

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES FROM BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM

These notes include archaeological discoveries reported during 1982 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 medieval pottery unless of sufficient quantity to indicate settlement, nor single Roman coin finds. Abbreviated grid references have unfortunately to be given for some sites to prevent looting.

Numbers in brackets are accession numbers of material at the County Museum. The initials BCM indicate that the material is in the Museum, but no accession number has yet been allotted. The County Museum Archaeological Group is abbreviated to CMAG.

Michael Farley

PREHISTORIC

Amersham (a) SU 9480 9772 (b) SU 9474 9770
A Palaeolithic handaxe (Wymer type G) was found by Mr. P. Melling and recorded by Mrs. B. Stainton at (a). Two large flakes were found at (b).

Bledlow-cum-Saunderton SP 7920 0097
A probable ring-ditch was noted on a commercial air photograph. No features were observed on a field visit, but the siting suggests a ploughed out barrow.

Bletchley/Bow Brickhill (a) SP 8888 3547
(b) SP 8886 3523
Earthmoving for Caldecotte balancing lake exposed Mesolithic horizons at several points, just above the junction of the river gravels and the alluvium of the Ouzel. This was recorded by Mr. R.J. Williams for MKDC. From the quantity and type of flint assemblage represented, mainly small 'worked-out' cores and blade/flake waste, it was clear that the local poor quality river flint was being knapped *in situ*.

Bow Brickhill SP 8921 3511
Mr. M.R. Petchey of MKDC directed a further excavation on an enclosure, noted on air photographs and trial trenched in 1980, prior to construction of Caldecotte Lake. The first phase was an oblong enclosure defined by 1.5-2 m. deep ditches whose spoil was probably on the outside of the ditch. In the second phase, three sides were recut and the whole incorporated in a large enclosure, the eastern extent of which is undefined. Pottery from the second phase is of first century A.D. date and it is probable that phase-one immediately precedes this. Since the phase one enclosure would be unsuitable for agricultural purposes, a religious function is considered possible.

Buckingham SP 6979 3423
A flint fabricator of Neolithic date was found by Mr. D. Webb in Northend Square during 1980. (207.1982)

Ellesborough SP 8306
A late Bronze Age class 3 razor with blade

perforated by a triangle beneath two chevrons was picked up from the surface by Mr. C. Evered. (438.1982)

Halton SP 883 080 (to hillfort)
Mr. T. Champion picked up Iron Age pottery and animal bone (possibly associated) from a section of the hillfort rampart affected by up-rooting of a tree. (407.1982)

Hughenden SU 8496 9681
A barb-and-tang arrowhead, a flake and a blade were found by Mr. T. Hussey on an allotment.

Ivinghoe SP 9596 1638
Constant erosion by trampling of a round barrow near Ivinghoe Beacon led to exposure of a human skull which was uncovered by Mr. A. Smith. Steps are being taken to prevent further damage to the monument.

Medmenham SU 8171 8423
A chipped Neolithic flint axe, made of surface flint with part of its butt missing, was found by Mr. D. Rockell c. 1978 and is recorded for the first time.

Mursley SP 8176 2824
A polished Neolithic flint axe broken at butt and blade, was found by Miss Emma Treen. L.306.

Pitstone SP 9713
A socketed bronze axe of south-eastern type was found by a metal detector user operating without permission on National Trust Land, and was reported by Northampton Museum. The approximate findspot was identified and the finder and Trust agreed to deposit it at the County Museum. (437.1982)

Wing see Romano-British

ROMANO-BRITISH

Bierton with Broughton SP 8375 1533
Romano-British sherds and a piece of flue tile were found by Mrs. W. Anson adjacent to a known site. (131.1982)

Bow Brickhill SP 8909 3558
A badly damaged Romano-British pottery kiln was recorded by Mr. R.J. Williams for MKDC, approximately 50 metres from that found during the 1978 excavations, and during earth-moving for the Caldecotte Lake. An adjacent ditch contained kiln bars and debris with grey sandy pottery of late first or early second century date.

Bow Brickhill SP 8905 3489
The remains of a small fourth-century occupation site were recorded by Mr. R.J. Williams for MKDC, during earthmoving for the Caldecotte Lake.

Great Linford/Stantonbury SP 844 412
The final season of excavations on the Roman site at Stantonbury Campus was directed by Mr. R.J. Zeepvat of MKDC, and the area previously examined extended to the east and

south. Two damaged circular buildings of stone (Buildings 3 and 4) were uncovered, of second and fourth century date respectively. A fourth-century yard lay north of these. An E-W ditch recorded in 1975 was investigated further and appears to define the southern boundary of the site. The character of the site as a whole is uncertain. Building 2 is now considered to have been a tower granary and apart from the bath suite — built-on perhaps for expediency — the structure seems likely to be of an agricultural nature. The site may therefore be part of a farm estate similar to Bancroft, and other structures including perhaps a house may lie outside the excavated area.

Hanslope SP 8045
Mr. R.J. Kings and others recorded Romano-British material at two locations, one being associated with a scatter of limestone possibly indicating a building.

Iver TQ 038 783
Re-alignment of a pipe trench brought to light further Romano-British pottery from a site

identified by Mr. C. Stanley in 1969, and on this occasion noted by Mrs. H. Bridbury. The majority of the material came from spoil-heaps and included fragments of burnt flint as well as pottery. (B.C.M.)

Turweston SP 6007 3764
A small quantity of Romano-British and medieval sherds was discovered in a garden by Mr. A. Houghton-Brown.

Weston Turville SP 8433 1099
A small group of Romano-British pottery including sherds of Samian and Nene Valley colour-coat, also four flint-gritted sherds, perhaps late Iron Age, were found by Mr. E.R. Kendrick in a garden. (156.1982)

Whitchurch SP 7921
A cast bronze fitting, in the form of two adorsed trumpets in Celtic style, was found by Mr. D.G. Shelley. Possible parallels occur in 2nd-3rd century military contexts.

Wing SP 8821
Fieldwalking by CMAG located an area of Romano-British occupation. In the same field, but widely dispersed, flints of Mesolithic-Neolithic date were found, including 3 blades, 25 flakes, 4 cores, a rounded scraper and part

of a bifacial piece, ? a laurel leaf. A Romano-British jet spindle-whorl was also found.
(119.1982)

Wolverton (Bancroft) SP 8253 4058
A heavy concentration of tesserae with tile and masonry debris indicated a further building only 400 m. north of the Bancroft Roman Villa. A little to the north-west a small group of late fourth-century coins and model iron spearheads was found. A gridded fieldwalk and geophysical survey was arranged by Mr. R.J. Williams, and the whole is tentatively suggested to be a religious site or a cemetery/mausoleum. An excavation is planned before development of the site.

Wolverton (Bancroft) SP 827 403
A short excavation was directed by Mr. R.J. Zeepvat for MKDC prior to the intended diversion of the pedestrian way crossing Bancroft Villa site, which diversion forms part of the first phase of the Bancroft Villa project. An area across the east end of the Roman walled garden was excavated and the footing of the wall produced a fourth-century coin. The Loughton Brook proved not to have had an earlier line close to the garden as earlier suggested.

SAXON AND MEDIEVAL

Aylesbury SP 8254 1351
A middle Saxon silver *sceat*, found in 1962 by Mr. J. King whilst gardening, was presented to the Museum. It is of Rigold's Q series, with simple animal and bird design. It will be more fully published in *Records* 25 (1983). (B.C.M.)

Bradwell Abbey SP 826 396
The second season of excavation and consolidation of the remains of Bradwell Priory was directed by Messrs. D.C. Mynard and R.A. Croft for MKDC. Work continued on the excavation of the north and south walls of the Priory church, confirming their alignments. A yard surface on the north side of the church was sealed by an extensive layer of limestone and tile rubble. Two fragmentary limestone sill

walls were discovered forming a lean-to like structure against the north wall of the church, in the angle of the north aisle and assumed transept. Occupation material within this 'building' suggested a late 15th or 16th century date for its abandonment.

The discovery of a substantial amount of a thirteenth century grisaille glass window, set within lead cames, some 1.00 m × 0.75 m, was an unusual find. The conservation and recording of the window presents several technical problems but should prove to be extremely rewarding since few examples of composite leaded windows have been recovered by excavation. It is likely from an iron glazing bar attached to the window that it had been re-

used. It was found in a destruction layer above the 'temporary' building mentioned above.

Consolidation and landscaping of the site after excavation forms an important part of the interpretation of the Priory complex.

R.A.C.

Denham TQ 045 866
A medieval bronze purse mount, with an inscription, was found by Mr. C.G. Morris and brought to the attention of the museum by Mr. S. Greep who contributes a note on the find in this issue of *Records*, p. 179. (330.1983)

Denham TQ 0180 8605
Mr. P. Jones noted evidence for medieval pottery production, in a ditch re-aligned during preliminary clearance work for the M25, by Broadspring Wood. Apart from pottery and fragments of kiln bar on the spoil heap, a dark layer visible in the ditch side contained fragments of pottery and burnt material. The principal production was of cooking pots, bowls and jugs in sandy fabrics, unglazed, of thirteenth century date. Further investigation is planned for 1983.

Denham TQ 0220 8543
Following the discovery of medieval pottery on the floor of the Misbourne valley on the line of the M25 corridor by Mrs. H. Bridbury and by Museum staff, a trial excavation was carried out by the Museum with the assistance of CMAG. Two intercutting medieval pottery kilns were exposed, the later of which had been relined several times. Products were very similar to those of the northern kiln site discussed above, and of similar date. The bounds of the production area were clearly defined by surface finds and confirmed by a magnetometer survey carried out by the D.O.E. Further work is planned.

Hanslope SP 8046
Mr. R.J. Williams recorded house platforms which on subsequent ploughing revealed footings, and medieval and post-medieval pottery. Mr. R.J. Kings and others recovered more medieval and post-medieval finds from the same area.

Little Missenden SU 912 981
A roughly rectangular earthwork enclosure was discovered by Mr. P. Riches and Mr. R. Smith with an entrance near the NW angle. It represents a probable addition to a group of small medieval farmstead sites previously noted elsewhere in the Chilterns.

Penn SU 9074 9366
Fourteen fragments of decorated Penn floor tile were found by Mr. and Mrs. D.J. Dancer in a garden. The discovery was reported by Mr. Broadbent in *Records* 23 (1981). (206.1982)

Whitchurch SP 798 215
Part of a lead papal *bull*, probably of Pope Honorius III (1216-1227), was found by Mr. D.G. Shelley.

Wolverton SP 807 418
A study of the earthwork complex around Manor Farm at Old Wolverton has been carried out by Mr. R.A. Croft for MKDC. Documentary sources suggest that the area may contain the site of a small house or grange established in the mid-thirteenth century by the Priory of Clattercote in Oxfordshire, and subsequently granted to Chicksand Priory.

Woolstone-cum-Willen SP 8756 3928
The second phase of the conversion of Little Woolstone Church into a community and religious centre lead to disturbance of the west end of the church and churchyard, which was observed during a watching-brief by Mr. R.A. Croft for MKDC. A sewer trench showed the base of the west wall to be 1.05 m below the existing churchyard level. A number of medieval burials were cut by the trench which also exposed a N-S ditch containing medieval pottery and bone fragments about 4 m east of the churchyard boundary. Within the church a piece of window tracery, perhaps from the earlier west-end window, was recovered.

A number of questions left over from the 1979-80 excavation were resolved. The return of the original west end of the nave was noted on the south side of the present nave, directly in line with the wall trench exposed on the north side.

POST-MEDIEVAL AND UNDATED

Aylesbury SP 8297 1466

A crouched burial, exposed whilst levelling ground for a car park north of the Schweppes factory, was investigated at the request of the Coroner. The burial was found to be in the upper fill of a limestone cut ditch. From the ditch came two sherds possibly of Iron Age date, but the burial was not certainly dated.

Bow Brickhill SP 8895 3484

During excavation for Caldecotte Lake, timbers were uncovered by earthmoving machinery in a silted-up channel of the Ouzel, and drawn to the attention of MKDC. Mr. M.R. Petchey identified them as being from a small boat and arranged an excavation which was directed by Dr. S. McGrail of the National Maritime Museum. The boat had been cut obliquely, leaving less than 2.5 m. of its planking on one side of the bow. It is thought to be of late-medieval or post-medieval date but radio-carbon dates are awaited.

Dunton SP 8300 2511

A rectangular earthwork enclosure noted on an aerial photograph was confirmed on the ground.

Gerrards Cross SU 9803 8888

Substantial parts of a limekiln shown on a 6-in. Ordnance Survey map of 1875/83 were found

to survive.

Great Linford SP 8534 4224

The stone-surfaced 'backlane' of Great Linford shown on the 1641 Estate map, flanked by several late-medieval and post-medieval house sites and yard surfaces, was exposed during housing development and recorded by Mr. R.J. Williams for MKDC.

Shenley Church End SP 8335 3690 - 8334 3705

A drainage scheme exposed medieval finds and traces of several late seventeenth and early eighteenth century structures, one of which can be identified on an estate map of 1693. They were recorded by Mr. R.J. Williams for MKDC.

Soulbury SP 876 272

A slight earthwork enclosure 40 × 45 m, defined by a shallow ditch on one side and scarps on the other, was recorded at Lower Hollingdon, by Miss P. Lowther.

Tingewick SP 6644 3197 - 6641 3182

A dam recorded in RCHM *Bucks* II, 300, and now much denuded, can be related to a number of New College documents of c. 1714-1853 referring to fishponds at Tingewick. The ponds may of course be older than the available documentation.