. One of the ponds also lies within the widening corridor; any vestigial evidence of water management techniques such as the remains of sluices or channels would be destroyed by construction.

During the field walking survey, the earthwork site in field 1080 was also surveyed (see plan in data supplement volume). Interpretation of the earthworks is difficult without either geophysical survey or trial trenching. The hollow way which runs from Tathall End to Park Farm was a substantial feature, and appeared to have a second trackway, less well pronounced, running alongside it to the northeast. There is a suggestion on RAF aerial photographs that these trackways curved back down the hill to the site of the building in field 1078, although the area is now ploughed. Some of the other earthworks had the appearance of house platforms and quarry pits. This area may once have been part of the village. Around Hanslope there are a number of areas where formerly substantial villages or parts of the main village have shrunk down to just a farmhouse or have been completely abandoned. Alternatively the earthworks, and perhaps the ponds also, may be vestiges of garden features associated with Tot Hall. The relationship between earthworks and ponds is difficult to demonstrate. Part of the earthwork site lies on the route of the proposed route of the new course of the Hanslope to Gayhurst road which by-passes the village.

Another site of a former medieval building (CAS 5883) was located in field 1084, just to the northwest of Tathall End Farm, where a small scatter of building stone, pottery and a soil stain overlooked the junction of two streams and a trackway. The site was not walked as it was located just outside the motorway widening corridor. About 80m north along the same trackway, on the other side of the motorway in field 1086, another scatter of medieval pottery (CAS 5884) lay mostly within the widening corridor and probably represents the site of another building.

The moated site, CAS 0358, which is on the side of the motorway not to be affected by widening, lies 0.5km northwest of these two sites. Despite ploughing the moat itself was still visible as a low earthwork, together with a very dense scatter of building stone and pottery. Between the hard shoulder of the motorway and the fence the earthwork is far better preserved and seems not to have been greatly disturbed.

In the field across the motorway from it, 1088, a linear depression, soil stain and scatter of pottery and tile may relate to the medieval moated site. The depression may be a leat (feeder stream for the moat). RAF aerial photographs taken prior to the recent ploughing of the field show other earthworks, in addition to the moat in this part of the field. Geophysical survey would help assess the importance of this area.

The buildings discovered in the vicinity of Tathall End may be part of a village, formerly much larger but now shrunken to the small group of houses still left, or they may also be part of a dispersed settlement pattern which later became filled in to create the village. Some of these medieval sites were of high status, one being a moated site and another two being possibly associated with ecclesiastical ownership, at least by field name evidence, and possibly with the monastic site, Gorefields, in Stoke Goldington (CAS 0045), which lies only 2km north of Tathall End. One of the sites associated with an ecclesiastical field name, CAS 5870, field survey record number 1078/1080, is near a string of fishponds of assumed medieval origin which would also indicate that this site was of high status.

### Conclusions

All of the Medieval sites which were found during the survey were located north of the Ouse. The sites varied from what was apparently a small isolated building to more extensive sites consisting of several buildings. As in the case of the Romano-British period, the absence of obvious sites south of the Ouse is noteworthy and it may be that sites exist in those areas which were not fieldwalked. However this may also be a feature of the settlement pattern in the area, with a greater number of nucleated villages and fewer outlying settlements.

The density of medieval settlement north of the Ouse was surprisingly high. Excluding existing villages such as Hanslope and Tathall End, 12 settlement sites of medieval date are now known from the Ouse to Salcey Green within 1km of the motorway itself; five occur within the area of the proposed widening and attendant alterations to local roads. Other than at Tathall End the evidence suggests a dispersed medieval settlement pattern with isolated buildings 0.5 to 1km apart. A similar dispersed settlement pattern has been noted just to the north of Hanslope in Hartwell, Northants during motorway widening survey work there (Northamptonshire County Council 1992, pp 12-13).

As a group, the medieval sites in this area are of considerable importance in that they consist of a variety of types, moated and unmoated, and may vary in status and function; they are nearly all located along the same stream valley or in close proximity to it. At the same time they are on the periphery of the parishes in which they are located. Their potential for providing information on the development of the regional medieval settlement pattern and its subsequent

contraction is considerable.

### **The Post-Medieval Period**

No distinct settlement sites of the Post-Medieval period were encountered within the survey area, although occupation at some of the medieval sites identified could have extended into the sixteenth century. Features such as gravel pits and stone pits were encountered in addition to landscape features such as coverts and ponds. The string of ponds at Tathall End (CAS 5870) was still partly functioning in the nineteenth century since sluices are marked on the first edition of the Ordnance Survey map. One other feature may be worthy of further investigation: the large stone pit in field 1077. The field name from 1779 is Stone Pit Field and by the time that the first edition of the Ordnance Survey was drawn the pit was no longer in operation. A large depression indicates the location of the pit; to the southwest of this, within the area affected by proposed alterations to the Hanslope - Gayhurst road, is a large quantity of tailings from the quarry. The quarry may date from as early as the Medieval period; certainly as an eighteenth century or earlier industrial site it has potential. With the quantity of stone in the ploughsoil around the pit it is not possible to tell whether there were any buildings associated with the quarry.



## 5. PROVISIONAL INDICATION OF THE LIKELY IMPACT OF THE MOTORWAY WIDENING PROPOSALS, AND GAZETTEER

### Sites within the stage 3 study corridor

The construction of the motorway is likely to destroy any archaeological sites within the proposed fence line. Most archaeological sites are shallow in relation to the degree of disturbance caused by modern motorway construction. Although precise engineering details have not been considered here, the assumption has been made that all those sites or parts of sites identified as being within the fence line are likely to be destroyed or seriously disturbed by the proposed widening.

This damage is as likely to occur where the motorway crosses on embankments as it is where there are cuttings.

The catalogue of sites below represents the existing knowledge as to the extent and nature of archaeological sites already identified along the route of the widening, and the likely impact of the widening within the fenceline marked on drawings DTP0900/EN/PD/112-119. The catalogue runs from south to north along the route. It should be reiterated that this is unlikely to be the full total of archaeological sites in the route, as areas of pasture, woodland and set-aside have not been systematically surveyed. One group of fields (1007, 1008, 1009, 1010, 1011, and 1012) has not yet been surveyed at all due to difficulties over gaining access; it is not known whether any sites are present. One other field, 1051, where there are two known sites, CAS 0002 and 1990, has also not been visited for the same reasons. Geophysical survey (assessment stage 3b), and eventually trial trenching (stage 3c) will also provide greater information on the sites which have so far been identified.

### Sites upon the margins of the study corridor

It is more difficult to assess the impact of the construction upon sites on the periphery of the widening corridor. Precise engineering details have not been considered here; obviously these will need to be taken into consideration when detailed proposals for mitigatory action are being formulated. The extent of each of the archaeological sites identified during the survey work is inevitably imprecise at this stage, as the criteria used to define their limits has been restricted to surface inspection, cropmark evidence and the distribution of artefacts on the ground surface. These provide only an imprecise indication of the extent of archaeological features buried beneath the ploughsoil. While the sites of Roman or Medieval buildings may be easy to identify, peripheral features such as barns, trackways, field systems and so on may be less visible as artefacts are less likely to be deposited around them. Such features are nevertheless important for understanding the site as a whole. The construction can potentially damage these peripheral parts of a site even if the most visible features are outside the road corridor

itself. Geophysical prospecting techniques may serve to identify such areas.

There is also the possibility of damage to archaeological sites outside the fence line itself caused by the construction of temporary construction camps, drains and roads. As the location of such facilities has not yet been planned, it is difficult to assess the impact of such disturbance. However, several important sites have already been identified as being right outside the fence line, during the survey work.

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#### **Sites within the present motorway fence line**

Other potential disturbance to archaeological sites within the existing fence line of the motorway is possible: the motorway crosses over CAS 0358, a medieval moated site. It is not clear how much of the moat if any survives under the motorway in this location. Between the fence line and the hard shoulder the earthwork seems undisturbed; any reconstruction of the existing motorway at this point could damage part of this site.

Gazetteer of archaeological sites identified at the conclusion of stage 3a, indicating the likely impact of motorway widening

(Note: sites are listed from south to north, specifying Field survey record number, parish, CAS number, Site type, and a synopsis of available data).

Field Survey Record No: 1032  
Parish: Woolstone-cum-Willen  
CAS No: To be assigned JPP7  
Site Type/Period: Flint scatter /Late Neolithic-early  
Bronze Age

Synopsis: A flint scatter of probable late-Neolithic/early Bronze Age date lies within the motorway widening corridor at the south end of the field. If subsurface features are present, the motorway is likely to disturb the site seriously. Evidence for subsurface archaeological features in the adjoining fields is given by cropmark sites. However Oxford Clay and head underlie the soil in this field reducing the chances of cropmarks being visible. The site probably extends into field 1030 which has been under pasture for centuries. Geophysical survey may characterise this site further.

Field Survey Record No: 1033  
Parish: Woolstone-cum-Willen  
CAS No: 1386  
Site Type/Period: Flint scatter /Late Neolithic-early  
Bronze Age; Cropmark, Enclosure/Ring  
Ditch/Bronze Age?

Synopsis: A thin scatter of late Neolithic/early Bronze Age flint at the north end of this field lies within the motorway widening corridor. If subsurface features are present, the motorway is likely to disturb the site seriously. Evidence for subsurface archaeological features in this and the adjoining fields is given by cropmark sites. However Oxford Clay and head underlie the soil in this field reducing the chances of cropmarks being visible. The site probably extends northwest into the cropmark areas in this and neighbouring fields (1034) (CAS 1386, 2052). Geophysical survey would be highly desirable here.

Field Survey Record No: 1036  
Parish: Newport Pagnell  
CAS No: 2052  
Site Type/Period: Cropmark, Ring Ditch/Neolithic-Bronze Age

Synopsis: This field was under pasture at the time of the survey. Cropmark evidence indicates the presence of a substantial archaeological site much of which lies within the widening corridor. The site consists of a ring ditch and associated linear features. Without further work it is difficult to give a precise date to the site, but it could be prehistoric, based on evidence from similar excavated sites. The motorway is likely to disturb the site seriously.

Field Survey Record No: 1051  
Parish: Haversham-cum-Little Linford  
CAS No: 1990, 0002  
Site Type/Period: Cropmark, Ring Ditch/Neolithic-Bronze Age (1990); Cropmark, Enclosure/Iron Age?-Roman? (0002)

Synopsis: This field was set-aside at the time of the survey. Cropmark evidence indicates the presence of two archaeological sites. Both lie outside the widening corridor. However, the complex subsurface geology of this field make it difficult to assess the true extent of either of these sites. Both cropmarks are in an area of sand and gravel, whereas the strip alongside the motorway is mostly Boulder Clay and Blisworth Clay, neither of which is conducive to the production of cropmark evidence. Without further work it is difficult to give a precise date to the sites, but 0002 could be Iron Age or Romano-British, based on similar sites which have been excavated, whereas 1990 could be Bronze Age, on similar grounds. The field was set-aside at the time of the survey and there were difficulties in gaining access during stages 1 and 2 of the assessment. Geophysical survey may help to indicate whether archaeological features extend into the motorway widening area.

Field Survey Record No: 1053  
Parish: Newport Pagnell  
CAS No: 2553  
Site Type/Period: Cropmark, Enclosure, Ring Ditches/  
Bronze Age?, Iron Age?

Synopsis: This field contains part of a major cropmark site. Field walking evidence was surprisingly sparse with almost no finds being made over the area of the floodplain where most of the cropmarks are located. It is likely that deposits of alluvium have buried any artefacts associated with the site and may also have enhanced the quality of the site's preservation. The cropmark site is restricted to the floodplain area, and so geophysical survey on the upper slopes would be important in determining whether any part of the site extended into this area. Those parts of the cropmark site within the corridor are likely to be seriously affected by construction and by any work carried out on the channel of the river. These include one ring ditch and a rectangular enclosure of presumed prehistoric date. The channel at this point has been considerably straightened since the second world war, leaving part of one of the ring ditches on the other side in field 1054. Since field 1054 has been under pasture for all of the recent past, a geophysical survey here may help determine whether important archaeological features such as the site in 1053 are present here also. Based on evidence from excavated sites, this site is probably a Bronze Age cemetery, with additional Iron Age settlement enclosures present.

Field Survey Record No: 1056, 1057, 1075, 1076, 1059  
Parish: Gayhurst  
CAS No: 2974, 5856, 5882.  
Site Type/Period: Road/Roman (2974); Park boundary/  
Medieval (5856); Pottery/Roman,  
Saxon, Medieval (5582); Flint  
scatters/late Neolithic-early Bronze  
Age (5582).

Synopsis: These fields contain a number of potentially important archaeological sites. A thin flint scatter at the point where the Gayhurst to Little Linford Road crosses is probably a late Neolithic or early Bronze Age site. A similar but more dense flint scatter is located off the crest of the hill close to Hoo Wood, into which it probably extends. The location of both these sites is significant as they lie at the junction of different topographical and geological zones above a bend in the Ouse. Also in the area where the road from Gayhurst to Little Linford crosses the motorway is a small Roman, Saxon and Medieval site, CAS 5882. The association of the Roman pottery scatter and the route of an alleged Roman road should be noted. The proposed fenceline seems to cut through the edge of this site. Geophysical survey may determine whether any subsurface features relating to any of these artefact scatters exist in this area. The presumed former bank and ditch of Hoo Wood runs across 1059 within the

widening area. A precise location of it and any dating evidence relating to when it was filled in and the woodland given over to arable would be of interest.

Field Survey Record No: 1060  
Parish: Gayhurst  
CAS No: 5856  
Site Type/Period: Park/Medieval

Synopsis: Hoo Wood, the remains of a medieval park and wood, makes up the whole of 1060. A substantial ditch and bank survives around the wood, which to the north is presumably part of the original park boundary. The flint scatter in field 1059 probably extends into the wood. The motorway widening will destroy about a third of the wood and its boundary features.

Field Survey Record No: 1061  
Parish: Gayhurst  
CAS No: 5869  
Site Type/Period: Pottery, building/Roman, Medieval

Synopsis: A small Romano-British site with a much more extensive Medieval settlement is located within the widening corridor. The Medieval site extends northeastwards beyond the fenceline but the Roman site does not seem to extend so far. The greatest concentration of building stone and pottery, measuring about 50m<sup>2</sup>, lies within the corridor and would be destroyed by the widening. Geophysical survey may be able to determine more accurately the limits of the building(s) and the presence of any peripheral features.

Field Survey Record No: 1068  
Parish: Gayhurst  
CAS No: 4841  
Site Type/Period: Pottery, building?/Roman

Synopsis: A large Romano-British site extends along the line of the widening through much of this field. The area of most intensive activity seems to lie just outside the proposed fenceline, although a second focus lies within it. Other peripheral features undoubtedly extend well into the area of proposed widening. Geophysical survey may be able to define these.

Field Survey Record No: 1067  
Parish: Gayhurst  
CAS No: 5881  
Site Type/Period: Earthwork, enclosure/Medieval?

Synopsis: A rectangular enclosure of presumed medieval date lies outside the widening area in this field. The widening work is therefore not likely to affect it.

Field Survey Record No: 1077  
Parish: Hanslope  
CAS No: Not assigned  
Site Type/Period

Synopsis: A post-Medieval stone pit and stone working area lie in the path of a proposed by-pass for Tathall End. The road works would cut through the area of stone working waste.

Field Survey Record No: 1078  
Parish: Hanslope  
CAS No: 5870  
Site Type/Period: Pottery, building?/Medieval  
Flint scatter/Neolithic?

Synopsis: The site of a medieval building, a fish pond and a flint scatter of possible Neolithic date (CAS 5870), lie directly in the route of a proposed by-pass for Tathall End. The fenceline bisects the scatter of building stone and pottery. The site may be that of Tot Hall, a building of some importance. The remains of other outbuildings may also be present in the area. The road would seriously damage both the building site and the flint scatter as well as obliterating the pond completely.



Field Survey Record No: 1080  
Parish: Hanslope  
CAS No: 5870  
Site Type/Period: Earthworks, house platforms?, quarry  
pits?, fishponds/Medieval

Synopsis: The earthworks in this field are of presumed medieval and post-Medieval date and may be part of the complex of buildings around Tot Hall or the remains of other houses from a shrunken village. Some are undoubtedly quarry pits and further fishponds. Geophysical survey may help to clarify the nature of the site. The road cuts a swathe through a large field of earthworks; included in the swathe are two possible house platforms and parts of long terraces which run along either side of the hollow way. One of these terraces may have had buildings on it. Damage to those parts of the site within the fencelines would be considerable.

Field Survey Record No: 1086  
Parish: Hanslope  
CAS No: 5884  
Site Type/Period: Pottery/Roman, Medieval  
Flint scatter/late Neolithic-Bronze  
Age

Synopsis: In the northwest corner of the field a multi-period site is located within the widening corridor. Artefactual evidence suggests the presence of a late Neolithic/early Bronze Age site as well as areas of Roman and Medieval activity.

Field Survey Record No: 1084  
Parish: Hanslope  
CAS No: 5583  
Site Type/Period: Pottery, building?/Medieval

Synopsis: The site of a Medieval building is situated in the southwest corner of this field. It lies outside the area of proposed widening. It is unlikely to be affected by it, although geophysical survey may clarify whether any archaeological features lie between this and the site in 1086.

Field Survey Record No: 1088  
Parish: Hanslope  
CAS No: 0358  
Site Type/Period: Pottery, tile/Medieval

Synopsis: The moated site, CAS 0358, appears to extend on this side of the motorway in the form of a shallow earthwork and a scatter of tile and pottery. Earthworks are also visible on RAF aerial photographs taken before the field was ploughed. The widening would seriously affect this part of the site. Geophysical survey may help to determine the extent of any features beneath the ploughsoil.

Field Survey Record No: 1089  
Parish: Hanslope  
CAS No: 4769  
Site Type/Period: Pottery, tile, buildings?/Roman

Synopsis: The major Romano-British site is currently thought to lie outside the widening corridor. However the field was set-aside at the time of the survey so that its extent could not be determined. Several sherds of Roman pottery were found within the proposed new fenceline. Geophysical survey may help determine whether any of the site lies within the road corridor. The evidence at present is insufficient to determine the likely impact of the motorway on this site.

Field Survey Record No: 1090  
Parish: Hanslope  
CAS No: 1632  
Site Type/Period: Pottery/Medieval  
Building?/Roman? or Medieval?

Synopsis: A considerable quantity of building stone was noted in the southern corner of this field. However because the field was set-aside it was not possible to determine whether this relates to an archaeological site or not. The presence of a major Romano-British site in the adjoining field and the recorded findspot of medieval pottery from the field suggest that this area deserves further investigation. The area of stone lies within the corridor and any archaeological site there would be seriously affected by the proposed widening. A sherd of Medieval pottery found in the centre of the field may be an isolated find or relate to the stone spread.

## 6. OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY

Prior to the stage 3a survey, fifteen archaeological sites had been identified within the fenceline shown on drawings DTP0900/EN/PD/112-119. Of these fifteen sites, two had been discovered during the stage 2 work.

A further five new sites were identified during the stage 3a survey within the fenceline, in addition to two new sites just outside the area. Additional information on eight of the previously known sites was also gathered which has resulted in further definition of their limits, date and nature. Those of the sites outside the area defined which were not under arable were not examined.

Of the 61 fields determined to be arable in the stage 2 survey, a total of 41 fields were walked during stage 3a. Difficulties in gaining access prevented six from being walked; two fields had been set-aside and were far too overgrown to attempt walking; 12 fields identified in the Stage 2 work no longer lay within the Stage 3a study area. Two fields not included within the bounds of the original survey were also walked as they now fell within the revised corridor (numbers 1111 and 1112). With the addition of these two "new" fields, a total 43 fields were walked. A total of 37.12km of stint was walked, resulting in 74240m<sup>2</sup> of the ground surface being examined, this area being a 10% sample of approximately 70 hectares.

The field walking survey proved to be an effective strategy both in the additional information which it generated on the previously known sites, and in increasing the number of archaeological sites known on the route by 33%.

It is highly likely that sites remain to be discovered on those parts of the route not examined during stage 3a. The magnetic susceptibility component of the stage 3b work will be of considerable assistance in identifying such sites. Further characterisation of the known sites will be attained by means of magnetometry: the following areas are identified as being of particular interest in this context:

Field 1032. Further characterisation of area of flint scatter

Field 1033. Further characterisation of area of flint scatter, close to cropmark site (CAS 1386)

Field 1036. Further characterisation of cropmark site.

Field 1051. Further characterisation of cropmark features which may extend into widening corridor.

Field 1053. Part of a cropmark site, CAS 2553 seems to be covered in alluvium; geophysical survey may clarify whether features other than those visible on aerial photographs are present.

Fields 1056/ 1057/ 1059/ 1075/ 1076. Further characterisation of areas of artefact scatters.

Fields 1060 and 1064. Two parcels of woodland lie right next to known sites which could extend into the woodland.

Field 1061. Further characterisation of area of Romano-British and medieval artefacts and stone.

Field 1068. Further characterisation of area to determine whether features associated with adjacent Romano-British site extend into area affected by widening.

Field 1078, 1080. Further characterisation of Tathall End medieval complex.

Field 1086. Further characterisation of area of prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval finds.

Field 1088. Determination of extent of features relating to moated site, CAS 0358.

Fields 1089 and 1090. Determination of extent of Romano-British site (CAS 4769) within motorway widening corridor, and characterisation of possibly related rubble scatter in field 1090.

Also of interest are:

Fields 1034, 1056, 1057, 1058, 1070, 1071, 1072, 1094, 1099, 1100. Four sites, CAS 4864, 2051, 4031 and 2974, the routes of alleged Roman roads, are somewhat open to question. It may be that geophysical survey will assist in the confirmation of their presence; nothing was observed to confirm it during Stages 2 and 3a.

Fields 1030, 1037, 1054, 1091, 1092. Fields of pasture and set-aside worth further examination because of their proximity to known sites whose limits appear to extend beyond the area accessible to fieldwalking.

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