

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES FROM BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM

These notes include archaeological discoveries reported during 1980 and a few earlier finds not previously noted. Discoveries in the Milton Keynes Development Corporation (MKDC) area are included by courtesy of D. C. Mynard and fuller accounts of these sites appear in the *CBA Group 9 Newsletter*. The assistance of many informants is gratefully acknowledged; other discoveries are by Museum staff. The compiler would be pleased to learn of any errors or omissions. Findspots are recorded under civil parish.

Some selection of material has been necessary; single struck flakes for instance have not normally been included, nor field scatters of mediaeval pottery unless of sufficient quantity to indicate settlement, nor single Roman coin finds. The threat of looting by metal detector users continues unabated and has made abbreviated grid references necessary for certain categories of site.

Numbers in brackets are accession numbers of material at the County Museum. The County Museum Archaeological Group is abbreviated as CMAG.

Michael Farley

PREHISTORIC

Amersham SU 9355 9655

Struck flakes and possible cores of Neolithic – Early Bronze Age date were collected by Mr. W. Filby and reported by Mrs. B. Stainton.

Bletchley, Simpson SP 8871 3589

Geophysical survey of a supposed ring ditch c. 32 m. diameter was carried out for MKDC.

Bradwell SP 8395 3980

Following topsoil stripping at least eight charcoal-flecked features were exposed stretching across some 70 m. of south facing slope, on boulder clay. One pit contained flint debitage, six scrapers and a single sherd; another contained waste flakes, a projectile point and a quantity of pottery Late Neolithic or possibly Early Bronze Age in date. Three of the features were of roughly crescentic shape like those excavated on a Late Neolithic settlement at Stacey Bushes by H. S. Green in 1974.

Buckland SP 9010

A coin of Tasciovanus and a Gaulish quarter stater were found by Mr. T. Clark.

Chalfont St. Peter SU 9981 9066

A Palaeolithic flint axe of cordate/sub-cordate form, 93 mm. long, with point broken and retrimmed, was found in a garden by Mr. R. Flynn. Drawing at BCM.

Chalfont St. Peter SU 9993 9062 (centre)

Further struck flints of Neolithic – Early Bronze Age date were collected by Mr. R. Flynn from vegetable plots centred on the NGR given, during 1980, and included three scrapers, a notched piece and a retouched blade. Also present was a probable microlith of crescentic form. (300.1980).

Ellesborough SP 833 061

The butt of a Neolithic chipped axe, a transverse arrowhead, rounded scraper, part of a blunted-back knife and struck flakes were collected from a ploughed field by Dr. M. Oates during 1976–8. (66.1980).

Gerrards Cross TQ 0155 8760 (area)

Systematic fieldwalking by Mrs. H. Bridbury with the Chalfont St. Peter and Gerrards Cross Local History Society produced a few struck flakes.

Great Linford

See under Saxon and Mediaeval.

Great and Little Hampden SP 8403

Two Iron Age coins, Mack 248 and 249, were found by Mr. D. Critoph.

Great and Little Hampden SP 8368 0263

Several cores, a round-ended scraper and eleven flakes of Neolithic – Bronze Age date were collected by Mr. and Mrs. S. Cauvain. (125.1980)

Great Missenden SP 8749 0109

A broken laurel-leaf flint projectile point, incomplete, was found in a garden by Dr. R. J. Cruickshank. It is c. 55 mm. long and bifacially worked by soft hammer technique.

Great Missenden

During systematic fieldwalking by CMAG, a number of discoveries of Neolithic – Early Bronze Age flakes were made as follows:

(a) SP 9047 0293 (area)

Thirty-four struck flakes, widely dispersed. (538.1980)

(b) SP 9153 0041

A sparse scatter of flakes, also a rounded scraper and a core. (74.1980)

(c) SP 9111 0022

A sparse scatter of flakes. (72.1980)

(d) SP 9132 0042

A sparse scatter of flakes and a rounded scraper. (71.1980)

(e) SP 9119 0063

A sparse scatter of flakes, a round-ended scraper and a core. In one area ninety mediaeval sherds were present. (70.1980)

(f) SP 9230 0076 (area)

Over a hundred struck flakes and fifteen blades, also four scrapers, a core and a leaf-shaped arrow-head. A Mesolithic element may be present. (69.1980)

Iver TQ 0310 8402

During fieldwalking a few struck flakes and a round-ended scraper of Neolithic – Early Bronze Age date were found by CMAG. (520.1980)

Iver TQ 025 784

Rectangular enclosures, one probably containing a house, with accompanying field system, were photographed as cropmarks from the air by the National Monuments Record.

Ivinghoe/Pitstone SP 9531 1522 – SP 9548 1546

A double linear cropmark observed in an arable field by Mr. J. Hawkins from the ground and which aligned with Grim's Ditch on Pitstone Hill and a holloway on Ivinghoe Hills, proved on sectioning by Mr. Hawkins, Mrs. J. Davis, *et al.* to be a 1.5 m. deep ditch. Of rounded V-section, it undoubtedly represents a previously unrecorded section of Grim's Ditch. A dog-leg in the cropmark suggested gang-work. The cropmark was plotted on the ground by Mr. M. Sear.

Marsworth SP 9314

The Pitstone Local History Society, in conjunction with the County Museum and other specialists, carried out an excavation on deposits of Pleistocene fauna exposed after topsoil stripping in advance of quarrying. Previous work in the quarry had produced animal remains of the last interglacial (Ipswichian) including vole, hippopotamus, narrow-nosed rhino and giant deer. The most recent finds appear to be from an older deposit and have produced fauna indicative of a cool climate including mammoth, fox, wolf and a giant form of lion. From the same quarry, although not associated with the previous finds, Mr. D. Parish collected a Levallois flake, (290.1980).

Stokenchurch SU 7613 9634

A polished Neolithic flint axe, 120 mm. long, was found in laying a service trench and is in the possession of Mrs. Reupke. Drawing at BCM.

Stone SP 7800 1240

A ditch 2 m. wide, containing a Belgic rim and seven other sherds, was recovered whilst a pipe was being laid. (287.1980).

Stone SP 7777 1231

A few sherds, one Early – Middle pre-Roman Iron Age, and two undated ditches were recorded whilst a pipe was being laid. (286.1980).

Woberton SP 7910 4059

A Late Bronze Age socketed axe was found whilst digging a back garden in King Street, Stony Stratford by Mr. P. Briggs and is reported by Mr. R. J. Williams of MKDC.

Woolstone-cum-Willen SP 8618 3953

A flint awl struck from a broken fragment of Neolithic polished axe was found during fieldwalking by Mr. R. J. Williams of MKDC.

ROMANO-BRITISH

Aylesbury SP 7914

Two late fourth century gold coins, one of Magnus Maximus, the other of Theodosius I, were found by a workman in moved spoil on a housing estate. The subject of a coroner's inquest, they were declared Treasure Trove and one of the coins was acquired by the British Museum.

Aylesbury SP 8204 1375

During redevelopment (continuing during 1981) on the site of the Bull's Head Inn and Aylesbury United Reformed Church, a Romano-British ditch and pits, also mediaeval features, were recorded.

Bierton SP 8215

Mr. P. Miles collected Romano-British pottery, including thirty-four rims of second – fourth century date from a ploughed field. Mr. T. Clark found four coins of later third to mid-fourth century date in the vicinity.

Bow Brickhill, Caldecotte. SP 8921 3511

An elongated ovoid enclosure 52 x 12 m. wide known from air photographs and a geophysical survey was trial-trenched by Mr. M. R. Petchey for MKDC. The ditches proved to be 2 m. wide and at least 2 m. deep. Pottery recovered from the early silts of the ditches included sherds of a fabric found at a kiln of mid-first century date, discovered nearby in 1979.

Great Linford SP 844 413

Excavation by Mr. R. J. Zeepvat for MKDC took place on one of a group of Roman buildings on Stantonbury campus, with the assistance of local schools. Previous work on the site has been reported in *CBA Group 9 Newsletter* 6, 1976. This year a rectangular structure probably the remains of a small bath house and containing two semi-circular plunge baths, was examined. It was apparently attached to the north-west corner of the villa.

Haddenham SP 731 100

During fieldwalking by CMAG, Romano-British pottery was collected, including thirteen rims.

Haddenham SP 751 095

Whilst checking a pipeline, a sparse scatter of Romano-British sherds, including a second to third century pie-dish rim, was recorded; also a substantial pit 9 m. wide and at least 1.5 m. deep. The only dating evidence for the latter was four Romano-British sherds including a third – fourth century Oxfordshire red-ware flanged mortarium. The base of the pit cut through ironstone so it is possible that it was dug in order to extract this material.

High Wycombe SU 8294

A scatter of Roman coins was discovered by the South Bucks Metal Detector Club.

West Wycombe SU 8595

A bronze bow brooch of Camulodunum type III, incomplete, was found by Mr. Freeman. (391.1980).

Walton SP 901 367

A scatter of Romano-British pottery was located by Mr. R. J. Williams of MKDC.

Wolverton SP 8278 4058

Mr. J. Stephenson discovered a waterlogged deposit exposed in a drainage ditch adjacent to the Bancroft villa. A quantity of Romano-British refuse was recovered including a leather shoe. A small excavation was conducted by Mr. R. J. Williams for MKDC and samples taken for environmental study. Wood and carbonised seeds were present.

Woolstone-cum-Willen SP 866 394

Geophysical survey was carried out for MKDC on a known Romano-British structure indicated by stone and tile scatters, prior to excavation planned for 1981.

SAXON AND MEDIAEVAL

Aylesbury SP 8181 1385

Foundation trenches for a new toilet block at the Victoria Club, Aylesbury, brought to light the disarticulated remains of about eleven skeletons, apparently reinterred. It has been suggested elsewhere (see *Records* 1979) that these and other skeletal finds within the town may indicate the former extent of the minster cemetery. (532.1980).

Beaconsfield SU 953 885

A small embanked moated site c. 19 x 30 m. was discovered in scrubland adjacent to a stream. To the south-east of the moat, the stream had been dammed to form a fishpond.

Bierton SP 8334 1592 (area)

During fieldwalking Mr. P. Miles found eighteen grass-tempered sherds of Early – Middle Saxon date.

Bradwell Abbey SP 827 395

During the year the DoE Ancient Monuments Laboratory took tree ring samples from the Bradwell Abbey Cruck Barn for MKDC. The south cruck gave a ring sequence of A.D. 1132 – 1279, the north cruck one of A.D. 1105 – 1275, and a tie beam A.D. 1084 – 1184, but with an incomplete ring sequence.

Dinton-with-Ford SP 7619 1138

A pipeline cut a ditch containing sherds from three Early – Middle Saxon vessels. (285.1980).

Great Linford, Pennylands SP 862 411

A small-scale excavation was conducted by Mr. R. J. Williams for MKDC to the north-east of the main Pennylands site. Further Iron Age features were exposed including the pennanular drip-gully of a large house with eastern entrance. A short iron sword or dagger and a fragment of fired clay triangular loomweight were found in the gully. Saxon features recorded included a twelfth grubenhaus – whose fill included a complete bone comb, also the plan of a rectangular post-built building, the first complete example of its kind to be recorded at Pennylands.

Great Linford SP 851 422

Following trial excavations in 1978, Mr. R. J. Zeepvat for MKDC carried out further work in 1980 adjacent to Great Linford Manor stables and on the presumed site of the mediaeval manor house. Three principal phases were identified. To phase 1 belonged a house apparently of mediaeval hall type with cross passage, a service room which contained an oven, and other associated structures. Major additions took place in phase 2, and in phase 3 (sixteenth and seventeenth centuries), a number of further modifications were carried out which may have included the transfer of the main hall to another part of the structure. Excavation within the existing southern stable building indicated some rebuilding here in the mid-nineteenth century.

Elsewhere in the grounds of Great Linford manor, Mr. R. J. Williams recorded an extensive buried soil sealed beneath demolition rubble laid down in the early eighteenth century, and to the north of the existing manor a substantial rubbish deposit containing a wide range of ceramic, of mediaeval to late eighteenth century date.

Great Linford SP 8506 4232

The restoration and redecoration of St. Andrew's Church was monitored by Mr. R. J. Williams for MKDC, and recording of architectural detail carried out by Mr. B. Giggins. External service

trenches exposed numerous unmarked burials, also a grave marker accompanied by a complete carved headstone with floriate cross, probably of twelfth or thirteenth century date. Just west of the headstone a priest's burial was discovered accompanied by a pewter chalice and paten, and unlikely to have been any later than the fourteenth century. A number of hand-made Saxon and mediaeval sherds were found in builders' spoil. The present timber floor and pews were constructed in 1705, but the current restoration showed that timber from the preceding mediaeval benches and from a screen had been utilised in the floor structure. A quantity of earlier stone, tile and window glass was also utilised in the floor make-up.

At the east end of the nave a decorated Little Brickhill tile pavement was partially exposed. The discovery is of considerable importance since a nearby brass of Robert Hunt (d. 1473) records that he left a bequest for laying a new floor in the church. This provides the earliest and only firm date for the production of tiles at Little Brickhill – which had previously been thought to have been predominantly early sixteenth century, and is also only the second Little Brickhill pavement surviving in position. Beneath the tile floor a truncated buried Saxon soil was recorded, containing bone and hand-made pottery of Early – Middle Saxon date.

Detail of the structural phases of the church was recorded: painted wall plaster: a Royal Coat of Arms of Charles II – which was examined by Mr. Clive Rouse; and a late fifteenth century low-pitch king post roof which had been concealed by the eighteenth century ceiling.

Great Missenden

See Prehistoric.

Great Missenden SP 9024 0262

Fieldwalking by CMAG on a site previously reported by Mrs. M. Hall defined more closely the extent of the Potter Row mediaeval pottery industry. (546.1980).

Great Missenden/Little Missenden SP 9220 0071

During fieldwalking thirty mediaeval sherds were discovered in one area by CMAG. (73.1980).

Haddenham SP 7534 1001 – SP 7539 1017

A pipeline cut through an undated 2 m. wide ditch and some 0.5 m. of over-deepened topsoil produced a few mediaeval sherds. The whole suggests a small close, perhaps of mediaeval date, attached to Haddenham Low Farm. (283.1980).

Hanslope SP 77 48

Excavation by Mr. R. A. Croft for the Wolverton and District Archaeological Society at the request of Mr. O. Ranson examined the remains of a supposed mediaeval pottery kiln site. Investigation confirmed the existence of a small kiln structure 1.75 m. in diameter surviving to a depth of 0.60 m. A small amount of fourteenth century pottery was recovered; no wasters or kiln debris were noticed. Coin evidence would suggest a thirteenth – fourteenth century date for occupation on the site. Extensive scatter of limestone rubble suggested a building may have been adjacent to the kiln. The kiln appears to have been connected with a domestic or agricultural use rather than pottery production. Aerial photograph and fieldwalking evidence suggests the existence of a small settlement in the area of the kiln reflecting the typical pattern of fragmented settlement in this part of Buckinghamshire. The site may represent a hitherto unrecorded mediaeval settlement in the parish of Hanslope.

R.A.C.

Lavendon/Turvey (Beds) SP 9379 5427

Much stone present in the bed and bank of the Ouse at the NGR given suggests that this may be the site of one of two watermills mentioned in an extent of c. 1323.

Loughton SP 8341 3768

During observation of a sewer line, Mr. R. J. Williams of MKDC recorded several limestone walls, patches of cobble, and a pitched stone yard surface perhaps belonging to small mediaeval or post-mediaeval crofts on the west side of Loughton Green.

Mentmore SP 9078 1993

A large rectangular platform adjacent to Manor Farm indicates the former site of a large house. Mediaeval pottery was recovered from the surface. (17.1980).

Shenley Brook End SP 835 355

The earthworks extending from Westbury Farm to Dovecote Farm were surveyed by Mr. R. A. Croft for MKDC. They represent the mediaeval vill of Westbury recorded in Domesday Book.

Stantonbury SP 835 427

Dredging of the mill stream and associated earth-moving at Stanton Low brought to light three large fragments of lava quern in association with tile and limestone walling, possibly indicating a mill site. The discovery was recorded by Mr. R. A. Croft.

Wendover SP 8711 0748 (area)

Further excavation by Mrs. M. Hall in the north-west corner of a vegetable garden exposed a second platform of flint associated with pottery, of thirteenth – fifteenth century date. Also present were some pieces of glazed roof tile and part of a curfew. (112.1980).

Woolstone-cum-Willen SP 875 392

Following earlier examination of part of the interior of Holy Trinity Church, Little Woolstone, a stone coffin discovered on the south side of the nave was excavated by Mr. R. A. Croft for MKDC. A latex mould of the lid, on which were scratched eight mediaeval graffiti gaming boards, was made by Mr. D. Parish of the County Museum. The coffin contained two principal burials with fragments of others.

POST-MEDIAEVAL AND UNDATED

Aylesbury SP 8170 1370

A trial trench cut on a new housing development in the former vegetable garden of Green End House and which sought evidence for a town defence, failed to reach natural rock throughout. Some 2 m. of post-mediaeval made ground were present. Subsequent excavation by contractors exposed some 30 m. of a substantial ditch running north-west to south-east across the site. Finds from the upper fill suggest that it fell into disuse in the seventeenth century and it is possible that the ditch could be a Civil War work for which the only evidence appears to be a petition cited by Gibbs (*History of Aylesbury*, 171–172). (101.1980).

Bow Brickhill SP 8973 3552

An irregular area approximately 4 m. across containing fragments of brick and tile fired to varying degrees was examined by Mr. R. J. Williams of MKDC and was probably the site of a simple clamp kiln. The field is named 'Kiln Furlong Ground' on an estate map of 1791. The size and type of brick and tile found were similar to those used in the eighteenth century watermill 800 m. to the west, which was excavated during the year.

Bow Brickhill, Caldecotte SP 8904 3499

Excavation of a watermill site was carried out by Mr. M. R. Petchey for MKDC prior to the

construction of Caldecotte lake. A mill at Caldecotte was mentioned in Domesday and the presence of a leat, an enclosure name – ‘Mill Close’, and other earthworks suggested this location. The excavation exposed a mill and provided much detail about its structure but its last phase was dated to the second quarter of the eighteenth century, by a coin sealed in the construction, the earlier phase perhaps being only a hundred years earlier. No trace of the earlier mill was discovered although no other site presents itself topographically.

Cosgrove (Northants) SP 7825 4190

During road re-alignment a large cavern 2 m. high and 10 m. across was exposed, the base of which lay about 4 – 5 m. below ground level. A number of tunnels led away from it and there were at least two stonefilled access shafts. It was recorded by Messrs. R. J. Williams and R. A. Croft. An adjacent field has been completely quarried away for its limestone.

Great Linford

See Mediaeval.

Iver TQ 016 796

Various linear features visible as cropmarks were photographed from the air by the National Monuments Record.

Shenley Brook End SP 833 344

An earthwork enclosure bank on the upper part of the Loughton Brook was noted by Mr. R. J. Williams of MKDC. Standing in part over 2 m. high it may have been a decoy pond or connected with nineteenth century water management.

Wolverton SP 7861 4038

A seventeenth-century stone-built cistern or soakaway containing pottery and pipes, discovered in the garden of 38 Market Square, Stony Stratford, was recorded by Mr. R. J. Williams for MKDC.

Wolverton SP 8197 4200

Mr. R. J. Williams for MKDC undertook further excavation of a mound partially examined by H. S. Green in 1972. Following contour and geophysical survey, two radial trenches were machine dug. Several modern disturbances were encountered but no evidence for man-made construction of the mound itself which is tentatively considered to be of recent geological origin.