

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 1974. 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 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

Chartridge SP 94310328

Mrs. R. Free and her daughter collected some sixty sherds of first-century A.D. pottery from the front garden of their house. The material is mainly in local Belgic fabric. The bulk came from a probable ditch, approx. 1.30m. wide, which had been sectioned during landscaping.

Cholesbury SP 95600609

A tranchet axe and a chipped Neolithic axe were found by Mrs. B. Nickalls within 100 metres of each other in a ploughed field, during 1972. Drawings at Bucks. County Museum.

Cholesbury SP 94690669

A tranchet axe and the tip of a small chipped Neolithic axe were found in the same field by Mrs. B. Nickalls, *circa* 1972. This is a separate find from that noted above. Drawings at Bucks County Museum.

Dorney (NGR at BCM)

Mr. C. Stanley photographed from the air one large ring, diameter 30-40 feet, and two smaller ones with diameter *circa* 20 feet. Other linear features were noted.

Gerrards Cross SU 99988918

A barb-and-tang arrowhead was found by Miss E. Cruickshank in her garden. Drawing at Bucks County Museum.

Haddenham SP 731078 (approx.)

A second ring ditch was photographed by Mr. P. Whiteman, south of the example noted last year.

Milton Keynes SP 882387

Excavation by R. T. Schadla-Hall for the Milton Keynes Development Corporation and the Department of the Environment in advance of gravel quarrying on an area 150 × 15m., exposed a number of features previously noted on air photographs. These features proved to be shallow boundary ditches yielding Iron Age pottery. In addition, a large Iron Age rubbish pit, 3 metres in diameter and 2 metres deep, was excavated which contained an important pottery group including one complete Hunsbury bowl as well as a large amount of timber and environmental evidence. A Saxon pit, 2 metres × 1.75 metres deep, yielded remains of a wattle lining.

Newport Pagnell SP 870452

Mr. K. Field photographed from the air a possible enclosure south of one recorded by Mr. J. Pickering in 1970. (*Bulletin of Northants Fed. of Arch. Soc.*, 5, 41).

Shabbington SP 66980846

The tip of a polished Neolithic flint axe was found in a field by Mr. E. Kendrick and presented to the Museum. (296.74)

Shabbington SP 67120862

See Roman.

Stokenchurch SU 75889642

Two cores, two blades and three other flakes, probably Neolithic, were found by Mr. C. Barry in his garden.

Waddesdon SP 72841698

A large number of Mesolithic/Neolithic flint waste flakes, several blades—a few retouched, along with more than a dozen cores, were collected from a ploughed field by Mr. Machin of Waddesdon and brought to the attention of the Museum by Mrs. J. Strong. A few grass-tempered Saxon sherds were also found.

Wolverton SP 822401

Partial excavation of a site discovered during construction work revealed traces of a settlement site of late Neolithic date. The excavation was directed by H. S. Green for the Milton Keynes Development Corporation and the Department of the Environment. Structures discovered included borrow-trenches dug into Jurassic (Blisworth) clay, most probably to provide material for houses of wattle and daub or cob construction; also arc-shaped gulleys, probably for drainage around houses, dug into Cornbrash limestone. Finds included a flint industry of Mesolithic aspect. Plain Neolithic (Grimston style) and "Rinyo-Clacton" pottery occurred in direct association in the deliberate infill of one of the borrow-trenches. The excavated features showed a consistent fill of reddish-brown soil typical of some archaeological sites of Sub-Boreal date located on subsoils of, or containing, limestone.

ROMANO-BRITISH

Amersham SU 94899764

During fieldwalking a scatter of Romano-British sherds and two pieces of tegula were discovered by Mrs. B. Stainton, Mr. D. Humphries, and Mr. and Mrs. S. Cauvin. (80.74)

Aylesbury SP 82821410

An Antoninianus of Probus (RIC 526) was discovered whilst gardening by Mr. J. Paterson.

Buckingham (NGR. See below)

During intensive fieldwalking between Bourton and Thornborough bridge, Mr. E. J. Woolley discovered a number of concentrations of Romano-British pottery and tile, showing that the Roman occupation extended over a larger area than was previously known. The occupation occurs mainly on a band between SP 71553323 and 72253320 and could indicate settlement along the course of a road. (310.74; 575.74).

Drayton Beauchamp SP 905112

Following discovery of a scatter of Romano-British sherds, Mr. D. Neal arranged electronic survey of the area in advance of road construction, but this revealed no archaeological features.

Edlesborough SP 99441624 (approx.)

Roman and Medieval sherds were discovered by Mr. A. Wainwright and reported by Mr. D. Neal.

Halton SP 88850760

See Wendover.

Leckhampstead SP 73633627

Two pieces of flue tile and a dozen sherds were discovered by Mr. K. J. Woolley. The material was near a partially infilled gravel pit and possibly originates elsewhere (315.74).

Little Horwood SP 79373073

During levelling of a site for housing to the east of a known site, Mr. E. Bull collected Roman and Medieval pottery (114.74).

Long Crendon SP 67120862

See Shabbington.

Oakley

During fieldwalking some forty sherds of Romano-British pottery, including mortaria and Nene Valley colour coat, were discovered by Messrs. Bull, Kendrick and Woolley (271.74).

Princes Risborough (NGR at BCM)

An iron bow brooch of second-century date and a flesh hook were found in close association by Mr. T. R. Smith.

Shabbington SP 67120862 (to centre)

From spoil thrown out of re-cut ditches, Mrs. J. Taylor and Mrs. D. Waterton recovered over three hundred sherds. The material is mainly Romano-British and would appear to extend from first-fourth century A.D., but a few "Belgic" pieces are also present. The material was found over a distance of more than three hundred metres extending into Long Crendon, and indicates a settlement of some size (267.74).

Wendover SP 88850760 (centre)

Half a dozen Romano-British sherds, including samian and a storage jar rim, were discovered whilst fieldwalking by the County Museum Archaeological Group. The site lies on the Wendover-Halton parish boundary (578.74).

Westcott SP 72551635 approx.

Half a dozen sherds of Romano-British material, some of the third century, were discovered during fieldwalking by Mr. Machin of Waddesdon.

Wingrave SP 86571693

Approximately thirty sherds of Romano-British pottery, some of late second to third-century date, were collected by Mrs. P. Holt whilst investigating an earlier report of finds from the area (526.74).

Wolverton SP 826403

A further season's work on Bradwell Roman villa was carried out by H. S. and M. J. Green for the Milton Keynes Development Corporation. An area of 500 square metres was opened. A corridor, with red-on-white swastika-pattern mosaic is known to be at least 10 metres in length. Two rooms with mosaics were revealed; one had a central panel guilloche pattern in fine tesserae which had been largely destroyed by the insertion of a hearth; the other room, at least 9 metres square, has a compass-drawn stylized floreate red-on-white pattern, and there is a central inserted limestone-flagged hearth. Walls survive to the height of five courses. Macroscopic examination of some of the stone roofing materials points to Charnwood Forest and Collyweston or Stonesfield as sources of supply.

Worminghall SP 64550945

A slight scatter of Romano-British sherds was discovered by Messrs. Bull, Kendrick and Woolley during fieldwalking (284.74).

Worminghall SP 61021062

With assistance from Mr. H. Sassoon, Mr. G. Lamb relocated on the ground a site noted in *Oxon.* XXV, 134, and discovered Roman sherds including mortaria and colour-coat wares. Two pieces of tegula indicate a building in the vicinity (1.74).

Wraysbury (Berks)

See Saxon and Medieval.

SAXON AND MEDIEVAL

Aylesbury, Walton SP 822132

Further work at Walton was carried out adjacent to last year's site, following demolition of the Vicarage prior to redevelopment. This year's excavation was again carried out by M. E. Farley for the Buckinghamshire County Museum with the Department of the Environment. The vicarage site, which lies inside the main earthwork excavated last year, was found to be sub-divided internally by a rock-cut V-shaped ditch. The whole of this area of Walton adjacent to the manor house now appears to have been laid out in large rectangular plots in the thirteenth century. No major structure of the period was located.

Preceding activity was indicated by a spread of twelfth-century and Saxo-Norman material, and a deep curving ditch belongs to this period along with a number of gullies.

Early-Middle Saxon occupation noted last year was here represented by two further *grubenhauser* orientated east-west, also three pits, one of which contained much of a quern. Finds included loom weights, a double-sided bone comb, a small long-head brooch and much decorated pottery. A scatter of Roman material was also present.

Bradwell SP 830396

Trial excavations by D. C. Mynard for the Milton Keynes Development Corporation of "Bradwell Bury", a series of earthworks associated with the moated manor site, produced evidence of Late Saxon occupation.

Two phases of Saxon ditches: the first on average 2.5 metres wide and 1.5 metres deep; the second 4 metres wide and 2 metres deep, dated by St. Neot's ware, were

partly sealed by a bank of Medieval date. These ditches enclose an area of uncertain size, only the north and west sides being at present located.

Within this area there is evidence of three phases of occupation:

- (i) Late Saxon, dated by St. Neot's ware. A row of three post-settings, possibly from a four-bay building.
- (ii) Late Saxon, dated by St. Neot's ware. A second row of four post-settings, not quite parallel with those in Phase I suggesting a re-building; the new building being of six bays. The floor level associated with this building was considerably burnt and contained sherds of St. Neot's ware.
- (iii) Later than (i) and (ii), probably Early Medieval. A stone building on the same site and alignment, 7 metres wide and at least 9 metres in length. This building continued in use into the post-Medieval period.

Buckingham, Hunter Street SP 6933352

Excavations on a site fronting Hunter Street directed by Mr. R. A. Hall for the Buckinghamshire County Museum and the Department of the Environment, in an area presumed to be within the Late Saxon burh, showed that the area was first divided into tenements in the early fourteenth century; earlier activity was only attested by a Late Saxon bronze pin and a handful of Saxo-Norman sherds. The northern part of the site, on a heavy clay subsoil, remained unoccupied until modern times, medieval activity being confined to the southern area which overlay natural gravel.

A boundary ditch and part of a town house of the early fourteenth century were excavated—the dating of these rests on both numismatic and ceramic evidence. The ditch extended the length of the site in an east-west direction, and yielded an extensive group of sheep bones, and pottery of the Brill kilns. The house, one bay deep, apparently extended parallel to the present street, and its southern limits, obscured by modern disturbance, may extend below houses still in occupation.

Ceramic evidence suggests that the site was permanently occupied until the nineteenth century, with major structural alterations in the late medieval period. These included the erection of what was probably an ancillary building behind the house, close to a stone-lined pit. The area between the house, which was presumably still occupied at this time, and the ancillary building, was terraced at approximately the same time. A post-medieval accumulation in this area produced a useful collection of ceramics.

Granborough SP 76502516 (centre)

A group of house platforms beside a large hollow way were noted by Mr. E. J. Bull.

Great Linford SP 856417

Large-scale excavations by D. C. Mynard for the Milton Keynes Development Corporation of village earthworks in advance of development have been concentrated on two areas at the northern end of the village around the former village green. An estate map shows houses in 1641 but these were gone by 1678 when a second map was produced. Documentary evidence confirms enclosure in 1658.

Area 1: Road construction revealed both medieval and seventeenth-century levels.

Limited excavation located three stone buildings, the earliest being a rectangular two-bay stone building 9.5m. by 5m. dated late twelfth century. Above this was a thirteenth-century building 5.5m. wide and of uncertain length. To the east of these, part of a substantial seventeenth-century house was located and will be fully excavated in 1975.

Area 2: An unploughed pasture of 3.5 hectares with about 10 house platforms, several hollow ways and lesser earthworks. Three platforms have been excavated:

- (i) On the northern edge of the medieval green, contained no building evidence but produced stock compounds and a post-medieval road.
- (ii) This contained a two-bay house 10m. × 5m. of thirteenth and fourteenth-century date, which was replaced in the seventeenth century by a two-bay house 15.5m. × 5.5m.
- (iii) This contained a three-bay seventeenth-century house 16.7m. × 5.7m. This had originally been of two bays only and the third bay contained a large hearth and was a kitchen of an "industrial" nature.

All of the buildings appear to have been of timber construction with dwarf stone walls apart from the substantial seventeenth-century building in Area 1. Around each building are well laid cobble and limestone yards.

Findings include large groups of medieval and seventeenth-century pottery and iron-work.

Ickford SP 64470716

An area of village shrinkage with associated fishponds was reported by Miss S. Fothergill, Mrs. Y. Parminter and Mr. M. E. Davies.

Lillingstone Lovell SP 71734225

A large rectangular platform was noted by Mr. R. Unwin and Mr. G. Weatherhead.

Milton Keynes

See Prehistoric.

Oakley SP 65431069

A moat noted on the enclosure map of 1820-21 by Mrs. S. Gill, was found to be totally infilled.

Oakley SP 64101215

An area of village shrinkage was noted by Messrs. Bull, Kendrick and Woolley.

Oakley SP 64231215

Two large fishponds were reported by Messrs. Bull, Kendrick and Woolley.

Waddesdon SP 74951647-74961630

In a recently re-cut ditch at Warmstone, Mrs. J. Strong noted stone walling and occupation debris. From the ditch and upcast came a considerable quantity of pottery, mainly thirteenth and fourteenth-century and including material from the Brill kilns (some with Brill type rims). There were also sparse sherds in shelly fabric.

Waddesdon SP 74041666

A moat, with three sides intact, probably noted by Sheahan (*Hist. & Topog. of Bucks.* (1862), 432,) was re-located in woodland by Mrs. J. Strong.

Waddesdon

See Prehistoric.

Westcott SP 72001729

Shortly after its discovery a large rectangular house platform was ploughed and much medieval pottery and roof tile recovered by Mrs. J. Strong. The bulk of the material is thirteenth to fourteenth-century in date, but a few earlier shelly wares also occur. Much Brill ware is present, including bases of four jugs and a complete bottle.

West Wycombe, Fillington Wood SU 798948

Further work was carried out near this medieval enclosure by Mr. R. P. F. Parker with Mrs. B. Easterbrook. Excavation of the shaft was continued to a depth of 10.3 metres, at which point a large sarsen-type rock was encountered. Work was discontinued at this depth and the shaft is to be backfilled.

A brief account of the fill is as follows. The first 4.5 metres were clay with flints, with occasional tile. Below this the fill contained more soil. At 5.25 metres the proportion of clay diminished further and roughly dressed flints with some mortar were noted, the whole being compatible with the collapse of a medieval structure. Animal bones, probably mainly pig and sheep, were noted throughout the fill below 4.5 metres; a cow's skull was also noted. Between 7.83 and 10.50 metres in the jumble of animal bones, flints, earth, chalk nodules and general detritus (which included beech mast), the partial skeletal remains of four adult persons were discovered.

Work at the eastern end of the wood some 50m. from the main enclosure continued this year, and the initial indication that a substantial flint structure existed here was confirmed. It is hoped to publish a second report on Fillington during 1975.

Wraysbury (Berks.) TQ 00007382

Mr. J. Shenton and Mr. V. Marchant carried out an excavation with Wraysbury History Group of an area west of St. Andrews Church. A new pumping station is shortly to be constructed on the site. No certain structures have been identified and the site has been well ploughed. A layer of gravel was noted in most trenches and a coin of Valens/Valentinian (A.D. 364-378) minted at Arles was found upon it, also a Sceatta of A.D. 680-700 (both identified by Dr. J. P. C. Kent).

The topsoil was rich in flint artefacts apparently Neolithic and earlier, together with pottery, mainly Early Saxon to Medieval. Iron slag has been found and a possible iron-working hole at the lower levels. Other finds include a Saxon knife blade, fragment of metal, part of a ? spear, Roman pottery and many bones, of which pig and cow can be identified.

POST-MEDIEVAL AND UNDATED

Brill SP 65381407

A multi-flued brick pottery kiln was discovered in Windmill Street, Brill, during installation of a septic tank and the County Museum conducted a brief excavation by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. J. Prosser. Less than half of the kiln was available for investigation, the remainder lying beneath a fuel tank. Half of this available area had been destroyed by Victorian Rubbish pits and the walls of this sector robbed. The base of the structure had been of brick, one flue was accessible and a second could be seen but not excavated.

The base of the kiln had penetrated to natural sand which had been burnt bright red. A quantity of saggars lay directly on this base and there was no trace of any other floor.

From the kiln itself saggars outnumbered products, but a first impression is that the main products were large dishes and probably cups, although few examples of the latter were represented. A date in the mid-seventeenth century seems possible for the structure, and the whole will probably be published in *Records of Bucks*, 1975.

Although only partial excavation was possible, the kiln is of particular interest as few multi-flued brick kilns of the period have been excavated. Moreover the importance of Brill as a pottery centre in the post-Medieval period has been overshadowed by its well known medieval forerunners.

Ludgershall SP 66791800

A large ditched mound, approx. 23m. diameter and 2m. high, with a flat top, probably a windmill mound, although locally well known has not apparently been recorded in print before.