



Great Bowden Heritage & Archaeology

Excavations at Buckminster Close, Nether Green, Great Bowden 2006-2009



Google Earth photograph 2010

HISTORY OF THE SITE

The paddock, rectangular in shape and just under 2 acres, lies in the north-east of Great Bowden village, about 200 metres from the River Welland, and today is used for grazing. It is within the Great Bowden Conservation area but just outside the building limit.

Ownership of the site from 1673 has been researched and details are given later in this report. The main access to the site is from Nether Green although pedestrian access can be achieved from the churchyard.

Buckminster Close lies between the development site of the closed mushroom farm to the north (2018 now housing development) and the back gardens of Dingley Road to the south. To the west a modern fence separates the paddock from the footpath linking the Nether Green area to the Parish Church and the present-day centre of the village. This boundary also follows the line of the mud wall to the rear of Rectory House in Sutton Road and its adjacent paddock. The eastern boundary adjoins the driveway to The Grange. The only alterations to the perimeter occurred when the houses were built in Dingley Road to the south and the footpath following the mud wall was fenced off on the west side. The paddock is approximately 75 metres above sea level. To the eye it appears to be slightly higher than the surrounding land. Throughout the paddock there are areas of more luxuriant vegetation possibly indicating disturbance or archaeological evidence below ground. It is also possible to see slightly raised platforms and areas within the paddock.

In 1941 one of the 4 bombs which fell on the village exploded in the paddock towards the western boundary according to eye-witness accounts. The crater was rapidly filled in as is shown by the aerial black and white photograph taken later in the war. The serious blast

damage to the large building is evident but there is no sign of the bomb crater. Eye witnesses describe the bomb blast going in two directions, towards the large building, then a riding school, as shown, but also towards the houses in Dingley Road (bottom of picture) where roofs were damaged. The only fatality of the raid was a young horse, killed in the paddock.



Photograph taken by David Greville-Heygate in 1944.

Buckminster Close January 2017 from the footpath (below)

UPDATE NOVEMBER 2018

**Extracted from
Environment Group
Supporting
Information,
Great Bowden
Neighbourhood Plan.
Adopted 2018.**



Buckminster Close, Nether Green [Community Action ENV2 (h)] This privately owned paddock is visible from the public footpath which runs between the paddock and the mud wall and is part of a frequently used circular walking route round the village. There is access from the churchyard and from Nether Green. The paddock is also bounded by back gardens and the drive to The Grange. This quiet path may have been a church way providing a route from Nether Green to the church.

In 1690 it was a close of pasture called Buckminster Close belonging to John Corte. Various other names followed but the owners returned to the original name of Buckminster Close in 2006. Several archaeological test pits were dug in the close between 2006 and 2009 with predominantly medieval pottery found in ditch cuts. The oval cinder track around the perimeter was probably laid by J H Stokes as a dry surface for his carriage horses. Grazed by sheep, occasionally horses and free range chickens this paddock is an important open space within the built up area and enhances walks around the village. Contains the usual wildlife found in paddocks throughout Great Bowden. No individual wildlife survey has been made in this paddock.

Summaries from Historic Environment Record. Heritage Gateway website. (Grid Ref: SP74759 88934) Medieval and later finds MLE 17194). In 2006 geophysics revealed possible oval double ditch feature, possibly Saxon. Further excavation in 2009 showed it was a cinder track following field perimeter. MLE17195 In 2006 excavation revealed a cinder base. Probably from viewing platform for display of horses and carriages (J H Stokes) MLE 16452 Test pitting found large quantities of medieval pottery, one possible Saxon sherd, medieval horseshoe. Ref:www.greatbowdenheritage.btck.co.ukExcavations/ Buckminster Close



Buckminster Close in 2018 showing development to the north and south-east of the paddock since 2009, Planning permission has also been granted for land west of the paddock

GEO-PHYSICAL SURVEY 2006

The magnetometer survey was carried out by Adrian Butler from Northants Archaeology in the spring of 2006 with help from members of the Heritage Group. Several features emerged:-

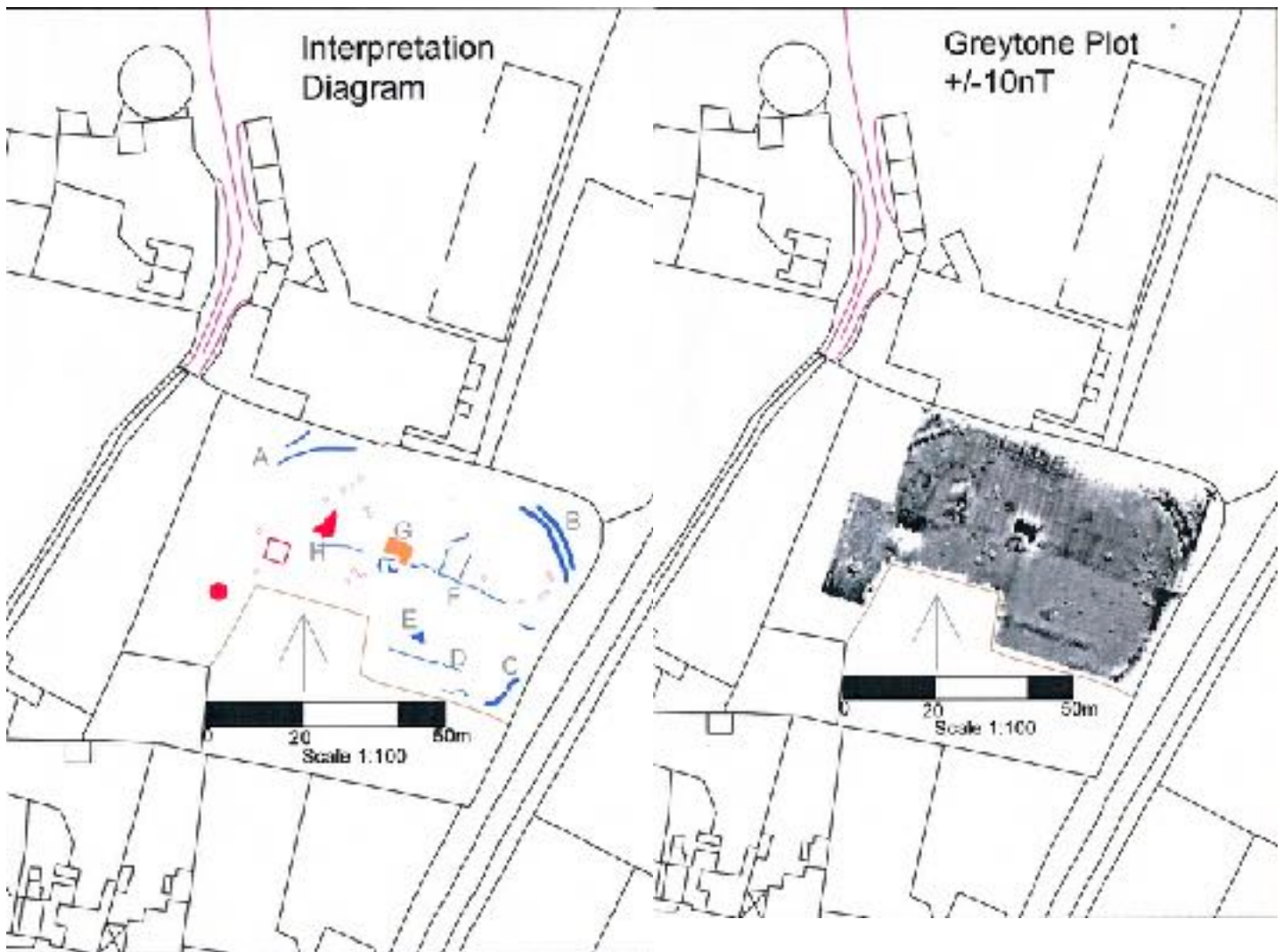
The double oval feature around the perimeter (A, B, C) reminded the archaeologists at Northampton of double ditch features they had seen in the past around mid-Saxon sites. It appears to extend beyond the present boundaries in some places.

The rectangular area in the centre of the field (G) gave a very high magnetic reading.

Other features included possible linear ditch (D), pits (E) and rectilinear ditches and banks, possibly house platforms.(F)

High readings were recorded at the western end of the paddock close to where the bomb exploded.(H) This led to the decision not to excavate in the western half of the paddock where much ground disturbance had occurred.

All four excavations were linked to the print-out of this survey as a basis for locating pit sites.



BRIEF SUMMARY OF 4 EXCAVATIONS

(detailed reports follow)

FIRST EXCAVATION - May 2006

Five test pits were dug to locate the black rectangular feature and other geo-phys features south of that area. Unfortunately the main rectangle was missed but other pits towards the indented southern boundary revealed many pottery finds. Sherds ranged from a few Roman pieces to a large assemblage of medieval pottery, mostly Lyveden Stanion oolitic limestone ware from 1200-1400. This included part of a cooking pot which was reassembled. (illustration right). An underground stream was located.



SECOND EXCAVATION - June 2006

This excavation concentrated on the linear ditch feature from the geo-phys (south east area of paddock). Further pottery, mostly from the medieval period was recovered. There were one or two sherds of Roman and one possibly late Anglo-Saxon. Below 85 cm from the surface was a sticky conglomerate of wet clay with tiny pieces of pottery, brick, ash and charcoal. This continued down to 140 cm when the water table was reached. A metal detecting sweep of the paddock revealed, as expected, numerous metal fragments in the bomb blast area, also a wide medieval horseshoe in good condition (type 4 Clark 1995).

THIRD EXCAVATION This was carried out in **September 2006** in adverse weather conditions. It was decided to reopen the last pit dug on the first excavation and explore a layer of large stones to see if they formed a floor or pavement. The stones were found to be a random collection of no structural significance. Finds from the two pits revealed again the mix of Roman and medieval pottery found elsewhere in the paddock. However, the area shown as the black rectangle was located and consisted of buried burnt material possibly from a house fire but with only modern pottery sherds contained in it. The regularity and flatness of this area seems to indicate that it is the base of a stable or shelter built in recent years. Nothing, however, appears on the aerial photograph taken in 1944.

FOURTH EXCAVATION - In **April 2009** the Heritage Group returned to Buckminster Close for a final dig. There were unanswered questions particularly about the double oval feature that had shown up so clearly on the geo-phys print out. Sadly we had to dismiss the theory that this was a feature from the Saxon period. In fact it is very recent and probably dates from the late 19th or early 20th century and was a track for John Henry Stokes to display his carriage horses on a circuit around the paddock. We did not find the "well" shown on old maps and now wonder if it is a viewing pavilion for the potential customers of J H Stokes. It is possible that the dark rectangle of burnt material formed the foundation for this structure. The only doubt is that the structure shown on the map appears circular and the foundations were rectangular. We have also seen an old photograph taken from a garden in Dingley Road and a round structure appears in the background . It is not clear in the photograph whether this structure is in the paddock or within the garden. Much more medieval pottery was excavated in this dig and we have to conclude that the whole paddock was used for refuse pits or trenches particularly during the period 1200-1400.



OWNERSHIP OF BUCKMINSTER CLOSE (FERNIE Paddock), GREAT BOWDEN

Information from Pam Aucott mostly based on deeds in the Leicestershire Record Office.

Ref:12D43/160/3 Lease or fine of 1673 for allowing a recovery between
1. John Johnson of Leicester, mercer
2. Thomas Culson of Leicester, gent
3. Thomas Wadland of Leicester, gent

Property

All that capital messuage or farm house situated in Bowden wherein John Corte now dwells
+ all that close of pasture called BUCKMINSTER CLOSE
+ close in the tenure of John Corte
+ 2 ½ yardlands in open fields occupied by John Corte
+ cottage with orchard and garden in Great Bowden occupied by John Putt
+ buildings belonging to the capital messuage
+ all other ancient demesne lands tenements of John Johnson of Great Bowden
which were late the hereditaments and lands of Fish Johnson deceased late father of John
Johnson and holder of the manor of Great Bowden aforesaid.

12D43/160/7 2 March 1690 will of Edmund Johnson of Leicester gent.
- All messuage in Leicester to son Edward.
- wife Elizabeth life interest in house she lives in in Leicester and the tenement in the
occupation of Wm Smith.
- other property in trust to Robert Linnreve and Robert Streete for 1000 years for use of
children of Joseph and Martha forever.
- messuage and parcels of arable, meadow etc. containing 3 yardlands and 1 parcel of
meadow containing 4 acres and now or late in the occupation of Sam Paine

10D52/34 1715 Conveyance
Elizabeth relict of Edmund, Joseph son of Edmund and Martha dau. of Edmund sell to John
Rowlatt of Weston by Welland
- capital messuage and a little piece of land
+ cottage now fallen to the ground which stood on part of the orchard of the capital
messuage.
+ close of pasture containing 3 acres called BUCKHURST CLOSE
+ little close of 2 roods where formerly a cottage then in occupation of John Cort.
+ piece of ground in a certain lane called Lasure Lane within the homestead of James Miller.
+ 2 yardlands and 1 quarter which were the inheritance of Fish Johnson.
Transferred
1660 + ½ yardland which were the lands of Mary Saddington, widow Wm Pelsant and Ann and
then George Wignall and were purchased from Wignall by Edmund Johnson from John
12D43/160/1 Johnson heir of Fish Johnson and devised to Joseph and Martha Johnson by will of Edmund
Johnson.

12D43/160/16 6 June 1797 Fine/Deeds relating to a recovery
1. Henry Rowlatt of Great Bowden yeoman and one of younger sons of John
Rowlatt the elder.
2. George Wartnaby of Market Harborough gent
- all that capital messuage in occupation by Rowlatt
+ close of ancient enclosed ground of 3 acres called BUCKHURST CLOSE
+ little close of pasture or enclosed ground of 2 roods where once a cottage and closes
lately occupied by Hy Rowlatt, but now his son Thomas.
+ enclosed ground of 39 acres 5 p – former E field in lieu of property in settlement.

12D43/160/10 1747 Marriage Settlement by John Rowlatt of Weston by Welland
Thomas Rowlatt to James Retchford(?) and others on son's marriage to Mrs Hannah
Buckby.
Capital messuage with orchard and appertanences.
+ close of pasture of 3 acres called BUCKHURST CLOSE
+ little close of 2 roods formerly cottage of John Cort
+ 1 ¼ yardlands being part of 2 ¼ yardlands formerly estate of Fish Johnson and now
in the tenure of Hy Rowlatt.

+ 1 yardland

Will of Thomas Rowlatt of Great Bowden grazier 1825

- messuage with yard etc. lately built on part of a close belonging to me called BUCKHURST CLOSE late in the occupation of Mrs Mary Ward widow and now in my own occupation to wife Mary and unmarried daughters and revert to son Thomas.

- capital messuage with orchard late in my own occupation

+ rest of BUCKHURST CLOSE late in my own occupation

+ lands containing 100 acres

1880 Local Board Map owner of close Thomas Rowlatt

1885 John Henry Stokes purchased paddock from R.F.Martin?

1904-5 owned and occupied by John Henry Stokes (source Stokes scrapbook in Record Office) Paddock known as CHURCH Paddock

1919 Inherited from JH Stokes by WE Stokes – CHURCH Paddock

1st March 1924 Purchased from WE Stokes by Fernie Hunt. Included with this were the 2 paddocks north of Nether Green (Hunt Kennels) and plot where the cottages are now and the whole of the area recently occupied by the mushroom farm, Nether House and stables behind, and of course the paddock. The stables were sold by W.E Stokes in 1962 to Cowan & Co. (information from Michael Jack)

14th May 1931 The paddock (418 square yards) purchased from the Fernie Hunt by Ronald Greville-Heygate. Paddock remained in possession of Greville-Heygate family who named it FERNIE Paddock. The paddock has changed hands several times since 2000.

2006 Renamed BUCKMINSTER CLOSE by the owners at that time.

Pottery sherds etc from 4 Excavations, Buckminster Close, 2006-2009

No.	Description	Period	Weight (grams)
	BMC1 Pit 1 Context 1.1		
4	Lyveden Stanion oolitic limestone ware	1200-1400	15
1	Pancheon sherd	1500-1900	7
7	White glazed pottery	Modern	9
	Coal, clinker, modern glass		
1	Limestone building material		168
1	Metal button	1800-1900	5
	BMC1 Pit 1 Context 1.2		
2	Greyware	Roman	11
1	Colour coat Nene Valley - dish	Roman late 3rd-early 5th C	5
1	Stamford ware - apple green glaze	900-1250	10
1	Calcite gritted ware	Medieval or earlier	6
1	Wheel-thrown sandy ware - thin	Medieval	1
12	Lyveden Stanion oolitic limestone ware	1200-1400	62
1	Stone fractured in fire		40
	Animal bone		
	BMC 1 Pit 1 Context 1.3		
2	Lyveden Stanion oolitic limestone ware	1200-1400	8

1	Residue from unknown industrial process		20
	BMC1 Pit 2 context 2.1		
2	Greyware - thick	Roman	21
1	Lyveden Stanion oolitic limestone ware	1200-1400	1
3	Pottery	Modern	1.5
	Field drain, chalk, clinker		
	BMC 1 Pit 2 Context 2.2		
1	Possibly greyware	Roman ?	12
8	Lyveden Stanion oolitic limestone ware	1200-1400	109
	Building material		
	BMC1 Pit 2 Context 2.3		
14	Lyveden Stanion oolitic limestone ware	1200-1400	81
	BMC1 Pit 2 Context 2.4		
1	Knife blade	?	
	BMC1 Pit 3 context 3.1		
2	Local Bowden brick- possible post hole packing	Post medieval	349
	BMC1 Pit 3 Context 3.2		
1	Lyveden Stanion oolitic limestone ware - glazed	1200-1400	4
2	Prob. Lyveden Stanion ware unusual with sand and shell	1200-1400	19
	BMC 1 Pit 3 Context 3.3		
11	Lyveden Stanion oolitic limestone ware	1200-1400	111
3	Sandy ware - green glazed jug- poss. Brill Burstall	Medieval	30
1	Potters Marston ware	Medieval	6
2	Pottery	Modern	11
1	Fire shattered pebble		132
	Clinker		
	BMC1 Pit 4 Context 4.1		
1	Lyveden Stanion oolitic limestone ware	1200-1400	11
	Brick	Modern	
	BMC1 Pit 4 Context 4.2		
1	Lyveden Stanion oolitic limestone ware	1200-1400	34
	Land drain fragments		
	BMC1 Pit 4 Context 4.3		
1	Colour coat ware	Roman	6
9	Lyveden Stanion oolitic limestone ware	1200-1400	154
1	Black tile	Post medieval	53
2	industrial process by-product		23
	BMC1 Pit 4 Context 4.4		
1	Struck flint		10
1	Colour coat ware	Late Roman	4
1	Sandy copper ware - green glaze	1200-1400	2
1	Lyveden Stanion oolitic limestone ware - glazed	1200-1400	19

82	Lyveden Stanion oolitic limestone ware	1200-1400	832
	Mortar		
	BMC1 Pit 5 Context 5.1		
1	Greyware	Roman	6
1	Potters Marston ware	Medieval	14
26	Lyveden Stanion oolitic limestone ware	1200-1400	471
7	Hard fired earthenware ? Early Midland Purple	Late Med or early post Med.	131
	BMC2 Pit 1 Context 1.1		
2	Stamford ware. (ST3)	850-1050	8
2	Lyveden Stanion oolitic limestone ware	1200-1400	9
15	Pancheon type vessel	1800-1900	124
4	Glazed pottery	Modern	4
	Glass	Modern	
	Iron fragment	Metal	
	BMC2 Pit 2 Context 2.1		
1	Fine sandy red fabric possibly red ware	Roman?	2
2	Stamford ware (ST3)	850-1050	4
10	Lyveden Stanion oolitic limestone ware	1200-1400	64
1	Lyveden Stanion oolitic limestone ware - glazed	1200-1400	8
1	Lyveden Stanion (LY4) coarse shelly ware	1200-1400	5
	BMC2 Pit 2 Context 2.2		
1	Stamford ware (ST3)	850-1050	5
2	Calcite gritted ware	12-14 century	7
1	Lyveden Stanion oolitic limestone ware tile base angle	1200-1400	6
1	Baked clay		2
	Brick & animal bone		
	BMC3 Pit 1 Context 1.1		
	Lyveden Stanion oolitic limestone ware. Sherds from this context included in finds from BMC1 Contexts 4.3, 4.4 and 5.1 and reconstructed cooking pot.		
	Small fragments animal bone		
	Modern broken glass towards west end of pit - may have been buried during Scout camps.		
	BMC 3 Pit 2 Context 2.1		
1	Stamford ware (ST3)	850-1050	6
6	Lyveden Stanion oolitic limestone ware	1200-1400	37
1	Unidentified rim, thick coarse sandy fabric, oolitic holes	? Medieval	27
2	Clay pipe pieces, stem and bowl	Post medieval	5
4	Fragments of black coated terracotta floor tiles	Post medieval	228
1	Thick glass bottle base	Modern	24
9	Glazed pottery	Modern	61
	BMC3 Pit 2 Context 2.2		

1	Flint scraper	Prehistoric	10
1	Colour coat ware	Roman	8
1	Stamford ware (ST2)	1050-1200	2
1	Greyware - unusual slightly red fabric	Roman	5
2	Oolitic limestone ware ,possibly from Lincs.	Medieval	11
8	Lyveden Stanion oolitic limestone ware	1200-1400	65
1	Potters Marston ware	Medieval	10
1	Lyveden Stanion (LY4) coarse shelly ware	1200-1400	15
1	Medieval sandy ware, green glaze & rib, poss. Chilvers Coton or Potterspury	13-14th century	24
1	Porcelain, white glazed stamped York 188....	19th century	4
1	Old brick fragment		
1	Button	Metal	4
	BMC3 Pit 3 Context 3.1 - 3.2		
	Burnt material including Welsh slate, mortar, brick and vitrified material. 1 small sherd modern pottery.		
	BMC4 pit 1 context 1.1 and 1.2		
	Both contexts = layer of burnt material comprising nails, coal, clinker and industrial type waste		
	BMC4 pit 2 context 2.1		
	Similar to pit 1 = layer of burnt material		
	BMC4 Pit 3 context 3.2		
2	Lyveden Stanion oolitic limestone ware (one rim)	1200-1400	12
	BMC4 Pit 3 context 3.3	Roman	6
1	Colour coat		
	BMC4 Pit 4 context 4.1		
1	Flint flake	Prehistoric	1
1	Stamford ware	850-1050	1
1	Lyveden Stanion oolitic limestone ware	1200-1400	1
1	Fired clay		10
	BMC4 Pit 4 context 4.2		
1	Stamford ware	850-1050	7
1	Lyveden Stanion oolitic limestone ware (rim)	1200-1400	11
1	Fired clay		1
	Charcoal		
	BMC4 pit 4 context 4.3		
1	Lyveden Stanion oolitic limestone ware with glaze	1200-1400	51
	BMC4 Pit 4 context 4.4		
5	Lyveden Stanion oolitic limestone ware	1200-1400	33
2	Fired clay		
	Animal bone fragments		
	BMC4 Pit 4 context 4.5		
1	Grey ware	Roman	7

1	Fired clay		1
BMC4 Pit 5 context 5.1			
4	Lyveden Stanion oolitic limestone ware	1200-1400	23
1	Pancheon sherd	1800-1900	29
2	Burnt sandstone		10
	3 pieces of field drain	Modern	
BMC4 Pit 5 context 5.2			
2	Lyveden Stanion oolitic limestone ware	1200-1400	26

Finds were identified at the time of the excavations by Leicestershire County Council's Community Archaeologist.

Pottery totals:

93 grams of Roman pottery (grey ware and colour coat)

2473 grams of medieval pottery (including 43 grams of Stamford ware and

2292 grams of Lyveden-Stanion oolitic limestone ware)

RC 19.02.2019

DETAILED EXCAVATION REPORTS

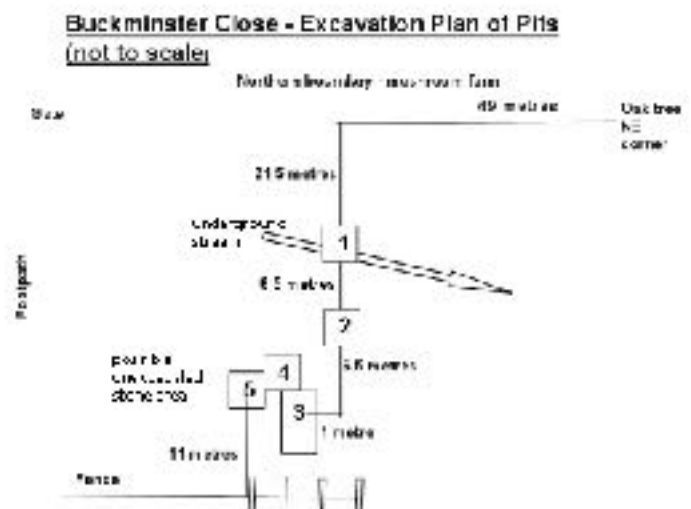
1ST EXCAVATION IN BUCKMINSTER CLOSE, GT BOWDEN 13TH MAY 2006.

Great Bowden Heritage Group carried out this excavation as part of their three year Lottery funded project (Local Heritage Initiative), researching into the history of Great Bowden during the Anglo-Saxon period and before. The project was titled Bowden Before the Conquest.

The objective was to begin a series of excavations of the features revealed by the geophysical survey, and thereby increase the known history of the village and to reveal any Anglo-Saxon or other features and finds to assist the planning archaeologist's assessment of nearby development areas. A large target was chosen for the group's first attempt at targeted field archaeology. We also hoped to locate the site of a large well or other feature, which appears on early maps in the centre of the paddock.

The primary target was the large rectangular shape shown as a high reading in the geophys greytone print out at G (1). The secondary targets were the possible circular ditch feature to the south of the main target at G (2) and also the location of the large well or other feature, shown in a central position on older maps. All work was carried out by hand with spade and trowel. Deposits were removed in spits to reveal the surface of any underlying features and the spoil was searched for finds which were collected in trays. Photographs were taken at points of interest.

As recommended, measurements originated at the oak tree in the NE corner of the paddock from which the


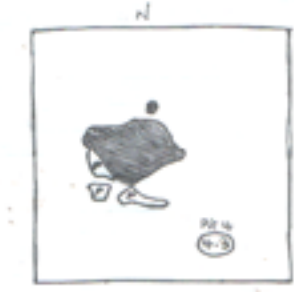
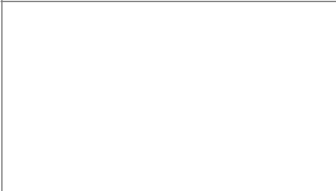


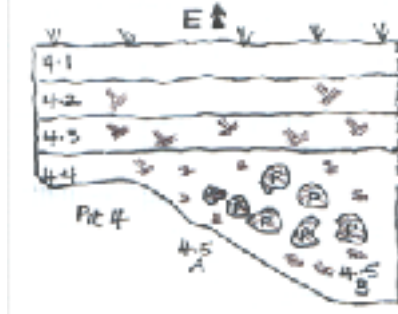



geo-phys measurements had been made.

- 1) 49 metres was measured from the oak in a westerly direction following the line of the boundary railings.
- 2) From this point 28 metres was measured at right angles in a southerly direction. This was calculated to reach the middle of the black rectangular feature. A metre square test pit was dug at this point (Pit 2).
- 3) 21.5 metres southwards from the boundary railings, on the same line, we found, through dowsing, a very strong indication of water and a 1 metre square test pit was dug at this point (Pit 1)
- 4) Further measurements of 6.5 metres southwards from Pit 2 and 1 metre westwards achieved a point over the dark reading at the circular feature G2. A 2 metre x 1 metre pit was dug initially.
- 5) Following the discovery of brickwork in Pit 3 (NW corner) a further metre square pit was dug, overlapping Pit 3 on the north side.
- 6) Pit 4 revealed a possible former pit cut on the north side, a large piece of ironstone placed over a broken pot and an area of stones in the SW corner. This pit was then extended into Pit 5, 40 cms x 50 cms in size where further stones were revealed possibly a rough stone floor. There was no time to extend further on this occasion but the pit position has been carefully marked and further excavation will be possible.

BMC1 PIT EXCAVATION IN DETAIL

PIT NO.	CONTE XT NO./ TYPE	DESCRIPTION	MAX DEPTH	FINDS
1 1 X 1 Metre. 21.5 metres from N. boundary	1.1 Layer	Topsoil, reddish-brown, clay loam, friable with plant roots , dry, surface slopes down slightly to NE. Very few inclusions, 5% ash/ charcoal	20 cms	Pottery, glass, metal button, hat pin end, BM
	1.2 Layer	Topsoil, similar to context 1.1, more stone, containing more clay, greyer and more sticky	15 cms	Pottery, bone, cut stone
	1.3 Layer	Mid-grey clay, subsoil, some yellow streaks Turning to grey/yellow clay, very wet and sticky	40 cms 10 cms	Pottery, bone, nail
	1.4 probe	Natural clay base. Probe with metal rod found water at approximately 40 cms, Further dowsing showed likely underground stream at this point running NW-SE	40 cms	
2 1 x 1 metre 28 metres from N. boundary	2.1 Layer	Topsoil, reddish-brown clay loam, friable, with plant roots. Ground surface slopes towards SW. Very few inclusions	30 cms	Pot, glass, nail, field drain, BM
	2.2 Layer	Mid-brown clay loam, crumbles well, well drained, some charcoal flecks	40 cms	Pot
	2.3 Layer	Mid-grey clay, friable, with some small building stones	10 cms	Building material, pot, bone
	2.4 Layer	4 cms thick layer of organic matter above natural grey/yellow clay base	10 cms	Knife blade?
3 1 x 2(N/S) metres 34.5 metres from boundary	3.1 Layer	Sandy topsoil, reddish brown loam. Ground level at surface. Less than 10% stones etc.	20 cms	Pot, bone, glass, nail, brick
	3.2 Layer	Yellowish clay loam, compacted. Less than 10% inclusions. Bowden brick deposit in NW corner. Possible post hole packing for modern tethering post. Southern half of pit backfilled.	10 cms	Brick, glass, pot
	3.3 Layer	1m x 1m north end only. Yellow-brown clay loam. Less than 10% inclusions. Some early pot on N. side Brick in NW corner – hollow behind.	10 cms	Pot, brick, cut stone

<p style="text-align: center;">4 1 x 1 metre adjoining pit 3 on north side</p>	<p>4.1 Layer</p>	<p>Sandy topsoil brownish loam soil. Level ground at surface. Few inclusions</p>	<p>10 cms</p>	<p>BM, pot, nails</p>
	<p>4.2 Layer</p>	<p>Similar to 4.1 with increased percentage of clay</p>	<p>10 cms</p>	
	<p>4.3 Layer</p>	<p>Clay loam, predominately clay with yellow and orange streaks. Large square ironstone covering broken pot in centre of pit</p> 	<p>10 cms</p>	<p>Pot, tile?, BM, nail</p>
	<p>4.4 Layer</p>	<p>Stone lifted and pot removed to tray still encased in soil. Mid-grey clay, sticky, not very compacted. Feature 4.5 in SW corner of pit.</p>	<p>10cms</p>	<p>Pot (large amount) bone, stone, flint</p>
	<p>4.5 Feature</p>	<p>Four stones lying level including two boulder type stones and one cut stone, depth from the ground surface = 40 cms. Pit 5 extended to west to reveal any further stones in this feature.</p> 		
	<p>4.5A Cut</p>	<p>Possible cut of pit from depth of 32 cms to total depth from surface of 72 cms approximately. Pit sides yellowish clay.</p> 	<p>40 cms</p>	
	<p>4.5B Fill</p>	<p>Sticky grey clay, not very compacted. No obvious organic matter</p>	<p>40 cms</p>	<p>Pot</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">5 50 x 50 cms adjoining Pit 4</p> 	5.1 Layer	Topsoil and subsoil as elsewhere removed Some pot	40 cms	Pot (large amount), bone
	5.2 Feature	Extension of rough floor like feature in Pit 4. Stones level but laid roughly, not close together. Some boulders and some ironstone. One piece cut stone.		
	5.3 Probe	Ground probed in a westerly direction behind Pit 5. Stone surface felt below surface for at least 7 metres. Pit backfilled but marked for further investigation.		

21st May 2006

2nd EXCAVATION IN BUCKMINSTER CLOSE, GREAT BOWDEN 17TH JUNE 2006

The second excavation was targeted on the long buried linear ditch feature shown on the geo-phys print out at **D** with the hope that any finds in the infill would increase knowledge of the date and use of the site in the past.

As recommended, measurements originated at the oak tree in the NE corner of the paddock from which the geo-phys survey had started.

30 metres was measured following the eastern boundary, keeping 2 metres from the railings.

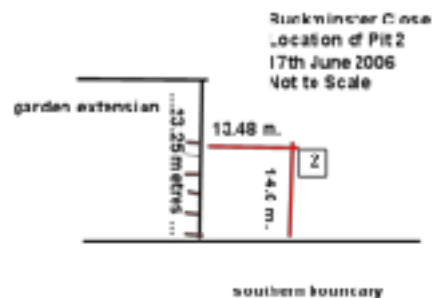
From this point 23.6 metres was measured at right angles towards the centre of the paddock.

From this last point another 23.6 metres was measured at right angles in a southerly direction. This was calculated to reach a heavy black section at the eastern end of the linear ditch feature shown on the geo-phys print out.

As a check, a diagonal measurement of 59 metres was taken from the oak tree. Test pit1, measuring 1 metre x 1 metre, was dug at the point where the two measured points met. Pit 1 was approximately 14 metres from the southern boundary of the paddock.

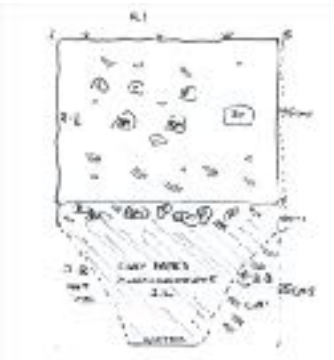
It was decided to consider the state of vegetation and the ground surface before digging a second test pit. Further west but on the same alignment as Pit 1 was an area where there was little vegetation other than grass and the ground surface appeared cracked. It was decided to try a test pit in this area.

The site of **Pit 2** can be located by the following measurements and lies approximately 14.5 metres west of **Pit 1**.



BMC 2 - PIT EXCAVATION IN DETAIL

PIT NO.	CONTEXT NO./TYPE	DESCRIPTION	MAX. DEPTH	FINDS
1 1 X 1 Metre. 14 metres approx. from S. boundary	1.1 Layer	Ground surface level. Topsoil, mid-brown, friable clay loam containing very few stones.	40 cms.	Bone, Brick fragments, Pot
	1.2 Layer	Soil similar to context 1 but with a higher proportion of clay. Yellow clay base reached at approximately 75 cms. No evidence of a ditch or fill found.	35 cms.	None
2 1 x 1 Metre 14.6 metres from S. boundary; 13.4 metres from garden extension into paddock	2.1 Layer	Ground surface level. Clay-loam topsoil, mid to dark brown in colour containing a small amount of charcoal. Large flat boulder found at a depth of 75 cms. Side of pit undercut to search for other stones, none found. Definite change in composition at 75 cms.	75 cms	Brick Unglazed pot Bone
	2.2 Layer	Level start of context 1m x 1m. Some coarse pot sherds and burnt brick in top 10 cms. Damp to wet at a deeper level. Below 10 cms fill consisted of a conglomerate of grey clay mixed with a large percentage of brown fine crumbled, possibly organic material mixed with disintegrated fragments of pot or brick, burnt brick, ash, charcoal etc.	65 cms	Coarse pot Brick Bone No identifiable pottery below 85 cms depth from surface.
	2.3 Feature	Evidence of a ditch cut on south side, below 75 cms from the surface. Ditch cut on north side not excavated. (original ditch side has been dug into in this photograph)		
	2.4 Fill	Sticky conglomerate of grey clay mixed with possible pot, brick, charcoal, ash and organic matter. The centre of the pit only was excavated to a depth of 140 cms where the water table was reached. The fill matter reached to this depth at the centre. A sample of the possible organic matter was taken for microscopic analysis.		Grey clay and other matter in a conglomerate.



Microscopic study of soil samples by Josh Allsopp, aged 14

Pit 2 - context 2.1

Sample 1 (near surface) - 300x – Obvious plant matter ie: roots
600x – Clear plant matter and clay residue
900x – Pollen grains – mainly meadow/field, possibly from contamination, considerable amount of clay, some iron oxide, no charcoal.

Sample 2 (at approx 50 cms)300x - charcoal and clay make up about 15% of soil
600x - The soil is considerably darker, possibly due to concentration of charcoal. Clay retains the moisture, obscuring a lot of the slide.
900x - Charcoal and clay – nothing else to add.

Pit 2 contexts 2.1 - 2.4 (fill at depth of 75-140 cms)

Sample 1 - 300x – Roots, plant matter, ie: vascular tubing
600x – A lot of moisture, clay, small amount of charcoal; less than 2%.
900x – Large grains, insect dispersing pollen, possibly meadowsweet, but it is hard to tell.

Sample 2 - 300x – Plant matter. Plant hairs and roots.
600x – Clay, but broken down. No charcoal
900x – Plant hair clearer and some pollen traces

Sample 3 – (Context 2.1 at 75 cms)
300x – Plant matter, roots and vascular tubing. Pieces of brick like substance.
600x – Considerable amount of iron oxide and charcoal (15%). A lot of broken down clay sediment.
900x – Pollen, meadow pollen and plant hairs (Probably contamination)

Sample 4 (Context 2.4) 300x - Roots, mainly grass, snail shell pieces.
600x - Clay, iron oxide and charcoal.
900x - Pollen, a lot of Iron oxide and charcoal

Pollen grains – found in fields

Burned grains suggest human activity like farming or cooking

Snail shells. They are used to open areas like fields but hide in cracks and crevices (feeding mainly on algae and fungi. To identify these, I had to search through a huge encyclopaedia of invertebrates, how exciting (not!).

Plant Hairs. The plant hairs are hard to see and identify, even at 900x! The ones I found were not scaly hairs.



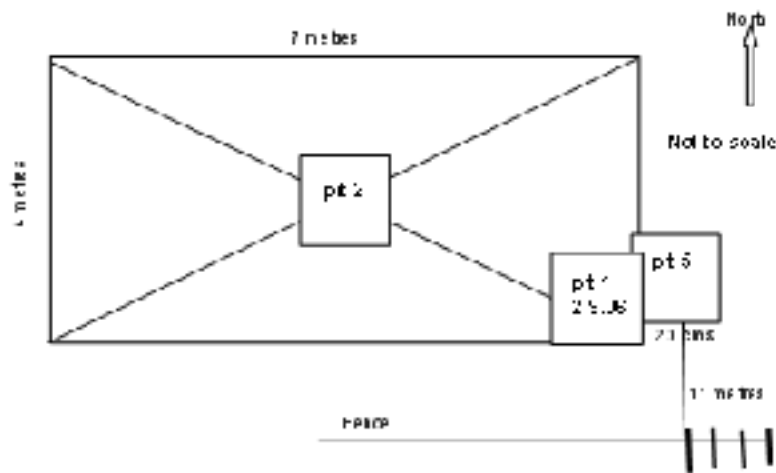
3RD EXCAVATION AT BUCKMINSTER CLOSE, GREAT BOWDEN 2ND SEPTEMBER 2006

GENERAL. Information on the magnetometer survey, project objectives, topography and history of the site can be found at the start of this report

The purpose of the third excavation was to discover the extent of the possible rough stone floor surface uncovered in the first excavation in May 2006 and to determine whether this related to the large black rectangle shown on the geo-phys survey. Large quantities of medieval pottery were found in association with this stone feature.

EXCAVATION METHOD. The location of pit 5 from the May excavation was determined and a new pit (BMC4 Pit 1) was dug overlapping the previous pit on the east side by 10cms. The new 1 metre square pit was also dug 20cms further south to expose evidence of any possible walls or post holes from a previous building.

Buckminster Close: Plan of pits 1 and 2 in relation to pit 5 excavated on 12 May 2006



The pit was dug to a depth of 40- 50cms and showed evidence of the previous excavation on the eastern side. Most of the pottery sherds found were located towards the eastern side of the pit. This included further examples of the Lyveden-Station oolitic limestone ware found during the previous excavation. However no further evidence was found of a stone floor feature. The area had been disturbed sometime in recent times as a field drain was uncovered at 40-50cms running SW/NE. There was also a deposit of mixed broken glass from recent times in the south west corner of the pit. The pit was backfilled.

The second pit was dug at the same time. An area 7 metres x 4 metres was marked out using the stone feature in BMC1 pit 5 (17th May) as the corner position. Diagonals were marked out and a 1 metre square pit dug at the centre point. If we were at the large anomaly on the geo-phys survey this would be its centre. There is also a well marked on old OS maps of this paddock and this was a possible site for it.

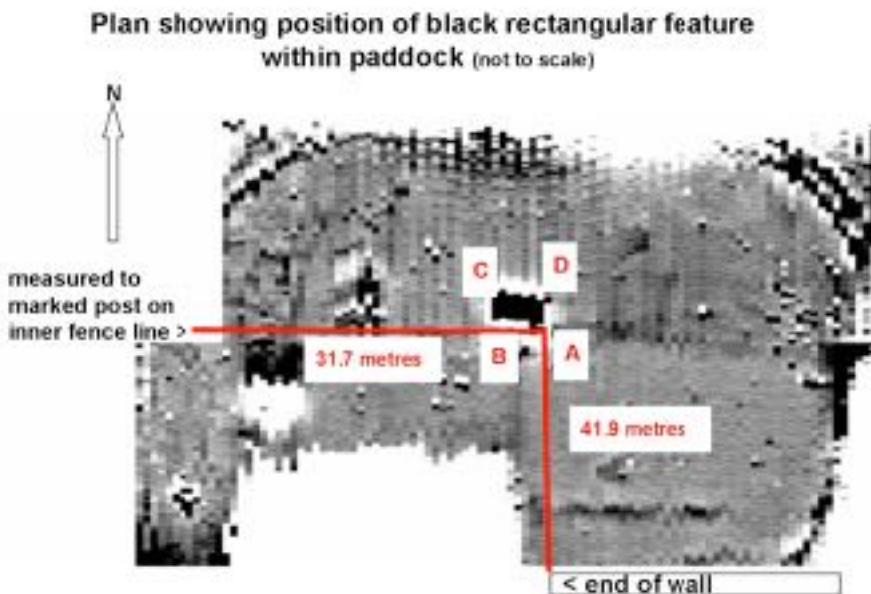
In the first context up to 30cms depth the soil was loamy and not compacted. There were a number of finds of pottery, glass. There was some modern glazed pottery and some older, possibly medieval. A distinct change occurred at 30cms. The surface became flat and compacted and composed of small stones, mostly 2-3 cms in size with many of ironstone or chalk. This area was compacted and may have been the remains of a rough floor surface. It was found in association with more of the medieval Lyveden-Station pottery. This layer was thin, only a couple of centimetres in depth and below more staining indicated presence of broken up ironstone deposits. The natural was reached before a depth of 50cms and the pit backfilled.

It was concluded that the two pits in this area were unlikely to form part of the large black reading on the magnetometer survey. There was also no evidence of a former well shown on early 20th century maps.

The light quality due to adverse weather conditions and also the state of the vegetation revealed a rectangular area a short distance to the north-east of the first two pits where the grass was shorter than elsewhere. The area was rectangular in shape and slightly above the level of the surrounding land. There were no plants other than grass growing within the area of the rectangle. Measurements were taken and it was found to be approximately 7 metres x 4 metres, the size of the high reading anomaly on the geo-physics survey.

Two small test pits were dug in different areas within the rectangle and both revealed a surface loam of about 15cms depth and then a layer of burnt brick, clinker, slates and other burnt material. This was an obvious deposit and contained no soil. One pit was extended to a 50cms sided square and dug to find the depth of the deposit. The clay base was found at a depth of 40cms giving a depth of deposit of approximately 25cms. It was

felt that this deposit had been made in recent years. The only datable evidence found was one sherd of blue and white glazed pottery. The pit was backfilled and the site measured in relation to the rest of the site.



In view of its position, composition and shape we feel confident that this is the rectangle with a heavy reading shown in the centre of the paddock on the magnetometer survey.



The excavation was curtailed at this point due to deteriorating weather conditions. A further small


trench may be dug at a future date on the edge of the rectangular feature probably on the south side where there are adjacent features showing on the magnetometer survey.

GPS Co-ordinates for the four corners of the black rectangular feature

	North			West		
	Deg.	Min.	Sec.	Deg.	Min.	Sec.
A	52	29	36.8	0	54	0.25
B	52	29	34.6	0	53	58.5
C	52	29	32.2	0	53	55.2
D	52	29	34.7	0	53	58.4

BMC3 PIT EXCAVATION IN DETAIL

PIT NO.	CONTEXT NO./TYPE	DESCRIPTION	MAX. DEPTH	FINDS
<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p>1 X 1 Metre 10.80 metres north of fenced garden area</p>	<p>1.1 layer</p>	<p>Overlapping by 10cms the eastern edge of pit 5 from 13th May excavation. Ground surface sloping down slightly towards the east. Soil was mid brown clay loam with very few stones becoming more compacted after 10cms depth. Field drain at 40cms depth running NE/SW</p> 	<p>40 cms</p>	<p>Pottery (mostly towards eastern side of pit), bone</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p>1 x 1 metre at centre of diagonal</p>	<p>2.1 layer</p>	<p>At the centre of the diagonal described in the text. Ground surface was level at this point and the soil a clay loam with no stone inclusions to a depth of 30 cms.</p>	<p>30 cms</p>	<p>Pottery (some glazed), tile, glass and large nails</p>
	<p>2.2 feature</p>	<p>A level flat and compacted surface was uncovered at a depth of 30cms, containing many small stones 2-3cms in size, some chalk and some ironstone. The layer was only a few centimetres in depth and showed signs of ironstone staining underneath. The natural clay was reached at about 50 cms and the pit was backfilled.</p> 	<p>2-3cms</p>	<p>Unglazed pottery, some medieval, some Roman, possible flint flake, bone</p>

<p>3 50cms x 50cms within flat area measuring 7 x 4 metres</p>	<p>3.1 layer</p>	<p>A small test pit was extended to 50cms x 50cms. The first 15cms revealed a clay loam as elsewhere in the paddock with few inclusions.</p> 	<p>One small blue and white pottery sherd</p>
	<p>3.2 deposit</p>	<p>Below that level a deposit of burnt material was discovered to a depth of approximately 25 cms. This deposit consists of burnt brick, slate, stone and clinker and contains no soil. It appears to be contained within the rectangular area 7metres x 4 metres in size.</p> 	<p>Burnt brick, clinker, slate and stone</p>

FUTURE PLANS. The wet weather in the autumn of 2006 curtailed any further excavations during the year. The winter months will be spent verifying the finds from the 2nd and 3rd dig at the site and also archiving the material found.

We still have not been able to find a suitable archaeologist who is able to supervise the excavation of the double ditch feature on the perimeter of the paddock. Further attempts will be made to find a supervisor and if one is not forthcoming an attempt will be made in the spring to put a small section through the ditches without supervision.

Now that the black rectangular area has been identified further investigation in this area will be considered. The well shown on older maps has also not been found.

The other main areas, now easily located and measured from the rectangle, are the possible house platforms located in the north east quarter of the paddock.

From the evidence gathered so far the site is showing considerable use during the medieval period (1200-1400), possibly towards the end of Great Bowden's period of influence and also some evidence of use or possible occupation during the Roman period.

4TH EXCAVATION IN BUCKMINSTER CLOSE, GREAT BOWDEN 19TH APRIL 2009

OBJECTIVES OF EXCAVATION 19.4.2009. The main objective of the excavation was to explore the double lined feature which showed up on the geo-phys. survey carried out by Adrian Butler in 2006. This feature appears to fit mostly within the paddock but a true oval in shape would extend beyond it in several places. Its existence only at the corners of the paddock on the read-out suggested it reached beyond the current boundaries on the four sides.

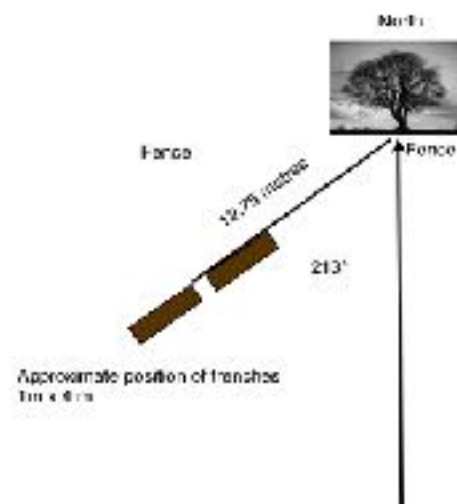
The archaeologists at Northants. Archaeology felt it was similar to mid-Saxon enclosures they had found elsewhere but in previous excavations in the paddock the pottery finds had been predominately medieval dating from 1200-1400. There had also been a suggestion that this is a track laid for horses in more recent years. The horse dealer, J.H. Stokes did use the paddock in the early years of the 20th century for his horses and possibly did show them off on occasions, drawing carriages. The field boundary would have been the same as today with a minor alteration on the southern side where a garden has been extended.

METHOD. Based on scaled values from the geo-phys read out, a north/south line was marked out with the old oak in the NE corner of the paddock as a starting point. A further line was set out at 213° from the same starting point. A measurement of 12.75 metres from the tree along this line was marked. This marked the starting point of pits 1 and 2. Pit 1 continued for 4 metres on the same bearing. Pit 2 was dug for 4 metres back along the marked line at 213°. A gap of 1 metre was left between the two pits.

Pits 1 and 2 (both 4m x 1 m) Pit 2 was nearest the tree.

Context 1.1 and 2.1 The turf and topsoil was removed from both pits to a depth of approximately 10 cms. Beneath this top layer was a layer of burnt material, charcoal, slag and possibly waste from a smelting process. This burnt layer covered the whole of pit 1 and the south-west half of pit 2. The north-west half of pit 2 appeared to be clay beneath the layer of topsoil. The layer of slag was approximately 3 cms thick. A narrow strip approximately 30 cms wide was scraped with mattock and trowel to remove the burnt layer, revealing uncultivated natural clay beneath. This yellow clay is unlike the soil elsewhere in the paddock where previous excavations have found inclusions and colour indicative of cultivation.

Site diagram for excavation 19th April 2009, Buckminster Close, Gr Bowden





Context 1.2 Pit 1 showing layer of burnt material and clay beneath



Context 2.2 Pit 2 showing clay before the final scrape and the clay layer still slightly darker than in Pit 1 after the final scraping.



No pottery finds were recorded in Pit 1 and only small pieces of modern brick and glass near the surface in Pit 2. At some stage, probably during the time of J.H. Stokes, a layer of clinker type material may have been laid for the horses and carriages to travel over. To keep within the known boundaries of the paddock this track would have been curvilinear in form with flattened sides rather than a true oval. After recording the pits were backfilled.

PITS 3 AND 4. The topography of the paddock in the north-east quarter was examined. A slight ridge was noted running approximately north/south for 29 metres from the northern boundary. A further low raised bank was noted running approximately east/west towards the boundary with the drive to The Grange. A test pit (Pit 4) was dug where the two banks met. A random metre square test pit was dug in the flattened area between the two raised banks. (Pit 3).

Pit 3 1m x 1m

Context 3.1

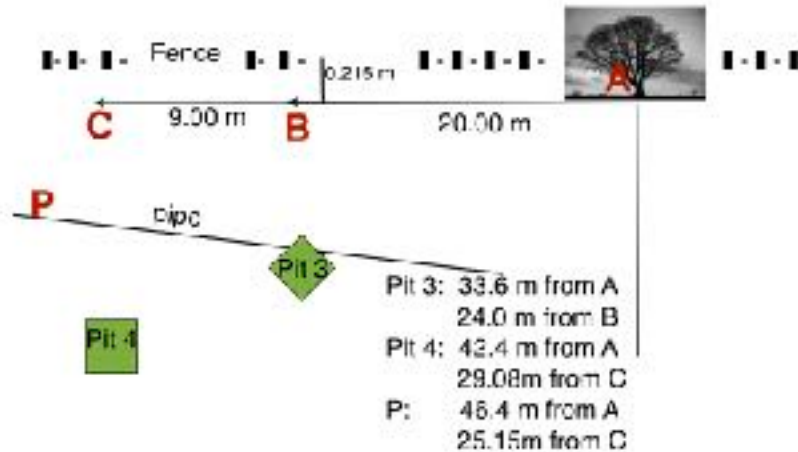
The metre square was marked out and the turf removed. A further 10 cms in depth of brown topsoil was excavated. Small sherds of modern glazed pot were recorded but not retained.

Context 3.2 A further 20 cms in depth was dug. The soil at this level was reddish-brown in colour and contained more clay but few stones. This is very similar to the sub soil found elsewhere during excavations in this paddock. Finds included modern brick

fragments
medieval
sherds.

Diagram to show position of
Pits 3 and 4 and the land drain

and
pottery



Context 3.3

A further 20 cms was excavated. The soil was beginning to contain areas of yellow clay at this point suggesting some disturbance in the past and at a depth of 50 cms from the surface a 11cm land drain was exposed running approximately east/west through the northern sector of the pit, 40 cms from the northern corner. Further excavation risked damage to the drain and the pit was backfilled. North



Pit 4 1m x 1m

Context 4.1 The metre square was positioned at the point where the two raised areas joined. The turf was removed and dark brown topsoil to a depth of 15 cms from the surface. The topsoil at this point contained some stone unlike most other areas that have been excavated in this paddock. Finds included a small unglazed pot sherd (LY1) and a small worked flint.

Context 4.2 A further 5 cms depth was excavated. The soil was reddish brown and a loam/clay mix. A rim from Lyveden Stanion oolitic limestone ware (LY1) was retained.

Context 4.3 A further 20 cms was excavated. The soil began to contain more organic matter including some charcoal. A sherd of LY1 pottery with vestiges of a green glaze, was found embedded in the side of the pit at a depth of approximately 35 cms.

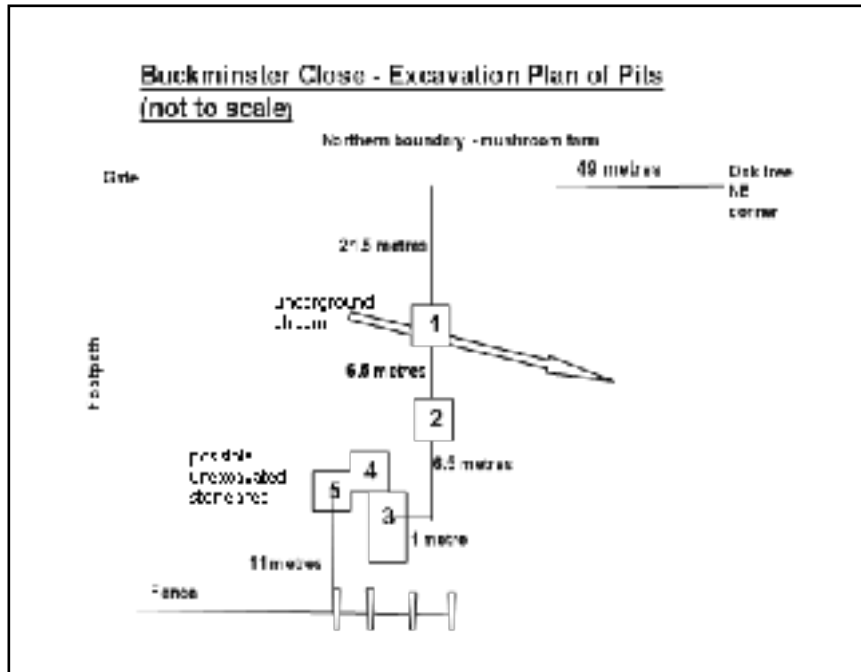
Context 4.4 A further 20 cms was excavated. The clay content of the soil was increased. Several sherds of unglazed pot were recovered including some of LY1. Small fragments of bone were also found.

Context 4.5 The pit was extended towards the east by 30 cms where the pot in context 4.3 had been found. Further evidence of the disturbance of soil in the form of charcoal, stones and organic matter was evident and further sherds of pottery found. The pit was backfilled.

Pit 5 1m x 1m During the first excavation in Buckminster Close in May 2006 5 test pits were dug. In pits BMC1 pit 4 and BMC1 pit 5 areas of large stones were uncovered and a quantity of medieval pottery, mostly LY1. See diagram below from the report of the first excavation showing the position of the pits BMC4 Pit 5 (19.04.09) was the re-opening of the former BMC1 pit 5 and extending it to a full 1 metre square size

Context 5.1 The turf was removed and the normal heavy and reddish brown loam was discovered. This context ended at 15cms depth and some pottery sherds including pancheon and LY1 were retained. There was also some modern tile fragments and nails.

Context 5.2 A further 15 cms were removed and the stones from the former excavation revealed. Further pottery was retrieved including some sherds of LY1. An attempt will be made to connect these to the cooking pot found close to this location in 2006. The pit was backfilled.



CONCLUSION

Buckminster Close has revealed some information about its past but there is still much unanswered. We now suspect that the double curved features shown so prominently on the geo-phys survey are modern in origin dating probably from the late 19th or early 20th century. Likewise, the black rectangle in the middle of the paddock is modern, probably the base for a stable or similar building. The finds associated with the burnt matter here were all modern.

Pits dug elsewhere in the southern part of the present paddock show use during the medieval period and the quantity of finds suggests a pit or midden. The lack of this quantity of finds in Pit 3 of the recent dig suggests that it is more likely to be as a result of manure spread and therefore the land was at some time under cultivation. This is borne out by the colour and texture of the soil. There is possibly very slight evidence of old ridge and furrow in places. This may date prior to the known history of the paddock from 1673 when it is described as pasture.

The two slight banks mentioned in this report may be plot boundaries. As their position is at the edge of the built up area of the village they may mark the boundary with the open fields. On the other hand the soil under the excavated track in the north-east corner appears different and suggests no cultivation has taken place there.

We have yet to establish if or where there was a dwelling on this paddock. The finds suggest that there would have been some form of habitation during the period 1200-1400 from which dates most of the pottery originates.

Future plans, with the owners' permission could include a test pit over towards the mud wall avoiding, as far as possible, the area disturbed by the bomb crater in 1941.

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