

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

The following notes on fieldwork carried out in the county in 2002 have been compiled from notes provided by commercial archaeological organisations, and lists of projects provided by the Milton Keynes and Buckinghamshire County Council's Archaeological Officers. The writer is grateful to those organisations and individuals for their assistance.

Nevertheless, the record is incomplete, since not all organisations on the above project lists have responded to a request for information. The regional journal *South Midlands Archaeology* should therefore also be consulted.

The reader is reminded that the Sites and Monuments Records maintained by Buckinghamshire County Council and Milton Keynes Council are the primary sources for more detailed information on sites and finds. As in previous years, the precise location of certain discoveries, particularly those that might contain metal objects, has not been given in order to reduce the chance of looting.

*Bob Zeepvat*

## KEY

For the sake of brevity, and in order to avoid repetition, the names of some of the contributing organisations have been abbreviated as follows:

|       |  |
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| AA    | Albion Archaeology                       |
| AOC   | AOC Archaeology Group                    |
| APS   | Archaeological Project Services          |
| ASC   | Archaeological Services & Consultancy    |
| HAT   | Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust       |
| JMHS  | John Moore Heritage Services             |
| MFA   | Michael Farley Archaeology               |
| MoLAS | Museum of London Archaeological Services |
| NwA   | Network Archaeology                      |
| NA    | Northamptonshire Archaeology             |
| OA    | Oxford Archaeology                       |
| TVAS  | Thames Valley Archaeological Services    |

## PREHISTORIC

### *Cholesbury: The Old Vicarage* SP 9290 0711

In August an evaluation was carried out by Martin Lightfoot of ASC in the grounds of *The Old Vicarage*. The inner ditch of the hillfort known as Cholesbury Camp was identified and excavated to a depth of 1.20m. The upper fills contained an assemblage of pottery sherds of medieval to Victorian date.

### *Denham: Sanderson Site, Oxford Road* TQ 0543 8510

An evaluation was undertaken on this site by MoLAS. Six trenches were excavated and five auger holes were drilled on the site. A sequence of floodplain deposits (alluvium) was observed in all of the trenches. At the base of the alluvium in the central and eastern parts of the area were gravels, which had been deposited towards the end of the last ice age. A small quantity of worked flints was recovered from a soil that developed on the surface of the gravel. The soil sloped down towards a watercourse that would have crossed the western part of the site.

The watercourse adopted a meandering course 8,000 years ago or earlier, and a gravel bar developed at the edge of the channel along the western margins of the site. Eventually this caused the flow of the watercourse to cease and thick peat deposits accumulated in the former channel, which was heavily wooded. In contrast, an open environment existed adjacent to the river channel along the western margins of the site, where the bar had formed.

From about 7,000 years ago, during the later Mesolithic, the woodland became waterlogged and a marsh developed across the entire site, with expanses of standing water. At this time the climate was warm and wetter than today and remained so during the Neolithic period, when tufa deposits, found to the south of the evaluated area, indicate

that a clear, swift-flowing stream crossed the site.

Later in the prehistoric period, the site became wet grassland, subject to overbank flooding, and this environment probably continued throughout the historic period. At the top of the alluvial sequence, the remains of the former hay meadow are represented by oxidised silty clay, and in patches the remains of the post-medieval soil are preserved below the factory construction levels.

**Lacey Green: Kiln Lane**

SP 8253 0027

During April 2002 an evaluation was carried out by NwA in advance of the construction of a house on land between *Kiln Lodge* and *Kiln Barn*. A ditch, almost certainly part of the prehistoric linear earthwork known as *Grim's Ditch* was encountered. A stony layer beside this ditch may be the remains of an associated bank. The presence of the ditch suggests that the apparent gap in the course of *Grim's Ditch* in Lacey Green is not genuine.

**Princes Risborough: Whiteleaf Hill**

SP 822 041 (centre)

Under the direction of Dr Gill Hey, OA carried out an investigation in 2002/3 of the archaeological monuments on Whiteleaf Hill. The project focused on the re-excavation and reinstatement of the Neolithic oval barrow (SM 19053) which was extensively excavated in the 1930's by Sir Lindsay Scott. The other monuments investigated included two round barrows, a cross-ridge dyke and the post-medieval chalk-cut cross on the west-facing slope of the hill.

The centre of the barrow had been removed by Scott, leaving only the lower slopes of the barrow mound on the north, east and south sides. Two oval postholes were cut into the natural chalk in the centre of the barrow, possibly representing a two-post mortuary platform. Other features cut into the chalk beneath the barrow appeared to result from either tree disturbance or geological processes. The barrow mound comprised a deposit of compacted flint nodules overlying clay-with-flints subsoil. Five slots were excavated through the ditch and a terminus was located to the north-east of the monument. The east side of the barrow appeared to have collapsed: it is not certain whether this represents the original 'kidney' shape of the barrow suggested

by Scott, or has resulted from antiquarian investigations. On completion of the excavation, the barrow was reinstated in its correct location as detailed in Scott's contour survey.

A trench excavated through the first round barrow (SM 19047) revealed a very dense flint scatter of probable Bronze Age date, on what seemed to be a natural knoll. A trench through the second round barrow (SM 19048) revealed one arm of a cross-shaped cut in the centre of the mound. It is most likely that this represents the foundations of a medieval post-mill dug into an existing burial mound. The section through the cross-ridge dyke (SM 27148) revealed a large V-shaped ditch with the remnants of a bank on its northern edge, running east-west across the north-south escarpment for approximately 55m. No dating evidence was recovered. Two small trenches were cut into the base of the chalk-cut cross (SM 27147) in search of a buried ground surface and dating evidence, but neither was found. The first records of the cross date to the mid eighteenth-century.

**Shenley Brook End: Westcroft**

SP 8252 3443

During a watching brief carried out by TVAS on infrastructure works in advance of housing development along a section of Cranborne Avenue, a small late Iron Age farm was recorded (Anthony, *Records* 43, 39-46). The farm was represented by a series of curving gullies (two phases of an enclosure and a roundhouse gully) and pits. A small animal bone assemblage was dominated by cattle and sheep/goat. The pottery assemblage suggests occupation in the period 100BC to AD50.

**Stoke Hammond Bypass (Northern Link)**

SP 8800 3153

Archaeological investigations were carried out by Albion Archaeology on the northern part of the route of the Stoke Hammond bypass. A large open-area excavation was focused on the site of an early-middle Iron Age rectilinear enclosure, identified by evaluation in 1994. The site is situated on a low Boulder Clay-capped ridge overlooking the river Ousel.

Seven principal phases of activity were identified. Of these, four relate to the occupation and use of the site in the early-middle Iron Age. A curvi-

linear ditch running across the centre of the site appears to be the earliest landscape feature. Together with a roughly parallel but smaller ditch, this probably formed one element of a droveway. The enclosure was later constructed on one side of the possible droveway, involving a re-cutting and continued use of the droveway ditch. It may have been used for stock management rather than for occupation. After several episodes of recutting, the enclosure ditch became redundant. The remains of two roundhouses, one of which cuts the silted-up enclosure ditch, testify to a later period of unenclosed settlement. The roundhouses may have been related to another droveway, the ditches of which also cut the enclosure ditch. Unphased features include a slightly curving alignment of five oval shallow pits – likely to belong to one of the early-middle Iron Age phases.

The use of the site did not continue into the late Iron Age and there is no evidence of Roman settlement. A random distribution of large tree-holes cutting Iron Age features but themselves cut by furrows indicates that the site was wooded for a time, and may not have been cleared until the use of the site for agriculture in the medieval period. There was evidence for a headland as well as a regular pattern of ridge and furrow. A large number of post-medieval land drains were uncovered following roughly the alignment of the furrows.

During construction of the bypass, a watching brief continues to monitor works either side of the excavated site.

### **ROMANO-BRITISH**

#### ***Broughton: Broughton Barns Quarry*** SP 9076 4056

The watching brief undertaken by Andy Chapman of NA at Broughton Barns Quarry (*Records 43, 220*) was completed. Extraction has reached the northern end of the quarry, and located the northern corner of the first-century Roman settlement-enclosure, originally discovered during trial trenching and recorded during previous years of the watching brief.

#### ***Haversham: Hill Farm*** SP 8370 4370

An archaeological excavation was carried out by

NA in advance of the conversion of farm buildings, on the site of investigations carried out in 1962 (*Records 17,4, 304*). The work began as a watching brief, but the evidence of Roman structural remains and building material led to an open-area excavation. The earliest feature was a probable enclosure ditch. This was succeeded in the later first to second century by stone-founded buildings. It appears that these were abandoned in about the third century and little material was subsequently deposited on the site. The finds recovered indicate particularly intense activity in the first and second centuries. There was, however, little building material, and it was not clear what sort of buildings the remains represented.

#### ***High Wycombe: Rye Environment Centre*** SU 8740 9238

Following an evaluation in 2000 (*Records 42, 151*) OA carried out a watching brief at the Rye Environment Centre during redevelopment. The modern complex overlies the site of the Rye Roman villa, and groundworks revealed sections of the villa walls and a possible make-up layer for the villa floor surface. Roman levels were sealed by modern deposits associated with the swimming pool complex built on the site in the twentieth century.

#### ***High Wycombe: Wycombe Marsh*** SU 8860 9200

Evaluation was undertaken on the site of a former paper mill by TVAS in advance of mixed development. A possible Roman ditch, dated only by two fragments of tile and a single small sherd of pottery, was the only archaeological feature revealed in forty-one evaluation trenches. Construction of the mill appears to have truncated much of the area.

#### ***Milton Keynes: Monkston Park*** SP 8850 3810

Following geophysical surveys and a previous phase of trial trenching by AA (*Records 43, 220*), a further evaluation comprising thirty-two trenches was commissioned by English Partnerships and undertaken by NA.

The evaluation revealed evidence of occupation in the Bronze Age and Iron Age, but with no clear settlement focus. There was a scatter of Iron Age

pottery from the site, some coming from pits, suggesting that the Roman occupation was a direct continuation from earlier settlement.

Roman occupation spanned the first to fourth centuries, with two tightly defined areas of settlement. The northern area was of first century date, and the other, more substantial occupation in the southern half of the site which included a sub-square ditched enclosure, was dated to the third and fourth centuries.

#### **Milton Keynes: Monkston Park**

SP 885 381 (centre)

Following a significant Bronze Age discovery in 2000, a watching brief (*Records 42*, 151), and successive evaluations (see above), excavation of this site commenced in late 2002, in advance of housing development. The work was undertaken by Simon Davis and Raoul Bull of MoLAS, on behalf of English Partnerships. Three areas, totalling over two hectares, were examined.

Area 1, the largest area on the site, produced evidence of several phases of Roman enclosures dating from the first to fourth centuries. The northernmost enclosure appears to be associated with a few cremations, as several complete vessels have been recovered from here. A timber-framed building may also be associated with these, although it is currently being excavated. The Roman enclosures were truncated in the centre of the area by medieval ridge and furrow. At the time of writing excavation of this area was still in progress.

Area 2 also produced Roman enclosures, the largest of which was used as a cremation cemetery. Several urned cremations were excavated, including a large beaker-type vessel. An X-ray of this vessel indicates it contains at least two copper-alloy brooches. A second cremation burial was associated with four copper-alloy brooches, in addition to six complete vessels. One of these, a very fine, but shattered, flagon, had unusual copper-alloy strapping around it. A similar feature contained a placed deposit of several vessels and a flagon. At the time of writing excavation of the cremations, which appear to be of early Roman date, is still in progress.

Area 3 was a much smaller area containing Roman enclosures and postholes. One of the ditches contained an ox burial. Excavation was completed on this area in 2002.

#### **Quarrendon: Berryfields**

SP 787 160 (centre)

In March, OA carried out an evaluation at Berryfields, north of Aylesbury. The site has been identified as a Major Development Area for housing within the Aylesbury Vale District Plan. The evaluation followed a series of non-intrusive studies of the site undertaken by consultants CPM, in advance of proposed development of the site.

In the south-west part of the site, geophysical survey had previously identified evidence for a late prehistoric settlement, comprising circular dwelling or possibly barrow-like structures, and a possible enclosure ditch. Trial trenching indicated good preservation of features. The survival of animal bones and pottery sherds here was extremely high. Environmental evidence from features here, indicated that both domesticated crops and wild varieties were being utilised by the ancient population.

To the east of this area, geophysical survey and fieldwalking had identified what appeared to be a Romano-British roadside settlement, comprising a row of ditched plots adjacent to a north-east/south-west aligned trackway. A broad first to fourth century date is suggested by the pottery recovered from features, though the slight predominance of second-century sherds could suggest that the site was more intensively occupied at this time.

In the north part of the development area the evaluation recovered ephemeral evidence from a complex series of linear features previously located by the geophysical survey. No firmly dated artefacts were recovered from these. Evidence of medieval activity across the site as a whole was limited to the recovery of a few sherds of pottery.

Following the mapping of hitherto unrecorded earthworks identified during a walkover survey south of Berryfields House, a further area of the site was intensively trenched. This area of earthworks comprised ditched hollows and raised platforms of late post-medieval date, probably associated with a farm building.

An undated enclosure close to Quarrendon House Farm was also investigated. Trenching in the south of the development area revealed very few features. A notable discovery of the evaluation was the damage caused to underlying features by medieval and later ploughing: plough furrows were evident in most of the trenches.

**Shenley Brook End: Oxley Park**  
SP 8220 3518

A three-stage evaluation was undertaken by TVAS in advance of development. Initial geophysical and metal detector surveys failed to locate anything of archaeological potential. Subsequent trial trenching, comprising 113 trenches, revealed a number of shallow ditches, mostly undated, but including seven or eight of Roman date.

**Shenley Brook End: Portishead Drive**  
SP 8276 3380

In August a salvage excavation was carried out by Joe Abrams of ASC at Site 34/35 Portishead Drive, during housing development. The work was occasioned by the discovery of Roman coins, a silver-plated spoon and nail fragments, by local metal detectorists during soil-stripping operations. The excavation revealed evidence for settlement activity dating from the late second to mid/late fourth century.

Twelve archaeological features were recorded; two ditches, three possible postholes, two pits and one large depression. With the exception of one pit, all contained finds dating to the Roman period. Four medieval furrows containing residual Roman material were also identified. The site appears to have formed part of a Romano-British settlement lying immediately north of Portishead Drive.

**Shenley Brook End: Portishead Drive**  
SP 8280 3380

An evaluation was carried out by Archaeologica in advance of development at Site 36, Portishead Drive. The site had been truncated by medieval and modern cultivation. Two substantial field ditches and a third ditch were identified. A series of truncated parallel gullies and/or ditches, some intercutting and all sealed by old cultivation soils, probably medieval, were identified in one trench. Features of fourth century date were also identified. A shallow, ovoid pit containing fourth-century pottery and several large burnt pebbles and pieces of flint were observed towards the southern end of a trench, and could well be the remnants of small hearth. Pottery from the site indicates third to fourth century occupation. Three redeposited hand-made sherds hinted at a late Iron Age presence, while worked flints suggest activity in the early Bronze Age.

**SAXON AND MEDIEVAL**

**Akeley: Leckhampstead Road**  
SP 7099 3753

A trial-trench evaluation was carried out by R. J. Ivens at *Broadlands*, Leckhampstead Road, as a condition of outline planning permission for a single house. Postholes, a stone wall and yard surfaces associated with thirteenth or possibly late twelfth-century pottery were revealed, indicating that the site contained at least part of a homestead or similar settlement of that date, perhaps connected with assarting along Leckhampstead Road. Following abandonment, the site seems to have reverted to agricultural use, but by the late 18th century it was again part of a homestead enclosure, although the associated buildings seem to have lain to the west of the site. Nineteenth and early twentieth century map evidence shows that the site lay within a small field.

**Buckingham: Church Hill**  
SP 6947 3376

Buckingham Town Council commissioned TVAS to undertake a desk-top study and evaluation in advance of work to repair the churchyard wall. The church of SS Peter and Paul occupies the site of a Norman castle, and possibly also part of the Saxon *burh*. The existing wall could follow the line of medieval fortifications, and the hill itself appears to have been modified for defensive purposes, but little is known in detail of the archaeology of the site.

For the evaluation, six trenches were opened along the eastern and southern perimeter. Post-medieval made ground survived to a depth of over one metre in most places. This may relate to the levelling of the hill for a bowling green in the 17th century. A post-medieval robber trench extended through five of the evaluation trenches and may indicate the line of an earlier churchyard wall, but could not be closely dated. A substantial wall of mortared limestone blocks, which included some post-medieval brick and tile, stood on top of further post-medieval deposits. It appears likely to be this wall was first recorded in 1877, when it was thought to belong to the Norman castle.

Compact, decomposed mortar and limestone fragments, possible indications of an early-medieval embankment or rampart, were recorded

in the eastern trenches. These did not continue into the trenches along the southern side, so it is possible that the hill was later extended southwards. A very small assemblage of pottery of late Saxon or Saxo-Norman date came from the lowest deposits, including the possible rampart.

The results of this limited investigation are difficult to interpret, but suggest that the Saxon or early Norman defences encompassed only part of the modern extent of the hill, whose present shape results from later sculpting of the slope.

***Buckingham: Church of St Peter And St Paul***  
SP 6946 3375

During the past two years OA carried out a watching brief at the church of SS Peter and Paul during renovations to the west end of the church and the excavation of a service trench on its south side. The watching brief revealed that the church was built onto the ground make-up of the castle mound and that the site had been cleared and levelled prior to its construction.

***Buckingham: Grand Junction Hotel***  
SP 6983 3413

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Simon Carlyle of NA on land to the rear of the Grand Junction Hotel. Medieval features comprising ditches, pits and a possible kiln or oven, were encountered in one area. Other features were post-medieval, mainly nineteenth and twentieth century in origin.

***Buckingham: Stratford House***  
SP 6985 3417

In March, OA carried out an evaluation of a proposed development site on land at Stratford House, in the High Street. This revealed a sequence of pits dated to the eleventh to thirteenth centuries, one of which contained over forty pottery sherds. The finds evidence suggests that from the fourteenth to seventeenth centuries the site was little used and was perhaps derelict until the cutting of a boundary ditch divided the site in the later post-medieval period. Post-medieval domestic rubbish pits containing clay pipe, animal bone and pottery were present. Latterly, the site was levelled-up for the present yard surfaces.

***Chearsley: St Nicholas' Church***  
SP 7203 1032

A watching brief was maintained by TVAS during lowering of the ground level within the church tower. This revealed substantial construction-cuts for the tower, and a possible earlier western entrance. Groundworks outside the church revealed only relatively recent disturbances.

***Clifton Reynes: Appletree Cottage***  
SP 9019 5137

A watching brief undertaken by Archaeologica identified four limestone walls. The rim of a pottery vessel dating from the eleventh-thirteenth century was recovered from one of these, suggesting that the village extended to this area in the medieval period. The presence of later walls and seventeenth-century pottery corroborate the historic map evidence, which shows a house on the site at this period.

***Haddenham: St Mary's Church***  
SP 7414 0800

A watching brief was carried out at St Mary's Church by MFA during construction of a kitchen and toilet within the west tower, and excavations for related services in the churchyard. A number of burials were revealed within the churchyard limits. The church is recorded to have been a minster church but no structural indication of the minster was recovered. Apart from skeletal material there were few finds, but a single early to mid-Saxon sherd was present; early Saxon pottery has previously been found in the vicinity. Some details of the basal construction of the thirteenth-century tower were recorded. One fragment of decorated medieval floor-tile was found.

***Lavendon: Abbey Farmhouse***  
SP 9002 5348

In February OA carried out an evaluation at Abbey Farm, on the site of a proposed extension to the house. Three trenches were excavated. A possible pond-feature containing medieval pottery and probably related to nearby Lavendon Abbey, was recorded.

**Newport Pagnell: 77 High Street**  
SP 8754 4387

In May Nigel Wilson of ASC led an evaluation of the former Co-op store site, following the demolition of the existing shop prior to construction of a new supermarket. Five evaluation trenches were opened on the site, which lies in the historic core of the town. Deposits dating from the medieval and post-medieval periods survived on the street frontage. Pits, postholes and the footings of a stone wall were exposed. One pit contained a number of leather offcuts, perhaps indicating that leather-working formerly took place on the site.

**Olney: Cowper Tannery**  
SP 4887 2510

Evaluation of an area of pasture to the north of the tannery buildings, was carried out by Alex Thorne of NA in advance of housing development. Twelve trenches were opened, revealing a series of archaeological features. In the south-eastern part of the site was a rectilinear system of ditches and gullies dated to the twelfth century. These may have formed boundaries to tenements of the planned town in the twelfth century. The ditch system respects the general alignments of Lime Street and the High Street, which is known to have been the twelfth-century main street. A pit or well, also dated to the twelfth century, was found. Also recovered were a number of redeposited early/middle Saxon pottery sherds, some of the first recorded from Olney.

**Olney: East Street**  
SP 8900 5155

In May OA carried out a watching brief at *The Old Barn*, East Street, in advance of the construction of a single-storey extension at the rear of the property. The watching brief revealed a number of features and layers relating to occupation and cultivation of the burgage plot during the medieval period and later.

**Olney: Market Place**  
SP 8897 5134

A watching brief undertaken by Archaeologica at 14 Market Place revealed three inter-cutting pits

and three walls. The pits dated from the thirteenth, fifteenth and nineteenth centuries. Of particular interest was the presence of Lyveden/Stanton B ware, as well as Brill and more local wares.

**Pitstone: Castle Cement Works**  
SP 9375 1515

An excavation of approximately 1.5 ha was undertaken by AA in advance of Phase 2 of residential development within the former cement works. The earliest evidence for activity was two small inter-cutting pits, dated to the early-middle Iron Age. Evidence from the Roman period comprised a series of ditched boundaries containing few artefacts. These appear to represent field boundaries rather than enclosures associated with settlement.

Most of the data recovered from the excavation relates to occupation in the early to middle Saxon period. It comprised the remains of four sunken-featured buildings, all aligned NE-SW, and a widely-spaced scatter of pits and postholes. After they ceased to be used, the buildings were infilled with occupation debris containing a characteristic assemblage of animal bone, charcoal, fired clay, Roman tile, and pottery (mostly Saxon with lesser amounts of late Iron Age and Roman). The largest building also contained a number of loom weights and bone pin-beaters.

During the medieval period the site appears to have been incorporated into Pitstone's open fields. Two sets of furrows on different orientations were recorded on either side of a track which survived as a slight hollow-way.

**Shenley Church End: Grange Farm**  
SP 8170 3704

An evaluation was undertaken in advance of development by Archaeologica on Site 7, Grange Farm. Trenching was focused on the investigation of a possible cropmark enclosure, but only medieval furrows were revealed.

**Simpson: Simpson Lane**  
SP 8817 3624

A watching brief carried out by Archaeologica on land to the rear of 203 Simpson Lane revealed late-medieval pits and cobbled surfaces, some 15m south of the existing seventeenth-century house.

This may indicate that the house has origins earlier than the present structure suggests. This evidence also shows that the northern part of the village was settled by the fourteenth or fifteenth century.

**Singleborough: Glebe Farm**

SP 7660 3170

An earthworks survey and limited excavation were undertaken by Mark Holmes of NA prior to construction of a new house at Glebe Farm. The footprint of the house and its associated garage are located within an area of earthworks believed to represent part of the shrunken medieval settlement of Singleborough. Excavation revealed a single ditch and four pits, eleventh to twelfth century in date. However, quantities of medieval pottery in the topsoil suggested that soil had been moved from other nearby occupation deposits. Part of the area had been disturbed by a backfilled Victorian pond.

**Wolverton: Wolverton Mill**

SP 8025 0750

In June, OA carried out an evaluation on land currently occupied by the Consignia Training Centre. The evaluation revealed a concentration of archaeological features dating to the early-medieval period in the north-central area of the site. Evidence for possible Roman quarrying was revealed in two trenches. Several pits and ditches dating to the early medieval period, cut the deposits that had accumulated within the possible quarry pits.

**POST-MEDIEVAL AND UNDATED**

**Aston Abbots: Home Farm**

SP 8480 2020

In March, OA carried out an evaluation at the above site. Three trenches were excavated and a number of ditches recorded. These were mostly undated or of recent origin, though one did produce medieval pottery. The ditches were interpreted as land divisions. A large undated pit was also discovered on the site.

**Aylesbury: Walton Street**

SP 8230 1322

In May, an excavation was carried out by Martin

Lightfoot of ASC at 100-102 Walton Street in advance of development. The site was adjacent to an area of Saxon settlement at Walton and occupied the site of the nineteenth century Waltoncourt Farm. The depth of the excavation was limited to that affected by the development, and consequently did not encounter Saxon deposits. A compacted stone surface, probably related to the earlier farm, was encountered below made-up ground and topsoil.

**Bletchley: Buckingham Road**

SP 8568 3322

During November an evaluation was carried out by Joe Abrams of ASC at the former Salvation Army Hall, which lies close to an area of known medieval occupation. The evaluation trenches revealed evidence of large-scale modern terracing within the development area. One undated ditch and two modern pits were recorded. A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from a modern layer.

**Bow Brickhill: Caldecotte Lane**

SP 8925 3549

In November Joe Abrams of ASC led an evaluation of land adjacent to 6 Caldecotte Lane. The site lies immediately north of the earthworks of the medieval village of Caldecotte, excavated by the former Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit in 1990-91 (*Records* 32, 149). The evaluation trenches revealed three parallel ditches, two of which contained post-medieval pottery sherds. It is likely that these features served both as drainage ditches for the adjacent lane, and also to demarcate the southern boundary of the site.

**Buckingham: Lenborough Road**

SP 6940 3330

In December ASC undertook an historic building survey of 'The Maltings', a three-storey brick structure at the junction of Lenborough Road and Station Terrace, prior to demolition and redevelopment of the site for housing. Parts of the earliest recorded building on the site, shown on a map of 1803, may have been incorporated into the present building. This was constructed before 1883 by the Gough family, who had significant interests in Buckingham. The building ceased to be used as a



maltings in the mid twentieth century, and was converted into a car repair shop, for which significant internal alterations were made. Apart from the fabric of the building little evidence remains of its original function. The site was evidently heavily terraced when The Maltings was constructed.

**Buckingham: St Rumbold's Well**  
SP 6896 3355

St Rumbold's Well lies in a corner of a grassy field proposed for development. In 2000 only the stone footings of the structure were visible and the Buckingham Society was keen that the remains, which had recently been scheduled as an ancient monument, should be better presented and conserved. Accordingly, MFA was commissioned to carry out background research (*Records* 42, 155) and to liaise with the relevant authorities over the necessary permissions. Conservation work, including limited excavation, was carried out in 2002 and the site was fenced and better access provided, together with an information board.

The well is shown on Speed's map of 1611. Browne Willis (1755) describes the subsequent construction of a conduit house here in 1623, the pipes from the well supplying Castle House in the town. In 1913 the Royal Commission described the conduit house as in fairly good condition but by 1968, when it was excavated by the Buckingham Archaeological Society, it had been reduced to footings. In the course of this project its rubble-filled interior (previously excavated) was again partially re-excavated. This unexpectedly revealed two roughly-built stone steps leading down into the building from its northern doorway. Set into the eastern door-jamb was an iron spike which would have supported the ring-hinge of a door. A piece of stone window moulding, lying partly-buried adjacent to the well, was retrieved, and during path laying part of the head of a door frame and one other dressed piece were also recovered. These three pieces were subsequently placed within the restored conduit house.

The stone walls of the conduit house were of dressed rectangular stone blocks. Their course was defined at the surface and some stones replaced with fallen material. With the agreement of English Heritage, the original steps were left exposed and one additional step was added for access.

**Great Kimble: Glebe Paddock**  
SP 8270 0580

In July, OA carried out a watching brief at Glebe Paddock, in advance of the construction of a new driveway. Only nineteenth-century garden features were revealed, including a ditch and a garden path of compacted flint gravel.

**Great Missenden: 81-83 High Street**  
SP 4895 2011

In November 2002 NwA carried out a watching brief on soil test-pits excavated in advance of demolition and refurbishment works at 81-83 High Street. Test pits in the workshops at the east end of the courtyard showed made ground to a depth of about two metres, suggesting the presence of a backfilled chalk pit. Investigations around the north range indicated a mid to late nineteenth century date for the upstanding walls, and identified site levelling deposits from the same period. Test pits in and around the south range showed that the upstanding walls dated from the nineteenth century and revealed the remains of a late eighteenth or early nineteenth-century wall footing below the present south wall.

**Haversham: Hill Farm**  
SP 8331 4386

In April Martin Lightfoot of ASC led an evaluation on land to the north of Hill Farm, prior to the construction of a new complex of farm buildings. The site is close to an area of known Roman settlement (see *Hill Farm* entry in Roman section, above). Seven trial trenches were excavated. Two furrows and one amorphous feature, likely to be a tree bole, were revealed. Some Roman pottery, roof tile and iron fragments were recovered from the furrows.

**High Wycombe: London Road**  
SU 8100 2700

An evaluation and watching brief of the former Ercol factory site at Conegra Fields was undertaken by Darryl Palmer of AOC in December respectively in advance of, and during housing development.

Thirty-seven test pits were excavated across the

site to ascertain the level of truncation and terracing, and to define any areas with archaeological potential. A watching brief was carried out during the removal of the concrete slab covering the site. Previous archaeological interest in the site has been based on the premise that it may contain the site of a Neolithic flint mine.

The investigations showed that large parts of the site had been terraced. However, they did reveal that some areas had not been heavily truncated, as probable plough scars were noted in a number of features. Two test pits revealed large, near vertical-sided features which were probably the result of post-medieval terracing. Another was found to contain two pits and two post holes. These features were undated.

#### ***High Wycombe: Temple End***

SU 8650 9450

In April and May OA carried out a watching brief at Central Service Station, Temple End, in advance of the construction of a three-storey apartment block. The watching brief revealed that no archaeological deposits survived the late nineteenth century and later development on the site. Garden soils and three brick-lined wells from this time or later were recorded.

#### ***Lillingstone Lovell: Land off Deanshanger Road***

SP 7184 4247

A watching brief was carried out by R. J. Ivens during topsoil stripping in advance of the construction of a concrete base for a stable block. At no point was the entire thickness of topsoil removed. During groundworks a quantity of pottery and other artefacts, predominately of seventeenth to early eighteenth-century date, was recovered. It is suggested that this deposit is related to the linear soil-mark (CAS 4817) that runs through the development site, and that the linear soil-mark itself is the remnant of one of the roads shown crossing the area on late seventeenth and early eighteenth century maps.

#### ***Longwick-cum-Ilmer: Longwick Mill***

SP 7922 0424

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by JMHS during the conversion of the mill build-

ings and excavations for foundations for other new structures. Use of the site for a mill at the time of the Domesday Survey seems to be confirmed by the finding of eleventh-century Oxford Ware pottery. Historic building recording of the mill buildings was carried out separately by OA.

Evidence for some of the arrangement of the mill house and paper mill prior to the nineteenth century alterations was found during small-scale ground reduction. Traces of buildings on a different alignment to the present buildings were undated. While they may have been associated with the recent arrangement of the mill, they could be earlier. A further millpond was found to the north of the buildings.

The building is listed Grade II and is of considerable historical interest as a surviving relic from a once-important local industry. It is also of some industrial archaeological interest but this has been significantly diminished due to the loss of the vast majority of its machinery and workings. It is also limited by the fact that its most significant period while operating as a paper mill ceased in the early nineteenth century, and that its later conversion to a corn mill would have removed much evidence of its original use as a paper mill.

#### ***Ludgershall: The Kya***

SP 6600 1751

In March and April, OA carried out a programme of historic building recording and a watching brief at *The Kya*, a small cob-built cottage with thatched roof, which retained some remains of a previous building formerly adjoining it to the south-west. The watching brief was maintained while the building was demolished and while the ground-floor slab was lifted, but no evidence of an earlier building on the site was uncovered. Before the roof was dismantled a programme of dendrochronology was undertaken which dated the main roof timbers to 1569.

#### ***Milton Keynes: Manor Barns***

SP 8875 3910

A watching brief was undertaken by David Fell of ASC during groundworks for housing development at *The Paddocks*, Manor Barns, during July and August. The site is adjacent to medieval earthworks on the western periphery of the village. Arch-

aeological remains were not observed during the watching brief, but the works provided the opportunity to record details of the footings and makeup of an eighteenth or nineteenth century timber-framed barn on the site prior to conversion.

**North Marston: Manor Farm**  
SP 7740 2270

During September a watching brief was carried out by ASC during the excavation of groundworks for a new building, on land adjacent to Manor Farm. The foundations of a post-medieval barn, demolished to make room for the new house, were recorded during the groundworks.

**Olney: Lime Street**  
SP 8860 5100

A watching brief was carried out by APS during development at *Bridge House*, Lime Street, adjacent to the medieval parish church and close to a postulated Saxon bridging point over the Ouse. A small quantity of medieval pottery was recovered as redeposited material, but no remains of medieval date were identified. A length of limestone wall, probably representing the corner of a structure, was revealed. This was undated, but lay beneath and on a different alignment to the extant eighteenth century buildings on the site. However, it had been refurbished with post-medieval brick, suggesting that it survived into that period. Artefacts of predominantly eighteenth century date were recovered, and probably relate to the early use of the surviving buildings on the site. Animal bones characteristic of tanning waste were also retrieved, and probably derive from a tannery known to have existed adjacent to the site in the nineteenth century.

**St Leonards: St Leonard's Church**  
SP 9100 0700

In April OA carried out an evaluation at St Leonard's Church, on behalf of the Parochial Church Council. The evaluation revealed the foundations of a small nineteenth-century building, possibly associated with the late nineteenth-century vicarage, since demolished. A single undated posthole was also discovered.

**Shenley Church End: Manor Haven**  
SP 8331 3651

During May, a watching brief was undertaken by Joe Abrams of ASC during the groundworks for a new house on land adjacent to Manor Haven, within the medieval settlement at Shenley Church End. One plough furrow containing post-medieval material was observed.

**Shenley Church End: Oakhill Secure Training Centre**  
SP 8179 3621

An evaluation was undertaken on this site by Isca Howell of MoLAS in September. Ten trenches were excavated. Nine small undated features were found in three trenches, to the north and centre of the site. Near the centre of the site, evidence of a pond shown on the 1861 Ordnance Survey map was found. A ditch and bank on the east side of the site may relate to a field boundary shown on the same map. There was no evidence to suggest that either of these features existed before the nineteenth century.

**Soulbury: All Saints Church**  
SP 8820 2705

In February, OA carried out a watching brief during the excavation of a new service trench at All Saints Church. Made-ground deposits were revealed, one of which contained concentrations of brick rubble, tile and masonry possibly associated with the 1863 renovation of the fourteenth-century chancel.

**Steeple Claydon: St Michael's Church**  
SP 7050 2670

An evaluation was undertaken in June by David Fell of ASC at St Michael's Church. A single trial trench was excavated on the north side of the church, in advance of the construction of a new parish meeting room. Archaeological remains were not identified in the trench, but the location of a number of post-medieval inhumation burials was recorded.

**Stowe: Cuttle Brook**  
SP 6768 3930 to SP 6670 3640

In the summer and autumn, OA carried out a series of archaeological investigations at the Cuttle

Brook, Stowe. The brook forms the north-west boundary of the fallow deer park. Excavation, recording, survey and a watching brief were carried out on behalf of the National Trust, during a programme of restoration and repairs to the brook and a number of silted ponds. The principal discoveries were elements of timber and brick water-control devices, probably dating to between the mid eighteenth and the mid nineteenth centuries.

**Stowe: Stowe House**  
SP 6700 3750

In August and September, OA carried out a watching brief at Stowe House, during re-laying of the north forecourt and the installation of new drainage. Two stone structures were revealed, pre-dating the existing east colonnade at the front of the main house. These structures appear to be the foundations of *aedicules* (small rooms), which once formed part of a structure flanking the terrace in front of the house, depicted on Jacques Rigaud's 1739 illustration of the building. The structures are thus of eighteenth century date or earlier. Also revealed were nineteenth century brick-built culverts, inserted into the remains of an earlier eighteenth century terrace gravel surface

**Taplow: Cliveden**  
SU 9103 8515

Between April and June, OA carried out a watching brief at the South Terrace, Cliveden. The work was commissioned by the National Trust in advance of intrusive groundworks on the terrace, to inform on the need for maintenance of the structure. The watching brief demonstrated that the vaulted terrace was in a generally sound state. A number of nineteenth century drains were revealed and a nineteenth century wall foundation was exposed at the base of the terrace.

**Wendover: South Street**  
SP 8677 0770

In December OA carried out an evaluation at 4 South Street, in advance of development. This revealed a pit of probable fifteenth century date, a post-medieval property boundary or garden ditch, and several post-medieval domestic rubbish pits. The latter features are probably associated with

documented properties on the site in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. A layer of roofing tile, observed above the level of the features, probably relates to the demolition of these structures.

**Weston Underwood: Cross Lane**  
SP 8655 5061

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Rob Atkins of NA during conversion of a barn into a domestic dwelling at *Limestone Barn*, Cross Lane. The impact of the development was slight as most of the groundwork was contained in make-up layers associated with changes to the barn carried out in the 1950s. The only discovery was the top of an undated limestone floor within the barn. This was preserved *in situ* under the new house footings.

**Wing: Church Street**  
SP 8812 2258

In May an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Martin Lightfoot of ASC in advance of housing development on the site of the former Mill Motors garage. The site lies in the centre of the medieval village, close to the church. Two trenches were excavated, one of which contained two pits, probably of post-medieval date. No other archaeological features or artefacts were observed.

**Winslow: 10 High Street**  
SP 7702 2761

During June 2002, NwA carried out an open-area excavation in advance of the construction of a house on land to the rear of 10 High Street, within the historic core of Winslow. Excavations revealed late medieval, post-medieval and early modern activity, comprising rubbish pits, postholes, a soak-away, the remnant of a wall foundation and a boundary ditch.

**Winslow: St Lawrence's Church**  
SP 7680 2760

In May a watching brief was undertaken by David Fell of ASC at St Lawrence's Church, during the excavation of a trench for a new drainage run through the west side of the churchyard. No archaeological remains were present in the trench. The lower footings of the south wall of the church,

comprising courses of dressed blocks, were observed.

***Wolverton: Kiln Farm***  
SP 8091 3942

An evaluation was carried out by HAT on land at Site E, Burners Lane South, in advance of the construction of a vehicle hire depot. Seven trial trenches revealed three undated shallow pits, two parallel undated linear ditches and a tree-hole. The features are thought to be of recent origin. No continuation of the extensive Iron Age to early Roman settlement recorded at Kiln Farm in 1972 (*Records 19.4*, 411) was found, and there was no residual material of this period.

**NEGATIVE**

***Aston Clinton: Aylesbury Road***  
SP 8722 1228

An evaluation was carried out by HAT on land at *Chimneys*, 42 Aylesbury Road, in advance of proposed residential development. It revealed only a modern ditch and tree-hole together with an undated pit that is likely to be modern in origin.

***Calvert to Steeple Claydon Sewer***  
SP 694 273 to SP 686 244

During April a watching brief was maintained by Nigel Wilson of ASC during topsoil stripping along the route of a sewer pipeline between the former brickworks at Calvert and a pumping station to the north of Steeple Claydon. No archaeological features were observed.

***Chalfont St. Peter: Brallings Lane***  
TQ 0135 9310

An evaluation was carried out by HAT on land at Brallings Lane in advance of a proposed residential dwelling. No archaeological features or finds were identified on the site.

***Chalfont St. Peter: Lower Road***  
TQ 0025 9030

An evaluation was carried out by HAT on land to the rear of 59-63 Lower Road in advance of

proposed residential development. Shallow topsoil and subsoil directly overlaid the river terrace gravels; no alluvium was present. No archaeological features or finds were identified on the site.

***Coleshill: Potters Meadow***  
SU 9485 9495

A watching brief was carried out by HAT on land at Potters Meadow during construction of an extension to a private residence. No archaeological features or finds were identified on site.

***Ellesborough: Terrick***  
SP 8370 0822

An evaluation was undertaken by John Moore of JMHS of an area of land adjacent to *Moat View* prior to a proposed residential development, to determine the presence or absence of significant archaeological remains adjacent to a medieval moated site. The evaluation failed to find any significant archaeological remains. A former field boundary ditch was located adjacent to the current field boundary.

***Ford: Owlswick Road***  
SP 7817 0727

A watching brief was carried out by R. J. Ivens at Waldridge Manor during the excavation of foundation trenches for a small extension. The site had been disturbed in the post-medieval period, and subsequently in modern times by an earlier extension to the existing house and by numerous drains. No remains were identified which could be confidently associated with the sixteenth or early seventeenth-century manor house, and no medieval or earlier remains were noted.

***Gerrards Cross: Camp Road***  
SU 9950 8802

A watching brief was undertaken by TVAS at *Woodside*, 90 Camp Road, during demolition of an existing house and construction of another, with landscaping. Part of the property lies within the area of the Bulstrode Camp Scheduled Ancient Monument. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed.

Similar work by TVAS at *Polkerris*, 65 Camp Road (SU 9925 8760), some 250m south of the

scheduled monument, also revealed nothing of archaeological significance.

**Hanslope: Grange Farm**  
SP 7379 4470

In June and July a watching brief was carried out by Martin Lightfoot of ASC on groundworks for a development at Grange Farm, in an area of known medieval settlement. No archaeological features were evident and no finds were recovered.

**Hanslope: The Green**  
SP 8040 4670

A watching brief was undertaken by David Fell of ASC at 2 The Green in December, during the excavation of footings for a conservatory. The site lies within the historic core of Hanslope. Archaeological remains were not observed and the area was seen to have been disturbed, probably during the construction of the existing house.

**Haversham: Broudacres**  
SP 8331 2439

No archaeological features or artefacts were recovered during a watching brief carried out by Archaeologica on this site.

**Hedgerley: Woodlands Rise**  
SU 9917 8750

A watching brief carried out during construction of an extension to Woodlands Rise by MFA did not encounter any finds or features of archaeological interest, despite the presence of a well-preserved Roman pottery kiln excavated only fifty metres distant (*Recs Bucks* 29, 160-69). Clay suitable for pottery making was present on the site.

**High Wycombe: M40 Handy Cross**  
SU 853 911 (centre)

In March and April, OA carried out a watching brief during geotechnical investigations at the junction of the M40/A404 at Handy Cross, in advance of road improvements. The watching brief revealed no archaeological features, though test pits revealed undisturbed buried topsoil below deposits used to construct the current road embankments.

**Iver: Delaford Close**  
TQ 0396 8103

An evaluation carried out by TVAS in advance of house construction at Robinwood, Delaford Close, revealed nothing of archaeological significance.

**Ley Hill: Lilac Tree Lodge**  
SP 9885 0200

A watching brief was carried out by HAT at *Lilac Tree Lodge*, adjacent to the common, during the demolition of a bungalow and construction of a new building. No archaeological features or finds were identified.

**Lillingstone Lovell: Glebe House**  
SP 7120 4030

During October Martin Lightfoot of ASC maintained a watching brief at *Glebe House*, during the construction of a cellared extension. *Glebe House* is the former rectory, and is located in the centre of the medieval village close to the parish church. Earthworks to the east of the site were surveyed as part of the Whittlewood Project, and identified as the medieval manorial site. However, no archaeological features were observed during the watching brief.

**Long Crendon: Notley Farm**  
SP 4713 2093

Over the past year, OA carried out a watching brief at Notley Farm during construction of a kitchen extension. The watching brief revealed made-ground directly overlying limestone brash. No archaeological features or deposits were observed.

**Loughton: Knowlhill**  
SP 8465 3659

Evaluation by TVAS in advance of development revealed no archaeological finds or features.

**Loughton: Weldon Rise**  
SP 8380 3760

During September a watching brief was maintained by Joe Abrams of ASC during groundworks for a detached dwelling at 8 Weldon Rise. The site was

close to the historic core of Loughton village and immediately north of the medieval village earthworks. No archaeological features were recorded during the watching brief.

**Medmenham: Ferry Lane**  
SU 8050 8380

An evaluation carried out by TVAS in advance of development at the Water Research Centre, revealed nothing of archaeological significance.

**Monks Risborough: St Dunstan's Church**  
SP 8125 0440

Evaluation by TVAS on the site of a new church hall, revealed no archaeological finds or features.

**Newton Blossomville: Clifton Road**  
SP 9238 5146

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Danny McAree of NA on land at *Talbot Cottage*, Clifton Road, during construction of a house extension. No archaeological remains were recorded and no archaeological finds were recovered.

**Olney: High Street South**  
SP 8890 5113

A watching brief was carried out by R. J. Ivens during the excavation of foundation trenches for a new conservatory at 5 High Street South. The area of the watching brief proved to have been much disturbed by recent service trenches, etc. No medieval or earlier contexts were identified. Two unstratified sherds of late-medieval pottery were recovered. Natural ground was not encountered, and the site may have been levelled-up in the nineteenth century.

**Oving: Bowling Alley**  
SP 7875 2156

An evaluation was undertaken by Maggie Henderson of JMHS on land adjacent to *Four Acres*, in advance of proposed development. A single ditch was uncovered, probably of post-medieval origin. A single sherd of Iron Age pottery indicates activity of this date in the general area.

**Penn: Elms Road**  
SU9075 9364

A watching brief carried out by TVAS during alterations to the barn and outbuildings at Cotters Barn, revealed no archaeological finds or features.

**Penn: Red Lion Cottages, Tylers Green**  
SU 9074 9368

A watching brief carried out at 1 & 2 Red Lion Cottages by MFA during the construction of an extension and excavation of a service pipe trench, adjacent to an earlier findspot of decorated medieval tiles, produced no evidence for the well-known Penn tile industry, nor any finds pre-dating the seventeenth century.

**Prestwood: Honor End Lane**  
SP 8625 0170

TVAS undertook a watching brief on the above site during foundation works for a new stable block. The work was required because of the site's location on the projected line of Grim's Ditch. However, nothing of archaeological significance was revealed.

**Radnage: Bennett End Farm**  
SU 7855 9725

A watching brief carried out by Amy Gray Jones of JMHS during ground reduction for a ménage, failed to find anything associated with the nearby possible prehistoric burial mound or the findspot of a cluster of late Iron-Age and Romano-British coins.

**Radnage: Church of St Mary the Virgin**  
SU 7860 9795

In May an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Sophie Adams of AOC in the churchyard of St Mary the Virgin. Two trenches were opened, one to the north of the church at the end of the vestry and the other to the south, at the western extent of the churchyard. No archaeological features or horizons were recorded.

**Ravenstone: Whilom Wheatsheaf**  
SP 8497 5083

A watching brief was carried out by R. J. Ivens during the excavation of foundation trenches for an extension. The area of the watching brief proved to have been much disturbed by levelling for a modern car park and garden terrace as well as recent service trenches. No deposits or artefacts were found which could pre-date the twentieth century.

**Shenley Brook End: H6 Childs Way**  
SP 8214 3463

An evaluation carried out by TVAS in advance of development, revealed nothing of archaeological significance.

**Shenley Brook End: Snelshall East**  
SP 8355 3333

Evaluation undertaken by TVAS in advance of development, revealed no archaeological finds or features.

**Shenley Church End, Medbourne**  
SP 820 360 (centre)

In January 2002 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ASC on two adjacent sites at Medbourne in advance of a new housing development. Twenty-two trial trenches were excavated but no archaeological features were present.

**Stowe: Stowe School**  
SP 670 375 (centre)

In July OA carried out a watching brief at Drayson Hall, Stowe School, in advance of the construction of a new extension to the rear of the school buildings. The watching brief revealed no archaeological features or deposits during ground reduction.

OA also carried out a watching brief in December at New Field House, Stowe School, in advance of the construction of an extension. The watching brief did not reveal any archaeological features or deposits.

**Wavendon: Walton Road**  
SP 9130 3721

In March a programme of historic building recording was carried out by Bob Zeepvat of ASC at *Rose Cottage*, to the rear of 23/25 Walton Road, prior to its demolition. This small 'one up, one down' brick-built dwelling was constructed in the nineteenth century, probably as servants' quarters. It was later converted to an artist's studio, with the removal of the upper floor and insertion of large fixed windows in the south and east elevations. More recently, rendering of the exterior effectively concealed any structural details.

**Whaddon: Vicarage Road**  
SP 8075 3380

In December an evaluation was carried out by Martin Lightfoot of ASC on land at 26 Vicarage Road, prior to the construction of a house. Three trenches were excavated on the site, which lies within an area of medieval settlement and was previously occupied by an eighteenth century cottage. The site is adjacent to a field containing a medieval house-platform. A single drainage ditch containing modern debris was identified on the western edge of the site, but no other archaeological remains were present.

#### REPORTS NOT RECEIVED

Fieldwork is also understood to have been undertaken at the following locations:

Lavendon: 25a Northampton Road  
Little Brickhill: adjacent Chew Cottage  
Penn: Yonder Lodge, Tylers Green  
Stowe: Visitor Centre  
Tyringham: Tyringham Hall  
Aston Clinton etc: A41 pre-bypass construction  
Newport Pagnell: Ironbridge Works