

# 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 1975. 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

Amersham SU 95699885

A chert blade (Mesolithic/Neolithic), 75 mm. long was found by Charles Elliott in soil thrown up from erection of a gate post. It remains in his possession.

Aylesbury SP8309313563

Four flint blades, a side scraper, core and other flakes were found in an allotment. Mesolithic-Neolithic? (106.75)

Beaconsfield SU94858910

A small Neolithic chipped flint axe was found by V. Rolfe and brought to the museum's attention by Mrs. B. Stainton. It is 95mm. long with the cutting edge polished on one side. Retained by finder.

Beaconsfield SU94239044

A barb and tang arrowhead was found by V. Rolfe whilst gardening and was brought to the attention of the museum by Mrs. B. Stainton. Retained by finder.

Beaconsfield SU93499206

A large oval flint scraper was found by Mrs. B. Stainton in her garden.

Bierton SP83731535

A quantity of Belgic pottery was discovered by Matthew Cort in the vegetable garden of his house. The pottery included sherds from cups and platters, also cooking pots of which one is heavily scored, and another perforated below the lip. Sparse Romano-British material was also present. Indication of a settlement here was one of the factors leading to excavation on the site recorded below. (part 23.76).

Bierton SP83681525

A trial excavation was carried out by the museum with assistance from the County Museum Archaeological Group in advance of proposed development and with the kind permission of Rev. R.A. Law. A substantial Belgic enclosure ditch, a number of lesser boundary ditches and the segment of a circular house of the period were located along with pottery and other domestic refuse. The Iron Age settlement must have once occupied quite a considerable area of the western end of the modern village. There was evidence of both Roman and Saxon occupation in the vicinity, although no structures of these periods. A late seventeenth-century domestic rubbish pit containing much wood ash, animal bone and mussel and oyster shell was also excavated.

Buckingham SP 72713354

A dozen struck flakes, two cores, three scrapers and two re-touched flakes (?Neolithic) were found by K.J. Woolley whilst field-walking. (365.75)

Burnham SU 94708467

The earthwork at Seven Ways Plain was surveyed at 1:500 by Mr & Mrs. D. Miller.

Chalfont St. Giles SU 97129061

Mr. V. Rolfe found a leaf-shaped arrow-head whilst gardening. The find was brought to the attention of the museum by Mrs. B. Stainton. Object with finder.

Chartridge

An extensive flint site was located by Mr. W. Filby in two adjoining fields and subsequent systematic collection carried out by Chess Valley Archaeological and Historical Society. The bulk of the material is Mesolithic/Neolithic and includes some twenty cores, four scrapers and over one hundred waste flakes as well as two possible Thames Picks. Also from the site are two Palaeolithic hand-axes, one an ovate made on a thick flake and identified by Dr. Oakley. Material all with finder or the Society. National Grid Reference at Bucks County Museum.

Coleshill SP 95429485

A small pointed Acheulian hand-axe was found by Mrs. Wand-Tetley some years ago in a ploughed field. It is 100mm. long in grey flint with white patina and iron staining on the ridges. Drawing at Bucks County Museum, axe with finder.

Coleshill SP 95149500

Some years ago Mrs. Wand-Tetley found a Thames Pick/Granchet Axe in a ploughed field, circa, 310 m. distant from find noted above. Length 135mm. Drawing at Bucks County Museum, object with finder.

Dinton with Ford SP 76481171 (approx)

A round ended flint scraper was found by Mrs. B. Hurman. (189.75)

Hardwick SP 82371950

A flat butted cordate hand-axe, ?rolled, iron stained, was found on a ploughed field by Mrs. D. Waterton. (68.76)

Hardwick SP 79301832

See Romano-British.

High Wycombe

The tip of an LBA socketed bronze axe was found by P. Shingleton. Approx. National Grid Refer-

ence at Bucks County Museum.

Wendover SP 87370882 (Approx)

A flint 'fabricator' was found by Miss S. Fothergill. (70.75)

Latimer SU 98799920

An extensive area of Mesolithic flint working was discovered by the Chess Valley Archaeological and Historical Society during field-walking, and systematic collection carried out. Cores, blades and over 150 waste flakes were collected. A large proportion of the material has an even white patina.

Loughton SP 83033872

A number of pits or ditches of Middle Iron Age date (Site No. MK312) are stratified on alluvium cut by the Loughton Valley Trunk Foul Sewer. Nearer to the junction of the Loughton Brook with the Great Ouse, the Institute of Geological Sciences have obtained radiocarbon dated of 1863  $\pm$  45b.c. (SRR-135) and 1602  $\pm$  40 b.c. (SRR-136) from at and near the base of the alluvium respectively.

Loughton SP 82983916

A radiocarbon date is being obtained from a layer of dark soil and charcoal stratified in post-glacial alluvium exposed by the Loughton Valley Trunk Foul Sewer trench. (Site No. MK311).

Woughton

See Romano-British.

## ROMANO-BRITISH

Bierton

See Prehistoric.

Bletchley SP 88353482

Trenches dug by Milton Keynes Development Corporation to ascertain the nature of two parallel ditches, known from aerial photography, showed one to be a modern hedge ditch and the other to be illusory. Further trenches located a ditch producing animal bones and Roman pottery. (Site No. MK309).

Bradwell SP 845397

Two trenches dug by Milton Keynes Development Corporation at Wood Corner located this site precisely. Many finds have been made in past years after ploughing, dating from the second to fourth centuries A.D. Excavation indicated a building probably principally of timber, with a tiled roof. As with Wymbush, (see Loughton) there was no evidence of a heating system or of flooring. (Site No. MK64).

Bradwell SP 82904001

Roman pits and ditches were exposed by a trench cut for the Loughton Valley Trunk Foul Sewer, near the Bradwell Villa but some 300m. south-east across the Loughton Brook. (Site No. MK307).

Buckingham (NGR see below)

Continued field-walking by K.J. Woolley west of Thornborough Bridge located four discrete areas of Romano-British pottery, some 200 sherds in all, in a field centred SP 71653320. Much of the material is undatable coarse ware but a few mortaria rims suggest a second to fourth-century date. The presence of third to fourth-century pottery accompanied by flue tile and imbrex indicates a more solid structure at SP 72593327. Two further small isolated pottery scatters were located at SP

71843379 and SP 71703287. (27.75 and 34.75; 214-6.75; 59.75; 99.75).

Fleet Marston SP 77671558 - 77861558

A quantity of Roman pottery was recovered from a recut ditch by Mrs. J. Strong. A black occupation level sealed by a clayey silt (?) was clearly visible. Ceasing abruptly to the west it gave a good indication of the extent of settlement on this side. At only two points were possible robbed walls noted and there was a total absence of tile. Although cutting the presumed line of Akeman Street, it was not visible in section. Amongst the pottery were sherds from Oxfordshire mortaria, samian Drag. 36, 37 and 18/31, also poppyhead beaker. (296.75).

Great Horwood SP76633245 and SP 78093236

Two scatters of Romano-British pottery were found by E.J. Bull and K.J. Woolley. (33.75 and 100.75).

Great Horwood SP78223110

A small group of Romano-British sherds were collected from the surface of a ploughed field by E.J. Bull. (185.75).

Hardwick (a) SP 79301832 and (b) SP 78871855

During field-walking the County Museum Archaeological Group located two areas of Romano-British pottery:-

(a) From the surface of a ploughed field and including circa 40 rims, some third to fourth-century; also a flint scraper.

(b) From spoil thrown up from a ditch about 450m. north-west of the previous site a handful of rims and a poppyhead beaker sherd. ((a) 187.75, 377.75; (b) 362.75).

Hardwick SP 80051887 (centre)

Over a hundred sherds of Romano-British pottery including three pieces of samian were picked up from a ploughed field by members of the County Museum Archaeological Group. (176.75).

Little Brickhill (a) SP 8890033678 - 8893233656 (b) SP 891334 (area)

Two accounts of work at Magiovinium were accidentally omitted from the 1974 Records.

(a) Following a report by P. Wescombe, a recently recut ditch on the south side of Watling Street and within the Roman town was observed and four walls recorded; Unstratified pottery included the rim of a samian Drag. 24/25 cup identified as 'well pre-Flavian' by Dr. K.T. Greene. (364.75).

(b) J. Bertram for the Department of the Environment observed whilst field drains were laid in the south-east quadrant of the town. There was little trace of occupation to the south of the town defence but a consistent scatter of pottery and some building material outside and to the east. Further east, towards the suspected fortlet a considerable amount of pottery was found in association with a sandy feature that may be related to the cropmarks. Two buildings were observed within the town defence and a third virtually in the ditch on the eastern side. Much of the pottery was first to second-century in date. A single faience melon-bead was found.

Little Horwood SP 79353070

A scatter of Romano-British sherds discovered by E.J. Bull during construction of two bungalows gave further indication of the extent of a previously known settlement. (328.75)

Longwick cum Ilmer SP 79180648 - 79270655

In a small area of ploughed field Mrs. Y. Parminter discovered a dozen Romano-British sherds including one formed into a spindle whorl (broken). Also from the site came nine twelfth to fourteenth-century rims and a quantity of other sherds, Romano-British and Medieval.



Longwick cum Ilmer SP 80100633 - 80250624

Mrs. Y. Parminter discovered a scatter of Romano-British pottery including nineteen rims whilst field-walking. A single piece of flue tile was also found.

Loughton SP 828389

Two trenches were cut by machine on a site at Wymbush by Milton Keynes Development Corporation to determine the extent, its nature, and the threat which the present ploughing constitutes.

A small stone-founded building was discovered with finds of second to fourth-century date associated. Almost totally ploughed out, tegulae and imbrex were present but the rarity of building stone suggests a basically timber structure. (Site No. MK211).

Olney SP 88995246 - 89215236

Construction of a new sewage treatment plant at Olney led to two pipelines being laid across the periphery of the well known Roman site of Ashfurlong. At either end two substantial infilled Victorian gravel pits were exposed, which between them had destroyed some 90m. of the site. In the remainder were four Romano-British ditches and a gully. The pipe trench was not deep enough to expose the base of all of these, but two at least were slightly over 1.50m. deep. Two pits were exposed, one containing a South Gaulish Drag. 33 stamped MIDI (retrograde); the other was filled with black sooty soil but with no trace of in situ burning, and contained only sparse pottery.

An unexpected discovery was of two adult male inhumations. Parts of a Nene Valley Barbotine Beaker with running scroll decoration may have accompanied one of these. A metre-wide strip of small limestone rubble (un-mortared) was the only indication of stone-building, and building material generally was very sparse, likewise finds. Drawings at the County Museum.

Extensive cropmarks in the field were photographed from the air by Mr. K. Field.

Pitchcott SP 78221995 (centre)

A spread of Roman pottery extending over 100m. was located by the County Museum Archaeological Group during field-walking. Three sherds of Nene Valley type colour coat ware, two samian sherds and some sixty rims were included in the material. No building debris was apparent. (180.75).

Pitchcott SP 78211940

A well defined area of Roman pottery was located by the County Museum Archaeological Group during field-walking, some 400m. south of the group noted above. The 170 sherds were mainly grey wares with one sherd of 'parchment' ware and three colour coat sherds. (179.75).

Shenley Brook End SP 854352

A pottery scatter was investigated by Milton Keynes Development Corporation with trial trenches and produced a ditch containing animal bones and pottery. Mortaria sherds on the ditch floor suggest a date of late second or third centuries A.D. (Site No. MK308).

Stantonbury SP 84444123

Soil stripping by contractors prior to laying a hard surface games area exposed two Romano-British buildings. Subsequent investigation was carried out by Milton Keynes Development Corporation archaeologists with assistance from the staff and pupils of Bridgewater School.

One building was circular with pitched stone footings. Thought to be industrial in character, it contained an oven whose fill included a small iron bar. Third-century A.D. pottery was associated. The second building, perhaps a farmhouse or minor villa, was rectangular with evidence of a hypocaust and opus signinum floor. Adjuacent yards were defined by stone walls. The relationship between the two buildings is not clear but excavation is not yet complete. (Site No. MK311).

Steeple Claydon SP 70432661 (Approx)

Two Romano-British rims were amongst medieval pottery found on an allotment by Mrs. J. Strong. (436.75)

Wendover SP 870088

A scatter of Romano-British pottery was found by the County Museum Archaeological Group in a ploughed field. (98.75).

Wendover SP 87400900 (General Area)

Romano-British pottery including thirty rims spread over a fairly wide area was located in a ploughed field by the County Museum Archaeological Group. Also included was a sherd from an imitation Drag 38 and a few other red colour coat sherds, probably Oxfordshire products. (96.75).

Woolstone cum Willen SP 85613816

Trial excavations by Milton Keynes Development Corporation were conducted on a Romano-British site discovered by the Milton Keynes and District Archaeological Society north of the site at Woughton noted below and on the line of the new City Road V7. (Site No. MK313).

Wolverton SP 827403

Plans for large-scale excavations at the Bradwell Roman Villa by Milton Keynes Development Corporation were postponed when the Anglian Water Authority re-routed a sewer which would have destroyed a large area of the site.

Excavation disclosed a stone building between the main villa house and the Loughton Brook. Two trenches were excavated in line with the main building 50m. south-west of the area excavated in 1974. It was established that the main building must terminate short of this. The two principal features discovered comprised a circular house drainage gully (F.202) and a segment of ditch (F.200). Finds suggest a late first or second-century A.D. date for these features which would appear to pre-date the main villa structures. Early activity at the site is attested by the unstratified find of a coin of Tasciovanus. (For an account of earlier work on the site see – Green, M.J. "The Bradwell Roman Villa: First Interim Report", Occasional Papers in Archaeology No.1 (1975), Milton Keynes Development Corporation). (Site No. MK105).

Woughton SP 86153775

J. Barnbrook carried out small-scale excavations for Milton Keynes Development Corporation on a settlement site recorded by R.W. Griffiths during 1973 at the intersection of grid roads V7 and H7. R.W. Griffiths had recorded Belgic hut circles, Romano-British timber-framed buildings and a metalled roadway. The recent work exposed a pair of concentric gullies circa 8m. in diameter, probably a house site with a south-western entrance; also a small continuous gully circa 2m. in diameter and possibly structural. Probable palisade trenches were also recorded. The features as a whole date to the first century A.D. (Site No. MK98).

## SAXON AND MEDIEVAL

Bradwell SP 830396

Prior to development of the moated site at Bradwell Bury excavation of an area 55 x 46m. was undertaken by Milton Keynes Development Corporation and subsequently a watching brief was carried out during development. A scatter of handmade gritty Saxon sherds suggest settlement before the three main places defined. During phase I (eleventh-thirteenth centuries) four timber buildings on crofts defined by ditches were in existence, two with hearths and one of which was destroyed by construction of the moat. Associated pottery was mainly of St. Neot's type with some Stamford ware.

In phase II (thirteenth-fifteenth centuries) four stone buildings and a limekiln were erected and

enclosed within a rectangular moat 5m. wide and enclosing 115 x 50m. Quarrying and landscaping have affected the present form of the moat. Building 1 was 22m. long with a projecting garderobe. It contained a complete Penn floor tile and worked stone from the destruction levels suggest it was a building of some quality. Pottery was of thirteenth to fourteenth-century date and included Brill and north-west French imports in addition to local wares. A Henry III short cross penny of 1216-30, a bone chessman and part of a Purbeck mortar was also found. Building 2 was an aisled barn and replaced an earlier phase timber building. Building 3 was circular, 6m. diameter internally and probably a dovecot as was Building 4. Finally a sunken circular limestone kiln with two stokeholes was also recorded. In phase III (sixteenth-nineteenth centuries) the moated area was reduced and much of the remainder infilled. The present Moat House bears the inscription TM 1784. Outside the reduced area a new rectangular dovecot had been constructed. The phase II aisled barn continued in use until the early nineteenth century. A magnificent stone drain drained a yard adjacent to the dovecot. A small herd of cattle, probably killed by an epidemic had been buried within the Dovecot Close. Pottery from the pit suggests a late fifteenth to early sixteenth-century date for this and the bones are being studied.

#### Bradwell SP 82943975

To the north-west of Bradwell Bury moated site an isolated building was revealed when the sports-field site was levelled, and excavated by Milton Keynes Development Corporation. Of stone construction, its clay floor had a central hearth and its easternmost end, which was paved, was drained by a central gully. Pottery from the floor was of thirteenth to fourteenth-century date. A complete Penn floor tile lay on a yard surface to the south.

#### Bradwell Abbey SP 827395

An area 5 x 5m. to the south-east of the chapel was excavated by several volunteer members from local societies under the direction of D.C. Mynard. The position of the west wall of the Priory church was located although totally robbed, and the nave shown to have been approximately 8.5m. wide.

#### Boarstall SP 62641459

Amongst Medieval pottery in the collection of Dr. Hall of Boarstall, G. Lamb noted 'wasters.' This find in conjunction with evidence available from other sources suggests a fairly extensive pottery industry existed in the parish in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. Jugs appear to have been the principal product. Further work in conjunction with the County Museum Archaeological Group is planned.

#### Dinton with Ford SP 77361106

Although areas of shrunken village have previously been identified at Dinton, Mrs. B. Hurman has now recorded a well preserved moated site at the NGR above. Lying in a field called Blooms Close, it is probably to be identified with the manor of "Blomers".

#### Fleet Marston SP 77971595

As the nave area of this redundant church was due to be lowered prior to laying a concrete floor, the architect acting for the Redundant Churches Fund invited advance excavation, and this was carried out by the County Museum with considerable assistance from members of the County Museum Archaeological Group. Much had been destroyed by underfloor heating and Victorian box pews and numerous graves intersected the remaining area. None of the latter were excavated. Although twelfth-century occupation was present, it was of a domestic nature and the excavation substantially confirmed the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments assessment of the structure. The earliest phase was represented by a small rubble-filled trench crossing the chancel arch and integral with the first arch. This trench never carried a wall and had a lime floor laid immediately on top. It incorporated pieces of peg-hole tile of a fabric unlikely to occur before AD. 1200 and can be considered to date the first phase of construction of the church, unless evidence sealed beneath the chancel floor should prove

otherwise.

The rebuilding of part of the south wall of the nave, probably in the fourteenth or fifteenth centuries, was also confirmed.

Foxcote

See Post-Medieval.

Great Linford SP 856417

Excavation by the Milton Keynes Development Corporation continued on the two areas of the village exposed last year. In Great Picknuts field the seventeenth-century stone building located in 1974 was found to have been badly robbed.

In Hens Close a further large area was stripped and a total of eleven buildings have now been excavated. Two late Saxon "V" section ditches were identified but no other evidence for occupation at this period was forthcoming. Building 5, a seventeenth-century structure partially excavated last year, was shown to be of three bays and contained what has been tentatively identified as a staircase.

Building 7 was probably an outbuilding of 5. Building 8, which measured 16.5 x 6m. and was badly robbed, was probably occupied from the fourteenth into the seventeenth centuries. Building 9 was also badly robbed. Building 10, a substantial five-bay building dated from the thirteenth century and incorporated both a square stone hearth and a circular stone-lined oven. Building 11, contemporary with 10, and probably its accompanying kitchen or brewhouse, contained in its north-eastern corner a rectangular kiln (? malt kiln). Building 12 had been badly robbed. Building 13, thirteenth to fourteenth-century in date, contained a stone-lined kiln similar to that in Building 11 as well as a semi-circular oven base and may have served as a kitchen or brewhouse for Building 8. Little detail is available for the final building, 14, but finds point to a late twelfth to early thirteenth-century date. All the buildings appear to have been of timber construction on dwarf walls. The majority had packed clay floors but some were of crushed limestone and two had single bays cobbled. Three of the buildings lay on artificial platforms of grey-brown clay.

Great Linford SP 48532419

A Medieval building uncovered during topsoil removal was excavated by Milton Keynes Development Corporation. Pottery from the clay floor of the building pointed to occupation in the fourteenth to fifteenth-century.

Haddenham SP 74160810

A small excavation by B. Blake adjacent to the former site of a barn revealed a wide range of pottery including a Saxon grass tempered sherd, two other probably Saxon sherds, a little St. Neot's ware, twelfth to fifteenth-century sherds and glazed Brill ware. Material with finder.

Longwick cum Ilmer

See Romano-British

Loughton SP 83733758 (excavation)

The earthworks around the scheduled moat and fishpond were mapped and examined in detail. After one platform had been cut during construction of a contractors access road, it was excavated by Milton Keynes Development Corporation and the footings of a building 6.0 x 4.2m recorded. On the floor was a considerable amount of late fourteenth to fifteenth-century pottery.

Lower Winchendon SP 73451222 and SP 73291208 (centres)

Two areas of village earthworks have been identified and sketch planned by Mrs. J. Strong.

Newport Pagnell SP 88814343 and SP 88454365

A holloway with apparent closes or house platforms on either side was noted by Mr. Riley, County Planning Department and further information provided by Mr. Baylis who farms the land. An isolated area of platforms was also noted adjacent to Tickford End.

Oving SP 78282146

A single Saxon grass-tempered sherd was found on a ploughed field by members of the County Museum Archaeological Group.

Waddesdon SP 75151647 - 75201630 approx.

A 200m. length of bank apparently the eastern part of an enclosure and perhaps defining a home close was planned by Mrs. J. Strong at Warmstone.

Waddesdon SP 74961601

After ploughing, Mrs. J. Strong recorded scatters of stone and clay patches (? house sites) in a field known as 'Mawkins'. Pottery recovered included three St. Neot's type rims, eleventh to twelfth-century pottery as well as later medieval material. Pottery with finder.

West Wycombe SU 798948

Excavations continued at Fillington Wood with R.P.F. Parker in conjunction with Mrs. B. Easterbrook and A. Boarder and volunteers from Marlow and High Wycombe Adult Education Centre. Excavation of a circular flint structure now shown to be a dovecot was completed. Linear features extending from the west face of the main ringwork were also examined. A start was made on sectioning the ringwork bank at its highest point on the eastern side. In the north-west sector of the interior a section was cut 3m. distant from and parallel to the road in an area disturbed previously by eighteenth-century turnpike construction. Despite this, the presence of the slighted ringwork bank and ditch was confirmed and thirteenth-century pottery found in sealed ditch deposits. Work is to continue in 1976 in the north-west sector to investigate the later places of settlement.

Weston Turville SP 85321080

During lowering of a cottage floor, Mr. P. Gibson discovered a considerable amount of medieval pottery. The bulk of it was thirteenth to fourteenth-century in date in sandy fabrics, but a few late twelfth-century rims were present.

## POST MEDIEVAL AND UNDATED

Bletchley

See Roman-British

Boarstall SP 61851403

A mound with ditch traceable on west and south was reported by W. George. A possible house platform to the east suggests it may be a mill mound.

Brill SP 65591423

Subsequent to last year's chance discovery of a seventeenth-century multi-flued kiln in Windmill Street, Brill, a further post-medieval kiln was exposed in house footing trenches at the top of Tram Hill and reported by Mr. J. Prosser. The site is remembered locally as the 'clay sheds' and belonged to the Hubbock family, the last family of potters to work in the village. The kiln was brick built, circular and had opposed arched flues. There was no evidence for a cavity floor. Only one flue was fully visible and this had a fire brick grating at its base and level with the tiled floor of the kiln. The whole was incorporated into one end of a pot-shed. The kiln appears to be totally nineteenth-century in date



and the products remain to be studied.

Also on the site were two burnt hollows containing seventeenth-century ceramics, probably also kilns, although the constraints of footing trench excavation only permitted a sectional view.

#### Chenies TQ 01449830

During 1974-5 Watford Underwater Club excavated sediment at the base of Chenies Manor Well, to 170ft. Finds included early seventeenth-century clay pipes and a variety of artefacts of that date onward but nothing pre-Tudor. Objects retained at Chenies Manor.

#### Dorton SP 67991388

Substantial limestone footings and a stone culvert of Medieval or later date were uncovered in Dorton School grounds whilst field drains were being laid, reported by Mrs. Graves and investigated by M.E. Davies. The footings were also visible as parch marks.

#### Foxcote SP 71583576

In conjunction with Mrs. Elvey and Mrs. M. Farnell, the County Museum Archaeological Group recorded the monumental inscriptions in Foxcote churchyard and surveyed most of the surrounding village earthworks.

#### Great Missenden SP 90320243

Local enquiry by Mrs. J. Taylor and Mrs. D. Waterton at Potter Row lead to the identification of an area of 'wasters' of late sixteenth to seventeenth-century date with some kiln furniture. Products included bowls and dishes, some of the latter stamped, also tripod pipkins. The bulk of the pottery was glazed with a light-dark green glaze. Work on the material is in progress. (14.75, 30-32.75, 60.75).

#### Penn SU 90739406 and 90669405

Penn is well known as a centre of Medieval tile production and occasionally it is presumed pottery kilns also operated here. To date there seemed little direct evidence for this assumption but search by Mrs. J. Taylor and Mrs. D. Waterton near 'Potters Cross' located a quantity of post-Medieval pottery in brick red fabric including nineteen similar jug handles. Although the evidence for 'wasters' is sparse the similarity of fabric and type does suggest kilns in the vicinity. (330.75)

#### Princes Risborough SP 80490504

A ploughed down mound, probably a windmill mound, was located by Mrs. Y. Parminter in a field named Windmill Field at Monks Risborough.

#### Quinton SP 75962053

During construction of a storage tank a few pieces of human bone were discovered by A. Micans, 'at a depth of eight feet'. (363.75).

#### Weedon SP 81031874

An earthwork, rectangular, but open on its uphill side, was located by the County Museum Archaeological Group on low lying land adjacent to a stream. Date, Medieval or Civil War?

# THE MUSEUM

The most important event in the Museum was the opening of the new Gallery of Buckinghamshire Rural Life in September. The design of the gallery was undertaken by Robin Wade Design Associates. The Museum has built up a sizable collection of agricultural and domestic material, but virtually nothing has been on display. The insertion of an additional floor at first floor level in what was formerly the Grammar School room has given an opportunity to rectify this, particularly necessary in a county which was primarily a rural county with agriculture providing the main employment. The gallery is divided into two areas, the smaller of which deals with early farming from Prehistory to Medieval and various aspects of life in the village. These comprise such subjects as the agricultural worker, the law, transport, leisure, cottage industries and the baker and butcher. The major part covers the farmer and his wife, illustrating seasonal agricultural work, commencing with the preparation of the soil and going through the various farming processes to harvesting and threshing, with sections on the keeping of livestock, hunting and shooting, and the farmhouse kitchen. The implements and machinery are supplemented by photographs and documentary material. These show implements actually in use and also provide some idea of the social background with, for instance, entries from school log books recording absences for bean setting, gleaning, and bird scaring duties, and also agricultural show awards. The exhibits are largely confined to the equipment used on the farm before the introduction of modern machinery, although some of the items are comparatively recent in date.

Amongst the exhibitions, mention should be made of that relating to the Experimental Iron Age Farm at Butser Hill, Hampshire, which had been produced by the Winchester City Museum. This had in fact a local interest in view of the discoveries of Iron Age storage pits in the county, and proved a most popular exhibition. Another unusual exhibition was of photographs by Mary Farnell, with a text by William Davenport, called "Looking at Weston Turville."

The Field Archaeologist, with the County Museum Archaeological Group, was responsible for the excavation of some Post-Medieval kilns at Brill, of the interior of Fleet Marston Church, and of a Belgic site at Bierton, and details of the discoveries made are given in the Archaeological Notes. The Archaeological Group consists entirely of volunteers meeting every Tuesday in the Museum and, apart from the valuable work done on material from excavations, has carried out other fieldwork, including parish surveys.

In the geological and biological field the main effort has been devoted to improving records and their storage. A voluntary group meets on one evening a month and at alternate meetings receives instruction and helps with the biological records. A Bucks Natural History Forum has been set up, which includes representatives of all natural history societies in the county, and this is intended to be "an informal organisation aiming to link all interested bodies and to co-ordinate natural history activity in Bucks."

C.N. GOWING

## NOTES

UPPER WINCHENDON. On Sunday 5 October 1975 a special service was held at St Mary Magdalen, Upper Winchendon to celebrate John Wesley's first sermon, preached in the church on 3 October 1725. Wesley, a newly-elected Fellow of Lincoln College, Oxford, was ordained by John Potter, Bishop of Oxford, in September of that year. On 3 October he came to Bucks and took Matins at Fleet Marston and Evensong at Upper Winchendon, using the same sermon — which still survives in MS — on both occasions. The pulpit from which he preached is simple 14 c. work and is the oldest in the county by at least a century.

On this occasion the Vicar of Waddesdon (with which Upper Winchendon is united) used the full 1662 order for Evensong including the lessons and psalm that would have been used on Trinity XIX in 1725. The only parts of the service which might not have been familiar to Wesley were three hymns by his brother Charles and the sermon by Revd. E. Ralph Bates, author of *The Rise of Methodism in the Vale of Aylesbury*, which was both informative and eloquent. Ten clergy of various denominations and a large – mainly local – congregation filled the small church and overflowed into the churchyard where, on a perfect autumn afternoon, they could also enjoy what is arguably the most beautiful site of any parish church in the county.

E.V.

FENNY STRATFORD. On 11 November 1975 the President and Hon. Secretary were guests at the annual St Martin's Day celebrations at Fenny Stratford. After the well-known 'poppers' had been fired on the recreation ground at noon, 2 and 4, a Solemn Eucharist was celebrated in St Martin's church at 7 by the Vicar Canon K. W. Wright and this was followed by the traditional dinner at which the Hon. Secretary gave the Oration and proposed the 'silent toast' to the memory of 'that Learned and Communicative Antiquary Browne Willis'. It is pleasant that these celebrations in honour of Bucks' first historian, a founder member of the Society of Antiquaries and the builder of St Martins church in 1730 still continue.

E.V.

CHURCHYARD INSCRIPTIONS. In conjunction with the drive to record churchyard inscriptions, which the Society is now organising, this list of parishes where work of this sort has in the past been carried out may prove useful. All are in the Society's collections.

Aston Abbots	Foscote	Soulbury
Aylesbury	Grove	Stantonbury
Bletchley	Hitcham	Stewkley
Bradenham	Horwood, Little	Stoke Hammond
Bradwell	Ilmer	Stratford, Fenny
Brickhill, Bow	Lee, The	Tattenhoe
....., Great	Loudwater, Wycombe	Walton, N. Bucks
....., Little	Loughton	Wavendon
Broughton	Milton Keynes	Weston Underwood
Chenies	Missenden, Great	Wexham
Chesham	....., Little	Whitchurch
....., Bois	Moulsoe	Willen
Cuddington	Mursley	Wooburn
Denham	Newton Longueville	Woolstone, Great
Dorney	Prestwood	....., Little
Drayton Parslow	Saunderton	Woughton
Dunton	Shenley	Wycombe, High
Fingest	Simpson	....., West