

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

The following notes on fieldwork carried out in the county in 2007 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:

ASC	Archaeological Services & Consultancy
ASE	Archaeology South-East
CA	Cotswold Archaeology
JMHS	John Moore Heritage Services
NA	Northamptonshire Archaeology
OA	Oxford Archaeology
WA	Wessex Archaeology

## PREHISTORIC

*Aston Abbots, The Green*  
SP 8465 1996

An evaluation by JMHS revealed evidence for three

periods of activity on this site. The earliest, represented by two struck flints in residual contexts, is probably dated to the earlier Neolithic. The second phase is represented by boundary ditches and post-holes indicating a settlement and is probably dated to the Iron Age, although a late Bronze Age origin is also possible. The third phase is dated to the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries, and comprises a number of pits, and apparent plot boundaries aligned on Moat Lane.

*Bletchley, Newton Leys*  
SP 8663 3101

Middle Iron Age settlement was identified by geophysical survey and trial excavation carried out by NA on farmland designated for development at Newton Leys, near Newton Longville. A targeted area of 1.6ha was subsequently excavated. Occupation of the site comprised a relatively short episode with roundhouses and associated enclosures located adjacent to a palaeochannel. The settlement expanded alongside the watercourse, confined to the gravel drift geology, and became more extensive with larger enclosure ditches as the marshland receded and the land was drained. Activity comprised a concentrated area of habitation formed by an expanded network of ditch systems and roundhouses. Its demise was abrupt, and may have followed flooding of the site. Later activity was limited to the addition of a few ditches following the abandonment. By the late Iron Age the area had reverted to marshland, the enclosures were abandoned and the land was marginalised. The medieval open-field system left traces of ridge and furrow cultivation. A 19<sup>th</sup> century field boundary was also identified.

*Chalfont St Giles, Jordans to Seer Green pipeline*  
SU 9721 9085 to SU 9876 9135

A watching brief was carried out by JMHS on the construction of a water pipeline. Although no significant archaeological remains were identified

within the pipeline easement, two prehistoric flints were found in different locations along the route.

**Denham, Minerals Area 4**

TQ 0440 8435

A trial-trench evaluation was undertaken by WA of eight hectares of land within this 58ha sand and gravel extraction area near Denham. Previous work had identified Late Glacial and Mesolithic flint scatters and some Late Bronze Age activity. The evaluation did not identify any further in-situ flint scatters, although four post-medieval/undated field boundary ditches and a shallow hollow were recorded and a small quantity of residual medieval material was recovered. A number of palaeochannels filled with alluvial clays and sands, and occasionally peat, were also recorded.

In addition, a programme of test-pitting was centred on three previously identified flint scatter sites. The extent of one scatter, associated with the Rusholt Brook gravel island, was resolved into two main small flint concentrations, although a number of other test-pits contained isolated pieces of worked flint. Late Glacial and Mesolithic material was recovered. A small quantity of auroch bone was also found, directly associated with worked flint. The second scatter also proved to contain a mixed assemblage of Late Glacial and Mesolithic worked flint, although all the material was found to be heavily rolled/battered, and was associated with modern artefacts and animal bone, indicating significant disturbance. Test-pitting in the area of the third flint scatter confirmed that this material was not in situ.

**Taplow, Taplow Quarry**

SU 9137 8165

Excavations by WA during the machine stripping of 2.6 ha area of land 700m south of Taplow village, produced fragmentary remains of later Neolithic to Middle Bronze Age activity, comprising pottery sherds and undiagnostic struck flint tools and flakes. A series of Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age ditches aligned NW-SE, were almost certainly part of a field system. This was modified in the Late Iron Age to Romano-British period with the addition of a trackway or driveway, which followed the same alignment and appeared to lead towards the complex of cropmarks visible

on aerial photographs of adjacent fields to the south. Rapid assessment of a proposed extension of the existing quarry identified a post-medieval field system, the orientation of which is still maintained in present boundaries.

**Tattenhoe, Tattenhoe Bare Farm**

SP 8243 3347

A watching-brief was carried out by NA during development at Tattenhoe Bare Farm. The only archaeological feature observed was a ditch whose position and alignment suggested that it was an easterly continuation of a substantial boundary ditch previously investigated as part of an adjacent Iron Age settlement in 2005 (*Records* 47.1, 221).

**Wavendon, Magna Park**

SP 9140 3860

An excavation of 0.5ha was carried out by NA following geophysical survey and trial trenching, which had identified evidence of Iron Age settlement. The settlement comprised an enclosure measuring *c.*37 × 38m. Some smaller ditches may predate the enclosure and a small quantity of pottery has been dated to the middle Iron Age. Other ditches, both internal and external, are probably contemporary with the main enclosure. There was a scatter of pits and gullies within the enclosure and also to the east and south. The pottery dates the main phase of occupation to the late Iron Age/early Roman period, specifically the early/middle 1st century AD. (*Editor's note: previous work in this area appears in Records* 48, 291, as *Nova Mark 1*).

**Wavendon, Magna Park**

SP 9190 3890

In addition to the above, NA excavated a further 4.48ha, also following initial geophysical survey and trial trenching. The earliest feature was a solitary pit containing several plain and decorated cylindrical loomweights of Bronze Age date. Two are virtually complete and a further five more than half complete. The group probably contains ten weights. Three are plain and the others have their surfaces covered with multiple lines of fine or large impressed-point decoration.

A period of late Iron Age settlement comprised a trackway and enclosure dated to the 1st century

AD. This was abandoned for a straighter trackway with a small enclosed farmstead with two round-houses. During the Romano-British settlement of the 2nd and 3rd centuries the enclosure was expanded alongside the trackway. It was divided by internal gullies, and included a possible rectilinear structure. By the 4th century the area appeared to have been abandoned.

## ROMAN

### *Broughton, Brooklands*

SP 9070 3970

Following an initial geophysical survey, OA undertook a trial-trench evaluation of land at Brooklands, in advance of development.

The results of the trial-trenching broadly confirmed the findings of the geophysical survey, which pointed to Iron Age and Roman-period settlement activity and field systems in the surrounding area. Most of the features observed were shallow concave-based ditches, most probably related to field drainage systems. More substantial features, including boundary ditch features and pits, were noted in a few of the trenches. Generally, pits and post-holes were extremely rare and, where observed, were obviously truncated. Dating evidence suggests that the features belonged to one of two phases, the Iron Age/early Roman period and the medieval period. The pottery assemblage is mainly of 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century date.

The evaluation was followed by excavation. Activity was divided into three broad phases. Phase 1, dating to the 'pre Belgic' late Iron Age (140–50BC) comprised part of a sub-rectangular enclosure orientated north-east/south-west, with associated groups of storage pits within it. Superseding this enclosure in phase 2, dating to the 'Belgic' late Iron Age (50BC–AD43), was a much larger sub-rectangular enclosure on a similar alignment. The fills of this enclosure produced grog-tempered wheel thrown pottery. A third enclosure with more complex internal divisions, was constructed in the south-eastern corner of the site in phase 3, dating to the early Roman period (AD43–200). Two cremation burials dating to the late 1st or early 2nd century AD were found to the north of the phase 2 enclosure.

### *Broughton, Manor Farm*

SP 9010 3950

Following an earlier evaluation (*Records* 45, 219) an excavation was carried out at Broughton Manor Farm between August 2006 and March 2007 by CamArc prior to housing and industrial development. A total area of c.6.5 ha of the 48 ha development area was excavated, concentrating on two related occupation areas 200m apart (Areas 1 and 2).

There was limited evidence for pre-Iron Age activity with a small flint-working hollow and some unstratified flintwork. Settlement commenced in the Middle Iron Age with a farmstead: its remains were encountered in the centre and western parts of Area 1, and continued beyond the development area. The farmstead comprised a large sub-rectangular or sub-square enclosure, with remains of a hut internally. There were two other enclosures, one irregular the other circular, two round houses, two four-post structures, a single human cremation, and a few pits and ditches.

The settlement became more prosperous in the Late Iron Age/Early Roman periods, when it expanded into a hamlet. Area 1 may represent a small dispersed settlement, while Area 2 was probably inhabited by a separate extended family. Houses and related features as well as cremations were found in both areas. Within Area 1 a cremation cemetery of 48 burials was uncovered. This exhibited relatively rich burial customs from c.AD1–150. 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 or visited long after disuse: for example, a Middle Roman shrine was subsequently placed adjacent to the former main 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 the settlement continued in Area 1 as a wealthy farmstead. The main building of this period consisted of a rectangular structure over 20m long and 6m wide in the centre of the site. In the 4th century AD the middle Roman house was replaced by a large stone building, c.20 × 14m, with four large internal post-pads each more than 1m in diameter. A large number of

coins, metal objects, tiles etc. were found in the top-soil and subsoil around the site of 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 and from thence a stone pathway led to the north-east. Associated with this building were a stone-lined well and a possible timber granary. The droveways continued in use to at least the middle Roman period and a field system including a large watering hole was established in the late Roman period.

***Broughton, Northern Infill***  
SP 8391 4024

Following an evaluation in 1999 (*Records* 41, 235) excavation of this 0.7ha site, to the north of Broughton Church, was undertaken by ASC in advance of housing development. A small, residual, flint assemblage formed the first evidence of human habitation on the site, possibly in the late Neolithic to early Bronze Age. Several sherds of middle/late Bronze Age pottery attest to continuing activity at or near the site, but the earliest archaeological features, a pit and two gullies, may be of Iron Age date.

In the Roman period the site formed part of a wider field system, comprising at least five enclosures and a droveway, which was remodelled over time. Pottery and finds assemblages suggest that the site was cultivated from a nearby settlement between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries, although there is also some earlier material. An undated burial may be that of a late Roman woman. Evidence of the early Saxon activity was provided by two pits. During the early medieval period a plot of land was enclosed on the site. This was later reduced in size to accommodate a droveway and a field boundary on its northern side. Within the enclosure was a small bake or brewhouse structure, with a circular stone hearth or oven. The field boundary separated two enclosed fields, in one of which the remains of ridge and furrow earthworks survived. Two minor post-medieval boundaries, a series of undated pits and a large modern quarry pit were also recorded.

***Denham, The Lea***  
TQ 0490 8600

Following previous work (*Records* 46, 198) CA undertook further phases of excavation covering an

area of c.4.4ha, in advance of gravel extraction. These excavations were located immediately to the north of the previous excavation areas.

**Prehistoric**

The double-ditched feature, probably a trackway, which had been identified during the earlier phases of excavation, was found to continue as a single ditch to the north-eastern edge of the excavation area, and defined the south-eastern boundary of a small rectangular enclosure identified in the central part of the site. Although this ditch continued to the north-east, the northern extent of the associated field system appeared to coincide with the southern edge of the excavation area, as only the corner of one further enclosure was identified in the south-eastern part of the area. Small quantities of coarse or fine calcined flint-tempered and organic-tempered pottery were recovered from these ditches. This assemblage was comparable to that recovered from the earlier excavations, and belongs to the same middle to late Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury tradition.

**Romano-British (1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD)**

The northern part of Enclosure 3 revealed in the previous excavations, was identified. A ditch, possibly representing the south-eastern side of the enclosure, was found to continue to the northern boundary of the excavation area. At the south-eastern corner of the excavation area, the north-western part of Enclosure 5 was identified. Its size and form appeared to be comparable to Enclosures 1 and 2, identified on the north-western side of the site during previous phases of work.

**Romano-British (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD)**

A ditch extended from the south-eastern edge to the north-western edge of the excavation area and cut the north-western corner of Enclosure 5. This ditch appeared to represent the north-eastern boundary of the most intensive zone of Romano-British activity, which appeared to be defined to the south-west by another ditch. A further ditch was located 105m to the north-east. Late Roman pottery was recovered from its fill.

Three wells were identified within this zone of activity. One appeared to be unlined and was cut by a north-west/south-east orientated ditch. Pottery dating to the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries was recovered from silting deposits within it. Another well was

cut by the ditch forming the north-western side of Enclosure 4. The upper part of this well was lined with flint nodules; its base contained the remains of a square wooden framework. Pottery dating to the late 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries was recovered from one of its upper fills. A large number of tile fragments and flint nodules were also recovered from the upper fills of this feature. The third, unlined, well was cut through the ditch forming the north-western part of Enclosure 5. No artefactual material was recovered from it.

Enclosure 4 was identified within the central part of the excavation area and was significantly smaller than the other enclosures within the site. It was also subdivided by further ditches. No substantial features were identified within its south-eastern part. However, three drying ovens were found within the north-western part of the enclosure. The ditches defining the north-western and north-eastern sides of the enclosure extended for some distance beyond the enclosure itself. It is likely that the north-west/south-east orientated ditches to the north-east of Enclosure 3 may also have been broadly contemporary.

A large oval feature was identified immediately north-west of Enclosure 4 and appeared to be broadly contemporary with the ditch immediately to the north-east. The southern and eastern edges of the feature were lined with flint nodules in a black clay matrix. This feature was abutted by mortar and crushed brick and/or tile surfaces, the former containing pottery dating to the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries. Both the flint nodules and the associated surfaces had been robbed from the northern and western parts of the feature. A second large oval feature was identified c.50m to the south. It was cut by a north-east/south-west orientated ditch which may have been a continuation of the north-west side of Enclosure 4. The southern and eastern parts of this feature were partially lined by chalk blocks and flint nodules respectively. The partial nature of the lining again suggested that robbing had taken place. No evidence for internal surfaces was identified, and the feature contained deposits of charcoal and burnt clay, devoid of any dating evidence.

### ***Ludgershall, Church Lane***

SP 6629 1733

An evaluation was carried out at Bury Court, Ludgershall by JMHS. Archaeological deposits

were minimal. Within one trench a posthole containing one sherd of Oxford Ware pottery was revealed. In the other trench a shallow pit feature was uncovered, containing some sherds of predominantly 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery.

### ***Stowe, Stowe School***

SP 673 374 and SP 681 383

In 2006 and 2007, OA undertook a watching brief on land adjacent to the School Chapel. No artefacts, deposits or features dating earlier than the late 19th century were observed. A further watching brief in 2007, carried out at the Bourbon playing fields during the construction of a synthetic sports pitch revealed surviving Roman features and field boundary ditches to the south side of the existing all-weather pitch. Roman finds had previously been found here in 1990 during the pitch construction. The recently excavated features included a small north-south-aligned ditch and the base of a badly truncated pit. The pit contained fragments of quern stone and 2nd to 4th-century pottery. A second pit with near-vertical sides and flat base was also found, containing the best part of a ceramic storage jar dating from the mid 2nd to the mid 3rd century. The jar, made locally in soft pink-grogged ware, had collapsed in situ. The watching brief also revealed a second ditch, which was north-west to south-east aligned. Ceramic storage jar fragments were also recovered.

### ***Wolverton, Radcliffe School***

SP 8073 4080

Following an initial desk-based assessment and geophysical survey, a trial trench evaluation was undertaken by ASC at Radcliffe School in advance of development. Two areas were selected for trenching: the north-west corner of the playing fields (Area 1), and a former allotment in the south-west corner of the school site (Area 2). Within Area 1, a number of linear features interpreted as Roman field boundary ditches. Two pairs of parallel ditches were interpreted as trackside ditches. A number of small Roman pits were also identified in this area, and a pit from which a number of sherds of early Saxon pottery were recovered. In Area 2 the only feature located was a crouched burial. This was devoid of any grave goods, and was tentatively assigned a prehistoric



date, based on its form and the proximity of the Wolverton Turn and Warren Farm ring ditches, both of Bronze Age date. (*Editor's note: but see the entry for Radcliffe School in the following section.*)

## **SAXON & MEDIEVAL**

### ***Bierton with Broughton, Manor Farm***

SP 8459 1379

An evaluation carried out by JMHS revealed evidence of continuous medieval activity dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> century through to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. A large outer enclosure to the moated site to the east appears to have originated in the 12<sup>th</sup> century and was perhaps enlarged in the mid 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century. The enclosure was subdivided by ditches, and remains indicating a probable building were encountered. A possibly long-used path was also found, along with some pits.

Beyond the outer enclosure a gully was identified. This may pre-date the outer enclosure, along with another ditch/gully on the same alignment, but found within the area of the enclosure. The area under the present barns is considered to have been low-lying, with an earlier stream course. This appears to have been levelled up, perhaps at the same time as the enclosure was enlarged. On this basis the Tithe Barn cannot pre-date the 13<sup>th</sup> century and is probably no earlier than the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century.

Remains of post-medieval barns and a yard surface were also encountered. It is likely that evidence for later medieval activity was destroyed when the post-medieval farm was laid out. A small assemblage of hand-built Saxon pottery suggests that there are likely to be features of that date on the site. Residual Iron Age and Romano British pottery also indicates activity of that date in the vicinity.

### ***Shabbington, Mill Road***

SP 6662 0687

An evaluation carried out at Rose Cottage by JMHS found medieval activity on the site in the form of a gully and two pits dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> century or later. There then appears to have been a period when the site was used for horticulture or similar before a building was erected in the vicinity. This was demolished in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, before the site reverted to a garden.

### ***Terrick, Nash Lee***

SP 8430 0820 to SP 8350 0760

A watching brief was undertaken by JMHS during the excavation of a water pipe trench. Evidence for ridge and furrow agriculture was observed during machining across modern fields. Possible evidence for the historic route known as the Icknield Way was recovered.

### ***Wavendon, Glebe Farm***

SP 9110 3750

An earthwork survey undertaken by NA at Glebe Farm identified a range of features associated with medieval agriculture, comprising ridge and furrow ploughing and headlands.

### ***Wolverton, Radcliffe School***

SP 8086 4049

Following the evaluation works at Radcliffe School detailed in the previous section above, ASC undertook excavation of two areas, totalling almost 2ha. In Area 1, the excavation largely confirmed the findings of the evaluation, namely the presence of Romano-British activity comprising ditched enclosures, a droveway and a few pits. However, excavation of the southern area revealed the hitherto unsuspected site of a Saxon cemetery. Forty-one inhumation burials were found, and it was evident from their distribution that the cemetery extended beyond the limits of excavation. The burials form part of a larger Saxon landscape that appears to have centred on an early to middle Saxon enclosure on the training college site to the west (*Records 47.1*, 81–118). This enclosure was probably the focus of Saxon occupation in Wolverton parish prior to the establishment of the village of Wolverton, its church and castle, a few hundred metres to the north, towards the end of the Saxon period.

The cemetery is one of the largest of this date identified in Buckinghamshire. A wide range of burials was found, including adults, juveniles and children. There was at least one possible double burial, and an individual who had been decapitated. Most burials contained a variety of grave goods, including beads, buckles, knives and spearheads. The range of artefacts present indicates a 7<sup>th</sup> century date for the cemetery.

Excavation of the site continues in 2008.

***Wootton Underwood, Wootton House***

SP 6856 1608

An evaluation was carried out by JMHS prior to the re-laying out of the gardens at South Pavilion, Wootton Underwood. Medieval horticultural deposits and features were identified in one area while part of a possible medieval track and pond were also encountered. Remains relating to the formation of the Capability Brown garden and later arrangements were found.

***POST-MEDIEVAL AND UNDATED***

***Aylesbury, Buckingham Street***

SP 8198 1398

An evaluation by WA in the car park at Sainsbury's demonstrated localised potential for survival of archaeological features, especially deep medieval and post-medieval pits, cess pits and wells, despite widespread levelling during Victorian building activity. A few residual Romano-British finds were also recorded.

***Aylesbury, St Mary's Church***

SP 8176 1388

A watching brief by OA revealed deposits of post-medieval graveyard soil and the foundations for the boundary wall of the church. No significant archaeology or articulated human remains were observed.

***Bletchley, land off Watling Street, Fenny Stratford***

SP 8836 3406

ASC carried out historic building recording of The Villa, Watling Street, prior to demolition. A three storey three-bay house, The Villa was one of a group of buildings constructed alongside the pre-canal alignment of Watling Street sometime in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The survey revealed little evidence for the earlier form of the building, though tuck-pointed brickwork survived beneath later rendering on the south and east elevations. By 1819 the group of buildings on Watling Street, along with the land to the rear, passed into the ownership of Gregory Odell Clarke, a local entrepreneur who

owned the adjoining site, including a canal dock excavated by ASC in 2006 (*Records* 48, 296). It is likely that Clarke lived at The Villa, which may also have housed his office. By 1864 he had handed much of the business over to his son William, who continued to retain control until c.1890. Contrary to previous accounts, it seems likely that the present form of The Villa, which stylistically dates to the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, is the work of William rather than his father, and dates from his taking over the family business. During the early 20<sup>th</sup> century The Villa was turned over to commercial use, as offices. Internal alterations made for this seem to have had little impact on the late 19<sup>th</sup> century interior: significant damage only occurred after the building fell into disuse in the 1990s.

***Brill, Temple Street***

SP 6560 1413

David Gilbert

A watching brief was conducted by JMHS during groundwork for an extension to an existing house in the area previously occupied by the garden. The investigation revealed a single modern pit.

***Buckingham, High Street***

SP6967 3413

ASC undertook an evaluation of land to the rear of the 'Tudor Rock' public house, in advance of a proposed extension. It was apparent that the site had been truncated by rubbish pits during the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Two stone surfaces and the remnants of a stone wall were found: these were probably associated with cottages shown fronting on to Moreton Road on the Jefferys' map of 1770 and the 1885 Ordnance Survey sheet.

***Drayton Parslow, Main Road***

SP 4842 2288

Benchmark Archaeology undertook historic building recording at 59–61 Main Road, prior to demolition. The buildings recorded comprised two small early 19<sup>th</sup> century cottages, with a later early 20<sup>th</sup> century extension. The cottages were executed in red brick with yellow brick dressings and header decoration, and had slated gabled roofs. Each originally had two small-paned sash windows and a

single door on the southwest elevation, and two small casements on the northeast elevation. A central chimney was present in the interior but no stack survived above roof height. The modern extension was executed in red brick with casement windows to the front and rear. The roof was gabled and slated.

The origins of the cottages are unclear but it seems likely that they were either speculatively built, or were constructed by a major estate owner, farmer or other landowner on a 'build-to-let' basis to provide housing for workers. Details in no. 59, such as the plain fireplace surround, slender square balusters, machine-cut floorboards and sash windows, strongly suggest a late Regency to early Victorian construction date. The extension of no. 61 was built some time after 1910.

***Gerrards Cross: Bulstrode Park***  
SU 9865 8845

OA continued a watching brief and historic building recording at Bulstrode Park in advance of the demolition of existing workshops and a staff cottage and the erection of eight new dwellings. The watching brief revealed that the staff cottage originally formed the eastern end of a much larger structure. Evidence for the continued development of the workshops, together with evidence for another bay of the workshops and an outside toilet, were observed during the excavation of the foundations for the northern block of new dwellings. No evidence for any phases earlier than the 19th-century construction of the house, or any other significant archaeology, was encountered.

***Hanslope, New Buildings Farm***  
SP 8166 4493

NA undertook historic building recording on New Buildings Farm prior to demolition. The farmhouse, had remained unoccupied for the last forty years or so, and was in a structurally poor condition. The living accommodation was built during the middle years of the 19th century, and originally comprised two back-to-back cottages. These were later converted into a single farmhouse with an additional range containing a dairy, wash-house and bakery. The farmhouse was a rectangular building of coursed limestone rubble with dressed

limestone quoins, covered by a hipped Welsh-slate roof. The window lintels were of alternate coloured bricks. The south side had four windows, two to each floor, symmetrically placed with stone sills and red brick segmental arches over.

***Hartwell, Hartwell House***  
SP 7943 1252

The medieval church at Hartwell, which stood in what is now the grounds of Hartwell House, was demolished in the 1750s when a new church was constructed close by. An evaluation was carried out by NA to establish the survival or otherwise of the structure of the medieval church. A single trench encountered deep demolition layers but no evidence of walls or floor levels, indicating that demolition had been extensive.

***High Wycombe, Bassetbury Manor***  
SU 8780 9236

A watching brief was undertaken by JMHS to the north of the Tithe Barn associated with Bassetbury Manor during the construction of a new building. A possible earlier water channel was recorded, which is likely to have been associated with milling activities on the Wye. This channel was later infilled, and buildings were erected over it.

***High Wycombe, land off Oxford Road***  
SU 8626 9330

An evaluation was carried out by CA to inform development proposals for this site. Natural alluvial clays and gravels were encountered within all the trenches, overlain in one trench by thin humic clay, representing the early stages of the formation of an undated peat horizon. No archaeological features pre-dating the post-medieval period were encountered. In one trench a brick wall, immediately east of and parallel with, a modern culvert to the west that contains the Hughenden Stream, was noted, and the remains of a post-medieval or early modern building.

***High Wycombe, Terrier's Farm***  
SU 8810 9530

After an initial geophysical survey, NA undertook an evaluation of land at Terriers Farm. A small



number of features were uncovered, including a ditch, two shallow gullies and four postholes. These correspond with the general location of a number of anomalies identified by the geophysical survey.

***Lathbury, The Old Rectory***

SP 8755 4512

ASC carried out an evaluation at The Old Rectory, prior to the construction of a swimming pool. Significant archaeological remains were not identified and the only feature encountered was a probable cess-pit associated with the 17<sup>th</sup> century house.

***Lillingstone Lovell, Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary***

SP 7120 4040

OA carried out a watching brief during underpinning of the east wall of the sanctuary, excavation of French drains around the body of the church and the excavation of a new soakaway. The work revealed a number of inhumations, including five adult males and two adult females, that both pre- and post-dated the 17th-century construction of the sanctuary. Deposits of churchyard soils were uncovered throughout the area. A recovered fragment of Roman pottery may relate to occupation of the site prior to the construction of the church, but no other evidence for any such activity was observed.

***Long Crendon, Church of St Mary the Virgin***

SP 6970 0900

OA carried out a watching brief during works in the churchyard. Fifteen inhumations aligned west-east and a quantity of charnel were revealed. Little dating evidence was recovered from these burials, although the few coffin fittings retrieved were 18th-19th century in date. The sample was too small to undertake meaningful demographic analysis, though males and females were both present, while sub-adults appeared to be under-represented. No evidence for earlier church structures was observed.

***Luffield Abbey, Silverstone Motor Racing Circuit***

SP 6829 4188

An evaluation carried out by WA on land at the rear of Beckett's Grandstand, Silverstone, examined an area that lay close to the site of the medieval chapel

of St Thomas à Becket, in the small and now deserted hamlet of Chapel Green. The chapel was apparently founded in the 13th century, being later converted into two dwellings, and was demolished in 1943 to make way for Silverstone airfield. A 4m wide ditch section was exposed in the approximate location of the chapel, containing building rubble including glazed ridge tiles, plain floor-tiles and limestone fragments.

***Marlow, Harleyford Estate***

SU 8350 8450

An evaluation was undertaken by CA in advance of development. Alluvial gravels and silts were identified throughout the site. Tree-throw pits were also present, both cutting and sealed by the alluvium. A pond, visible as a surface earthwork feature, and the remains of a linear feature, possibly archaeological, were identified.

***Marlow, St Peter's Church***

SU 8524 8633

An evaluation was carried out by JMHS on behalf of St Peter's Church, as part of an application for redevelopment on the site. The archaeological remains observed were limited to 19th century gravel pits and made-up land.

***Mentmore, Mentmore Towers***

SP 9027 1983

An evaluation by OA adjacent to the main house revealed no significant archaeological features, but identified quarry activity and later park landscaping. The extensive quarry activity was almost certainly associated with the construction of the main house in the 19th century. The evaluation revealed the location of a step or terrace in the side of the quarry, a broad shallow hollow that appears to start close to the road east of the evaluation area. The quarry was later partially infilled with imported material and landscaped, presumably with the rest of the grounds around the house.

***Penn, Church Road***

SU 9055 9384

Following an initial desk-based assessment, ASC carried out an evaluation of the site of a former

furniture factory situated between Church Road and Bank Road, Tylers Green. The work demonstrated that the area had once formed part of a large undated quarry pit for the extraction of sand and gravel. This had been backfilled with a mixture of domestic and industrial waste, demolition rubble and clay in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

***Pitchcott, Pitchcott Road***

SP 7755 2037

An evaluation was undertaken by ASC at Kirkdene, Pitchcott Road, in advance of redevelopment. The only feature observed was a large, modern, quarry pit that appeared to be at least as wide as the current house on the site.

***Quainton, Grange Farm, Shipton Lee***

SP 7350 2080

An evaluation by JMHS at Grange Farm revealed that the main area of the farmyards and buildings were devoid of any significant archaeological remains other than a few postholes, driven stake alignments, and several stone drains that were probably associated with the post-medieval farm. No evidence for the medieval grange or associated buildings was seen. Limited dating evidence was forthcoming, although it is possible that one barn was 17<sup>th</sup> century, rebuilt in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It is also likely that the 'Old Barn' is of late 17<sup>th</sup>-century date, or possibly even later. The similarity of the flooring in the barns examined and the farmyards suggests a refurbishment of the farm complex in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

***Shenley Church End, Shenley Dens Farm***

SP 8083 3638

ASC carried out an historic building assessment for the farmhouse at Shenley Dens Farm, to inform proposals for the future of the building, particularly in relation to its relatively recent Grade II listing. The house is a two-storey brick building with cellar and attics, under a series of tiled roofs. It lies in the southwest corner of a rectangular farmyard, bounded by a series of single-storey buildings on the other three sides. The farmhouse appears to have been constructed in the late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> century on the site of an earlier building, probably represented by the stone cellar. The timberwork in

the cellar and elsewhere in the house dates from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, and may have been part of this earlier building, which is likely to have been timber built on limestone footings.

No evidence was found in the assessment to support the suggestion in the listing description that the farmhouse had been built as a hunting lodge or Dower House for Whaddon Hall, and was constructed as a visual focal point to be seen from the hall. The farmhouse was heavily restored in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century culminating in the loss of the lath and plaster walls and ceilings, the original windows and much of the original roofs. Further losses have occurred through recent vandalism, the ballroom has been denuded of all its internal components and structural distress is clearly evident in the western part of the building.

***Stone, River Thames***

SP 7750 1346

OA carried out a watching brief on the construction of a new fish-pass channel on the river Thames, north-west of the village. The fieldwork revealed thick deposits of alluvium throughout the site, overlaid by the present day topsoil and turf. No evidence for earlier water management or any other significant archaeology was observed.

***Stony Stratford, Market Square***

SP 7871 4040

An evaluation was undertaken by ASC of land adjacent to 2 Market Square, in advance of the construction of a new house. A number of modern pits and a single posthole were present, cut into a sequence of late post-medieval and modern cobbled surfaces. Beneath the lowest of these surfaces, part of a limestone structure was revealed. The presence of a single sherd of Potterspurty ware suggested this structure to be of 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>-century date.

***Stowe Landscape Gardens, The Sleeping Parlour***

SP 6758 3785

Investigations were carried out by the National Trust archaeologist and NA to inform the reinstatement of a series of paths around the site of a former garden building, The Sleeping Parlour, which was

built by 1729 and demolished in the 1760s. The building was inscribed with the legend *Cum omnia sint in incerto, fave tibi* (Since all things are uncertain, indulge thyself). Initial trial-trenching by the Trust archaeologist identified one corner of the building, following which NA was engaged to expose the remainder of the former structure in order to establish its dimensions, character and survival.

The building was 6.3m wide across the portico fronts and 6.7m long. Its internal measurements were 4.3 × 4.8m. Steps, 4.25m wide, projected from each portico front by 1.2m. Although these measurements are derived from the robber trenches, they are believed to be reasonably accurate.

The small section of foundation that survived was of limestone rubble, bonded in lime mortar. It is probable that the upper parts of the walls were of brick and rendered, as no dressed stone was recovered from the site. The remainder of the wall footings had been completely robbed out and the trench backfilled with debris from the upper part of the building, including elements of the internal plaster decoration.

**Taplow: Taplow Court**  
SU 9070 8230

As part of a continuing programme of works (*Records* 47.1, 220), an excavation by OA within the 18th-century listed building at Taplow Court revealed additional walls contemporary with the standing building, suggesting the former presence of a corridor, and below that a brick wall of the 16th century or earlier date, presumably belonging to an earlier manor house. This overlay a deep medieval soil of the 13th or 14th century filling a large feature of uncertain function, only a small part of which was excavated and which was not bottomed.

**Weston Underwood, Cherry Tree Cottage**  
SP 8640 5040

ASC carried out a brief survey of Cherry Tree Cottage, in order to determine the date of the property and its original layout. The house is a stone-built structure with an outshut and freestanding

outbuilding to the rear. The cottage appears to be have been constructed as three dwellings in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, the outshut being added in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

**Wexham, Langley Park**  
TQ 0090 8160

Two phases of evaluation were carried out on the car park and the brewhouse courtyard at Langley Park by ASE. In the car park, the southernmost trench contained the remains of a cellar, a brick built culvert, a pit and a posthole, cut into the surviving subsoil. Brick fragments recovered from the wall, culvert and pit were dated to the late 16<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup> century. In all of these cases the brick was considered to be either residual or reused, and the construction of the cellar wall probably dates to the latter half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, when Langley Park House and its grounds were extensively remodelled. Natural river terrace gravels were encountered across the site. The brewhouse courtyard evaluation revealed a late post-medieval/modern brick wall and associated demolition spreads. These spreads overlaid the rubble-filled void of a probable cellar, which was previously unrecorded on site plans. The cellar was not properly investigated owing to Health and Safety concerns.

**NEGATIVE**

**Beachampton to Shenley Grounds Water Main**  
SP 7722 3693 to SP 8040 3696

A watching brief was maintained by ASC on the construction of a water pipeline between Beachampton and Shenley Grounds. No significant features were identified.

**Bletchley, Shenley Road**  
SP 8520 3440

An evaluation was undertaken by ASC at Romans Field School, Shenley Road, prior to the construction of a temporary building to the north-west of the main school complex. No archaeological finds or features were observed within any of the trenches, and it is unlikely that significant archaeological remains are present on the site.

***Bletchley, Shenley Road***

SP 8532 3419

ASC carried out a watching brief on land to the rear of 153 Shenley Road during groundworks for a new house. No archaeological remains were observed, and it appears that the site had been terraced prior to the construction of the garage that previously stood on the site.

***Castlethorpe, North Street***

SP 7999 4449

A watching brief was carried out by ASC at Elmtree Cottage, North Street, during the construction of a small extension to the side of the existing house. One feature, possibly a modern wall footing trench, was observed, but no finds or dating material were recovered.

***Edlesborough, Butlers Manor Cottage***

SP 9547 1909

An evaluation was undertaken by ASC at Butler's Manor, Northall, in advance of a proposed extension to the cottage. Modern surfaces and dark organic topsoil were found to directly overlay the subsoil, comprising chalky drift. No evidence for any man-made features or artefacts was revealed.

***Great Brickhill, Holts Green***

SP 9037 2998

ASC undertook a watching brief during groundworks for the construction of a conservatory at the rear of 8 Holts Green. Two shallow modern features and three drainage runs were revealed but no archaeological finds or features were observed.

***Hanslope, Castlethorpe Road***

SP 7996 4645

A continuous watching brief was maintained by ASC during the excavation of the foundations for a house at 27a Castlethorpe Road. No disturbances associated with earlier occupation were identified during the watching brief, and it was concluded that the site had never been significantly developed.

***Haversham cum Little Linford, Dovecote Lakes***

SP 8479 4388

ASC carried out a watching brief during the excavation of footing trenches for a new clubhouse at Dovecote Lakes. This work showed evidence for significant disturbance, almost certainly associated with the gravel quarrying that created the lakes in the 1960s. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were observed.

***High Wycombe, Corporation Street***

SU 8669 9307

Limited excavations were undertaken by ASC on the site of First Church of Christ Scientist, at the junction of Corporation Street and Castle Street. The work demonstrated that the site had been extensively terraced when the church was built, and no archaeological features or artefacts were revealed.

***Kingswood, Bicester Road***

SP 6901 1905

ASC carried out an evaluation at Ebenezer Cottage, Bicester Road, to inform proposals for the construction of two detached houses. No archaeological features or artefacts were observed.

***Lavendon, Olney Road***

SP 9163 5348

A watching brief was carried out by ASC at the rear of 27 Olney Road, during levelling of the site and construction of an extension. No archaeological finds or features were observed during watching brief visits although the small scale of the development may have hampered definitive determination of the presence or absence of archaeology.

***Great Horwood, Little Horwood Road***

SP 7730 3119

ASC undertook a watching brief at the rear of Tudor Cottage, 12 Little Horwood Road, during groundworks for an extension at the rear of the property. No archaeological finds or features predating the 19<sup>th</sup> century were observed.

**Long Crendon, College Farm**

SP 6987 0942

A watching brief was conducted by JMHS during groundworks for the construction of an agricultural building at College Farm. No archaeological remains were encountered.

**Newport Pagnell, Caldecote**

SP 8850 4230

NA carried out a watching brief during a geotechnical assessment of land near Caldecote Farm. No archaeological remains or artefacts were encountered in any of the test pits.

**Newport Pagnell, Silver Street**

SP 8767 4377

A watching brief was undertaken by ASC on land to the rear of 19 Silver Street during the construction of a garage. Because of the shallow depth of excavation no features were encountered.

**Newport Pagnell, Union Street**

SP 8752 4394

ASC undertook a watching brief during conversion of a building at the rear of 74 Union Street. The observed deposits consisted of relatively modern surfaces overlying material probably deposited as a consequence of past construction or demolition activity.

**Tattenhoe, Tattenhoe Park**

SP 8240 3320

A watching brief was carried out by NA during road and drainage works at Tattenhoe Park. The watching brief covered an area of approximately 8.1ha across three fields. Aside from a modern coal dump and an undated shallow pit, no archaeology was identified.

**Thornborough, Coombs Farm**

SP 7333 3237

ASC undertook an evaluation at Coombs Farm, in advance of the construction of two farm buildings on the site. Although the site lies on the projected route of a Roman road, no significant archaeologi-

cal finds or features were observed.

**Tyringham cum Filgrave, Park Farm**

SP 8533 4744

An evaluation was carried out by ASC at Park Farm, in response to proposals to alter and extend the existing dwelling. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered.

**Water Eaton, Mill Lane**

SP 8826 3294

ASC undertook a watching brief on land adjacent to Mill Farm, in advance of the construction of a large house. No archaeological features or finds were recorded.

**Winslow, Tuckey Farm**

SP 7543 2698

An evaluation was carried out by ASC of a proposed fishing lake at Tuckey Farm. The work revealed only a single sherd of medieval pottery, and no archaeological features.

**Wolverton, Holy Trinity Church**

SP 803 413

A watching brief was undertaken by NA during the excavation of two test pits and three bore holes at Holy Trinity Church. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

**Wolverton, Iron Trunk Aqueduct**

SP 8010 4180

NA carried out a watching brief during works connected with the replacement of the existing towpath adjacent to the Iron Trunk Aqueduct, built for the Grand Junction Canal Company in 1809–11. The works entailed only shallow excavations on either side of the towpath, and no archaeological deposits or artefacts were revealed.

**REPORTS NOT RECEIVED**

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

Aston Abbots, The Orchard



Aston Clinton, Aston Clinton MDA  
Aylesbury, Police HQ  
Aylesbury, Croft Road  
Beaconsfield, Springfield Farm  
Beaconsfield, Blue Dragon Laundry  
Bletchley, Romans Field School  
Bradwell, Arbrook Avenue  
Brill, Church Street  
Calverton, Manor Farm Cottages  
Chalfont St Giles, Bowstridge Lane  
Cholesbury, Parrots Lane  
Ellesborough, Chalkshire Road  
Gayhurst, Quarry Farm  
Haddenham, Townsend  
Hanslope, Cuckoo Hill Farm

Hardwick to Marsh Gibbon gas pipeline  
Ivinghoe, Grove Farm  
Kingsey, High Street  
Lacey Green, Kiln Lane  
Little Horwood, Manor Farm  
Newport Pagnell, 4–6 Union Street  
Olney, East Street  
Olney, High Street  
Princes Risborough, St Marys Church  
Shenley Church End, St Marys Church  
Stantonbury, Stantonbury Park  
Stoke Goldington, Ram Alley  
Wing, Fremantle Trust  
Winslow, Highways Dept  
Wolverton, Manor Farm Quarry