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# A40 WITNEY BYPASS TO STURT FARM IMPROVEMENT

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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Cotswold Archaeological Trust

for Oxfordshire County Council on behalf of the Department of Transport

January 1993

CAT Job. No. 0282 CAT Typeschipt No. 92105

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Gloudestershire GL7 2BX

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# GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

## Archaeology

For the purposes of this project archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains, from Prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set although AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

#### Monuments

These are taken to be any kind of building, structure or work, whether above or below the surface of the land, and any cave or excavation, or the remains of any of these things. In this sense monuments represent an archaeological interpretation of the deposits recorded at sites.

## Neolithic

A chronological division of the prehistoric period during which agriculture and domestic animals were introduced to Britain. It is conventionally dated between c. 4500 BC - 2000BC.

## Post Medieval

The period following the Medieval period from c. AD 1500 to the Industrial Revolution.

#### **PPG 16**

Archaeology and Planning. DoE 1990, London

#### PRN

Public Record Number

#### RCHME

Royal Commission for Historical Monuments of England

#### SAM

Scheduled Ancient Monument

#### Sites

These can be taken as places where archaeological deposits have at some time been recorded.

#### SMR

Sites and Monuments Record

#### SUMMARY

A field-walking programme was carried out by Cotswold Archaeological Trust Ltd on land adjacent to the A40 (Witney Bypass to Sturt Farm. Oxfordshire) to be affected by the proposed dualling of the carriageway and associated interchange. The land comprised a mixture of arable, pasture, plantation and quarry. The former was field-walked on a 20m grid whilst the pasture and woodland was observed for any visible earthworks. In total an area of d.11.5ha of arable land was looked at.

At least three archaeological sites lie within or adjacent to the Study Area: the Asthall barrow (SAM 15): the line of a Roman road (Akeman Street) (PRN 8921) and possibly a small Roman cemetery (PRN 1485). The barrow itself is unaffected by the works although the area immediately to the west of the Asthall roundabout will be disturbed. No trace of the Roman road was observed in the adjacent field to the west of the alignment. The field to the east with the cemetery was under pasture.

The field-walking revealed a light scatter of worked finnt in most of the fields but no clear concentrations. Other than right and modern refuse the only other find recovered was a lead trader's token of Late Medieval/ Post-Medieval date

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The following report presents the results of an archaeological survey carried out on land bordering the A40 near Witney, | West Oxfordshire, in January 1993 by Cotswold Archaeological Trust Ltd. (Fig.1)
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by the Oxfordshine County Council acting as agents for the Department of Transport. A brief and accompanying map outlining the areas to be looked at was supplied by the Enpineers Department, Oxfordshine County Council (Fig.2). A copy of the brief as supplied can be found in Appendix 1.
- 13 The objective of the archaeological assessment is to gather sufficient information to establish the presence/ absence extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits that may be affected by the proposals. This corresponds to the first stage of pre-planning archaeological investigation as recommended in PPG 16 (DoE 1990, paragraphs 19-20) and could be used. If necessary, for the basis of preparing a specification for subsequent field evaluation.
- 1.4 The following report is arranged in nine main sections. A note of the sources consulted is given in Section 2. A summary of the national archaeological designations, constraints and policy framework is given in Section 3. Section 4 discusses the known archaeological background to the area. Section 5 briefly describes the methodology used whilst Sections 6 and 7 describe the results of the aerial photographic study and field-walking. Section 8 reviews the potential or otherwise of the area in the light of the information discussed in sections 4 and 7. Section 9 considers the archaeological sensitivity of the area with recommendations for further work.

## 2. Sources

- 2.1 The archaeological brief comprised two elements: an aerial photographic study using photographs supplied by Oxfordshire County Council's Engineering Department and a programme of systematic field walking and surface collection.
- 2.2 Although not specified a visit was additionally made to consult Oxfordshire County Council's Sites and Monuments Record and to the Royal Commission for Historical Monuments (RCHME) Aerial Photographic Library at Swindon for any further useful documentation for the area.
- 2.3 No documentary research in the form of studying maps for former land-use, boundaries or field-names, looking at old records for the area, placename research or other library or

museum work was undertaken during this study. A full aerial coversearch was not made through the RCHME or other photographic bodies.

# 3. Archaeological Designations, constraints and policy frameworks

#### National

- 3.1 The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended in England) defines two kinds of protection for monuments of national importance: Scheduling and Guardianahip.
- 3.? There is currently one scheduled monument (SAM (S) immediately outside the area affected by the proposals. Whilst the scheduled area itself will not be affected the area immediately to the west will be disturbed.
- 3 3 There are currently no Guardianship Monuments within the area.
- 3.4 PPG 15 entitled Archaeology and Planning (DoE 1990) provides the most recent non-statutory statement of current national policy on archaeological monuments. In addition to guidance on the "assessment" (paragraph 20) and "field evaluation" (paragraph 21) of the archaeolgoical resource the following main points of the policy may be noted:

"Archaeological remains should be seen as a finite and non-renewable resource, in many cases highly fragile and vulnerable to damage and destruction. Appropriate management is therefore essential to ensure that they survive in good condition. In particular, care must be taken to ensure that archaeological remains are not needlessly or thoughtlessly destroyed. They contain irreplaceable information about our past and the potential for an increase in future knowledge. They are part of our national identity and are valuable both for their own sake and for their role in education, leisure and tourism" (paragraph 6)

"Where nationally important archaeological remains, whether Scheduled or not, and their settings, are affected by proposed development there should be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation" (paragraph 8)

"If physical preservation in situ is not feasible, an archaeological excavation for the purposes of "preservation by record" may be an acceptable alternative" (paragraph 13)

"The desirability of preserving an ancient monument and its setting is a material consideration on determining planning applications whether that monument is Scheduled or

unscheduled" (paragraph 18)

planning authorities decide that the "Where physical preservation in situ of archaeological remains the circumstances of the case and 1nresulting the destruction development in archaeological remains should proceed, it would be entirely reasonable for the planning authority to satisfy itself before granting planning permuission that the developer appropriate and satisfactory provision excavation and recording of the remains" (paragraph 25)

# 4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A summary of the SMR records can be found in Appendix 2.
- 4.2 The archaeological brief (Appendix 1) drew attention to the two following main sites likely to be affected by the scheme:

PRN | 1492 Asthall Barrow PRN 8921 Akeman Street Roman Road

- 4.3 Asthall Barrow is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 15), the scheduled area being defined by the upstanding barrow. The SAM itself will not be affected by the road proposals but the area to the west, outside the present scheduled area, will be affected.
- 4.4 Asthall Barrow (NGR 2899 1010), a large circular monument measuring some 16.9m in diameter and 2m high, was excavated by G.S.Bowles in 1923. Anglo-Saxon remains were discovered apparently as primary burials. The excavation details are sufficiently imprecise for there to be some doubt as to whether the Saxon finds derive from secondary burials made into an earlier burial mound. The mound is generally larger than most of the prehistoric Cotswold round barrows further suggesting that it may be of Saxon date
- 4.5 Akeman Street Roman road running between Corinium (Cirencester) to the south and Verulamium (near St Albans) to the north, crosses the A40 in the vicinity of the grade separated interchange. Part of its course is preserved in the hedgerow alignments. Approximately 1km to the north of the A40, Akeman Street passes through a small Roman settlement at Asthall.
- 4.6 In addition to the above two sites the SMR notes the presence of a Roman cemetery (PRN 1485) (NGR SP 2767 1048) in a field adjoining Sturt Farm and to the east of Akeman Street. In the last century twelve or thirteen human skeletons were found accompanied by some coins, the information coming from a Mr William Bullinger of Stonelands (1894). No further details are recorded.

# 5. Methodology

# Aerial Photographs

- 5.1 Two sets of aerial photographs taken along the route of the A40 were made available by Oxfordshire County Council. The first set comprised black and white verticals taken 3.11.85 by B.K.S. Surveys Ltd (no.s 08-004/006/008/010/018/020/022/024) at a scale of 1:2500. The second set comprised colour verticals taken by Geonex on 27.7.91 (no.s 51 91 137 and 51 91 187) at a scale of 1:10,000
- 5.2 A visit to the RCHME photographic library at Swindon produced only one relavant oblique of the Asthall barrow all other photographs of the area falling to the Asthall side of the A40.
- 5.3 The photographs were studied for any signs of archaeology in the form of crop marks on visible earthworks.

## Field-walking

- 5.4 All arable fields falling within the road corridor were systematically fieldrwalked using a 20m grid. All material of archaeological significance was collected. Modern field scatters were noted but not collected. A record was made noting surface geology, soil conditions, date and time of walking, weather, light, conditions and name of individual fieldwalker per transect.
- 5.5 Arable fields bordering the route with less than 20m width affected by the work were line walked with 20m collecting points. In total 11.5 ha of arable land were field-walked.
- 5.6 Areas of pasture and plantation/woodland were crossed to check for earthworks or other features. Areas of quarry were not investigated.

# 6. Results: Aerial Photographic Study

6.! The derial photographs supplied did not appear to show anything of archaeological significance in the form of cropmarks or earthworks. The time of year that the two sets of pictures were taken was, perhaps, not the best in terms of highlighting any potential archaeology. The BKS Survey film taken in November showed many of the fields to have recently been ploughed whilst the Geonex film, taken in late July was just during and after harvest. Cropmarks tend to be best whilst the crop is at the ripening stage where differential soil moisture causes different ripening rates. Conditions tend to vary from year to year and thus generally speaking no one set of photographs will necessari-

6.2 The RCHME hold a collection of oblique aerial or specialist photographs at Swindon. Only one photograph was present of the study area taken of the Asthall barrow at a very oblique angle (ref.SP 28.10/1 OCM 11220):

# Results: Field-walking

- 7.1 A summary of the field-walking notes including details of soil conditions, date and time of walking, weather, light, conditions and walker per transect can be found in Appendix 3.
- 7.2 The fields were walked between 4th-6th January 1993 using a team of three personnel. Because of the irregular nature of the areas looked at a base-line was set up for each field using the most convenient crossing point. The lines were all walked in the same direction for each field except where linear stratches extended along the road corridor. The lines were set up at 20m intervals with 20m collecting points on each (Fig. 2).
- 7.3 Conditions were variable in terms of weather with fog and a partially frozen topsoil on the 4th January. Subsequent thawing with light drizzle made conditions fairly good for walking on the 5th and 5th January. All the arable fields with two exceptions had crop growing which at c. 50-100mm height did not obscure the ground surface and conditions were thus favourable for field-walking. Field L (see Fig. 2) had recently been ploughed with little time for weathering with the exception of a 5m wide strop alongside the road coinciding with the line of walking. Field Field had not been ploughed this Autumn and still carried standing stubble. Although this was walked the weathered surface partially obscured with chaff was not ideal for observing finds. Dead leaves from the plantation at the Asthall Barrow roundabout partially obscured much of the area looked on the edges of Fields A and B.
- 7.4 The finds recovered from the arable fields mainly comprised fragments of worked flint (see Appendix 4 for catalogue). In total 109 pieces were recovered (for distribution see Fig.3). The majority of these came from the northern side of the A40 from fields overlooking the Windrush Valley. In particular 70 pieces (75%) came from Field P over an area of 35000 sq metres, with a further 12 from Field O. The fall of the ground away from the A40 on the northern side suggests that there may be some considerable downslope movement of finds from an unidentified focus. The density of finds immediately opposite on the southern side of the A40 cannot at present be determined since these fields are under pasture. The fields that were walked on the southern line of the A40 showed a much sparser distribution of flint totalling 27 fragments; one from Field A, two from Field D, eight from Field E

- and 16 from Field F. No finds were recovered from line walking along the sides of the fields. A quantity of burnt limestone was noted in Field C.
- 7.5 The flint comprised a mixed assemblage typical of that derived from anable fields in that it showed extensive edge damage. There is fairly abundant evidence of working debris including cortical primary flakes, core rejuvenation flakes and a few cores. The number of tools is relatively low and comprise basic rather simple pieces. One or two pieces are clearly Neolithic in date but the assemblage is not necessarily of a single date.
- 7.6 A very sparse distribution of modern refuse brick, tile, glass and china was encountered in fields A-N and O. In Fields E and F this became more marked in the area adjacent to the A40. Field P had particularly high concentrations of modern domestic refuse (pottery, glass, bone, brick, tile, flint gravel and other debris) spread over the eastern side of the field covering an area in excess 150m downslope by 60m across. The presence of a former quarry in this area, now infilled, is likely to be consource of this material.
- 7.7 The only other find recovered was a small lead trader's token with the letter 6 on one face. This was recovered from Field N and is likely to be of Post-Medieval date.
- 7 8 The pasture fields showed no earthworks or other features other than possible small quarry disturbances suggestive of archaeological features. Barrow Plantation to the west of Asthail Roundabout similarly contained a number of small quarries. A bank and ditch within the wood and set at right andies to the 440 probably define an old field boundary. A small area of "ridge and furrow" running parallel to this on the west side is likely to be from tree planting. Although few of the existing trees appeared to conform to any alignment the name plantation is suggestive of deliberate planting.

## 8. Discussion

- 8.1 The archaeological resource within the Study Area is variously well-defined as with the case of the identified monument of Asthall Barrow and Akeman Street, or extensive as in the case of the flint scatters and evidence that cannot be attributed to specific monuments.
- 8.2 Assessing the importance of potential archaeological deposits is not easy and is best approached from two directions: the importance of defined monuments and the general archaeological sensitivity of the landscape as a whole.
- 3.3 In the case of defined monuments their observed or observa-

ble attributes can be used to guage their overall importance. For all areas, whether or not they lie within the limits of recognised monuments a general appreciation of archaeological sensitivity based on professional judgement can be gauged by combining information on the presence/ absence/likelihood or archaeological contexts and contexts with what is known of past land-use.

- 8.4 On the basis of what is currently known about the archaeological resource and modern land-use within the Study Area it is possible to suggest a provisional zoning of the Study Area according to archaeological sensitivity. In this sense sensitivity is taken to mean a combination of the interest and importance of a monument or series of archaeological deposits coupled with some indication of the extent to which the integrity and value of deposits is vulnerable to damage or loss.
- 8.5 Figure 4 shows the extent of each of three defined levels of sensitivity as they can be predicted from the information currently to hand. The boundaries between zones are not absolute or immutable and should thus only be regarded as generalised.
- 8.6 Zones of high sensitivity correspond to areas where archaeological deposits are known to survive well and have considerable potential. There is at present only one area recognised as such from the locality the Asthall Barrow, and this falls just outside the area to be affected by the scheme.
- 8.7 Zones of medium sensitivity correspond to areas where archaeological deposits may survive although heavy land use along most of the route might suggest that these, if present may have only survived in poor condition. The areas identified as such include the area to the west of Asthall Barrow, the line of Akeman Street and the postulated site of the Roman cemetery.
  - 8.7.1 Evidence from elsewhere would suggest that Saxon burial mounds, or indeed Prehistoric mounds subsequently reused in the Saxon period, often form the focus of flat inhumation or cremation cemeteries. No evidence for this has apparently come to light at present despite extensive road modifications in the roundabout area in the recent past. However, the potential still exists.
  - 8.7.2 The presence of a Roman cemetery alongside Akeman Street is of some considerable interest although details pertaining to the site are poor. The positioning of a cemetery at such a point raises the question as to which settlement it might relate to. A Roman settlement has recently been confirmed to the immediate south along Akeman Street although at present little is known about the extent of this settlement. In some cases the nature of such settlements is linear extending alongside a main road, as is the case with Wilcote, Oxon which extends for c. 1 mile.

It could be suggested that the settlement is extending along Akeman Street towards the A40 and the cemetery is located just outside the limit of Roman occupation. Alternatively the site may represent a rural shrine of some nature, or belong to an as yet unidentified settlement nearby. The site if correctly identified is currently under pasture and at present nothing is known of past land use. If the land has been out of arable for some time preservation of deposits is likely to be good.

- 8.7.3 An area either side of Akeman Street has been placed in this zone since the potential may exist alongside the road other evidence of Roman occupation/ activity. It should also be noted that the junction at this point with the Saltway may also be of some significance.
- 8.8 Zones of low sensitivity are areas where disturbance have already been considerable as with quarrying and modern ploughing or where the distribution of archaeological remains are too thinly scattered at present, to provide any meaningful focus for activity, as in the case of the flint scatters. This zone accounts for the greatest proportion of the present Study Area.

#### 9. Recommendations

- 9.1 Despite an apparently rather poor picture of archaeological survival in the Study Area reflected in the generally low sensitivity that appears to apply to most of the area, there may be some localised areas of interest. This coupled with the general richness of the neighbourhood as a whole may be taken as grounds for carrying out further investigations. Such investigations can be regarded in two further Stages of work following on from the above programme regarded as Stage 1.
- 9.2 It is recommended that: **Stage 2** should continue the programme of non-invasive techniques already amployed to attempt to refine knowledge of the potential archaeological resource. This would include the following:
- a) Archaeological Databases:
  Archaeological Excavation and survey records; National
  Monuments Records; Regional and Local Sites and Monuments
  Records. Regional inventories: Public and private
  collections of artefacts and ecofacts.
- b) Historic Documents: Charters, Estate papers, contemporary published accounts eg, county and agricultural surveys, industrial investigations.
- c) Cartographic and Pictorial Documents: Early maps, prints and paintings, Tithe maps, OS maps.

- d) Aarjal Photographs
- e) Field-walking
  Field F should be walked again following ploughing.

  (it is considered that although the nature of the field-walking undertaken, and the size of grid used, would not, in many cases be conducive to the identification of concentrations of finds, the low level of recovery would suggest in this instance, that use of a tighter grid would not be useful].
- f) Geophysical:
  Geophysical survey to be targetted on the zones of medium sensitivity identified in Figure 4
- 9.3 It is anticipated that **Stage 3** would comprise evaluation / excavation. It is envisaged that this may take the form of:
  - a) targetted trenches: to test any features or anomalies identified by the geophyical survey.
  - b) sample pits or trenches: to give a quantified assessment of the topsoil content to take further any understanding of the flint concentrations. These would be undertaken within the pasture fields as well as the arable.

# 10. Acknowledgements

The following are thanked for their assistance in undertaking this work: Oxfordshire County Council Sites and Monuments Office. Royal Commission for Historical Monuments Aerial Photographic Division and Mrs J. Osbourne, Mr N. Brading and Mr J. Newton of Oxfordshire County Council. The fieldwork was undertaken with the assistance of C. Bateman and R. Morton. Comments on the flint were provided by Professor T.C. Dervill (Bournemouth University).

# Appendix 1: Archaeological Brief

- 1.8 Background
- 1.1 The proposed improvement is for on-line dualling of the A40 from the western end of Witney Bypass, at Asthali Barrow Roundabout, westwards to a point 700m west of the White Hill Turn, grid reference SP263110. The two-lane dualling will be to the south of and parallel to the existing A40. The5re will be a grade separated interchange at the Swinbrook and Brize Norton Turns together with associated service and access roads. The enclosed plan Orawing No. 653/815 shows the preferred route.
- 2.0 Objective
- 7.1 The overall objective of this assessment is to gather sufficient information to establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits that may be affected by the proposals. The assessment is to cover the whole road corridor which is outlined in blue on the enclosed bean orawing No. 653/815.
- 3.0 Particular Issues
- 3.! Particular attention is to be paid to the following main sites of archaeological interest which are likely to be affected by the scheme:-
  - Site PRN 1492 Asthall Barrow. This site includes the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Asthall Barrow, OXON SAM 15, a burial mound of the Saxon or prehistoric period. The SAM will not be affected by the proposals but part of the wider area of interest around Asthall Barrow, that is the area westwards of Asthall Barrow Roundabout, is likely to be affected and is to be investigated.
  - Site PRN 8921

The Akeman Street Roman Road. Portions of the road's course survive in hedgerow alignments and under fields. Akeman Street crosses the A40 in the vicinity of the grade separated interchange.

- \* These known sites of importance are indicated on the enclosed plan.
- 4.0 Method of Study and Data Collection

- 4.1 Non-destructive techniques will be used and will comprise an aerial photographic study made in conjunction with a programme of systematic field walking and surface collection. This work will comprise:-
  - Review vertical air photographic coverage for the route for evidence of earthwork remains (consult OCC County Engineer Project Manager regarding air photographic coverage).
  - 2. Fieldwalk the specific areas of Asthall Barrow and Akaman Street as shown on the enclosed plan.
  - 3. Fieldwalk the whole of the route corridor in order to establish any other areas of interest.

Ploughed fields are to be searched in transects not further than 20 metres apart, with finds collecting units along each transect of 20 metres length. This should ensure the establishment of an 3-figure grid reference for all artefact assemblages. All material of archaeological significance is to be collected. Modern field scatters should be noted but not collected.

All fields etc not under plough should be systematically fieldwalked for earthwork or similar remains.

- 4. Make recommendations for any further work.
- 5.0 Recording
- 5.! Record all archaeological features at a scale of 1:2500 on polyester based negatives to be supplied by BoT or their agent. Areas of earthworks are to be clearly marked. Individual earthworks are to be sketch plotted with changes of slope marked by hachures.
- 5.2 Record all ploughed field fieldwalking transects and collecting units on the same plan.
- 5.3 Fieldwalking notes should include details of surface geology, soil conditions (moisture, whether soil well broken up etc), date and time of walking, weather, light conditions and names of individual fieldwalker per transect.
- 5.4 All finds should be suitably bagged, boxed and marked in accordance with UKIC Conservation Guidelines no 2.
- 5.5 Relate any features visible on air photographic coverage to those discovered during field survey and sketch plot on the 1:2500 plans as appropriate.

- 5.5 Summarise and relate to the 1:2500 plan such relevant information as has been obtained from the documentary research.
- 6.0 Programme of Work
- 5.1 The work is to begin by 21 December 1992 and be completed by 14 January 1993.
- 7.0 Genéral
- 7.1 The assessment will be under the control of a qualified archaeologist who will normally be a member of the Institute of field Archaeologists requstered with an appropriate area of competence.
- 7.2 Recommendations for further action including documentary research and or fieldwork are to accompany the report.
- 7.3 A copy of the research archive and drawn plans is to be provided to the County Archaeologist within the Department of Laisure and Arts of Oxfordshire County Council for incorporation within the Oxfordshire Sites and Monuments Record.
- 7.4 Access for field survey will be arranged by DoT or their Agent.

Appendix 2 : Recorded Sites and Monuments

PRN 1485 SP27571048 Roman: Cemetery, coins.

Description: in a field adjoining Sturt Farm 12 or 13 human

skeletons were found and with them some coins.

Information William Bullinger Sept. 1894

References: 1. Pte 6" (Ashmolean Mus. 15/2/1949)

2. Notes on the Archaeology of Oxford and its

Neighbourhood, Percy Manning p.41 2a. William Bullinger of Stonelands, 1894

PRN 1492 SP28991010 Earthwork: ?Bronze Age. Anglo-Saxon Round Barrow. SAM 15

Description: Mound 55ft. Ht. 12ft. Formerly enclosed with a drystone wall. Excavated by G.S. Bowles 1923 who identified apparently primary cremation burials probably c. 7th century A.O. accompanied by Saxon pottery, metalwork, gaming pieces, and ivory in ays. The mound is considered by Leeds and Grinseli to be Saxon. It is certainly larger than most Cotswold round barrows but excavation details

are sufficiently imprecise for there to be some doubt whether the Saxon artefacts do not accompany secondary burials in an earlier mound.

References O'Neil and Grinsell TEGAS 79 (1960), p.22

Antiq. J 4 (1924)

PRN 5571 Near Asthall Barrow , Cacust

PRN 5571 Near Asthall Barrow : Casual finds

Description: ?Neolithic pottery, arrowhead. Marginal map

reference. Found near Asthall barrow. References: Antiq. J 2, p.236

VCH1 0xon (1939), p. 252

PRN 8852 | Linear: Saltway, Widford - Sampton: ?Saxon, Medieval

Reference FTS Houghton, Saltways T. Birm A.S. LIV, 1929-30

EPNS XXIII, p3

PRN 8863 | Linear : Witney Ridgeway: Prahistoric/Period uncertain

References: G.B. Grundy, Saxon Oxfordshire Charters and Ancient Highways. ORS XV (1933). 99 PRN 8921 Linear : Akeman Street

Description:

Sources:

Margary Road 16b 0xon 7, 109 Marden D.B. Oxfordshire A.S. Rep. 83 (1937), p.39

Antig. J 9, 30

PRN 8963 Linear: Turnpike Road: Crickley Hill - Oxford

Post Medieval

PRN 10026 SP 2813 1036 Milastone: Post Medieval

Type Pl. Plate removed, Inscription: Burford 2 Descript∮on:

Witney 5.

# Appendix 3 : Field-walking Notes

The fields have been labelled alphabetically (A-O) for ease of reference (see Fig. 2).

#### Field A

No. of lines: 10 Collecting units: 20

Surface geology: Stony fine brown loam

Soil conditions: Frozen with thawing surface - very sticky

Soil state: Weathered, prop growth c. 50-100mm: dead leaves

obscuring 2-3m adjacent to wood.

Date and time of walking: 4.1.93 am. Weather/ light: Slightly misty. Damp. Walkers: CB. RM. JT.

# Field B

No. of lines: 2 Collecting units: 17

Surface geology: Stony fife brown loam

Soil conditions: Frozen topsoil thawing, - sticky Soil state: Weathered, ordo growth c. 50-100mm

Date and time of walking: 4,1.93 am. Weather/ light: Slightly misty, damo.

Walkers: 08

# Pr⊜ld C

No. of lines: 1 Collecting units: 14

Surface geology: Stony fine brown loam

Soil conditions: Frozen with topsoil thawing. Soil state: Weathered, crop growth c. 50-100mm. Date and time of walking: 4.1.93 am.

Weather / light: Slightly misty, dame.

Walkers: 08

## Field D

No. of libes: 5 Collecting units: 17

Surface geology: Stony fine brown loam

Soil conditions: Frozen with topsoil thawing Soil state: Weathered, crop growth c. 50-100mm

Date and time of walking: 4.1.93 late am.,

Weather / light: Misty, damp.

Walkers: CB. RM. JT

# Field E

No. of lines: 14 Collecting units: 37

Surface geology: Stony Fine brown loam

Soil conditions: Frozen below surface, sticky topsoil

Soil state: Weathered, crop growth c. 50-100mm

Date and time of walking: 4.1.93 pm Weather / light: Fog (visibility c. 80-100m), damp Walkers: CB. RM. JT. Field F No. of lines: 6 Collecting units: 37 Surface geology: Stony fine brown loam Soil conditions: Hard, partially frozen Soil state: Stubble with chaff on surface. Date and time of walking: 5.1.93 am Weather: Light rain Walkers: CB. RM. JT. Field G : Pasture Field H : Pasture Field [ | Pasture field J : Pasture Field K 🗄 Quarry Field L No. of lines: 1 Collecting units:9 Surface deology: Slightly stony red-brown loam Soil conditions: Moist Soil state: Recently ploughed, not weathered apart from 5m strip alongside road - left from pravious year. Date and time of walking: 5.1.93 am Weather / light: Drizzle, fair visibility Walkar: JT Field M No. of lines: 1 -Collecting units: 9 Surface geology: Slightly stony red-brown loam: Soil conditions: Moist-wet, very sticky Soil state: Weathered, crop growth c. 100mm Date and time of walking: 5.1.93 am Weather and light: Drizzle, fair visibility Walker: JT Field N No. of lines: 24 Collecting units:113 Surface geology: Slightly stony brown loam

Soil conditions: Moist, very sticky

Date and time of walking: 5.1.93 pm

Soil state: Weathered. Crop growth 50-100mm

Weather / light: Light rain, visibility fair Walkers: CB. RM. JT.

Field O

No. of lines: 10 Collecting units: 33

Surface geology: Slightly stony brown loam

Soil conditions: Moist, sticky

Soil state: Weathered. Crop growth 50-100mm

Date and time of walking 5.1.93 am

Walkers: CB. RM.

Line 1.1 Large contical flake, possibly a side scraper but heavily damaged.  Line 3.1 Small irregular flake, small amount of contex.  Line 8.3 Small triangular flake detached from multi-polar core.  Flake.	
Line 1.3 Small irregular flake, broken. Unworked.  Field D  Line 3.2 Small irregular flake, recently removed from larger piece of flint judging from patination.  Line 4.2 Large cortical flake, heavily battered.  Field E  Line 1.1 Large cortical flake, possibly a side scraper but heavily damaged.  Line 3.1 Small irregular flake, small amount of cortex.  Line 8.1 Small triangular flake detached from multi-polar core. Flake.  Line 8.3 Irregular cortical flake.  Small irregular flake, possibly utilised.  Small irregular flake.	
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Line 11 3 Small contical flake.	
Line 1.2 Small irregular flake.	
Line 2.1 Very amol1 from t shattered fragmant.	
Line 2.4 Bulbar and of small irregular blade.  Small irregular flake with edge damage.  Heavily calcined flake with edges lost.	
Line 3.4 Triangular flake, some recent damage, traces of edge retouch along one side. Fragment of serrated blade (bulbar end only). ?Neolithic Lightly calcined irregular flake with edges broken away.	
Line 4.1 Small irregular flake.  Small cortical flake.  Core trimming flake made from a core originally derived from breaking up a polished axe. One polished facet.	

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	Line 4.7	Two small irregular contical flakes.
	Line 5.2	Contical flake, some adge damage but with slight traces of working along either side. Large contical flake from which some flakes have been detached, possibly naturally. Some damage.
•	Line 5.4	Core trimming fiake.
.	Field N	
	Line 2.2	Lightly calcined or frost damaged flake.
	Line 3.1	Small flake ? core trimming. Small calcined flake, all edges lost.
	Line 3.2	Irregular flake. broken
	Line 4.2	Flake, Sutilised:
:	Line 4.5	Small multi-polared core, some cortex remaining, Large cortical flake, possibly utilised, Large irregulase flake, ?core trimming.
	Line 5.2	Irregular flake with some frost damage. Small flake, possibly frost detached.
	Line 5.3	Irregular flake. Small contical flake with edge damage. Small broken flake. Small contical flake.
.	Line 5.4	Small broken flake.
	Lino 6.2	Small core trimming flake. Small flake with edge damage.
	្រៅក្រុ ចំ.4	Flake with some traces of utilisation. Small broken flake.
: :	Line 6.5	Contical flake, edge damage.
	Line 7.2	Broken flake, hinge fracture. Contical lump from edge of nodule, broken.
	Line 7.3	Irregular flake, ? core trimming flake with hinge
		fracture.
	]	Core trimming flake.
	Line 7.5	Flake with edge damage.
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- Line 8.3 | Flake, recent damage.
- Line 8.5 Flake. Broken flake.
- Line 9.1 Flake with some edge damage, traces of possible utilisation.
- Line 9.4 | Flake with slight traces of utilisation.
  | Flake with flat: facet.
- Line 10.1 Contical blade with slight edge wear. NB.Different kind of flint compared to rest of assemblage pebble rather than nodular.
- Line 10.2 Flake with large hinge fracture.
  Small flake with hinge fracture.
  Small contical flake
- Line II.3 Irregular flake
- Line 12.3 Part of blade with edge damage and frost fracturing, broken.
  - Line 12.4 Core trimming flake with hinge fracture.
- Line 15.4 Part made ?core tool or scraper with subsequent frost or heat damage. Flawed raw material.

  Cortical flake.

  Slade, some edge damage, traces of edge working.
  - Line 16.3 Flake with edge damage. Hinge fracture.
  - Line 15.5 Two contical flakes.
  - Line 17.1 Two contical flakes, one large.
    Contical flake probably utilised with hinge fracture.
  - Line 17.3 One irregular flake.
    One contical flake, broken off.
    One frost damaged flake.
    One heavily calcined flake, edges missing.
- Line 18.1 Flake with extensive edge damage, traces of retouch.
  Flake with edge damage.

  Small flake.
  - Line 18.3 Irregular flake, hinge fracture, some recent damage but possibly utilised.

Line 19.	Blade fragment
Line 19.4	Irregular flake. Two flakes with hinge fractures. Small flake.
Line 19.5	Small pyramidal flake/ core trimming. Small flake with hinge fracture.
Line 20.3	Irregular contical flake. Small fragment of blade - broken.
Line 20.5	Flint chip. Contical flake with working on both sides - possibly a small side scraper.
Line 21,2	Large flake with some contex.
Field O	
Line 2.2	irregular flake with abundant edge damage.
Line 3.3	Core trimming Make.
Line 4,2	Broken blade.
Line 5.2	Multi-polar cone from which blades have been detached. Irregular flake with edge damage. Small contical flake.
Lin# 5.3	Small flake.
. Line 5.1	Two contidal flakes.
Line 5.2	Scraper. Contidal flake.
Line 7.3	flake utilised on one side

