

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

The following notes on fieldwork carried out in the county in 2005 have been compiled from notes provided by commercial archaeological organisations and local societies, 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 report is incomplete, since not all organisations appearing on the above lists have responded to requests 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:

AA	Albion Archaeology
AS	Archaeological Solutions
ASC	Archaeological Services & Consultancy
JMHS	John Moore Heritage Services
NA	Northamptonshire Archaeology
OA	Oxford Archaeology
Phoenix	Phoenix Consulting Archaeology
TVAS	Thames Valley Archaeological Services

PREHISTORIC

Broughton, Brooklands East

SP 907 397

A fieldwalking survey was undertaken by NA in

advance of the proposed extension of development in this area of Milton Keynes. The survey detected a scatter of flint tools at the east end of the area, possibly suggesting occupation. Elsewhere, an unexceptional general background level of activity was attested by low levels of finds dating from the early prehistoric to the 19th century.

Denham Green, Denham Garden Village

TQ 038 885

A watching brief carried out by TVAS during extensive redevelopment recovered a single flint flake and a core, both unstratified. The site had been extensively truncated by previous development.

Gerrards Cross, 92 Camp Road

SU 9929 8798

Following damage to part of the rampart of Bulstrode Camp, a scheduled Iron Age hill fort, TVAS undertook recording of the exposed section of rampart, and a small area was explored to search for further features. None were located. The rampart section revealed little new information. It was 2.09m high, and was composed of three distinct gravel layers. No finds were recovered. The earthwork as surveyed on this occasion differs slightly from the Ordnance Survey depiction, which shows a distinctly ridged bank, whereas in fact there is no reverse slope and the hill fort interior at this point is level with the top of the bank. The outer bank is also slightly further west than originally mapped.

Marlow, Flood Alleviation Scheme, Pound Lane

SU 842 855

OA undertook geophysical survey and trial trenching in advance of the construction of a flood wall or embankment and a flood compensation storage zone. Aerial photography and intermittent investigations carried out by the local archaeological society in the adjacent southern field had previously

identified three ring ditches, two irregular enclosures and a concentration of finds along the field boundary shared with the evaluation site.

The archaeological evidence revealed was fragmented and isolated in nature, and principally of early prehistoric/Neolithic date. It was evident that the features recorded in the adjacent field continued into the evaluation site, and were better preserved towards its north end.

Olney, land north of Aspreys
SP 8839 5233

OA carried out an evaluation at land north of Aspreys, Olney, in advance of residential development. This was followed by an excavation, and a watching brief on the development. The investigations revealed a pit alignment dating to the early Iron Age. Environmental evidence indicates that the pits had been left to fill gradually within a largely open landscape, and silting deposits from the pits suggest that the alignment was not flanked by an earthwork bank. During the middle Iron Age one of the pits, by then just a shallow hollow, was selected for the interment of a crouched inhumation burial. This burial provides an illustration of the long-term significance that pit alignments could hold. Subsequent activity was limited to medieval and post-medieval agriculture and quarrying. [*see final report this volume*]

Shenley Brook End, Oxley Park (West)
SP 8176 3509

OA undertook the excavation of a middle to late Iron Age settlement in advance of housing development. The site had been partly excavated in 2004 (*Records 46*, 199). OA completed the excavation, extending the area to include the full limits of the settlement. The excavation exposed the truncated remains of several roundhouses, associated enclosures and a sequence of boundary ditches. After the roundhouses were abandoned, a series of discontinuous shallow boundary ditches were cut and an L-shaped enclosure superseded the earlier enclosure. This was the latest feature in the area and may have been a late Iron Age or early Romano-British modification of the earlier boundary pattern.

Stokenchurch, Cadmore End
SP 794 924

The excavation of part of an allotment site was undertaken by Chiltern Archaeology. Flint artefacts had previously been recorded at this site and at the adjacent sand pit, Marline's Pit. A significant assemblage of Mesolithic flint implements, cores and debitage was recovered, though no archaeological features were revealed. The crude working style of the flint artefacts, and the seemingly temporary nature of the site, may indicate a seasonal hunting camp. The distribution of the artefacts and burnt flints also indicate that this area may have formed part of a working floor where tools were prepared and repaired.

Taplow, Taplow Court (Phase 2), Clivedon Road
SU 907 824

OA carried out a field evaluation at Taplow Court, in advance of continuing development of the site. The area had previously been subject to evaluation and a subsequent excavation and watching brief (*Records 42*, 149). This work revealed two phases of defensive ditch, one late Bronze Age and, one of Iron Age date.

The northernmost trench revealed a third prehistoric defensive ditch east of the previous two. It had a broad 'V'-shaped profile and was over 12m wide and 3.9m deep. Its primary fills comprised relatively sterile gravels, producing some worked flints and a single late Bronze Age sherd of pottery. A dark charcoal-rich deposit halfway up the ditch profile produced fragments of daub, fired clay, a quern fragment and sherds of early/middle Saxon pottery. A sherd of amphora/flagon from the deposit appears to be an imported vessel, possibly from the Eastern Mediterranean. Environmental sampling of the deposit produced a varied assemblage of charred cereals and plants including short free-threshing grains of rivet or bread wheat, hulled barley and oats, along with a small quantity of rye. A middle Saxon date was obtained on a wheat grain. The Saxon domestic refuse deposited at depth within this ditch and the Iron Age hillfort ditch in the previous phase of investigation, demonstrates that this hillfort was multivallate, and that it survived as substantial earthworks into the Saxon period. The Saxon deposits may indicate domestic activity in or around these earthworks at

a time broadly contemporary with the burial in the Taplow Mound. Moreover, the presence of a sherd of imported amphora/flagon sherd in the deposit tentatively signals high-status activity. The upper fills of the ditch attest to the intentional levelling of the earthworks at some point in the medieval or post-medieval periods, possibly related to the landscaping for the grounds of Taplow Court.

The northern trench also revealed a late Bronze Age pit west of the ditch, and a later shallow ditch cutting both the upper fills of the defensive ditch and the pit. Trenches dug further south contained one possibly Saxon tree-throw hole, but no other archaeological features.

Tattenhoe, Tattenhoe Park

SP 824 332

Archaeological excavations were carried out by NA at Tattenhoe Park, on two sites previously identified by geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation. The main site was an open settlement dated to the middle to late Iron Age. This comprised at least twenty-one roundhouses, while partial arcs suggest the former presence of an even greater number, perhaps approaching thirty. The site shows a number of clear zones of activity. A group of larger ring ditches that had been recut several times appear to have formed a principal house group at the centre of the settlement. To the south there were further roundhouses, and several four-post structures and a single six-poster may suggest that this area acted as a central granary. A second smaller group of four-posters lay to the north, and may have become redundant when the partial ditch system was introduced. To the west there was a further group of roundhouses. At a later date, a system of shallow linear ditches provided a partial enclosure of the settlement, and may have respected existing settlement divisions. A new group of roundhouses to the north post-dated the introduction of this ditch system, and a single section to the east of these produced fragments from several crucibles, indicating that an area set apart from the domestic focus had been a workshop area for casting copper alloy fittings, although no fragments of the moulds had survived.

At the northern end of the settlement there was a much more substantial linear boundary ditch, suggesting that the settlement had been sited adjacent to a major land boundary, something which has

been previously seen on settlements further north in both Northamptonshire and Warwickshire.

Another aspect of interest is the presence of several deposits of cremated bone, at least some containing human bone, and with some also apparently located in respect to certain roundhouses. Human burials, either inhumations or cremations, are only occasionally recovered from Iron Age settlement sites. At a nearby site, the remains of a post-medieval farmstead comprising part of a small brick built structure with associated walled yard and two wells, was also excavated.

This settlement is one of a comparatively small number of middle to late Iron Age settlements that have been almost fully excavated, and it will add to the understanding of the social organisation of Iron Age settlement in the area by complementing past work on Iron Age and Roman settlement in Milton Keynes by the former Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit and more recent developer-funded work.

ROMAN

Great Linford, land adjacent to Rocla Pipeworks

SP 856 431

Initial stages of evaluation, comprising fieldwalking and geophysical survey, were carried out by NA on land adjacent to the former Rocla works, in advance of proposals for housing development. Fieldwalking revealed a concentration of Romano-British pottery as well as manuring scatters of medieval and post-medieval pottery. A number of worked flints were also recovered. Subsequent detailed gradiometer survey on the area of the Romano-British pottery scatter revealed evidence for two ditched enclosures with possible internal features.

High Wycombe, The Rye Centre, Holywell Mead

SU 8745 9234

OA carried out a watching brief during the extension of an existing car park and associated landscaping. The watching brief revealed the spread of demolition debris associated with the known Roman villa, and a possible continuation of the perimeter boundary wall 100m south-east of the villa complex.

Hughenden, Grange Farm, Widmer End

SU 8825 9602

Trial trenching by TVAS in advance of farm building works uncovered two Roman ditches, and five undated gullies. The presence of the Roman features, which produced a large assemblage of pottery, so close to known earthworks may suggest that these are actually Roman rather than medieval as previously assumed.

Newport Pagnell, land at Willen Road

SP 8750 4230

An extensive area bounded by Willen Road, the M1 and the A422 was evaluated by ASC in advance of gravel extraction. The earliest feature, a Bronze Age ring ditch, was located near the south end of the site. Activity from the late pre-Roman Iron Age to the 4th century AD was concentrated on the west side of the site. It comprised a series of ditched enclosures containing pits, gullies, construction slots, post-holes and a possible pond. At least three potential circular structures were identified, though no occupation horizons or floor surfaces survived. The presence of domestic refuse suggests the presence of a native Romano-British settlement. During the post-Roman period the site was under open-field cultivation and traces of ridge and furrow are present, particularly in the southern part of the site. In the post-medieval period the area was divided into several fields belonging to Caldecote Farm, which lies to the east of Willen Road.

Newport Pagnell, Renny Lodge, London Road

SP 8867 4325

On the basis of a previous desk-based assessment, Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological investigations in advance of housing construction at the former Renny Lodge Hospital site. The work comprised a building survey of the demolished remains of the hospital, as well as a strip and record excavation of a proposed new access road.

The access road excavation revealed well-preserved Late Iron Age/Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval activity at the site, including a Romano-British enclosure and a road bounded by flanking ditches. As a result, an evaluation of the remainder of the site was undertaken. This confirmed the

extent of the archaeological remains previously identified, and determined the scope and extent of a further phase of archaeological excavation.

The later excavation confirmed the findings of the earlier investigations. The first phase of Romano-British activity, dated to the 1st to mid 2nd century, comprised the remains of a field system and/or sub-square enclosure, with limited structural evidence including a shallow curvilinear ditch and an area of cobbling, the latter possibly associated with the ephemeral remains of a putative sub-rectangular enclosure/ structure. Although no evidence was recorded to suggest the roadside ditches that defined the Roman road originated in this phase, it is nevertheless almost certain that the route itself was in use by this period.

The second phase of activity was characterised by up to three ditched enclosures, incorporated into the established field system. This is also the earliest recorded phase for the roadside ditches that formalise and define the Roman road. Although few structural remains were recorded from this phase, the nature of the features identified combined with the recovery of a substantial quantity of artefacts, suggest the remains represent a small 2nd century roadside settlement. The final phase of Romano-British activity on the site comprised re-cutting of some of the principal ditches, and alterations to the layout of features assigned to the previous phase.

The medieval phase of activity on the site comprised field system ditches, including a double-ditched arrangement. In addition, a number of tree-throws are attributable to this phase, all apparently associated with either the medieval ditches, or more significantly, on or close to the alignment of earlier Romano-British ditches. It is probable that the principal ditches of this phase define a track or road, perpendicular to the earlier Roman road.

Although limited evidence for post-medieval activity predating the construction of a workhouse at Renny Lodge in *c.*1836 was recorded, the archaeology of this period was dominated by the development and expansion of the workhouse, which admitted its first inmates in 1837. In 1929 Renny Lodge became a hospital caring for the elderly and chronically sick. The hospital was closed in 1992 and demolished two years later.

Olney, land adjacent to 27 East Street
SP 8896 5181

A watching brief carried out by Archaeologica during development revealed a probable corn-drying kiln and a possible ditch of Roman date in the east part of the site. Towards the west side of the site a cesspit, several pits and a possible enclosure ditch of early 13th to 15th-century date were identified. A late medieval ploughsoil was identified across most of the site. In the 16th and 17th centuries a cesspit and several rubbish pits were opened. Further pits were dated to the 18th and early 19th centuries.

Shenley Church End, Fortescue Drive
SP 8348 3696

An evaluation was undertaken on this site by ASC prior to residential development. The site is close to Loughton, where possible Roman structures were found adjacent to Watling Street, while medieval finds have been recovered from an adjacent development. Roman pottery was recovered from a small pit cutting an earlier ditch on the south-east side of the site. Two small ditches were identified in the centre of the site and, although no dateable artefacts were found, it is likely that they represent post-medieval agricultural drainage or boundary features. A large gravel or sand quarry was also uncovered in this area.

Wavendon, The Old Farm, 141 Walton End
SP 9037 3677

An evaluation was carried out by ASC in advance of redevelopment. The site is located within the extensive Wavendon Gate Iron Age and Roman site, excavated by the former Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit (*Records* 31, 229). The trenches contained linear features, some of which yielded a small amount of probable Romano-British pottery. An irregular linear feature was identified as a possible medieval or later hedge line.

A subsequent watching brief was undertaken during redevelopment. Demolition of the existing bungalow and subsequent clearing of the site had reduced the ground level significantly over much of the site, and little or no archaeology survived.

Wexham, All Souls Farm Quarry
SU 9950 8190

Excavations were carried out by TVAS in advance of mineral extraction. Evaluation in the previous year had discovered Roman deposits which extended the known distribution of remains following earlier observations of the quarry workings in the east. The excavations revealed a sprawl of occupation deposits covering about one hectare, with a marked but ill-defined western limit. The deposits were characterized by a typical range of occupation features: pits, postholes, wells, and hearths and a series of shallow gullies, perhaps defining paddocks. Some of the pits were of exceptional size, over four metres in diameter and over three metres in depth. One area of metalworking was identified. A single post and beam-slot structure was positively identified.

Winslow, 25 Horn Street
SP 7672 2751

A programme of trial trenching was undertaken by ASC in the rear gardens of 25 Horn Street, to inform proposals for the construction of three houses on this site, which is in the historic core of Winslow. A pit and two linear features were revealed, one of which contained a small assemblage of animal bone and pottery, one sherd of which was of Roman date.

SAXON & MEDIEVAL

Akeley, The Roses, Chapel Lane
SP 7088 3777

A 'strip and record' excavation was undertaken by ASC at the rear of *The Roses*, prior to the construction of an access drive for a proposed residential development. The excavation confirmed the presence of 11th-century features noted in a prior evaluation, not previously reported in *Records*. The discovery of two sherds of early/mid Saxon pottery expands the known spatial extent of activity of this date northwards from a single findspot *c.*250m to the south. No features verifying the presence of 13th to 14th-century tenement plots fronting Main Street were revealed.

Aylesbury, Walton Street

SP 8225 1325

An evaluation was carried out by AS on 82-84 Walton Street, on the adjoining long-stay car park and the Servicemen's Club in advance of proposals for residential redevelopment. The site is located on the south-east side of the Walton Street Saxon settlement. All but one of the features recorded in the area of 82-84 Walton Street were dated to the late Saxon to medieval periods. It is likely that one of the ditches of this period is the continuation of a ditch identified during excavations at Walton Court (*Records 23*, 51-75). In the area of the car park were features of 11th to 14th century date, thought to represent boundary ditches and likely waste pits situated in the backyards of domestic structures fronting Walton Street. Several post-medieval and modern features were also identified but this area. Trenches in the area of the Servicemen's Club were intended to reveal the level of truncation caused to the possible manorial earthworks by the construction of the Club. No features were revealed in this area.

Bletchley, Land at Stoke Road

SP 8810 3271

An evaluation was undertaken by ASC at Stoke Road, Water Eaton, in advance of residential development. The site, to the north of an area previously evaluated by ASC (*Records 46*, 211), comprised two contiguous fields containing pronounced ridge and furrow cultivation strips, which were surveyed and recorded. A geophysical survey was also carried out. Seventeen trial trenches were later excavated and a number of ditches, pits and postholes were exposed. Sherds recovered from the features of middle Saxon date suggest settlement activity in a restricted area in the central part of the site.

Brill, land adj to The Pheasant, Windmill Street

SP 6532 1409

An evaluation was carried out by JMHS as part of a consideration of a planning application for the construction of a detached house and garage. Extensive remains of the medieval and post-medieval pottery, tile and brick industry are known in close proximity to the proposed development site.

There appears to have been some activity on the site in the late medieval or Tudor period with the digging of small pits, which may have been associated with the local pottery or brick and tile industries. These were found close to the road frontage indicating that there was no building on the site at this time. Soon after, most of the site was quarried for sand, presumably for the local brick and tile industry. The quarry was backfilled partly with debris from this manufacturing industry. The bricks within this debris are considered to be of late medieval or Tudor date and the pottery found with the debris confirms this date. The quarry may have belonged to the brick and tile works known on the opposite side of the street slightly further to the west.

Gerrard's Cross, land adj. to Moray House, 44 Camp Road

SP 9941 8779

An evaluation was carried out by AS in response to proposals to construct a new house and garage in the gardens of the present dwelling. Moray House lies immediately south of the Iron Age hillfort of Bulstrode Camp: the hillfort earthworks run through the gardens of the House. On the north side of the site two large pits were revealed. At the south end of the site, two ditches and a pit were excavated. Pottery recovered from the excavated features was dated to the medieval period. These features and their associated finds are suggestive of a previously unrecorded medieval settlement, possibly associated with Bulstrode Manor, which was established in the 11th century, and the ridge and furrow field system which is evident within the interior of Bulstrode Camp.

Great Woolstone, Fishponds adj. to Holy Trinity Church

SP 8763 3857

ASC undertook test-pitting on one of the scheduled medieval fishponds, to investigate the depth of silting in the base of the pond to inform proposals for reinstatement of the pond as a habitat for displaced amphibians from developments elsewhere in Milton Keynes. Six test-pits excavated around the top of the bank demonstrated that the natural soils were very shallow, and that no major structural work had been undertaken to form the edges of the pond. Test pits in the base of the pond encountered

only c.350mm of silt deposits, above a natural clay base. No finds were recovered.

Long Crendon, proposed new conservation pond, Notley Abbey
SP 714 091

OA carried out a field evaluation in respect of a planning application for the formation of a conservation and wildlife pond within an area of water meadow adjacent to the river Thame and Notley Abbey. The evaluation revealed a sequence of alluvial deposits relating to the flood plain of the Thame. The termination of medieval ridge and furrow at the edge of this plain suggests that this area was used as pasture or water meadows during this period. No other archaeological features or deposits were observed.

Mursley, 18 Main Street
SP 4817 2286

Trial trenching was carried out by NA ahead of residential development. The only evidence for early activity on the site was a pit located close to the street frontage. Sherds of late Saxon/medieval pottery were present in its primary fill. Other features may be of post-medieval date and could relate to an historic hedge line or fence.

Newport Pagnell, High Street
SP 4875 2439

A watching brief by Archaeologica during the third phase of improvements to the High Street recorded early road surfaces and two pits, one of which contained 13th century pottery, bone and slag. This material all showed signs of burning, suggesting it represents smelting debris thrown onto the street in the medieval period.

Olney, land to the rear of 62 High Street
SP 8898 5164

A limited watching brief by Archaeologica during development revealed a ditch in the south part of the site, which had been deliberately filled in during the 14th century at the earliest. Two medieval pits were recorded close to the present southern boundary of the site. Post-medieval and recent pits were also identified.

Olney, The Old Manse, 51 High Street
SP 8889 5159

A wall and three pits were identified by Archaeologica in a small-scale watching brief. One of the pits contained a large amount of unabraded 11th to 13th century pottery. The assemblage included fragments of a well-used (*i.e.* smoke covered) chimney pot. The wall was also of medieval date.

Olney, Mill Close, Church Street
SP 891 509

A watching brief was carried out by Phoenix during the excavation of footing trenches for a conservatory adjoining the rear of Mill Close. The site lies within the historic core of Olney, possibly within the curtilage of the Saxon settlement. It is also adjacent to the site of the 'Great House', a substantial building constructed in the 17th century and demolished in the 19th.

The site was covered to a significant depth by post-medieval levelling horizons. Beneath them, part of a substantial pit was identified, cut into a possible early buried garden-soil horizon and the underlying natural gravels. Excavation of only a small section of this feature was possible. This produced a significant assemblage of medieval pottery, comprised of shelly coarsewares, St. Neots wares and Sandy coarsewares. In addition, there was a single rouletted shelly coarseware sherd. It would appear that the feature in which this group of pottery was deposited almost certainly dates from the 12th century.

Olney Link Road
SP 887 523

OA carried out an evaluation of the route of the proposed Olney Link Road. The evaluation revealed only surviving elements of medieval ridge and furrow.

Shabbington, The Bungalow, Ickford Road
SP 665 069

Prior to development, TVAS conducted a small excavation which revealed three phases of medieval ditches on the site, two dating from the 11th or 12th century and one from the 13th or 14th century. A small amount of residual Saxon pottery

was recovered from later features. As there was no sign of occupation on the site, this appears to confirm that the medieval settlement lay to the east, as expected, with only land boundaries this far west.

POST-MEDIEVAL AND UNDATED

Aylesbury, 10 Kingsbury Square

SP 8189 1382

Test-pitting and recording of an existing foundation trench were carried out by ASC in advance of extensions to 10 Kingsbury Square, in the historic core of Aylesbury. The test-pit revealed a substantial rammed chalk foundation of probable post-medieval or later date. Examination of the foundation trench revealed a cellar and cesspit of 19th-century or later date, and also an undated ditch or pit and extensive rammed chalk layers that may represent the foundations of earlier buildings. No pre- twentieth century artefacts were recovered.

Aylesbury, Henry Floyd School, Oxford Road

SP 8113 1337

An evaluation was carried out by JMHS to inform a planning application for the construction of a dwelling and garage. A post-medieval ditch was located. Whether this is connected to the windmill recorded on the site is unknown. The soil sequence suggested that remnants of a mound survived.

Aylesbury, Hartwell House

SP 796 125

Limited archaeological investigations were undertaken by NA for the National Trust within an area recently tentatively identified as the flower garden created by Lady Elizabeth Lee in the late 18th century. These revealed evidence of a circuit path, a bower and the possible location of one of the flowerbeds. The path was of clinker over a base comprising broken brick and stone, bordered with pale yellow ceramic tiles with a decorative upper edge. The bower was not itself revealed, though its position was located by default after the splayed path leading to it was identified. There was slight evidence for the single flowerbed, perhaps indicating that the feature was relatively short lived. This accords with the known history of ownership of the property and the lifetime of the garden's creator.

Beaconsfield, St Mary and All Saints Church

SU 945 900

OA carried out an archaeological watching brief on land at St Mary and All Saints Church, during conservation works to the Edmund Waller tomb. The watching brief revealed that an old walnut tree previously occupying the perimeter of the site had caused some below-ground disturbance, and that there had been an attempt to rectify this in the Victorian period.

Bletchley, 49 Whaddon Way

SP 8492 3334

Trial trenching undertaken by Archaeologica in advance of development, revealed slight evidence of archaeological remains on this site. This comprised a gully or ditch and five other features, all of uncertain date and severely truncated by later cultivation. No dating evidence was recovered, but they may well be Roman, given the proximity of other Roman settlement. Overlying these slight remains was a distinct horizon, possibly representing ridge-and-furrow cultivation, which had truncated the earlier features.

Brill, Sports and Social Club

SP 6560 1392

An excavation over the footprint of an extension to the club was carried out by JMHS. The new-build partly overlay a ditch associated with an extant bank, which is a Scheduled Monument. The excavation was too restricted both in area and depth to unequivocally date the monument. The upper fill of the ditch produced material of a late 18th century date and earlier residual finds.

Buckingham, Knowledge Centre, Verney Close

SP 6969 3402

AA undertook an evaluation on the site of the current library and former magistrates' court, prior to construction of the new Knowledge Centre. The deposits encountered were largely post-medieval and modern in origin and highly truncated. They included wall foundations, domestic refuse pits, levelling layers and a probable quarry pit. There was no evidence for medieval or earlier occupation, or industrial or agricultural exploitation of the site.

Buckingham, Manor Farm, Manor Road
SP 699 349

OA carried out an archaeological watching brief on the excavation of geological test pits in advance of a potential planning application for development of the site. The watching brief revealed soils typical of modern agricultural practises, overlying natural deposits. Post-medieval ditches possibly representing the western 16th century boundary were observed. Two other ditches representing the remains of ridge and furrow were seen in test pits in the south-west and north-west corners of the site. A modern stone foundation or drain and an area of hard-standing were revealed at the northern end of the site.

Buckingham, 12-18 Stratford Road Cottages
SP 698 342

OA carried out a field evaluation on this site to inform development proposals. The evaluation revealed two phases of post-medieval roadside culverts and substantial deposits of garden soil. No significant archaeology was discovered.

Subsequently, OA undertook building investigation and recording of 12-16 Stratford Road Cottages, in advance of demolition. The most significant of the cottages was no. 13, which had a timber-framed core with four possible phases of construction probably dating from the 17th to 18th centuries. The framing largely survived in the rear wall, where different types and phases of construction and infill were recorded. A small extension in brick had been added to the north end in the 18th or 19th centuries. The front wall had been completely rebuilt in brick in the 19th century, replacing all the timber framing on that side except the wallplate. The roof had been raised and rebuilt over the original one, which largely survived, and some of the rear wall was rebuilt during the 20th century. No. 12 had been constructed before the rebuilding of the front wall of numbers 13-16. It appeared externally to be of early 19th century construction, but may have 18th century origins.

Great Kimble, The Old Grange
SP 4820 2057

A watching brief was carried out by ASC at this 15th-century Grade II listed house during ground-

works for extensions and alterations. Brick-set garden features, a brick-set porch and areas of limestone rubble used as a yard surface or levelling / consolidation material were revealed. All these features appeared relatively recent: no pre-modern artefacts were recovered.

Great Missenden, Chapel adj. The Old House, Church Street
SP 8972 0120

An historic building survey of the chapel was undertaken by ASC, prior to it being dismantled and rebuilt for residential use. There is little documentary evidence for the history of this building, which is first recorded on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1877. It is known that the chapel was built for the Primitive Methodists and used for a time as a 'Dames School'. The building consisted of the chapel itself, with a small vestry to the rear. During the building's life as a chapel/school, internal alterations had included the replacement of the ceiling and roof. After it ceased to be used as a chapel, the building became a garage/workshop. A double door was crudely inserted into the front (south) elevation, and the interior fixtures and fittings had been removed, including the wooden floor and possibly also wooden wall panelling.

Haddenham, Baghill Farm
SP 7400 0808

OA carried out an evaluation at Baghill Farm in advance of a barn conversion. It revealed that the barn walls had been constructed directly on top of the clay subsoil. No evidence for earlier structures or features was encountered. Two earth floor surfaces associated with the agricultural use of the barn were recorded, although no dating evidence was retrieved from either deposit.

Haddenham, Low Farm, Aylesbury Road
SP 7530 1030

TVAS carried out a watching brief during construction of a new access road, which crossed the site of a known cropmark, thought possibly to be a prehistoric enclosure. A shallow depression was observed in the appropriate location, but was filled with modern materials. It is possible that this was recent consolidation over a prehistoric feature. The works did

not always penetrate below the topsoil, so not only was the full depth of this feature not exposed, but archaeologically relevant levels were not reached over much of the site. Unstratified finds included Roman and medieval pottery, and a number of struck flints, one of which may be Mesolithic.

Hanslope, Park Road

SP 8062 4664

A programme of trial trenching was undertaken by NA in advance of housing development. Of the small gullies and ditches found, two contained pottery dating from the 12th to 15th centuries. There was a small 18th to 19th century gully. An earthwork feature may have been a former pond, but it was infilled with modern rubbish. The site contained no evidence relating to the medieval and post-medieval expansion of the village. There were more features present than would be expected in the medieval field system, and it may therefore lie on the periphery of the nearby plot with pond features and small allotment type enclosures to the rear.

OA carried out a watching brief at Abbey Barn Farm, during development involving change of use of the farm buildings, demolition of outbuildings and construction of a new access road. The watching brief revealed evidence of 18th century terracing and construction of the standing farm buildings and their later use, but no evidence for any earlier activity.

High Wycombe, Bassetbury Lane Bridge

SU 8774 9240

A watching brief was conducted by JMHS during bridge reconstruction. The bridge crosses the River Wye just below a former mill building. Deposits in the beds of the two stream channels suggest raising of the level of the north channel and consolidation of both beds to prevent erosion of the chalk. The 'island' between the two channels has been consolidated and added to over the years. A lack of artefacts from the deposits prevents dating of the various episodes other than one event occurring during the 17th century or later.

Iver, St Peter's Church

TQ 0500 8130

OA carried out a watching brief in advance of the construction of a new extension on the north side of

the church. The watching brief revealed an undated grave cut and construction works from alterations to the church in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Lacey Green, land adj. to Kiln Barn, Kiln Lane

SP 8253 0027

Chiltern Archaeology carried out an evaluation in respect of a planning application for a residential development. The prehistoric earthwork Grim's Ditch is aligned across this land. A potential residual bank, which presented as a slight ridge running in the same orientation as the prehistoric bank that is visible a few hundred metres from the site, was examined. This feature was found to be modern, and coincidentally on the same orientation as the Grim's Ditch bank.

Lillingstone Lovell, Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary

SP 712 404

OA carried out a watching brief on test pits to investigate the foundations of the east end of the church. The watching brief revealed the limestone foundations of the chancel with the foundation trench backfill. The foundations were later truncated by the insertion of a brick-built drain to carry water away from the foundations.

Little Brickhill, Orchard Cottage, Watling Street

SP 9093 3249

A watching brief was undertaken by Archaeologica during the construction of an extension. A substantial ditch with a post-medieval fill was revealed, probably a boundary running north-south through the middle of the site.

Long Crendon, 106 High Street

SP 6981 0902

An evaluation was undertaken by ASC in advance of the construction of extensions to this house. A late post-medieval posthole and linear feature were revealed. A number of 19th century artefacts were also present.

Ludgershall, Ludgershall Farm

SP 6641 1734

An evaluation was undertaken at Ludgershall Farm by JMHS. The only feature located was the 16th century surface of the farmyard. There was also some limited evidence for late medieval pottery production in the area.

Olney, 29 Weston Road

SP 8878 5120

An historic building survey was carried out by ASC in response to proposals to refurbish the building, and to construct a new two-storey extension to the rear. The earliest part of 29 Weston Road is a three-bay house of three storeys with a cellar, constructed in stone and brick, probably in the early 19th century. To the rear are two brick extensions, both of two storeys. The larger of these, beneath a gable roof at right angles to the main structure, is the earlier, probably built in the mid 19th century. The smaller, in the angle between the two earlier parts of the building, has a pent roof, and was in place by c.1880. While the frontage of the house appears largely unaltered, the rear has evidently undergone alteration, and all but one of the windows are modern casements. Internally, the few surviving fixtures and fittings appear to be original.

Olney, Court Farm, Yardley Road

SP 8799 5317

An historic building assessment at Court Farm was carried out by ASC in advance of building conversion. The buildings surveyed comprised a combined cow-house, feed loft, and cart shed of probable mid to late 19th century date, a substantial 3-bay threshing barn of probable 17th to 18th century date, and a late 19th century shelter shed and cattle pen with a dovecote half-loft. The buildings represent a fairly typical yet well-preserved segment of an 18th to 19th century mixed farm. The threshing barn represents the nucleus of a post-medieval farm complex, subsequently given a 19th century 'model farm' style makeover.

Olney, Olney Park Farm

SP 8742 5379

An evaluation was undertaken by Archaeologica in advance of development. One trench revealed the foundation of the standing northern wing of the main house, and also the foundation for a second wall running at right angles to the 17th century house. No finds were recovered in this context.

Ravenstone, The Old Forge

SP 8492 5051

A watching brief was maintained by ASC at The Old Forge during groundworks for a new development. A forge is known to have been present on the site during the late 19th century, and a number of 19th century brick and limestone walls and cobbled surfaces were observed. These occupied the approximate position of the forge buildings, and it is likely that they represent the truncated remains of the forge. Examination of census returns yielded information on the owners of the forge in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Shenley Brook End, Shenley Common Farm North

SP 8182 3505

OA undertook the excavation of the site of this former farm in advance of housing development. Shenley Common Farm North farmhouse was demolished in the 1950s. Excavations exposed a surprisingly well-preserved ground plan of the building, from which a detailed chronological sequence of origin and development was recorded. The evidence from the building itself and from associated features and artefacts demonstrated that it did not predate the 17th century.

Shenley Brook End, 'The Old Beams', Paxton Crescent

SP 8382 3603

AS carried out an historic building assessment of *The Old Beams* public house, prior to partial demolition of the building following fire damage. The two storey 'L'-shaped building with extensive modern additions to the rear is Grade II listed. The building was known as East Green Farm until the 1990s when it was converted to a public house, and

the earliest known reference to it dates to 1698. The front range of the building dates to the early 17th century and represents its earliest phase, comprising an open panel timber-framed house of two uneven bays. The first floor rooms would originally have been open to the roof but in the 17th or early 18th century ceilings were added to these rooms. At this time a single-bay, two-storey unit was added to form the rear wing. In the late 18th or early 19th century a further two-storey bay built of slender primary braced framing was added to the rear wing. The south wall of the rear wing and the west wall of the front range were bricked in. In the later 20th century large-scale additions were made to the rear of the property, and the north and east ground floor walls of the rear wing were removed to open up the ground floor space.

Stewkley, land south of Manor Drive

SP 8540 2560

An earthwork survey and trial trenching were undertaken by ASC on land to the south of Manor Drive, in order to investigate surviving ridge and furrow prior to destruction by residential development. Eight ridges orientated SW-NE were recorded, none more than 300mm above the base of the associated furrows. No pottery was found during trenching, and it was thus not possible to date the formation of the ridge and furrow.

Stowe, Chapel Car Park, Stowe School

SP 673 374

OA carried out an evaluation in advance of developments at Stowe School. The evaluation revealed no archaeological features or deposits predating or related to the 18th century gardens. The remains of an early 20th century roadway and hard standing from the 1920s school building activities were exposed.

Stowe Landscape Gardens

SP 674 383

A programme of works was carried out by NA on behalf of the National Trust, as part of their ongoing scheme to restore and repair the monuments and landscape. Further excavation at the Corinthian Arch revealed a road surface, formerly the Queen's Drive, shown on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey

map of 1881, and the stone plinths of the former dismantled gates. One of the trenches placed centrally to the arch also revealed the former ground surface, either side of two 19th century wing walls.

Stowe, New Inn Farm

SP 6818 3636

A detailed survey involving historical research, and buildings and landscape analysis has been carried out by NA on behalf of the National Trust. New Inn Farm, a Grade II* listed building, is currently in a highly dilapidated condition and requires substantial building works to restore it to its original appearance. Built in 1717, it served as an inn and accommodation throughout much of the 18th century, both for visitors to the gardens and for the workers involved in creating the landscape garden. It continued as an inn until the 1860s, when it became a farmhouse. Since 1947 it has been run privately as a mixed arable/pasture farm.

The inn is part brick-built and part timber-framed with brick infill panels, and the external elevation of the west range is partially constructed in ironstone. The roof is tiled. The buildings are arranged around a courtyard with the main entrance located in the centre of the south range, which contained the farmhouse and accommodation, while the west range formed the stables, the north range the carriage sheds and the east range the domestic services, including a brewhouse and dairy. Behind the farm lies a detached stable block, which was originally part of the hunt kennels but is now in private ownership.

Waddesdon Manor

SP 7353 1645

NA undertook a geophysical survey and excavation on behalf of the National Trust during groundworks associated with the restoration of the site of the 'Frog Fountain' on the Lower Terrace. A resistivity survey was undertaken in the parterre garden to the north of the Lower Terrace and in adjacent areas to the east and west. The survey did not identify any features relating to former phases of this part of the garden. However, excavation in the area of the Lower Terrace uncovered a series of late 19th century concrete-reinforced platforms, cut into the hill slope, and the remains of two probable cascading fountain basins, which were superseded by the

present terrace. Other features included two opposing flights of steps flanking the fountain basins, nine evenly spaced brick piers, which once supported a broad flight of steps leading from the terrace to the parkland beyond the formal gardens, and two brick vase bases. It is possible that some of the features revealed by the excavation relate to a series of garden designs put forward by the French architect Gabriel-Hippolyte Destailleur, particularly during the period 1886-8.

Wavendon, Fen Farm
SP 9100 3876

An historic building assessment was undertaken by ASC at Fen Farm as part of a wider archaeological assessment of the surrounding area, in order to inform development proposals. The farmhouse and adjoining farm buildings were constructed in the early 19th century, probably by Sir Henry Hugh Hoare. The original house was brick built with a slate roof, in plan comprising a central corridor on each floor, flanked by four rooms. A two-storey wing was added to the east before 1841: this wing was further extended between 1918 and 1926. It is possible that the present main staircase was installed at this time. A south extension was added in the 1950s, followed by two small single-storey extensions. Subsequent improvements have included installation of modern UPVC double-glazing. Only one room of the original house survives largely unaltered, and few original features survive. The present farm buildings are probably rebuilds of the original early 19th century structures, and have also undergone significant change in recent years.

Weston Underwood, Church Farm
SP 8642 5042

An historic building assessment was carried out by ASC to inform proposals for conversion of the farm buildings for residential and office use. Church Farm is a late 18th century mixed farm, with its buildings arranged around two yards. The buildings include a large double barn, stables and hay/feed loft, granary and a washhouse with gable dovecote. A lambing pen that was probably originally bundle-thatched is present at the rear of the site and, although in poor condition with a modern roof and roof structure, represents a relatively rare

survival for the region. The farm is typical for the locality and suggested date range. The buildings themselves are quite plain and unadorned, as one would expect for a non-model farm of this status. As the farm buildings have been in continuous use until relatively recently, many fixtures and fittings have been replaced over time, and few original features of note survive.

Weston Underwood, Weston House
SP 8675 5074

An archaeological watching brief carried out by NA during the excavation of foundations at Weston House revealed a series of backfill layers within the cellars of the Elizabethan house that formerly stood on the site. The cellar walls and floors had been removed during the demolition of the house during the 1820s.

Whaddon, Lowndes Arms
SP 8058 34250

Building recording and a watching brief were carried out by ASC during structural repairs to the timber-framed, Grade II listed 'Lowndes Arms' public house. The repairs involved replacement of a section of the box frame and its supporting wall at the north end of the street frontage of the building. Drawn and photographic records were compiled of the section of box frame undergoing repair, and a watching brief was carried out during removal of the wall and excavations for new footings. The location of a missing rail in the frame was noted. Some evidence was revealed of the construction and the original wattle and daub infill of the box frame. The watching brief provided a view of the strata underlying the floor in this part of the building, though no dating evidence was revealed. No evidence of any earlier structures or other activity was observed.

Wolverton, Iron Trunk Aqueduct Bypass Canal
SP 8015 4165

A programme of archaeological works comprising topographical survey, trial trenching and limited excavation was undertaken by AA on the west side of the south embankment leading to the Iron Trunk aqueduct on the Grand Union Canal at Old Wolverton. The work was commissioned by Milton

Keynes Council, to inform proposals for landscaping and interpretive works on the site of the lock flight leading to the original canal crossing of the river Ouse. The study area extended from Old Wolverton Wharf in the south-east to the Ouse in the north-west.

The construction of the Grand Junction canal across the Ouse valley at Wolverton was a significant undertaking, involving large embankments, a culverted river crossing, and diversion of part of the Ouse. In order to bypass these works, in late 1800 the company opened a temporary canal, crossing the Ouse on the level, with flights of locks on both sides of the valley. The embankment opened in late 1805, but shortly afterwards suffered a series of structural failures, following which the temporary canal was reopened. The present iron aqueduct, supported by a central pier was opened in early 1811, and the temporary canal was finally closed. No trace of the temporary canal is apparent on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1881. The bypass canal is known to have comprised four locks on each side of the river, separated by broad lock pounds.

The earthwork survey determined the existence of an embanked section of canal on the valley side and a cut section on the valley floor. Within the embanked section one lock was identified, with possible traces of a second lock at the south-east end of the site. Towards the diverted course of the river, the canal was cut below the adjacent ground level, and its earthworks were better preserved. Several other features associated with the canal were defined, including an oblique ditch emanating from the southern end of the lock. This drained towards the lowest area of ground between the canal and the aqueduct. Adjacent to the river were traces of a large platform with associated ditch. A series of fan-like deposits extended down the western side of the main embankment. Research suggests that these are dumps of material dredged from the embanked canal rather than ramps associated with its construction.

Trenching of the embanked section of canal indicated that the path on its east side was a later feature laid along the crest of the canal bank. The eastern bank was revealed to be a substantial feature, composed of a series of horizontal bands of material. It appears that the adjacent ground level between the bank and the aqueduct had been raised significantly, presumably after the embankment

was constructed. The base of the canal was lined with blue Oxford Clay, and parts of the embanked section of the canal had a red brick facing. The brick sides of the excavated lock appeared to have been robbed out, but features associated with the lock gate survived, including a concrete and brick structure forming part of the base. The robbed out remains of a ground paddle channel, for diverting water around the lock, were also defined. The full width of the lock could not be determined due to the modern trackway, though it extended at least 7.9m from the lining on the western side. The brick construction of the locks contradicts published accounts that refer to 'timber inverts' or lining, implying that bricks were not used.

NEGATIVE

Aston Clinton, 41 Aylesbury Road

SP 8646 1260

Two test pits were excavated by ASC in advance of the construction of a house extension. The site is close to a medieval moated site, and also to the Roman Akeman Street. Neither test-pit produced any evidence for earlier occupation of the site.

Aston Clinton, land to the rear of 76 Weston Road

SP 8717 1216

An evaluation was undertaken by ASC in advance of a proposed housing development. Eight trenches were opened but no archaeological features were identified.

Astwood, The Bury, Turvey Road

SP 9474 4856

A watching brief was carried out by ASC during refurbishments and extensions to a row of timber-framed and stone-built cottages at The Bury, which lies close to a medieval moated site. The timber-framed cottages, which were recently recorded (*Records* 45, 222), have been dated to the 17th century, while two stone cottages were added some time before 1881. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered in the watching brief.

Aylesbury, The County Museum, Church Street
SP 8178 1384

A watching brief was undertaken by ASC during the excavation of foundations for the Cubitt Garage display unit in the garden to the rear of the museum. No archaeological remains were observed during the works.

Bow Brickhill, land adj. 61 Station Road
SP 4906 2346

A watching brief was carried out by Archaeologica during groundworks for development. Only a late 19th century rubbish tip and a modern ditch were revealed.

Chesham, 347 Chartridge Lane
SP 9431 0320

A watching brief was undertaken by ASC during the demolition of the existing house and garage, and the construction of two detached houses on the site. A ditch containing around sixty sherds of 1st century pottery was previously recorded in the garden of 347 Chartridge Lane (CAS2078) and there was potential for related features to be present. No archaeological remains were observed in the watching brief.

High Wycombe, Friend in Hand, West Wycombe Road
SU 8319 9447

ASC carried out an evaluation was carried out in advance of proposals to redevelop this site. In 1978 a late Roman cemetery was identified 200m to the west. No archaeological features were revealed in any of the three evaluation trenches.

Lavendon, 7 High Street
SP 9170 5367

A watching brief was carried out by Richard Ivens during the excavation of foundations for an extension. No pre-modern archaeological deposits were observed, but a single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from a modern deposit.

Little Brickhill, Watling Street Service Station
SP 8943 3335

Archaeological recording was undertaken by ASC during groundworks for extensions. The site falls within the area of extra-mural settlement adjacent to the Roman small town of *Magiovinium*. However, on this occasion no archaeological remains or artefacts were observed.

Mentmore, Garden Cottage and Stud Cottage, Crafton
SP 8936 1916 & SP 8931 1922

An evaluation was carried out by ASC on two sites adjacent to Crafton Stud Farm in advance of redevelopment. The trenches at Garden Cottage revealed only a disturbed layer of topsoil on top of the natural clay. At Stud Cottage a modern wall footing was revealed, below very disturbed topsoil and subsoil. No archaeological finds or features were observed at either site.

Mentmore, 2 Crafton
SP 8915 1965

A watching brief was undertaken by ASC during ground reduction, prior to the construction of stables, tack-room and a hay-store. Although the site lies within a complex of earthworks relating to the medieval and post-medieval settlement of Crafton, no archaeological features or finds were encountered.

Monks Risborough, St Dunstan's Church Hall
SP 8127 0442

A watching brief was carried out by Chiltern Archaeology ahead of construction of the new church hall. The site was adjacent to the churchyard and to Green Lane, which may be the ancient roadway into the Saxon and medieval manor house. No archaeological features or artefacts were encountered.

North Crawley, 3 Chequers Lane
SP 9278 4466

An archaeological watching brief was maintained by Richard Ivens during the excavation of foundation trenches for an extension. No pre-modern archaeological deposits or artefacts were identified.

Marigold Cottage, Beacon Hill, Penn
SU 908 933

TVAS undertook a watching brief during demolition and replacement of the existing house. Nothing earlier than the late 19th century was recorded.

Princes Risborough, St Mary's Church, Church Street
SU 8059 0350

JMHS carried out an evaluation in St Mary's Church as part of the consideration for a proposed new floor and underfloor heating in the nave. The work did not identify any substantial traces of the medieval church, or uncover any burials or vaults likely to be disturbed by the proposed development.

Shenley Church End, Walnut Tree Special School
SP 8149 3625

An evaluation was undertaken by ASC on the proposed site for Walnut Tree Special School. The adjacent Hazeley Secondary School site, was the subject of a previous evaluation and watching brief by ASC, which revealed evidence of Roman activity at its south end. Six trenches were excavated, and were all found to be devoid of archaeology.

Sherington, land adj. The White Hart, Gun Lane
SP 8912 4679

ASC carried out an evaluation of the site in advance of development. A single L-shaped trench was opened, but no archaeological finds, features or deposits were discovered.

Stewkley: The Old School
SP 8517 2261

A watching brief was carried out by Martin Tingle during groundworks associated with the residential conversion of the Old School. The site is adjacent to the parish church. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

Stone, Orchard Cottage, 91 Bishopstone
SP 807 201

OA carried out a watching brief during the excavation of foundations for a new cottage. The foundations were excavated through the modern topsoil and into the underlying clay. No features, deposits or finds of archaeological significance were uncovered.

Weedon, Aston Abbotts Road, East End
SP 8170 1815

Evaluation trenching carried out by TVAS in advance of house building revealed no archaeology.

Weston Underwood, Pevers Cottage, Pevers Lane
SP 8644 5043

An archaeological 'strip and sample' excavation was carried out by Richard Ivens during removal of topsoil and other groundworks for a new extension and detached garage and parking space. No pre-modern archaeological deposits or artefacts were identified.

Wolverton, Church Street
SP 8100 4100

A watching brief was undertaken by ASC during the excavation of shafts and trenches for a new flood alleviation sewerage system. The route of the new sewerage system passes to the rear of the former McCorquodale printing works, where a possible Saxon burial was found during building operations in the late 19th century. No archaeological remains were observed during the works.

Wolverton Mill, Heathway, Featherstone Road
SP 8025 4019

A watching brief was maintained on this site by ASC, in advance of the construction of an industrial unit. The site is close to the Wolverton Mill prehistoric and Saxon sites, respectively excavated by the former Milton Keynes Unit and the County Archaeology Service. The excavation of drainage runs was monitored but no archaeological remains were observed.

REPORTS NOT RECEIVED

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

Aylesbury, Litton House, Buckingham Street
Aylesbury, 41 Walton Road
Boarstall, Panshill Farm
Buckingham, Bridge Street
Denham, The Lea
Lavendon, Abbey Farmhouse, Lavendon Grange
Shenley Brook End, 10 Whaddon Road
Stoke Goldington, Recreation Ground
Westcott, White Swan
Weston Turville, Aston Clinton MDA