

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES FROM THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM

These notes include all new archaeological sites and finds brought to the attention of the Buckinghamshire County Museum during 1973. Short notes on excavations conducted in the Milton Keynes area are included by courtesy of the two Field Archaeologists of the Milton Keynes Development Corporation. The assistance of a number of other informants is gratefully acknowledged. Other sites and finds were discovered by museum staff.

Finds with accession numbers (bracketed) have been presented to the Museum. A few remain to be accessioned. Others have been retained by the finder, or in the case of Milton Keynes excavations are housed at Bradwell Abbey Field Centre. Where eight-figure grid references are given, these normally refer to the centre of a site. Further details of many sites are to be found on County Antiquities Survey record cards at the Buckinghamshire County Museum.

MICHAEL FARLEY

PREHISTORIC

Amersham SU 96609697

Three flint flakes, one bi-facially worked, were found by Mr. W. Filby in a ploughed field (63.73).

Aylesbury SP 82021261

A flint disc scraper was found in a back garden by Mrs. B. Hurman (276.73).

Aylesbury, Manor Drive SP 82681459

A Late Bronze Age hoard was discovered in April 1973 by Mr. D. Ottridge whilst putting in footings in his garden in Manor Drive, Aylesbury. He has kindly deposited it on loan at the County Museum.

The hoard is of the Carp's Tongue Complex of the seventh century B.C. It consists of seven socketed axes, two 'winged' axes, one palstave, and several lumps of bronze cake. All of the axes have ribbed decoration, save one which has wing decoration. Both of the 'winged' axes are broken, as is common with this type of hoard. The area around the find was excavated by the County Museum Archaeological Group, but it turned out that the original finder had himself cleared the area thoroughly in his search for further material. Although a number of isolated bronzes have been found in Bucks, this is only the fifth recorded instance where more than three objects have been found together, and the first Carp's Tongue hoard (L.190).

Bledlow-cum-Saunderton SU 80479898

A fourth ploughed-out barrow in a well known group was noted for the first time by Mr. P. Whiteman and photographed by him from the air.

Ellesborough SP 83240603

A large barb and tang flint arrowhead was found by Mrs. J. Barnard and Mrs. P. Courtney Lewis in a ploughed field (321.73).

Ellesborough

Further flint flakes and 24 cores were collected by Mr. W. Filby and presented to the Museum. A barb and tang arrow was also found (404.73).

Grim's Ditch, Tring, Herts. SP 924091

Messrs. N. J. Davis and R. J. B. Whinney conducted an excavation on a section of Grim's Ditch at Easter 1973. The Ditch was shown to have been originally V-shaped and 2.0m. deep. The core of the confining bank was of grey sandy material—probably piled up turf and topsoil. On top of this lay sticky red brick-earth excavated from the ditch and which occurs naturally 0.3m. below ground level. Between bank and ditch there appears to have been a berm 3.0m. wide. The only dating evidence was one sherd from the top few centimetres of the bank's core. This is not closely dateable, but on fabric may be Iron Age or local Romano-British. This represents, of course, the earliest date at which the ditch could have been dug, and does not necessarily date the earthwork.

Haddenham (a) SP 733079 (b) SP 731080

An air photograph taken by Mr. P. Whiteman showed a rectangular enclosure (a) and a ring ditch (b) in the same field.

High Wycombe SU 86399174

The butt end of a chipped Neolithic axe, a core and a piercer/borer, all in flint, were found some years ago by Mr. G. H. Baker in his back garden. Objects with Mr. Baker; drawing at BCM.

Newport Pagnell SP 86764515

A polished stone adze was found by Mr. P. Creswell.

Newton Longville SP 85543043

Six Late Pre-Roman Iron Age sherds were found by Mr. R. W. Griffiths and Mrs. J. Southernwood on the surface of a ploughed field (L.205).

Slough, Chalvey SU 96027959

A flint tranchet axe with ochreous patina, in mint condition, was found by school children of Chalvey Middle School and brought to the attention of the County Museum by Mrs. H. Phillips. The axe, 175mm. long, has been retained at the school. Drawing and photograph at BCM.

Swanbourne SP 81382715

See Medieval.

Woughton-on-the-Green

See Roman.

ROMAN

Amersham, Bury Farm SU 967968

A week's training excavation was carried out in March by the Chess Valley Archaeological and Historical Society and the Chorleywood Field Centre, and directed by J. L. Martin. The site, in the valley bottom, was earlier recorded by D. Humphreys (*Records of Bucks*, XIX (1971), 93). On excavation the area was found to be badly eroded by plough and water action. Wall foundation packing remained only where softer ground had resulted in local subsidence; unstratified finds included Roman floor and roofing-tiles, painted plaster, walling-brick, glass, tesserae, charcoal and animal bones. A thin scatter of Belgic pottery indicated first-century occupation. Samian and third century Romano-British pottery types were also found. A domestic site is probable, but the degree of erosion and material scatter suggests that, at this point, further excavation is not justified.

Bletchley SP 86543430

Excavations by Miss M. J. Darling for H. S. Green of Milton Keynes Development Corporation were carried out on the site of a new road about 300m. from an earlier excavation in Sherwood Drive by R. W. Griffiths. No structures were found,

but an irregular stony spread was noted. Roman material included large numbers of patterned flue tile and several holdfast nails, also pottery, glass and coins of third to fourth-century date. As flue tiles had been incorporated in the stony spread, it appears that whatever Roman building originally existed in the vicinity had fallen into ruin by the later fourth century. Towards the north-western end of the new roadway a dump of post-medieval brick and tile is considered likely to have derived from demolition of Water Hall.

Great Brickhill SP 89102880

Roman pottery associated with black soil and a scatter of stones was located by Mrs. J. Southernwood and Mr. R. W. Griffiths (L.210).

Great and Little Kimble SP 82000776 – 81950772

A quantity of first to second-century pottery was found by Ian Berry with assistance from Mrs. Berry among spoil from a pipeline laid a year previously. Much of the pottery was presented to BCM (224.73).

High Wycombe SU 88999307

Trial trenching in a back garden by Mr. and Mrs. S. Cauvain revealed a platform of small flints interspersed with brown soil. Among the flints and sealed beneath them was a quantity of Romano-British pottery, including bead rims in soapy fabric. A dupondius of Trajan (RIC 626) was also found. The platform, known to be 40 sq. m. or more in extent, was between 0.10 and 0.25m. thick, and the whole is likely to be a component of a Romano-British settlement of first to second-century date.

High Wycombe, Wycombe Marsh SU 88429162

Four rims and twenty or more other sherds of first to second-century A.D. date were found by Mr. F. J. Young during construction of a housing estate (242.73).

Hoggeston SP 80972600 – 80972586

Pottery of first to second-century A.D. date was found by Mr. A. Fleming among spoil from a recently re-cut ditch. Mr. K. Reading subsequently found further pottery (234.73).

Little Brickhill SP 89423332

Roman pottery was found in the forecourt of the Pullman Cafe during construction work, by Mrs. J. Southernwood and Mr. R. W. Griffiths (L.201).

Little Horwood SP 79403158

The rim of a third to fourth-century mortarium and other sherds were collected by Mr. Hood whilst gardening. A piece of flue tile was also found. (235.73).

Mursley SP 83263038

After discovery of a field scatter of Roman material, Mrs. J. Southernwood and Mr. R. W. Griffiths carried out a trial excavation in September 1973. Remains of an extensive villa, probably of the corridor type and with at least two tessellated floors and a cobbled courtyard, were discovered. Finds included Oxford ware mortaria and a coin of Constantine the Great. The structure appeared to have been badly robbed in the fourth century.

Newton Longville SP 85763031

About a dozen sherds of Roman pottery, including plain samian ware, were found during field walking by Mrs. J. Southernwood and Mr. R. W. Griffiths (L.206).

Stoke Mandeville SP 83771012

Two sherds were found by Mr. A. J. Reed.

Thornborough SP 73273384

Two shell-gritted Romano-British sherds were found by Mr. E. J. Bull (233.73).

Thornborough SP 729 332

Excavations were conducted by A. E. Johnson for the Bucks County Museum and the Department of the Environment on the east side of the river on the course of the new road and bridge. The third-century ford identified in 1972 on the west of the river was here sealed beneath 2m. of river silt and in an excellent state of preservation, with a surface of limestone blocks and chippings on an agger of clay. The hollow-way that represented the original ford was seen to continue on this side of the river, and a distinctive sand and silt sealing layer suggests it may have fallen into disuse by the time the later ford was constructed.

Three large upright timbers, 0.3m. in diameter and approximately 2m. long, were found south of the third-century ford. Approximately 2m. apart, they formed a rough equilateral triangle and could represent bridge foundations at least as early as the third-century ford, but no dateable features were found in association with them.

A probe and resistivity survey was carried out beneath the line of the new road embankment and the course of the third-century road established for over 50m. to the east where a junction was located with a metalled surface running north-south and parallel to the river. From both surfaces a quantity of horse-shoes, horse-shoe nails, and also third to fourth-century coins were recovered.

Willen

See Medieval.

Wolverton SP 826404

Excavation by H. S. Green for the Milton Keynes Development Corporation revealed a probable winged corridor villa. Two rooms had geometric mosaics and the corridor, which may be 100m. long, had a third, the latter with red on white swastica pattern. A notable find was a cockerel of Italian marble, almost certainly from a Mercury sculpture.

Woughton-on-the-Green SP 862375

Trial excavations by R. W. Griffiths for H. S. Green of Milton Keynes Development Corporation and subsequent investigation during area-stripping by contractors constructing Grid Road V.7, revealed a complex of Iron Age and Romano-British features. These probably extend outside the area investigated. Three Iron Age hut-circles with a defensive ditch to the west were noted, also a series of ditched enclosures of first to second-century date and scanty remains of two timber-framed buildings. A pathway which traverses the area had been re-surfaced in the fourth century, and its side ditches re-cut.

SAXON AND MEDIEVAL

Aylesbury, Bourbon Street/Temple Street SP 81871373

Following demolition of a listed building, No. 2 Temple Street, and the removal of its cellars, the entire south-east face of the site to a depth of 2.60m. proved to consist of the longitudinal section of a north-east/south-west ditch (Ditch I). A partial section on the north-east side of the site showed the ditch to have had a gentle U-profile cut into the natural limestone. Its full width, ascertained after a sewer connection was cut into Bourbon Street, was approximately 6.0m, and Bourbon Street is in part built on top of it. From the fill a few medieval sherds were recovered. On the south-west side of the site a further substantial ditch was exposed in section (Ditch II). It ran roughly at a right-angle to Ditch I, and the junction of the two lies under 2 Bourbon Street, if not destroyed by cellars. Only one slope of Ditch II was seen; it was steep-sided and even deeper than Ditch I, being at least 3.20m. Ditch II had been completely filled by the late twelfth

century and a pit cut into the upper layers contained a quantity of pottery of this date, including jugs and part of a tripod pitcher. Both ditches are clearly defensive in scale, and may tentatively be considered as either an unrecorded town defence or part of the 'castle', to which old street and property names have previously pointed. A further interesting feature of the site was an in-filled well containing late eighteenth-century pottery and plentiful organic remains. Excavation under difficult conditions was carried out by the County Museum Archaeological Group with kind permission of Bourbon Investments, who also donated the finds to the Museum.

Aylesbury, Walton Street SP 82251319

Prior to development, excavation was carried out by M. E. Farley for the Bucks County Museum and the Department of the Environment of an earthwork first recorded in the nineteenth century. The earliest occupation was represented by a scatter of Romano-British sherds. Two Saxon 'grubenhäuser' were located, the better preserved containing grass-tempered and fine decorated sherds; the other, of which only 0.10m. in depth survived, containing one single-sided and a double-sided bone comb. A palisade trench of Late Saxon date containing St. Neot's type pottery was excavated.

In the twelfth century a mound at least 50m. long and ditched on both sides was constructed and is interpreted as a pillow mound or rabbit warren. The main earthwork was thrown up in the thirteenth century to form a substantial enclosure bounded by a V-shaped ditch 2.0m. deep, almost certainly part of a manorial work. Contemporary structures excavated inside included a small timber outbuilding and two large stone-cut storage pits. A large area of sandpits may also be of this date. Subsequently, considerable adaptation of the main ditch took place.

The Saxon occupation of the site is of particular interest in view of the possible derivation of the name = weala tun = ? British tun (Ekwall). The pottery evidence from this site suggests that there was certainly occupation at Walton by 571, at which date Aylesbury is mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle.

Bletchley SP 85643324

During construction work medieval occupation and the probable course of an old road was located by Mr R. W. Griffiths. Finds included a sherd from a St. Neot's type bowl (L.209).

Bletchley SP 88173615

Thirteenth-century and later sherds were recovered by Mr. R. W. Griffiths during construction work (L.207).

Bradwell Abbey SP 82753953

Excavation of the former bakehouse by D. C. Mynard for the Milton Keynes Development Corporation proved it to be of fourteenth-century date and originally 9.6 x 5m. The longest axis, north-south, was shortened by half a bay in the eighteenth or nineteenth centuries. The excavation took place in advance of laying a new floor.

Creslow NGR—see below

During August a new water main from Weedon to Mursley was laid across Creslow, traversing part of the scheduled Deserted Medieval Village. South of the scheduled area at (a) 80952165 and (b) 80992176, limestone cobble areas were cut through, the former clearly forming a hearth and in which fragments of larva quern were set, the latter occurring in an obvious house-platform. A considerable amount of pottery, both shell-gritted and sandy, of twelfth to thirteenth-century date was collected from top-soil stripped from the fields in which these two areas lay. Within the scheduled area the pipe-line passed along the line of a trackway—finds were sparse and the natural rock close to the surface, but at 81152194 an area of cobbling was noted with associated roof tile. Near the church a length of limestone

moulding was found. Other finds from the pipeline included a sherd of samian and a piece of tegula. Roman coins have previously been reported from Creslow.

Ellesborough, Buckmoor End SP 84970458

Sherds of thirteenth-century pottery, mainly sandy fabric, were picked up by Mr. T. G. Sherrin after woodland clearance (227.73).

West Wycombe, Fillington Wood SU 798948

Work carried out between 1967 – 1971 on the medieval enclosure at Fillington by Mr. R. Parker has already been published. (*Excavations at the Medieval Site in Fillington Wood*, R. F. Parker (1972).) Two further excavations were conducted in 1972/73. A linear ditch, with external banks running east-west, south of the enclosure was shown to be a trackway. Excavation of a pit to the north of this revealed a shaft 1.75m. in diameter sunk into the upper chalk. The main enclosure-bank and ditch was sectioned and much pottery recovered. Investigations 50m. to the east indicated that a substantial structure existed here.

Hughenden, Rockhalls Farm SU 87649577

The area to the north and east of Rockhalls Farm containing irregular ground and defined on the north and east by a ditch, would appear to form an enclosure containing outbuildings contemporary with the medieval house. A ditch immediately north of the house may represent part of the moat reported by Sheahan (*History and Topography of Bucks*, J. J. Sheahan (1862), 891).

North Marston SP 77962248

Information supplied by Mr. E. Lambourne led to the discovery of a moat now nearly levelled.

Oakley SP 66661104

A well preserved rectangular moat was located.

Preston Bissett SP 66202800

A previously unrecorded moat, approximately 27 x 30m., has been discovered south-west of Lower Cowley Farm. Mr. Holt lifted turf in a few places and recovered medieval pottery and an iron door-hasps. Immediately south-east of the moat is an area tentatively suggested as a lost chapel site. To the east again is an area of house platforms and the whole complex can best be described as a Shrunken Medieval Village. A probable windmill site belonging to the village is reported under Post-Medieval and Undated Finds.

Princes Risborough approx. SP 824041

A medieval iron-socketed barbed arrowhead, 48mm. long, was found by Mr. T. R. Smith (31.73).

Stony Stratford SP 78344075

Trial excavation by R. W. Griffiths for D. C. Mynard of Milton Keynes Development Corporation in the garden of the former 'Barley Mow' located walls of a thirteenth to fourteenth-century building and showed that medieval levels survived at a depth of approximately 1.5m., the main build-up being of nineteenth-century date.

Swanbourne SP 81382698

During pipe-laying one of three possible house-platforms was sectioned. The only find noted by Mrs. J. Southernwood and Mr. R. W. Griffiths was a piece of a single-sided horn comb, ? medieval (L.200).

Swanbourne SP 81382715

Thirteenth-century sherds were recovered by Mrs. J. Southernwood and Mr. R. W. Griffiths from spoil thrown up during the laying of a water-main. A flint blade was also found (L.211).

Thornborough SP 73593392

The site of 'the old Chauntery Howse' indicated on an estate map of 1613, (*Buckinghamshire Estate Maps* (1964)5), has tentatively been identified on the ground by Mr. E. J. Bull at the grid reference given. The site consists of a platform delineated by trackways on three sides; the fourth side has traces of a limestone slab wall. A ? fishpond lies adjacent to the platform on its south-east.

Thornton SP 75233617

Medieval pottery and possible traces of a building were located during construction work south of the church by Mrs. J. Southernwood and Mr. R. W. Griffiths. The sherds included Potterspury and Brickhill type wares (L.204).

Westcott SP 72541754

Following cutting of a new drainage-trench, Mr. A. Jeffs discovered that a number of medieval features, which extend over 100 metres, had been cut through. Pottery recovered was of thirteenth to fourteenth-century date, mainly from Brill kilns (5.74).

Whaddon SP 80703430

A group of house-platforms was noted on aerial photographs and subsequently confirmed on the ground by Messrs. E. J. Bull and L. Moulster.

Whaddon SP 80713383

Two substantial house-platforms were identified on aerial photographs taken by Mr. L. Moulster and subsequently confirmed by Mr. E. J. Bull.

Whaddon SP 80723396

A moat, now levelled, was identified from an air photograph taken by Mr. L. Moulster.

Whaddon SP 80753287

Information supplied by Messrs. E. J. Bull and R. W. Griffiths led to the location of a bank and ditch more than 1km. in circuit, surrounding the two fields in which stands Coddimoor Farm. (NGR to centre of enclosure.) This may represent a property boundary contemporary with the monastic cell of Coddimoor, alleged to lie on the site of this farm.

Willen SP 88024089

Total excavation of the moated site by D. C. Mynard for Milton Keynes Development Corporation showed the moat to have been originally 4m. deep, 1.5m. wide and probably dug in the fourteenth century. The enclosure, 26m. north-south and 20m. east-west, had traces of an internal bank on the west side, 2.5m. wide, surviving to a height of 1.5m. A Roman ditch was found cut into the old ground-surface on which the moat was constructed. The fill produced late third to fourth-century pottery with Middle Saxon sherds in the upper fill. Two nearby platforms on either side of a sunken road were partly excavated and produced evidence of fourteenth-century occupation.

Woughton-on-the-Green SP 85953630

A late Saxon stirrup-iron with part of loop and foot-plate missing was found by Mr. K. Bradshaw during building work (76.73).

Woughton-on-the-Green SP 87093737

Excavation of a well defined platform 53 x 64m. at the western edge of the green by D. C. Mynard for Milton Keynes Development Corporation revealed a significant complex of buildings around a large cobbled area. The whole is tentatively dated to the fourteenth century by pottery and coins. The largest building was L-shaped; its wall-footings, much robbed, were primarily of limestone. Parts of two other buildings were uncovered to the north and west, further enclosing the court-

yard. A cobbled way to the village centre was also in evidence. Finds included knives, arrowheads, grinding-stones and a door-post stone.

POST-MEDIEVAL AND UNDATED

Little Horwood (a) SP 78653136 (b) SP 78713142

Two mounds in the same field were located by Mr. E. J. Bull and subsequent fieldwork carried out with Mr. R. W. Griffiths. One mound (a) proved to be the site of a windmill shown on the Salden Estate Map of 1600. From its surface a large piece of millstone grit was collected. From the plough soil of the second mound a few sherds of medieval pottery were recovered ((a) 436.73, (b) 437.73).

Ludgershall SP 65101773

A badly ploughed mound in Mill Knob Field was shown by Mr. W. George to be the site of a windmill indicated on the Tudor 'Doddershall House' map.

Maids Morton SP 70223554

A large ditched mound approximately 40m. across from the outside edge of the ditch and 2m. high has not apparently been published before, but had been previously noted by Messrs. E. J. Bull and P. Hinson.

Mursley SP 81122816

The probable site of a water-mill, indicated by a mill-pond dam and associated field names, was located by Mrs. J. Southernwood and Mr. R. W. Griffiths.

North Marston SP 76552220

Information supplied by Mr. E. Lambourne led to the discovery of two mounds, probably windmill tumps, in a field called Windmill Field.

Preston Bissett SP 65812798

Mr. Holt excavated a small section across the ditch of a flat-topped mound and recovered a few abraded sherds of mediaeval pottery. The ditch has a causeway on the north-west side, lies on Windmill Hill, and is likely to be a windmill tump.

Thornborough SP 74163307

Mr. E. J. Bull and Mr. A. J. Fleming independently noted a ditched mound, which study of an estate map of 1613 shows to be a windmill site.