

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

The following notes on fieldwork carried out in the county in 2006 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.

site comprised at least one ring ditch, interpreted as a roundhouse, and a series of ditches, gullies and small pits and postholes, as well as several occupation deposits filling shallow hollows. The remnants of medieval furrows were also present in some fields.

### ***Buckingham: Manor Farm***

SP 699 349

OA carried out an evaluation at Manor Farm in advance of proposed housing development. This revealed a single middle Bronze Age cremation burial dated to *c.*1200BC or earlier, that had been placed in a ceramic vessel made with a grog-tempered shelly clay. An area of burnt material nearby may have been associated with the burial. Medieval and post-medieval ditches and plough furrows were also revealed, concentrated at the north end of the site. A modern pig burial was also found.

*Bob Zeepvat*

### ***Calverton, Passenham Quarry***

SP 7786 3896

### **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:

AS	Archaeological Solutions
ASC	Archaeological Services & Consultancy
NA	Northamptonshire Archaeology
OA	Oxford Archaeology

### **PREHISTORIC**

#### ***Bletchley, Newton Leys***

SP 869 315 (centre)

An evaluation was carried out by NA on 40ha of land at Newton Leys, south of Bletchley. This defined an area of occupation dated to the middle to late Iron Age, with limited Roman activity. The

A group of four ring-ditches, presumed to be levelled Bronze Age round barrows forming a linear cemetery on low-lying ground adjacent to the River Great Ouse, were excavated by NA during 2006–7 prior to quarrying. The ring ditches had previously been located by geophysical survey and confirmed by trial trench evaluation (*Records* 45, 217).

Two of the ring ditches have been fully excavated to date, as well as more than half of a third. One was double-ditched, the diameters of the external and internal rings being 30m and 16m respectively. The second ring ditch was also 30m in diameter, and the third measured 22m. Within one of the ring ditches the natural subsoil was raised and domed, suggesting that the former central mound had only been fully ploughed away in recent times. The other two had probably been levelled in antiquity. The ditches were up to 1.0–1.2m deep. No contemporary internal features had survived, and it must be

assumed that all traces of burials had been lost to ploughing.

The absence of any deeper central graves indicated that the primary burials are most likely to have been cremations, suggesting that the barrows were probably constructed during the first half of the second millennium (2000–1400BC). There was little evidence to date the barrows, but the upper ditch fills contained residual Iron Age pottery from nearby settlement. The remaining ring ditches will be excavated in 2007.

Part of a previously unknown pit alignment was also exposed, running roughly at right angles to the river, just beyond the southern end of the barrow group. Forty-two pits were investigated. Geophysical survey indicates that the alignment continues beyond the excavated area. The pits were generally circular or oval in plan, 0.8–1.1m in diameter, and 0.4–1.1m deep. The upper fills of most contained residual early Iron Age pottery, with c.1000 sherds recovered. This suggests that there is likely to be an associated settlement nearby, which may have been a precursor to known middle to late Iron Age and Roman settlement that has been located by geophysical survey and confirmed by trial trenching on land to the immediate east of the investigated area.

**Denham, Denham Park Farm**

TQ 0230 9010

During August and early September, AS conducted an extensive trial-trench evaluation at Denham Park Farm. Thirty-three trenches contained archaeological features. The majority of these were ditches, probably forming parts of relict field systems. Finds recovered from such features included late Iron Age, Roman, late medieval and modern pottery, along with metal objects, plastic and glass. An alignment of postholes or pits dating to the Iron Age was identified, and is considered to be part of an agricultural structure. The remains of probable farm buildings of post-medieval or later date were also identified. Some struck flint was recovered, although mainly from the topsoil. The site appears to have been used for agricultural purposes over a long period.

**Newport Pagnell, Land at Willen Road**

SP 8773 4210

In the early spring of 2006 a ring ditch was excavated by ASC on a gravel quarry site to the south of Newport Pagnell, beside the M1 motorway. This feature, previously revealed by trial trenching (*Records* 47.1, 222), measured 20m in diameter externally. The ditch had an average width of 1.98m and a depth of 0.53m. No finds of any significance were recovered from the ditch fills, and there was no discernible evidence of internal features. An extensive sampling programme revealed only slight environmental information. The character and denudation of this monument suggests a probable late Bronze Age date.

**Olney: Aspreys**

SP 8839 5233

An excavation and watching brief by OA during development revealed a pit alignment dating to the early Iron Age. Environmental evidence indicated that the pits had been left to fill gradually within a largely open landscape. 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. Later activity was limited to medieval and post-medieval agriculture and quarrying. [Site published *Recs Bucks* 47, Part 1]

**Princes Risborough, 46-52 Picts Lane**

SP 8213 1354

Evaluation of this site, conducted by AS in November, revealed sparse evidence for prehistoric and medieval activity in the south-eastern part of the site. Prehistoric features comprised at least one, and probably two, narrow gullies. The medieval features may relate to a nearby moated site. The remaining features were of post-medieval and modern date. A pit or ditch terminal, which produced a sherd of 18<sup>th</sup>-century stoneware, also contained a large piece of hearth cake associated with metal-working and smithing activity.

**Wavendon, Nova Site 1**

TL 4914 2386

An initial geophysical survey by NA of this extensive development site, located a possible ditched

extension to a field boundary, a sub-rectangular enclosure and linear features and a possible driveway, and two overlapping ditched enclosures. Remnant medieval ridge and furrow was detected over much of the site. Subsequent trial-trench evaluation, targeting the geophysical anomalies, confirmed that the ditch systems were part of a multi-period settlement including limited Iron Age occupation and a rural Romano-British settlement which was in use during the 2nd to 4th centuries AD.

#### **ROMAN**

##### ***Bow Brickhill: Belvedere Nurseries*** SP 8874 3395

An archaeological watching brief by OA during extensions to the nursery revealed evidence for a Roman field system. Four ditches were identified, from which Roman pottery and animal bone was recovered. Previous work (*cf Records 43, 221*) has revealed similar features, and a Roman inhumation burial.

##### ***Broughton, Broughton Manor Farm*** SP 9010 3950 (centre)

Between August 2006 and March 2007 excavations were carried out by CamArc prior to housing and industrial development on two areas (Areas 1 & 2), previously examined by trial trenching in 2003 (*Records 45, 219*), when evidence for prehistoric, Iron Age and Roman activity was revealed.

In Area 1 there was limited evidence for pre-Iron Age activity, with a small flint-working hollow and some unstratified flintwork. Settlement commenced as a farmstead in the Middle Iron Age: remains were encountered in the centre and western parts of the site, and extended beyond the development area. The farmstead comprised a large sub-rectangular or sub-square enclosure with internal remains of a hut. Other features included two other enclosures, one irregular, the other *c.*24m in diameter; two round houses, two '4-post' structures, a single human cremation, a few pits and ditches.

The settlement became more prosperous in the late Iron Age/Early Roman periods, when it expanded to hamlet size. Area 1 may represent a small dispersed settlement, while Area 2 was probably inhabited by a separate extended family.

Houses and related features were found in both areas, as well as cremations. In Area 1 a cremation cemetery dating from *c.*AD1–150 was uncovered, which provided evidence of relatively rich burial customs. Most of the cremations were found within a small area encompassing three separate enclosures adjacent to the main driveway. This 'religious' area continued to be respected long after disuse when, for example, a later Roman shrine was placed adjacent to the former main cremation enclosure. The driveways were presumably for herding livestock, with paddocks and enclosures present. At least one pottery kiln was found, and arable farming may have taken place between the two excavation areas.

In the middle and late Roman periods settlement continued in Area 1 as a wealthy farmstead. The main building of this period consisted of a rectangular structure more than 20m long and 6m wide, in the centre of the site. In the 4th century this was replaced by a stone building measuring *c.*20 × 14m, with four large internal post pads each more than 1m in diameter. A disproportionate amount of coins and other metal objects, tiles etc. were found in the topsoil and subsoil around this building. Attached to the western side of the building was a lean-to, housing an oven. Another lean-to comprising an entrance porch lay on its eastern side, from which a stone pathway extended to the north-east. Associated with this building were a stone-lined well and a possible timber granary. The driveways continued in use into at least the middle Roman period and a field system including a large watering hole was established in the late Roman period.

##### ***Great Linford, land adjacent to Rocla Pipeworks*** SP 856 431

Excavation was carried out by NA in advance of development, following an earlier trial trench evaluation (*Records 47.1, 221*). In the northern part of the site, the earliest evidence for activity comprised a small late Iron Age settlement. A boundary ditch, probably bounding a driveway crossing the site, was identified, extending beyond the limits of excavation. Its fill contained some early Roman pottery, although the boundary may have been established in the Iron Age. Transverse ditches suggest the setting out of adjacent field boundaries.

By the later 1st century AD a ditched enclosure had been created to the immediate north of the

boundary, and in the 2nd century a square enclosure was added to the south. These two enclosures were maintained and recut through the 3rd and 4th centuries. Both contained internal sub-divisions and other gullies, pits and postholes. These features produced a wide range of domestic artefacts, including evidence for small-scale bronze casting. No house plans survived. The animal bone assemblage was dominated by cattle, indicating that pastoral farming was an important aspect of the economy, while fragments of rotary querns and millstones, and the remains of drying ovens with the presence of charred cereals, relate to arable exploitation.

A single Saxon sunken-floored building was found adjacent to the ditch of the southern enclosure. Evidence of a ridge and furrow field system was also present.

**Newport Pagnell, Land at Willen Road**  
SP 8750 4225 (centre)

In the summer of 2006 excavations by ASC in advance of gravel extraction revealed a portion of an enclosed settlement dating from the late Iron Age to the late Roman period to the north of the Bronze Age ring ditch reported above. The site, previously identified by trial trenching (*Records 47.1, 222*), consisted of a series of enclosures, field boundaries, and trackways, in addition to which excavations revealed three circular hut gullies, a corn dryer, three wells, a pond and two rectangular stone-flagged features, interpreted as possible cisterns. A single inhumation and a cremation cemetery of forty individuals, all of relatively low status, were also examined. The excavation produced significant quantities of pottery and animal bone. Comparatively few personal objects were retrieved, though quern fragments and a loom weight attest to economic activity.

Three major phases of activity were distinguished. None was mutually exclusive, as there appears to have been a degree of continuity through time which was manifested by the continual usage of certain areas such as the pond, the burial ground and field boundaries. There was no apparent break in this theme of continuity. The first phase covers the late Iron Age to early Roman period, the second is of early to mid Roman date, and the third covers the mid to late Roman period. There was evidence for medieval ridge and furrow and 18<sup>th</sup>-century enclosure ditches.

**SAXON & MEDIEVAL**

**Akeley, Chapel Lane**  
SP 7088 3777

A watching brief was carried out by ASC in June and July during the construction of two houses and associated services. An evaluation of the site in 2003 revealed 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>-century features buried beneath c.1.8m of sediment infilling a deep natural depression (*Records 45, 219*). A subsequent 'strip and record' excavation on the access road for the development confirmed that most of the archaeological features present lay beneath the deepest area of overburden in a natural channel/hollow (*Records 47.1, 223*). No archaeological finds or features were observed during excavation of the trenches for the sewer and drain. However, seven unstratified sherds of 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>-century pottery and an undated infilled pond were discovered during excavation of the footings of the western house plot.

**Aylesbury, 82-84 Walton Street**  
SP 8225 1325

Between May and June, AS carried out an excavation on this site, to the south-east of the historic core of Aylesbury. Evidence for three phases of activity at the site was revealed. The earliest evidence comprised a group of large, intercutting pits in the south-western part of the site, and some smaller pits in this area and further to the north. Two small pits or postholes cut into the base of one of the larger pits may have represented a structure within it. These features were dated to the 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> century, with a later date in this range considered more likely. The second phase of activity was dated to the 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century, and comprised a co-axial boundary system and a group of intercutting pits. The final phase of activity was dated to the 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Features belonging to this third phase were mostly associated with former buildings occupying the site in the Victorian period. In the western part of the site was a feature thought to represent part of an early-modern flood defence scheme.

**Bletchley, 139-143 Buckingham Road**

SP 8542 3318

In June and early July AS conducted an excavation at this site in the historic core of Far Bletchley, immediately south of the possible line of a Roman road. However, the only significant evidence revealed by the excavation was for later medieval/post-medieval and more recent activity. The later medieval activity, dated to the mid 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, comprised features representing a boundary associated with pastoral agriculture, as evidenced by areas of erosion caused by the action of animals. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the agricultural use of the site continued up until the Second World War, when farm buildings are reported to have stood on the site. The archaeological evidence does not confirm this, though it indicates that the site was occupied or in use during this period.

**Bletchley, land at Stoke Road**

SP 8818 3271

During December 2005 ASC undertook excavation of a site adjacent to Stoke Road, Water Eaton, in advance of residential development. The excavation followed a programme of evaluation (*Records 47.1, 224*) which located ditches and pits containing mid Saxon sherds. Removal of the topsoil revealed ditches, gullies, pits, post holes and one sunken-featured building which defined the position of fenced boundaries, structures, an enclosure and an appended field system. The pottery assemblage recovered from excavated features was small, but suggests that most of them may date to the mid Saxon period. The finds, excavated features and environmental evidence suggest the presence of a short-lived farmstead occupied during the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**Emberton, Church Lane**

SP 8855 4946

In November ASC carried out a watching brief during groundwork for the foundation of an extension to the southern elevation of 7 Church Lane. A pit or ditch containing 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century sherds was discovered at the northwest corner of the footprint of the extension. Probable structural features were also revealed which may predate the

medieval pit but definitive dating evidence was not recovered.

**Great Missenden, Missenden Abbey**

SP 899 006 (centre)

In October Chiltern Archaeology carried out a geophysical survey (resistivity) to the south of the ha-ha, where linear features were seen to be present as parch marks during the dry summer. The survey confirmed that there are regular features in the grounds. One linear feature was identified as a 19<sup>th</sup>-century culvert leading to the River Misbourne; others are likely to represent a garden layout of pre mid 18<sup>th</sup>-century date, predating the ha-ha.

**Leckhampstead, Middle End Barn**

SP 7279 3761

A strip and record excavation carried out by NA during groundworks for the construction of a new stable on land at Middle End Barn, revealed a pond and a small pit. Finds from the pond included pottery of 12<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century date, and part of a 'bunsen'-type pewter candle holder, dated to the late 15<sup>th</sup> to late 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**Mentmore, 2 Crafton**

SP 8915 1961

An earthwork survey and archaeological watching brief were carried out by ASC in June and July, in advance of the construction of a manege. The earthwork survey was expanded to encompass the entirety of the field within which the development was proposed, and recorded a southwest-northeast aligned hollow way, several platforms, borrow pits and an infilled pond. The watching brief revealed no archaeologically significant finds or features, as the soil was only removed down to the subsoil horizon.

**North Crawley, 7a High Street**

SP 9258 4475

In February ASC undertook an evaluation on land adjacent to 7 High Street, in advance of proposed residential development. Two trenches were excavated, the first revealing a pit containing a small partially articulated skeleton, and a gully contain-



ing a single sherd of probable medieval date. The second trench revealed only a gully containing no finds. Two additional trenches revealed a ditch containing a single sherd, also of probable medieval date.

***Olney, Warrington Road***  
SP 8883 5251

A trial-trench evaluation was undertaken by NA in July and August on meadowland to the west of Warrington Road. No features of Roman date were recovered, indicating that the site lay beyond the immediate environs of the Romano-British settlement of Ashfurlong. The backfill of a possible quarry contained Anglo-Saxon pottery and a residual late Roman coin. The majority of the features located were truncated ditches, identified as remnants of medieval to post-medieval field divisions. There were also a number of furrows from a truncated medieval ridge and furrow field system, and a large backfilled pond. The southern part of the site was covered by overburden from the construction of the adjacent railway in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

***Tyringham & Filgrave, 20 Filgrave***  
SP 8710 4830

In November a watching brief was maintained by ASC during the excavation of groundworks for an extension at 20 Filgrave. Two intercutting pits were recorded at the southwest corner of the building footprint. Two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the upper fill of the earlier pit.

**POST-MEDIEVAL AND UNDATED**

***Aylesbury, Bearbrook House, Oxford Road***  
SP 8123 1375

During June ASC carried out a trial-trench evaluation in advance of proposed redevelopment. Most of the site lies on a former island, originally bounded by two artificial channels of the Bear Brook. These channels probably formed part of the water management system of the post medieval Oxford Road water mill, and were infilled during the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. The site of the 12<sup>th</sup>-century leper hospital of Saint Leonard is thought to have been in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development. No archaeological finds or features

relating to the hospital were revealed. Truncated alluvial sediments and dumped material, probably originating from a post-medieval farmhouse or cottage demolished during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, were present at the northeast of the site.

***Aylesbury, Bucks Herald and Wilkins Solicitors site***  
SP 8213 1354

A trial trench evaluation and watching brief were undertaken by AS at this site between March and July prior to the site being made a temporary car park. The evaluation revealed deep sequences of alluvial deposits, notable among which was material relating to the silting and meandering of the Bear Brook. A spur of natural drift was identified, sealed by a medieval soil horizon, although no features either cutting or sealed by this deposit were identified. A large channel that appeared to have been deliberately backfilled prior to being sealed by a rammed chalk surface was recorded. A substantial clunch layer, overlain by a layer of clay with clunch and tile inclusions, appeared to have been deliberately dumped into an open watercourse, possibly an earlier alignment of the Bear Brook. Post-medieval and modern activity was attested by a number of rubbish pits truncating both the recent made-ground and the underlying alluvial sequences.

***Aylesbury, 21 Castle Street***  
SP 8171 1377

In June ASC carried out archaeological recording of the cellar at this Grade II listed house in mitigation of its excavation and rebuilding, which had been commenced without Listed Building consent. It appeared that the cellar was cut when the house was first built, and that it was probably open to the east and west, linking at least three adjoining properties. The remains of a clunch-built wall were revealed in the west wall, beside which was a more recent brick wall. The floor was lowered when this brick wall was constructed, and again during the late 20<sup>th</sup>-century modifications which included the construction of the north end of the west wall, insertion of a concrete pillar supporting a steel beam, the concrete cellar floor and possibly the recutting of the southwest corner.

The east wall was an earlier addition, and is

likely to have been completed in the 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century. A timber-framed opening in the north wall, which had latterly been brick filled, is likely to have been a coal chute opening onto the street frontage.

**Bletchley, land off Watling Street, Fenny Stratford**  
SP 8844 3416

During November ASC carried out a strip and record excavation at the former Reckitt & Coleman site, prior to residential redevelopment. A desk-based assessment of the site had indicated that it had been used for a range of industrial functions since the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, including canal wharfage, lime burning, brick making, a gas works, and latterly a chemical works and printing works. The excavation revealed the remains of a 19<sup>th</sup> century canal dock and associated buildings. The canal dock remained in relatively good condition, although the buildings were less well preserved. Site constraints meant that the area just beyond the north-eastern end of the dock, where the remains of three 19<sup>th</sup>-century limekilns are believed to have been located, remained unexamined. However, significant ground reduction seemed to have occurred at this location during 20<sup>th</sup> century development of the site, and the remains of the limekilns were probably removed at this time.

**Bradenham, Park Wood**  
SU 827 983 (centre)

This area of characteristic Chilterns woodland owned by the National Trust was the subject of an archaeological survey from January to May. The survey, known as the Bradenham Woods Historic Landscape Survey, is generously supported by the Chilterns Sustainable Development Fund and involves a group of volunteers under the direction of the Trust's Regional Archaeologist. The aim of the survey was to map, record and interpret all earthwork features within the wood, ultimately leading to an inventory of sites and a study which will attempt to define the characteristics of Chilterns woodland archaeology, as well as what is atypical. During the first five months approximately one hundred sites were mapped including saw pits, pits and quarries, boundary banks, ditches and trackways, plus other more enigmatic

features such as a possible prospect mound associated with the 16<sup>th</sup>-century deer park, and a medieval farmstead or industrial complex. Detailed surveys and profiles have been produced of some features, and the mound has been the subject of a geophysics survey, suggesting that its original construction was rectangular rather than oval. The survey is scheduled to continue during the winter of 2006/7.

**Bradenham, Smaldean Farm**  
SU 8215 9885

In early 2006 a watching brief was maintained by the National Trust over re-servicing works and improvements to the interior of the farm house, which is thought to date from the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The first-floor joists were recorded throughout the building, leading to the discovery of a principal beam in the main bedroom carrying a series of redundant mortises. The timber is more likely to have been reused in its current position, than to indicate the presence of a lost partition wall. Structural timbers were recorded in some of the internal elevations, as were the outlines of blocked or reduced windows, though this evidence remains traceable from the external elevations.

**Burnham: Dropmore House**  
SU 9248 8611

An evaluation by OA in the Italian Garden revealed a selection of features associated with it including tree and plant holes, flower beds, drainage pits and gullies, the original construction trenches for gravel paths and a base of a fountain. All the features and structures were dated to the 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Chesham, Chesham Hospital**  
SP 9624 0129

In January AS conducted an evaluation and earthwork survey of the area known as *The Balks*, surrounding Chesham Hospital. *The Balks* comprise well-constructed cultivation terraces that are ploughed out on the upper slopes and partially destroyed on the lower slope by the Chesham Branch of the Metropolitan Railway line. It is thought that these terraces date from the medieval period, but little is known of their true origins. The

evaluation revealed depositional layers consistent with those created when 'strip lynchets' are produced. Finds, many residual, dating from prehistory through to the post-medieval period were recovered, indicating the site has been utilised continuously over a long period. No reliable dating evidence was recovered due to the modification and alteration of the slopes and terraces for construction of the hospital and the recent use of the lower terraces as allotments. A possible prehistoric soil horizon, which yielded several struck flints, was recorded at the northernmost scarp within the assessment site. It appears that this slope may exist in a largely unaltered state.

**Cholesbury, Hawridge Court**

SP 9501 0583

A watching brief was undertaken by NA during groundworks connected with the construction of a kitchen extension at Hawridge Court, within the confines of the scheduled ancient monument. The works comprised the excavation of a strip foundation trench running parallel with the dwelling. An undated buried soil was revealed in the northern end of the trench, and a truncated natural substratum was present throughout the remainder. No archaeological artefacts were recovered.

**Cliveden**

**Cliveden Hospital** (SU 9128 8450): The Museum of London Archaeology Service maintained a watching brief for the National Trust during excavation works to remove the brick foundations of the WW II hospital buildings. No significant archaeological evidence was discovered as the original excavations for these foundations had largely destroyed earlier evidence.

**The Orchard Garden** (SU 9142 8477): During April a measured survey of the 19<sup>th</sup> century orchard garden was prepared. The garden is contained by the remnants of a wrought-iron fence and contains a large number of fruit trees trained over iron hoops laid to form four converging paths. The National Trust hopes to eventually restore this important garden feature.

**Garden Parterre** (SU 9093 8495 & SU 9110 8510): Excavations for rabbit-proof fencing around

the main garden parterre were monitored by the National Trust. Minor brick wall footings were observed at the above locations.

**Gerrards Cross, Bulstrode Park**

SU 9860 8835

OA undertook a watching brief in advance of the excavation of drainage and the installation of underground water storage tanks. The work revealed deposits relating to the 19<sup>th</sup>-century demolition of the west wing and a secondary building to the south-west of the Pigeon Tower, and the 19<sup>th</sup> century remodelling of the formal gardens. No evidence for the extent or form of any of the earlier phases of the house was encountered.

**Iver, St Peter's Church**

TQ 0500 8130

A watching brief was undertaken by OA in advance of repairs requiring the removal of the existing chancel floor. The work revealed the sleeper walls for the 17<sup>th</sup> century box pews. These had been replaced in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by choir stalls after the insertion of an underground boiler room. No evidence for the Anglo-Saxon apse was observed, and there was little evidence for the presence of burial vaults under the undisturbed parts of the chancel floor.

**Long Crendon, Tompsons Farm**

SP 6985 0883

In April and May, ASC carried out a watching brief during groundworks to construct an ornamental lake. Two superimposed north-south aligned ditches, a gully and posthole were revealed in the footprint of the lake. The only artefact recovered was a flint end scraper, from the fill of the earliest ditch. The ditch containing the scraper could be prehistoric, although the ditches were aligned with extant sections of a field boundary. It is suggested that both ditches date to the post-medieval period, and that the end scraper is a residual artefact incorporated into the fill of a later ditch. The gully runs parallel with the ditches and may date to the same period as one of these features.



**Nash, 36 High Street**

SP 7817 3438

In April ASC carried out historic building recording of this Grade II listed timber-framed structure, during extensive repairs and refurbishments. The building is a T-shaped, late medieval structure with an open hall over a basement to the east of the fireplace and a parlour/kitchen with a chamber above it to the west. A lobby to the rear provided access to the basement and parlour/ kitchen at ground floor level and the landing and chamber on the first floor. The main entrance, which is likely to have been in the north wall opposite the chimney jamb, has been replaced by a window. The main wing was extended in the late 16<sup>th</sup> or early 17<sup>th</sup> century to provide a reception room on the ground floor with a bedroom on each of the floors above. The rooms above the hall appear to have been inserted a century later. Although the cartographic evidence suggests that the west wing was a 20<sup>th</sup> century addition, it is possible that it was moved to its present location at this time, and is itself of early post-medieval date. Although the building is known to have been an inn, the original, rather domestic, layout combined with the large cellar could suggest that it was built as a hunting lodge, which developed into an inn as the building was enlarged.

**North Crawley, Brook End Farm**

SP 9189 4436

A redundant barn attached to the farmhouse of Brook End Farm was recorded by NA, in response to a proposal to repair and convert it to domestic accommodation. From the construction techniques revealed, and its relationship to the 17th-century farmhouse and adjacent barn, the building probably originated as an animal shelter of the 18th century. The quality of the surviving original timbers indicates that the building was cheaply built, partly using reused timbers, and its present poor condition suggests that the building has been poorly maintained during its life, with much alteration and replacement of timbers.

**Olney, land to the rear of 13-17 High Street**

SP 8882 5143

A trial-trench evaluation was carried out by Richard Ivens on behalf of Archaeologica Ltd, in

advance of a housing development. The poorly preserved and heavily-robbled remains of a pitched stone surface and a separate wall foundation were identified, and an abandoned stone-lined well. It is thought likely that these are all of relatively recent date. No definite evidence for pre 19th-century deposits was identified. Extensive evidence of 19th-century and later rubbish pits, etc. was revealed.

**Penn, Church Road**

SU 9085 9338

In March, ASC undertook an evaluation at *Grass Side*, Church Road, in advance of extensions to the property. Two trenches were excavated in the footprints of the proposed extensions. A narrow undated ditch and a small modern pit were revealed. Fragments of brick and tile found in the modern feature are likely to have been redeposited from a layer of building rubble observed in the topsoil.

**Ravenstone, The Old Forge**

SP 8492 5051

In December ASC undertook a watching brief during construction of a workshop and garage on the site. A forge is known to have occupied the site during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. A number of 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick and clunch walls and cobbled surfaces were observed. These occupied the approximate position of the forge buildings shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map, and it is likely that they were its truncated remains. Census returns yielded information on the owners of the forge in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**Stony Stratford, The Cock Hotel**

SP 7869 4055

In July ASC carried out an historic building assessment of The Cock Hotel, in response to proposals for refurbishment and alterations. The hotel comprises a series of interconnected buildings set around a central courtyard behind a mid 18<sup>th</sup> century brick-fronted structure on the east side of the High Street. Most of the buildings have a mixture of brick and stone elevations, and all have undergone external and internal alterations to accommodate the changing requirements of the establishment.

The proposed alterations affected only three of the buildings, including that on the street frontage, where it was revealed that the opening of two opposing doorways may in fact return the layout to its original design. The only building to be altered to any great extent is the function room. This building has also been greatly altered, and contains several unusual architectural details, some of which are likely to be obscured by the alterations.

**Stowe, New Inn Farm**  
SP 6817 3642

At the beginning of 2005 the National Trust made an important addition to its property at Stowe, New Inn Farm. The farm lies on the southern edge of the park and dates from 1717, when it was built to house visitors to the gardens at Stowe. It is Grade II\* listed, but its dilapidated condition makes it perhaps the most significant threatened building in Buckinghamshire. The National Trust hopes to restore the buildings and to use them as the entry point to the gardens, thus recreating the original approach to the gardens from the south via the Bell Gate.

In 2006 NA commenced major recording works on the buildings, assisted by a programme of sampling for dendrochronology dating which has confirmed the 1717 construction date for the buildings. It was thought that the timber-framed north and south ranges might return dates earlier than the main brick frontage, but the buildings all appear to be of roughly the same date. Recording continued throughout 2006 and was financially assisted with grants from the Bucks. Historic Buildings Trust, Bucks. CC Emergency Recording Fund and Bucks. Archaeological Society.

**Stowe, Stowe Landscape Gardens**

**Corinthian Arch** (SP 6805 3630): As part of the ongoing programme of restoration and repair of monuments within the Stowe Landscape Gardens, the National Trust has undertaken the repair and restoration of the Corinthian Arch. Excavations in advance of the work and watching briefs have been carried out by NA (*Records* 46, 209–210). A watching brief was carried out during ground reduction to reinstate gates to the arch to their original position and widen the Queen's Drive to its original width. During the groundworks, the foot-

ings of miliary columns were revealed. A brick-lined well and two wooden posts were observed during topsoil stripping.

**Queens Drive / Nelsons Walk** (SP 6700 3710): Excavations for the installation of four passing bays on the Queen's Drive and Nelson's Walk at Stowe were monitored by the National Trust. One of the excavations on Nelson's Walk revealed a gravel surface with stone edging, thought to be the remains of a broad gravel walk depicted on an engraving by Rigaud dating from 1739.

**Tuttenhoe, St Giles' Church**  
SP 8280 3395

In July ASC carried out a watching brief during trenching for an electrical duct into the church. Archaeological finds or features were absent in the section of trench outside the church, and human remains were not disturbed within the churchyard. Six decorated floor tiles, probably manufactured at the Little Brickhill kilns during the early 15<sup>th</sup> to late 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, were discovered in a limited area within the church building, and may have formed part of the original 16<sup>th</sup>-century floor. Blocks of limestone at the base of the excavated area appeared deliberately laid, and could suggest that the remains of an earlier structure underlie the extant building.

**Walton, The Open University**  
SP 8853 3698

In August ASC carried out archaeological recording of a brick-built culvert uncovered by demolition and ground reduction work prior to the construction of the new library building. The form of the culvert, dimensions of the machine made bricks and presence of Portland cement mortar indicate that it was built during the late Victorian period.

**Weston Underwood, Church Farm**  
SP 8638 5048

In July trial trenching was undertaken by ASC in advance of the conversion of adjoining farm buildings for residential and office use and construction of a new dwelling and garage block. The farm buildings had previously been subject to an historic

building assessment (*Records* 47.1, 231). Three trenches opened on the site of former farm buildings revealed only 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-century structural evidence relating to various phases of those buildings. No evidence for any earlier phases of occupation or activity was present.

**West Wycombe, West Wycombe Park**  
SU 832 945

As a result of the lack of rainfall in 2005, the chalk streams feeding the lakes and canals at West Wycombe Park dried up and exposed a series of brick and timber channels in the lake and stream beds. These enigmatic structures were first observed and excavated in 1991 when a number of silt-filled hollows and ditches containing large amounts of Roman pottery were also observed on the north side of the lake. The channels appear to be part of a system of water management predating the existing configuration of streams and lake laid out in the 1730s. The date for these structures remains uncertain, but a timber sample taken for dendrochronology dating in 2006 gave a felling date of 1711–16 for a timber incorporated into one of the structures on the southern margin of the lake.

As the lake and stream beds were largely devoid of water, the opportunity was also taken to remove silts which had not been removed since 1991. South Bucks Metal Detecting Group provided assistance by going over the resulting spoil heaps and the stream and lake beds. The survey produced part of a Bronze Age knife blade, several Roman coins and a number of lead objects, mostly fishing weights. All finds were recorded and retained by the National Trust, and this proved to be a valuable collaboration between archaeologist and detectorist.

**Winslow, 2 High Street**  
SP 7699 2757

In February ASC carried out historic building recording of this building in response to proposals for the refurbishment of the ground-floor shop and the conversion of the remainder of the buildings to provide three flats. The structure comprises three interconnecting buildings, the earliest of which forms the street frontage and is no later than early 17<sup>th</sup> century. It was enlarged twice in the 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries, firstly by an extension to the east and

subsequently with a new brick façade on the street front and the raising of the roofs. The building to the rear of the site is a late Georgian addition, which abuts an earlier, undatable passage linking the front and rear buildings. This passage was extended southwards in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and restored in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, during which time a well that was located within the structure was also concreted over.

**Wolverton, Wolverton Velodrome**  
SP 8194 4150

A site at Wolverton Rail Bridge and Wolverton Velodrome was investigated by OA in advance of redevelopment. Fieldwork comprised an evaluation of the site of *Radcliffe Arms*, a 19<sup>th</sup>-century public house serving the railway; a watching brief during the excavation of service trenches within the velodrome; the recording of the velodrome and a photographic survey of the Royal Train Shed retaining wall; strip and record excavation ahead of the construction of a new access ramp and groundworks on the early 19<sup>th</sup>-century rail bridge.

The evaluation failed to reveal any remnants of the *Radcliffe Arms*, though a well possibly associated with the public house was uncovered during the watching brief. The evaluation and watching brief demonstrated that the area had been reduced and completely cleared in the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century prior to the construction of the football pitch and associated velodrome. Field drains associated with the football pitch were noted. The excavation revealed no archaeological features on the site of the velodrome. The work in the vicinity of the rail bridge, exposed brick walls and girders associated with the earliest phase of the bridge, and identified the parts of the structure that were extended in 1889. The brick chamber of a pumping station was also recorded, as were postholes and a brick channel, possibly associated with a lifting shed. The velodrome and sports ground date from 1885 and include an early example of a football grandstand. The Royal Train Shed was built in 1889 on the site of an earlier lifting shop.

**NEGATIVE*****Akeley, Village Hall***

SP 7095 3765

A watching brief was maintained by Richard Ivens during groundworks associated with the new village hall. No evidence was revealed to suggest that this part of the village had ever been used for other than agricultural purposes. No indications were found of any pre-medieval use of the site. Slight remains of possible cultivation ridges and furrows were noted. A possible ditch was also identified during monitoring of a service trench. This feature is of uncertain date but might relate to the northern boundary of an area of old inclosures, named *New Close* on the 1794 enclosure map.

***Bow Brickhill, Crossroads Farm***

SP 8938 3378

A watching brief was carried out by Richard Ivens during groundworks associated with a small extension. No evidence was revealed to suggest that this site had ever been used for other than garden and agricultural purposes. No indications were found of any pre-medieval use of the site. Two small pits containing the skeletal remains of young sheep were found, one certainly modern and the other probably so.

***Bradenham, Bradenham Manor***

SU 8300 9703

During August a watching brief was maintained by the National Trust on a shallow machine-dug trench in the north-east quadrant of the Wilderness Garden. The trench was excavated for the purpose of planting a new yew hedge and reached to a depth of 0.45 metres. It was anticipated that the excavation might reveal evidence for the layout of the 17<sup>th</sup>-century garden. However, no archaeological features were observed, the excavation consistently cutting through topsoil and underlying clay and flint.

***Buckingham, Coopers Yard, Ford Street***

SP 6968 3377

During January ASC undertook a watching brief on groundworks for a development on the site of

Coopers Yard. The work was required to determine the presence of buried archaeological remains relating to the as yet undiscovered late Saxon *burh*. No significant archaeology was found, though deeper excavations revealed a sequence of deep flood deposits, suggesting that the site would not have been suitable for settlement during the Saxon period.

***High Wycombe, Former Ercol Factory Site***

SU 8813 9265

Between December 2005 and October 2006, AOC carried out an intermittent watching brief to observe a programme of intrusive groundworks related to the construction of new housing. Observations revealed only compact natural chalk, occasionally sealed by modern made-ground. The results support the findings of the previous phase of archaeological investigations (*Records* 44, 152–3), indicating that large parts of the site had been terraced or truncated. No archaeological remains or finds were observed during the course of the groundworks.

***Lavendon, Lavendon Grange***

SP 9021 5355

An evaluation by OA in advance of proposed extensions revealed post-medieval made-ground deposits overlying natural, but no earlier deposits or features.

***Leckhampstead, White Cottage***

SP 7276 3773

An evaluation was carried out by NA on land at White Cottage in advance of the construction of a new house and garage. Three trenches were excavated across a former house plot. There were no finds or features.

***Mentmore, Crafton Stud Farm***

SP 8930 1909

In August a series of trial trenches were excavated by ASC in a small paddock lying immediately to the west of Crafton Stud Farm. Apart from two ceramic land-drains, no man-made features or artefacts were noted within or adjacent to the trenches.

**Mentmore, Mentmore Towers**

SP 9025 1963

OA was commissioned to undertake a watching brief on test pits being excavated in the park and house of Mentmore Towers. The watching brief revealed no archaeological features within any of the excavated test pits.

**Newport Pagnell, Castle Meadow**

SP 8786 4392

Between July and September ASC carried out a watching brief during construction of a footpath and bridge crossing the river Ouzel on the eastern edge of Newport Pagnell. The machine strip carried out prior to construction of the footpath was extremely shallow, and in places failed to completely remove the topsoil. Footings for four brick piers to support the bridge superstructure showed that a greater depth of topsoil was present nearer the river channel suggesting an accumulation of sediment dredged from the river in recent times. No archaeological finds or features were revealed by the groundworks, although the work on the northern bank was carried out close to the suggested position of Civil War earthwork defences.

**Olney, 32 Market Place**

SP 8896 5126

During March ASC undertook a watching brief on extensions to the rear of 32 Market Place. Two short footing trenches were excavated. Below the modern concrete surface only natural gravel deposits were encountered. No archaeology was present in either trench.

**Stewkley, 6 Tythe Gardens**

SP 4850 2259

In May ASC undertook a watching brief at 6 Tythe Gardens during the construction of a stable block and access road. The site lies within the medieval core of Stewkley, in close proximity to a well-preserved medieval moat. However, no archaeological finds or features were observed.

**West Wycombe, 21-23 Copperfields**

SU 8411 9424

A watching brief by OA during redevelopment revealed stratigraphy consistent with agricultural use prior to incorporation into domestic gardens. No artefacts, deposits or features dating earlier than the late 19th century were observed.

**Worminghall, 1 The Avenue**

SP 6414 0849

In August ASC undertook an evaluation in advance of the construction of two detached houses and a garage. The site is on the periphery of the medieval settlement of Worminghall, and significant archaeological remains have been found in the vicinity. Four trenches were excavated, revealing only modern features.

**REPORTS NOT RECEIVED**

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

Amersham, London Road West  
 Aylesbury, Buckingham Street  
 Beaconsfield, Springfield Quarry  
 Boarstall, Panshill Wood Fishing Lake  
 Brill, Chapmans Lane / Tram Hill  
 Brill, 4 The Manor House, Oakley Road  
 Brill, Lings Ride Cottages  
 Buckingham, 23 Church Street  
 Charndon, Hill Farm  
 Charndon, Hampden Row Cottages  
 Ellesborough, Terrick Rising Main  
 Emberton, Petsoe Wind Farm  
 Fenny Stratford, 26-28 Aylesbury Street  
 Gerrards Cross, Wykehurst, Camp Road  
 Gerrards Cross, Fairmead  
 Gerrards Cross, Bulstrode House Water Main  
 Haddenham Poultry Farm  
 Hardwick – Marsh Gibbon gas pipeline  
 High Wycombe, Copperfields Road  
 Long Crendon, Hareoll End  
 Long Crendon, 25 High Street  
 Ludgershall, Ludgershall Farm  
 Marlow, 24 High Street  
 Newport Pagnell, Little Linford Lane Stud Farm  
 Olney, 12 West Street  
 Stony Stratford, Tower House, 96 High Street  
 Taplow, Red Cross Hospital



Taplow, Bury Hill Farm  
Taplow, The Nutshell  
Waddesdon C of E School  
Weedon Hill MDA  
Westcott, White Swan  
Winslow, Verney Road  
Wolverton, McCorquodale Building, Stratford  
Road