

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

The following summaries of fieldwork carried out in the county in 2008 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 Historic Environment Records. 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 Historic Environment 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.

*Nick Crank*

## 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
AS	Archaeological Solutions
CA	Cotswold Archaeology
CAU	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
JMHS	John Moore Heritage Services
NA	Northamptonshire Archaeology
OA	Oxford Archaeology
TVAS	Thames Valley Archaeological Services
WA	Wessex Archaeology

## PREHISTORIC

### *Denham: William King Flour Mill*

TQ 0522 8487

A borehole survey was undertaken by WA towards the eastern edge of the river Colne floodplain in a topographical and sedimentological situation similar to several nearby upper Palaeolithic/early Mesolithic sites, including the nationally important site at Three Ways Wharf, 200m to the southwest. No alluvial deposits or incipient soils were recorded beneath peat or black humic clay, which at the nearby sites had yielded early prehistoric lithic and faunal assemblages, and no worked flints or any other indicators of human activity were recovered. However, a radiocarbon date indicated that stratified peat deposits are likely to span the early Mesolithic phase at Three Ways Wharf, where stratified organic deposits contemporary with the early Mesolithic flint assemblages were absent, leaving them lacking a detailed palaeoenvironmental context for the period of archaeological activity. The deposits at William King Flour Mill therefore have the potential to provide this palaeoenvironmental context for early Holocene human activity within the Colne valley.

### *Calverton and Shenley Church End: Milton Keynes West, Area 10, Phase 1*

SP 814 378

Albion Archaeology undertook trial trenching of 62 hectares of land west of Milton Keynes, adjacent to Watling Street. This work followed earlier stages of evaluation of the site, which included an environmental statement (2005) and geophysical survey (2007), both of which confirmed the potential for archaeological remains to be present at the site.

The results of the trial trenching identified archaeological remains dating from the early Iron Age to the medieval periods. Of most significance were two distinct areas of Iron Age settlement

activity located on higher ground within the site. These areas comprised ditches and pits, as well as a sizeable amount of irregular shaped features more characteristic of tree rooting. The pottery from both areas predominantly dated to the middle to late Iron Age, with a small amount dating to the early to middle Iron Age and Roman periods.

Other remains included a series of parallel ditches containing pottery suggesting they dated to the Roman period. These appeared to be on a similar alignment to Roman Watling Street, located c.300m to the north-east. The relative lack of artefacts and their character suggest they are associated with agricultural activity.

Medieval ridge and furrow earthworks survive in varying states of preservation throughout the site.

### ***Winslow: Little Horwood***

SP 777 297

A trial trench evaluation was undertaken by NA on the site of the former World War II airfield at Little Horwood. The trenches were positioned to target potential archaeological remains identified by geophysical survey. Four settlement sites were located, three of which dated to the late Iron Age or late pre-Roman Iron Age (1st century BC to mid 1st century AD), and the fourth to the Roman period. They generally consisted of a number of enclosures and ditches and were probably the remains of small farmsteads. On two of the sites there were pit groups, probably associated with quarrying in the Roman period. Elsewhere, medieval/post-medieval furrows were identified, and there was also evidence for possible medieval land divisions or agricultural trenches predating the extant ridge and furrow. On the airfield, south of the main runway, were extensive areas of made-ground, associated with the construction of the airfield in the mid-1940s.

### ***Wolverton: Manor Farm***

SP 808 422

Since 2007, CAU has monitored two phases of an extensive strip, map and sample excavation at Manor Farm Quarry, Old Wolverton, prior to mineral extraction. The quarry is located on the flood plain immediately south of the river Great Ouse, and is consequently overlain by up to two

metres of alluvium. The most significant archaeology exposed in the flood plain was a major section of a Neolithic cursus monument, and the terminus of a potential second cursus. Evidence for earlier, late Mesolithic/early Neolithic background activity was provided by residual flints in tree throws across the whole site. Features dating to the Neolithic and Bronze Age were also identified predating the alluvium, and a variety of dispersed post-alluvial features were dated to the Iron Age, Roman and Saxon periods. The sequence of archaeological activity suggests alluviation occurred during the later Bronze Age and Iron Age.

### ***Area 1 (1.56 ha)***

Excavations in Area 1 exposed a series of palaeochannels dissecting the gravels. A 'line' of three posts crossed one channel: two of the posts produced late Mesolithic and earlier Neolithic radiocarbon dates. Further evidence for late Mesolithic/earlier Neolithic activity was provided by residual flint recovered from tree throws. Two additional posts, driven through and contained entirely within the alluvium, were dated to the middle to late Saxon period, highlighting later activity occurring after alluviation. A layer of limestone rubble, brought onto the floodplain from the nearby scarp, was also exposed within the alluvium in Area 1, and was potentially an effort to consolidate a wet surface.

### ***Area 3 (6.44 ha)***

The gravels within Area 3 were undulating, and often slightly higher than Area 1. A Neolithic cursus monument dominated the area, and a second, potential cursus terminus was identified to the northwest. Cursus 1 was aligned ENE to WSW: c.350m of the parallel ditches, 29m apart were exposed, with two staggered causeways. The ditches yielded limited artefacts. The potential second cursus was aligned northwest to southeast: the ditches were 30m apart and formed a square terminus. The ditches of both monuments yielded evidence for internal banks, whilst sherds of Peterborough Ware, Beaker pottery and early Bronze Age flint were located in the tops of the uppermost fills of the ditches. Prehistoric pits of probable Neolithic date were concentrated on the higher gravel ridge, close to the cursus and some even cut by it. Deverel-Rimbury and late Bronze Age pottery were recovered from a pit and tree-throw

respectively, attesting to later activity underlying the alluvium. Two cremation pits may also date to this later phase.

A network of features containing alluvial fills identified in the far northwest of Area 3 potentially represented later Iron Age enclosures or drainage systems and later Iron Age or Roman gravel quarrying, although a few of the linear features dated from the pre-alluvial earlier prehistoric period. A north-south aligned probable Roman road was also revealed, with a partially surviving limestone rubble surface and parallel roadside ditches. Most of the length of the road was within the alluvial deposits, with the ditches just clipping the gravels, until the road dipped down into the gravels where it approached Back Brook.

## ROMAN

### ***Broughton: Brooklands***

SP 907 397

OA continued a strip, map and sample excavation prior to mixed-use development. The excavation focused on three areas, numbered 2, 3 and 4. Excavation in Area 4 revealed evidence dating to the Roman period beginning with series of ditches, which were assigned to the early Roman period on stratigraphic grounds. The landscape was remodelled, probably in the early 2nd century, with the addition of three new enclosures, one of which contained a corn drier, and a track or droveway. The triangular corn drier was made of roughly shaped limestone blocks, with up to four courses surviving. Three large amorphous quarry hollows or waterholes averaged 4.5m in diameter and produced assemblages of Roman pottery and ceramic building material.

### ***Cold Brayfield: Brayfield Estate***

SP 933 521

OA carried out a trial trench evaluation on the estate. The earliest phase of activity was represented by north-south and east-west aligned ditches, probably part of a Roman field system. Fired clay kiln furniture and debris recovered from one of the ditches was in very good condition, suggesting that the kiln site was nearby. None of the pottery collected from the site showed obvious

signs of firing damage, but generally suggested a 3rd-century date for the system. The fieldwork also uncovered a group of pits and a second complex of ditches, which were dated to the 3rd or 4th century.

### ***High Wycombe: West Wycombe Road***

SP 8350 9457

A strip and record excavation by TVAS recorded a Roman well and three undated post holes, possibly associated. The circular well did not retain any lining within the 2m depth explored, but the fill profile makes it reasonably clear that it must have had one, presumably wooden. It was backfilled in the 2nd century. The well was not fully excavated as its lower depths would be preserved in situ.

### ***Newport Pagnell: Willen Road***

SP 875 423

Following excavations in 2006 (*Records* 48, 293) the final phase of excavation on this site was carried out by ASC in 2008. The extensive multi-phase Roman and Iron Age settlement revealed previously was found to extend to the north-west, and to comprise a number of ditched enclosures, boundary ditches, pits and a large pond. As in 2006 there was very little evidence for structures, though a number of curving gullies could be associated with Iron Age huts. An enigmatic circular gully 12m in diameter, originally thought to be a Bronze Age ring ditch, produced Iron Age pottery from its fills.

### ***Shabbington: Mill Road***

SP 6655 0684

A watching brief was carried out by JMHS at The Willows during ground reduction to create a level surface for a ménage. Late Iron Age to early Roman and 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>-century activity was present in the form of drainage and boundary ditches with some pits. Medieval drainage and boundary ditches were also found, dating to 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. Environmental remains show evidence of a settlement with a very similar agricultural economy to the farming settlements of the gravel terraces of the upper Thames valley.

**SAXON & MEDIEVAL*****Aylesbury: Cambridge Street***

SP 4821 2139

A possible medieval ditch and an undated pit were revealed in evaluation trenching undertaken by TVAS at the Hampden Veterinary Hospital.

***Aylesbury: Walton Street***

SP 8225 1325

An final phase of excavation was carried out by AS as a continuation of previous works at 82–84 Walton Street during 2005 – 2008 (*Records* 48, 293 & 47, 224 and below). The excavation revealed activity from the late Bronze Age/Iron Age, through the Saxon and medieval periods to modern times. The principal features were a Saxon ditch, possibly part of wide boundary system, and medieval ditches, also connected to a previously recorded coaxial boundary system. The excavation showed that the medieval ditch, recorded in the adjacent previous phase of excavation, was re-cut in the 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century and was in use up to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

***Boarstall: Boarstall Tower***

SP 6242 1425

Trial trenches were excavated at the National Trust's Boarstall Tower as part of National Archaeology Week, assisted by generous grants from the Bucks Archaeological Society and the Bucks Historic Gardens Trust. The trenches were located over the site of the house at Boarstall, which is shown in superb detail on Michael Burghers's 1695 engraving. The house was sadly pulled down *c.*1778, reputedly after the accidental poisoning of Sir John Aubrey's son. The trenches were located to test evidence from a geophysical survey undertaken in 2001 which suggested that the footprint of the house survived in remarkable detail as below-ground archaeological evidence.

Three of the five trenches revealed wall foundations. Trench 1 revealed masonry foundations for the north front porch evident on Burghers's engraving, and Trench 3 uncovered an east-west masonry wall corresponding to the north wall of the building. Trench 4, close to the southern arm of the moat, revealed the circular outlines of two

brick-built bread ovens, with two later brick hearths nestling within their outlines. This evidence points to the use of buildings attached to the south range of the house as kitchens. Trench 2 failed to reveal structural evidence but did uncover robber trenches, suggesting that in certain areas the building demolished *c.*1778 was stripped right down to its foundations. Very little complete building material (bricks, roof tiles, floor tiles) was recovered, suggesting that the site may have been demolished and cleared by a contractor who had paid for the materials.

Pottery recovered from the excavations suggests that the site was first occupied around the time of the Norman Conquest. Large amounts of pottery of 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup>-century date were recovered, after which there is a gap in the pottery record until the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Surprisingly little 17<sup>th</sup>-century material was recovered, though the Tower was occupied by a Royalist garrison between 1643 and 1646.

The excavations confirmed that, while the site of the house was probably systematically stripped in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, either the lower parts of foundation walls do survive, or their plan can be traced from the resulting robber trenches. The archaeological potential of the site therefore remains extremely high: this was confirmed by further geophysical surveys undertaken during the course of the project.

***Boarstall: Main Road***

SP 6254 1432

Evaluation trenching at Village Farm by TVAS revealed a late medieval (15<sup>th</sup>-century) kiln, two small 12th-century gullies, and a late medieval post hole, along with several undated features. The late date for the kiln is of some interest, as previously discovered kilns from the village, already well known as a pottery production centre, have generally been earlier.

***Broughton: Brooklands***

SP 907 397

OA continued a strip, map and sample excavation in advance of development. Medieval archaeology was recorded in two areas. The earliest evidence for activity in Area 2 comprised three gravel extraction pits, all heavily plough-truncated, which produced four sherds of 12<sup>th</sup>-century pottery. Two ditches

may also belong to this phase, as an upper fill contained 12<sup>th</sup>-century pottery. Two enclosures were established by the mid 13<sup>th</sup> to mid 14<sup>th</sup> century. There was no evidence for structures inside them, but a number of pits were uncovered. A narrow ditch extended across the site. No dating evidence was recovered, but the ditch may have been contemporary with the enclosures. Three small pits located outside the enclosures contained mid 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>-century pottery and the articulated remains of sheep. After the enclosures were abandoned, activity was limited to the digging of a gully, which went out of use at some point in the mid 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Excavations in Area 3 revealed a number of short ditches and gullies, along with a stone-lined well and a dense scatter of pits and postholes, all of medieval date. The ditches and gullies are likely to represent the boundaries of a sub-rectangular enclosure, possibly a tenement or part of a tenement bounded by Broughton Grounds Lane. The well, 2m in diameter and 3.5m deep, was lined with squared limestone blocks and was backfilled with a series of silty clay dumps, the lowest of which contained pottery dating up to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Some of the larger features probably represent gravel extraction pits. Post-medieval plough furrows and a land drain were encountered.

***Buckingham: Bridge Street***

SP 6966 3390

Excavations were carried out by NA in advance of residential development. The excavated area comprised two 5m wide trenches, one parallel to Bridge Street, the other parallel to the Market Place and the river Great Ouse. A section through a sequence of inundation layers towards the river provided evidence of the build up of alluvial silt, which changed (principally narrowed) the river course from the 12<sup>th</sup> century onwards. Finds of 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>-century date, including leather shoes, accumulated on the gravel of the river bed and within the early alluvium. Along the rear of properties fronting Market Square were a possible dew-pond, dated c.1600–1650, and a series of pits of later post-medieval date. Finds included a very large late medieval stone mortar, post-medieval pottery and clay tobacco pipes. At the north-west corner of the site and running south, parallel to Bridge Street, was a dense concentration of pits, including a

possible carpenter's saw-pit. Pottery dated a few of these pits to the late medieval period, though most were of post-medieval date. A succession of later brick building foundations overlay these pits.

***Loughton: The Paddock***

SP 8354 3763

An evaluation at The Paddock was carried out by ASC, prior to residential development of the site, which is located close to Loughton Manor and surviving village earthworks. Three trenches were excavated, and four linear features were observed. From these features were recovered two very small, undiagnostic and abraded pottery sherds of probable medieval date, a fragmented animal bone and an animal tooth. The site was heavily waterlogged at a depth of one metre below ground level.

***Newport Pagnell: Union Street***

SP 8767 4400

A watching brief was carried out by Albion Archaeology during construction of a house to the rear of 4-6 Union Street, within the town's medieval core. Evaluation of the site had revealed two large late medieval/early post-medieval pits, and a sequence of pits and structural remains dating from the early post-medieval period into the Victorian era. The structural remains were thought to relate to outbuildings located to the rear of house plots fronting Union Street and the High Street.

Seven adjoining foundation trenches were excavated. The ground level within the house was also reduced. A number of layers and features of probable medieval, post-medieval and modern date were revealed. The earliest layers comprised possible medieval cultivation soils which produced a few sherds of St Neots-type ware. Two pits, two ditches and two postholes are also likely to be of medieval date. Post-medieval features comprised a ditch, a demolition layer, a remnant of a wall foundation, two robbed out foundation trenches, eight pits and a posthole. A number of modern layers and wall foundations were also recorded.

***Oakley: Elmwood Close***

SP 6396 1210

A watching brief was undertaken by ASC at Elmwood Close during groundworks for a housing

development. The presence of tree throws suggested that the site lies on the edge of the Saxon royal hunting forest of Bernwood. Pottery recovered from some of these features show that it was cleared during the late medieval period, when it was peripheral to the settlement of Oakley. A number of pits, ditches and gullies were also recorded, several of which cut the infilled tree throws. A large pit containing burnt flint, degraded animal bone fragments and pottery of Bronze Age date was also noted.

***Penn: Church Road***

SU 9084 9341

OA carried out an evaluation at Winters Garage, prior to redevelopment. The two-trench evaluation revealed a quarry pit dated by tile and pottery to the 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> century. The feature itself and the quantities of tile fragments in its backfill are consistent with a group of quarry pits along the north side of Church Road and a clay pit opposite the present site, relating to the local medieval tile making industry. The quarry was sealed below a thick cultivated garden soil dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This provided the necessary levelling when the adjoining house, 'Hampdens', was built in 1906.

***Shabbington: Mill Road***

SP 6659 0687

An evaluation was conducted by JMHS on land to the rear of Mill Road at Franklins Farm. Evidence of intensive medieval use of the rear of the plot was revealed, comprising some pitting and postholes. This may indicate the presence of structures within the plot boundary. Ditches, at right angles to the street frontage onto Ickford Road, and forming subdivisions of the current plot, may indicate that the current property is formed of at least two plots with internal divisions within each boundary.

***Singleborough: Abbey Cottage***

SP 7666 3182

A site adjacent to Abbey Cottage was subject to a trial trench evaluation by ASC, prior to the construction of a house and garage. Two trenches were excavated, one of which contained a north-south aligned gully from which three sherds of medieval pottery were retrieved. No other archaeo-

logical features or artefacts were present.

***Wolverton: Radcliffe School***

SP 8073 4080

Following on from previous investigations in 2007 (*Records* 49, 260–261), excavations by ASC continued at this site in 2008. A further forty inhumation burials were found, in addition to the forty-one found in 2007. 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. 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.

***Woughton-on-the-Green: Newport Road***

SP 8775 3765

An evaluation was carried out by ASC at Parkside Hotel, prior to the submission of an application for planning permission for extensions to the hotel, formerly Woughton House, a 19<sup>th</sup>-century Grade II listed building that stands on the site of one of the medieval manors of Woughton. The evaluation revealed stone foundations, as well as a pit containing medieval pottery and three ditches that contained no dating evidence.

***POST-MEDIEVAL AND UNDATED***

***Bletchley: Watling Street***

SP 8266 3975 – SP 8637 3541

A watching brief was carried out by NA during the laying of a pipeline along part of the route of Watling Street. A number of previous road surfaces were observed, including a deviation in the route of the road, which is shown on the 1st edition

Ordnance Survey map. Brick foundations and the remnants of a tiled floor may have been the remains of the Denbigh Hall public house, also depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map.

***Bradenham: RAF High Wycombe***

*SU 8290 9880*

OA carried out a watching brief on Grim's Ditch during groundworks for development. This exposed a section across the ditch, confirming its known dimensions and also identifying a possible earlier feature on its northern edge. However, no dating evidence was recovered. Elsewhere the watching brief encountered natural deposits and areas of modern intrusion.

*SU 8340 7870*

A subsequent evaluation by OA revealed extensive truncation within the northern extent of the site, exposing colluvial deposits directly below layers of modern made ground and landscaping deposits. Two sherds of black-burnished ware and a fragment of sandy grey ware found in a tree throw suggest Roman activity in the vicinity. A probable post-medieval field boundary ditch was also recorded. Another part of Grim's Ditch was recorded outside the footprint of the proposed development, although no dating evidence was recovered from its fills.

***Bradwell: Bradwell Abbey***

SP 8268 3947

ASC undertook a watching brief within the scheduled ancient monument at Bradwell Abbey, during the excavation of three test pits and three trenches, excavated for laying a gas main. Two possible walls and adjacent floor surfaces were revealed within a small area in two of the trenches in the south farmyard, but no other archaeological features were observed within the test pits or elsewhere within the trenches.

***Brill: Brae Hill Road***

SP 6528 1405

An evaluation was undertaken in April and May by CA on land to the rear of Brae Hill Road. Seven trenches were excavated. Two shallow probable clay extraction pits were recorded, one having been

deliberately backfilled. A robbed foundation trench corresponding to a former boundary was identified towards the south-eastern corner of the site. An alignment of stake-holes identified in two trenches is also likely to represent an undated boundary. Possible land boundaries identified from aerial photographs were shown to be land drains. No evidence was revealed for the survival of cottages depicted within the site on the 1853 Brill Tithe Map.

***Castlethorpe: South Street***

SP 7991 4434

ASC carried out a historic building watching brief at 14 South Street during extensions to the building. The property, which is a stone built, 2-storey structure under a pitched tiled roof, lies at the eastern end of a short terrace of three similar properties. Building analysis focussing primarily on the roof trusses in the adjoining properties in 1999 led to the hypothesis that the terrace may date from the 15<sup>th</sup> century and could incorporate a possible 14<sup>th</sup> century building at the western end. During this watching brief, which was limited to the removal of part of the east wall to create a new door, a small soot filled cavity, another smaller recess containing the remains of a purlin and the cut line for the roof of the former extension were revealed. There was no evidence of earlier roof timbers as only modern rafters were revealed, but the presence of a bonding timber could suggest an 18<sup>th</sup> century date for this part of the building.

***Cheddington: Mentmore Road***

SP 9200 1758

Historic building assessment of 22 Mentmore Road was carried out by ASC in order to inform proposals for development on the site. The property comprises the house, a garage/workshop and a forge. An annexe to the north of the house was not included in the assessment, as it will remain unaffected by the development.

The garage/workshop appears to have been built in the 1930s, and replaced a wheelwright's workshop, owned in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by the Montague family. The core of the house may date from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, but it appears to have been rebuilt in brick in the 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century. It has since been extended and re-roofed.

The forge, which is of open timber framing with brick infill, appears to be of 18<sup>th</sup> century date. Some alterations and remedial works have taken place since then, including the rebuilding of the east wall and the hearth. The structure has been largely untouched since it was last used as a forge, and is now in need of attention.

***Chesham: Jasons Hill***  
SP 9883 0224

An evaluation was carried out by ASC at 'Beverley', Jasons Hill, in advance of the construction of a new house. Attention was focused on the site of a post-medieval tile kiln, initially located in the 1960s in a service trench at the northeast corner of the present house. An area was opened to determine the extent and preservation of the kiln, which was found to be in good condition, and to extend beneath the patio of the present house. A second trench to the east of the house revealed a ditch curving from the north to the east, which was probably contemporaneous with the kiln. Cutting this ditch was a north-south gully of post-medieval date, which also cut a possible pit.

Following revised proposals for a much larger house, a second phase of evaluation was carried out to the south and east of the present house. No significant remains were uncovered, and the only features of note were an early 20<sup>th</sup> century pond and a small undated gully.

***Haversham: High Street***  
SP 8290 4299

ASC undertook an evaluation at 5 High Street in advance of the construction of an extension to the existing dwelling. A single trench within the footprint of the proposed extension revealed the remains of a former soakaway, along with a deposit of sub-angular stones, apparently used to raise the level of the garden area. Three sherds of 19<sup>th</sup>-century pottery, two sherds of 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>-century pottery and some fragments of animal bone were recovered.

***Lacey Green: St John's CE Combined School***  
SP 8256 9988

In July JMHS carried out an evaluation at St John's CE Combined School. This revealed evidence of a

cut feature at the western end of the evaluation trench, extending beyond the edge of the trench and under the edge of the existing school building. It was not possible to identify the nature of the feature conclusively. The cut was in the approximate area of Grim's Ditch and was initially believed to be part of the monument. However, pieces of tile and brick were recovered from the fills of the feature which may have been a post-medieval clay pit.

***Long Crendon: Bicester Road***  
SP 6909 0890

A historic building assessment of 'Bakers Close', 43 Bicester Road, was carried out by ASC in order to inform proposals for development. The building is a two-storey brick and stone structure with attics under a clay tiled roof. It comprises a range parallel to Bicester Road, and a 20<sup>th</sup> century cross-wing to the southeast. It appears to have been constructed in the 17<sup>th</sup> century as a 3-bay in-line house with associated kitchen and outbuildings. All that remains of the original structures is the range running parallel to the road.

The nature of the trusses in the first floor and attic as well as the dimensions of the bays suggest that the building may have been constructed with a smoke bay at the eastern end of the hall. The bricks in the chimneystack do not appear to be earlier than 18<sup>th</sup> century, and it is possible that the smoke bay was in use as such until that time. There is no evidence of smoke blackening on the timbers in the upper floors, but this may have been removed during later building works. The chimneystack has been rebuilt on at least two occasions, and the inglenook fireplace below has been rebuilt in recent times, possibly when the cross wing was added in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

***Long Crendon: High Street***  
SP 6967 0891

Historic building recording was carried out by JMHS on a brick-built outbuilding behind 76a High Street. The building displays unusual features for a simple garden shed. These include a fireplace which could indicate a hovel dwelling, if it were not for the presence of scorching, the scars of a second flue and footings in the floor. These suggest some form of cottage industry, with which the brick



plinth and chimney pipe would also appear to be associated.

Documentary evidence records that, in 1848, Emanuel Shrimpton and his son, Andrew, installed a steam powered scouring mill at 76 High Street, “in the brick shed at the back of the house”. The Shrimptons’ had been a needle-making family since 1739. Matthew Shrimpton was the last manufacturer of needles, specifically darning needles and bodkins, in Long Crendon.

The fireplace and installation next to it may be associated with either the hardening process of the needles, or may have provided heat for the steam scouring mill. The pipes in the third room represent another part of the industrial process, possibly to do with waste water from the quenching of hot needles during manufacture. The brick plinth and chimney pipe may also be associated with this mill, or perhaps are part of the later manufacture under Shrimpton’s neighbour Mr. Lovell, who made needles in his spare time in the shed into the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Marlow: High Street**

SU 8490 8650

An evaluation by OA at 23–25 High Street revealed layers of post-medieval occupation deposits cut by a chalk block lined feature. This is a probable well, or possibly a cess pit, that had been reused as a rubbish pit in the 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup>-centuries. No evidence for any earlier periods, including any possible structures was observed.

**Milton Keynes: Walton Road**

SP 8894 3896

A watching brief was undertaken by ASC at 12 Walton Road during residential redevelopment of the site. It was intended for the watching brief to be preceded by historic building recording of the cottage and barn that stood on the site. Unfortunately these were demolished before the recording could take place, so a record of the building was compiled from drawings and photographs provided by the architect.

The cottage and barn were constructed in the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century, before 1881. Both buildings were brick-built, under slate roofs. As constructed, the cottage was of ‘two up, two down’ plan, with kitchen and parlour on the ground floor,

and central stairs and landing leading to two bedrooms above. The cottage was extended to the west in the 1950s or 1960s, the single-storey extension housing a bathroom and kitchen.

The watching brief revealed a probable north-south ditch running across the site, cut into the underlying gravel. Adjacent to this was a smaller feature, either a parallel ditch or a pit. Neither contained any dateable artefacts, and none were noted in the remaining topsoil, or the excavated material from the footing trenches. Based on the available evidence it seems unlikely that the site was occupied prior to the construction of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century cottage. It is unfortunate that circumstances permitted such a limited examination of the site.

**Newport Pagnell: Silver Street and High Street**

SP 8760 4375

An evaluation was carried out by NA at the site of the former sorting office, prior to residential development. Two trenches were excavated, revealing two postholes and a possible rubbish pit, garden soils, made ground, and a 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick-built well. The features probably relate to the nearby Anchor Hotel and its ancillary buildings and gardens, established in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

**Newton Longville: The Manor Barns**

SP 8437 3024

Historic building recording of the barns at Newton Longville Manor was carried out by ASC to inform proposals for their conversion to residential use. The present house, which is Grade II listed, dates from the mid 15<sup>th</sup> century.

The buildings were all timber framed, weather-boarded and thatched, and consist of a single 2-bay, 2-storey structure adjacent to the house (Building 3), a tall, single bay barn (Building 2) and a range of three stables under the same roof at the eastern end of the row (Building 1). Although the listed buildings description has Buildings 2 and 3 as being of late 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup>-century date, internal inspection suggests that they were built in the 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> century. Building 3 appears to have been constructed as a 2-storey dwelling, and is likely to have been part of an earlier manor house on the site. The original function of Building 2 remains unclear, as many of the architectural features are hidden.

Building 3 has seen considerable alterations and repairs over time, and many of the original features have been obscured. Nonetheless, the architectural evidence suggests that the western two rooms of Building 3 may be late 16<sup>th</sup> or early 17<sup>th</sup>-century, the eastern room being a later addition.

All three buildings have been altered and repaired over time and are in very good condition. They have retained a considerable amount of character and, particularly in the case of Building 3, integrity. Further architectural details will undoubtedly be revealed during any conversion project, and it is hoped that these will be recorded to allow a better understanding of the history of these buildings and the manor in which they are located.

**North Marston: St Mary's Church**  
SP 777 227

An evaluation was undertaken by ASC in the churchyard of St Mary's Church, before the construction of an extension to the church. Two trenches were opened against the north side of the church. Four burials were found, two in each trench, beneath deep disturbed deposits characteristic of old churchyards. Although this high concentration of interments is likely to continue right across the area of the new development, their depth was below the formation level of the extension floor. Structural evidence at the north-western corner of the north aisle indicated that this area had been reinforced in the past.

**Olney: East Street**  
SP 8898 5175

Richard Ivens maintained a watching brief during groundworks in connection with extensions to 23a East Street. The site proved to have been much disturbed in modern times and only very slight traces of possible medieval and post-medieval activity were observed.

**Olney: Lime Street**  
SP 8873 5117

A watching brief was carried out by ASC during groundworks for an extension to The Barn, Lime Street. Vestiges of 19<sup>th</sup>-century cobbling were recorded, together with 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>-century rubbish pits. The Barn was probably built in the later 19<sup>th</sup>

century. A fragment of a medieval whetstone and two sherds of 17/18<sup>th</sup>-century pottery were recovered from topsoil.

**Olney: West Street**  
SP 8875 5151

A trial trench evaluation was conducted by NA on land to the rear of 43 High Street. Two trenches, each 8m long, were excavated within the 675 sq m development area. There were a series of post-medieval pits cut into the natural clays. The whole development site had been heavily disturbed by modern dumping and levelling activities.

**Oving: Bowling Alley**  
SP 7868 2159

IASC carried out historic building recording of the Methodist Chapel, Bowling Alley, prior to conversion of the building to a dwelling. The chapel was built in 1869 as a single-cell Primitive Methodist Chapel. A meeting room was added to the south of the church within 30 years of its foundation, forming an L-shaped building. A kitchen, lobby and cloakroom were added in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century to create a rectangular structure.

The building is brick-built, under a tiled roof. The window and door openings of the church itself are decorated with contrasting white bricks, apart from in the rear elevation. The windows have all been replaced with modern uPVC units. The main entrance, however, retains the original, diagonally panelled double doors with reproduction gothic hinge straps.

The interior of the church had been stripped before this project was undertaken, leaving only the wall benches and staining to the match-boarding to indicate the seating arrangements.

**Padbury: Betts Farm**  
SP 7212 3077

An evaluation was undertaken by NA on a 0.32ha parcel of land at Betts Farm. Three trenches were opened and natural clays, sands and gravels were exposed beneath the topsoil or modern hardcore surface. Several archaeological features were investigated, including drains, ditches and gullies, postholes and a probable pit, some dated to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is likely that the farmyard has

undergone considerable truncation and alteration from the 19th century onwards.

**Princes Risborough: St. Mary's Church**  
SU 8059 0350

A strip and record excavation was carried out at St Mary's Church by JMHS, during groundworks for the footprint of a new building and associated service trenches. Twenty burials were located at depths between 0.7m and 1.39m within the extension footings. Subsequent excavation of service trenches around the completed building located three more inhumations at around 0.7m depth. The sample represents a typical parish church cemetery population of the post-medieval period.

**Steeple Claydon: St Michael's Church**  
SP 7053 2674

A watching brief was carried out by ASC at St Michael's Church during groundworks for the construction of a new parish room. A large quantity of disarticulated human bone fragments was recovered during ground reduction and the excavation of foundation trenches. Two partial skeletons were uncovered during excavations for a septic tank. These were of probable 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup>-century date, and the only obvious sign of pathology was some tooth decay to one of the skeletons. No other significant finds were revealed during this watching brief, but five 19<sup>th</sup>-century tombstones that had been reused as a footpath outside the vestry were recorded, and fragments of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-century pottery, glass and ceramic grave markers were recovered.

**Stoke Mandeville: Old Moat Farm**  
SP 8276 1040

JMHS maintained a watching brief during the excavation of patio and extension footings next to the house, and during the excavation of a sewerage trench running from the house. This ran into the centre of the moat of the medieval moated site. Fills of the moat were recorded. The moat appears to have been kept open until at least the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century according to the maps, and finds from within the moat fills included metal sheeting, which seems to confirm this date.

**Stoke Poges: The Manor House**  
SU 9757 8288

WA carried out an evaluation comprising seven trenches on land to the north and east of the present Manor House, which may have been part of the service wing of the 16<sup>th</sup> century manor. Although truncation of deposits by modern landscaping was noted in several trenches, the evaluation revealed evidence of late 17<sup>th</sup>-century rebuilding work and a cobbled surface immediately north of the present building. No evidence was found of the 16<sup>th</sup>-century house, although a raised platform south-west of the present building suggests its original ground plan may have extended in that direction.

Post-medieval postholes were recorded further to the north of the present building, and to the northeast were a substantial robbed-out brick wall and ditch, possibly medieval or post-medieval garden features or boundaries.

**Stony Stratford: High Street**  
SP 7853 4065

A watching brief was undertaken by ASC during building works to the rear of 110 High Street. A levelling deposit comprised of dark redeposited soil covered the natural orange sand. Limestone footings for several demolished walls were observed in the foundation trenches of the development. Other than a few fragments of red peg tile, no finds to date either the levelling layer or the walls were recovered. It is likely that the walls were associated with the former Horseshoe Inn, demolished during the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The only other feature observed was part of a large truncated pit predating the walls. A single sherd of late medieval reduced ware pottery and a deer antler were recovered from its fill.

During the 19<sup>th</sup> century the site fell within the grounds of St Paul's School, and is on the line of a demolished wing extending westwards from the school. Elements of a second wing survive to the north of this wing, appearing stylistically to predate both the school and 110 High Street.

**Stony Stratford: Church of St Mary and St Giles**  
SP 7869 4047

ASC carried out an evaluation at St Mary and St Giles Church, to inform proposals for an extension

to the existing building. A brick-lined well and a stone-lined cesspit, containing a substantial assemblage of 19<sup>th</sup>-century artefacts, were revealed. A north-south aligned wall was also observed bounding a compacted sandy floor, overlying a broken, reused gravestone and a deposit of dark soil containing pottery fragments of medieval to 18<sup>th</sup>-century date. These features were interpreted as the remains of a building shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey sheet of 1880. No archaeological features predating the 18<sup>th</sup> century were observed.

***Stowe: New Inn Farm***

SP 6810 3640

New Inn Farm, owned by the National Trust, was built during the early years of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. An ongoing detailed survey is being conducted by NA (*Records* 47, 2007, 230). The buildings are predominantly of red brick with some stone sections. All of the walls are bonded in lime mortar which allows movement, particularly useful for a building founded on clay which can move both vertically and horizontally during seasonal moisture changes without any significant structural damage. The form and depth of the foundations for the various sections of the building was not known and therefore a series of small test pits were dug against the walls to investigate the foundations in order that plans for the future restoration of the building can be made.

The test pits showed that the building exhibits a variety of foundations, both in the materials used and their depths, which varied between c.200–800mm. One foundation comprises a stepped-out plinth of undressed limestone, apparently unmortared and bonded only in clay. Other walls have red brick foundations bonded in a creamy white lime mortar. One layer beneath both the cobbles and wall footing was a mixture of gravels and broken bricks and tiles within a clay matrix, and it is thought that this was the sub-base for the cobble surface, which was simply removed and the wall built directly onto the sub-base below. It appears that the builders deemed the cobble sub-base sufficiently compact to support the extension, a decision which, however unlikely, appears in actuality to have been largely correct.

***Waddesden: Eythrope Park***

SP 7703 1415

A watching brief was carried out by ASC during alterations to a pond and garden at The Homestead, Eythrope Park. The remains of a typical late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup>-century formal garden were recorded to the north of The Homestead, as well as a sunken garden to the south of the house. The pond embankment had been constructed of re-deposited natural clay, and the pond was lined with clay. No finds or features predating the late 19<sup>th</sup> century were observed.

***Wavendon: Eagle Farm and Glebe Farm***

SP 920 380

A geophysical survey was conducted by NA on land around Eagle Farm and Glebe Farm. Approximately 112ha were examined by topsoil magnetic susceptibility survey and 27ha were subject to detailed gradiometer survey. The surveys identified a single site comprising ditched enclosures and boundaries, possibly dating to the Iron Age or Romano-British period. In addition there was evidence of extensive medieval ridge and furrow field cultivation.

***Wavendon: Land south of the A421***

SP 924 381

A geophysical survey was conducted by NA on land to the east of Milton Keynes. Approximately 14.2ha were examined by magnetic susceptibility and 2.2ha were subject to detailed gradiometer survey. No significant archaeological remains were found. There was also evidence of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation.

***Westcott: Royal Ordnance Establishment***

SP 7020 1649

Albion Archaeology carried out a historic building survey at the former Rocket Propulsion Establishment at Westcott. Fifty-four buildings or building remains were recorded within the Solid Propellant Area, and a further eight buildings within the main area of the site. The Solids Area is located in the south-western corner of the Westcott site, and includes a number of processing and administrative buildings and storage magazines.

Westcott began life in 1943 as a wartime RAF airfield. The site was briefly used as a prisoner-of-war repatriation centre, before becoming the Guided Projectile Establishment, the first of many titles, in April 1946. Westcott was chosen for this role as a result of its central location and accessibility from other associated defence establishments. By the late 1940s Westcott was associated with research into solid and liquid fuels, motor design and testing. Until it became part of Royal Ordnance in the 1980s, the work at Westcott was co-ordinated by RAE Farnborough under the auspices of various government departments. Run from the defence budget, RAE Farnborough and its outstations were involved in most of the UK's space projects, which, until the mid-1960s, included sounding rocket, launch vehicle and satellite design, testing, construction and operation, both in-house and in association with industry. Westcott is perhaps most well known for its association with the Blue Streak missile, but the solid propellant technology developed on the site also had a lasting legacy and made an important contribution to the UK's commercial and military rocket capability.

Solid propellant was mixed, pressed, extruded, cut and cast in a series of traversed buildings in the south-west of the solids area. Other buildings were used for the investigation, design and testing of rocket motor tubes, igniters and other rocket components. Many of these processes used hazardous materials with a high risk of explosion. As a result a number of the buildings and storage areas were traversed or set apart, and the administration block included a shifting house where staff and visitors would change into special clothing. Many of the buildings are of standard design: nineteen were built to the specification for a Ministry of Works hut, and a few were purpose-built for specific functions.

Although the buildings themselves are of standard military construction and no longer contain any plant and only a few fixtures and fittings, they form a significant element of Cold War history. A detailed record of the buildings, in combination with contemporary knowledge and historical records, has allowed some description of the processes and the general operation of the site. Buildings and processes, in particularly experimental ones, are largely overlooked in the historical record, and those at Westcott provide an important contribution to study of the military built heritage of the Cold War and more recent periods.

### ***Wolverton: Holy Trinity Church***

SP 8042 4121

An evaluation at the Holy Trinity Church was undertaken by ASC in advance of the creation of an additional parking area. The site falls within Old Wolverton village earthworks, which are designated a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The single trench uncovered only a post-medieval ditch.

### ***Wolverton: Radcliffe School***

SP 8063 4096

A trial trench evaluation was conducted by NA on the sports field to the north of Radcliffe School, following initial geophysical survey. The area examined lay to the east of the 2007 excavations (*Records* 49, 259–60). The evaluation revealed mainly shallow furrows belonging to an earlier cultivation pattern. A post-medieval ditch, identified from the 1885 Ordnance Survey map, divided the area into two parts. Furrows to the east of this boundary were mainly aligned north-east to south-west, and those to the west were mainly aligned north-west to south-east. The relationship of these alignments to the 19th-century boundary suggested a medieval or post-medieval origin.

### ***NEGATIVE***

### ***Aylesbury: Walton Street***

SP 8225 1325

A watching brief was carried out by AS during the development of a multi-storey car park at 82–84 Walton Street. Although remains of Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval date were recorded in close proximity in 2005 (*Records* 48, 293 & 47, 224 and above), no significant archaeological remains were present. Layers of made ground associated with the Servicemen's Club that formerly occupied the site were recorded. A modern cut feature and a wall foundation and manhole, all likely to be associated with the former club building, were identified. The watching brief revealed an 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>-century former topsoil horizon which is representative of the site's former agricultural use. Beneath these deposits were several alluvial and fluvial deposits related to the Bear and California Brooks that flow close to the site.

***Broughton: Broughton Bridge***

SP 9000 3890

An watching brief was undertaken by NA during groundworks connected with the construction of a new road bridge on land at Broughton. A heavily truncated natural sub-stratum was present across all of the development area. No archaeological deposits were present and no artefacts were recovered.

***Burnham: Bath Road***

SU 9235 8115

Evaluation trenching by TVAS at Sand Lodge, 659 Bath Road, revealed no archaeological features though two flint flakes were recovered from spoil-heaps.

***Castlethorpe: North Street***

SP 7979 4446

An evaluation was undertaken by ASC at Castle House, 5 North Street, to inform proposals for the construction of a pool house. The proximity of the site to the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Castlethorpe Castle indicated that the proposed development had the potential to encounter significant archaeological remains. A single trial trench was excavated across the footprint of the proposed development, but no archaeological remains were present.

***Haddenham: Flint Street***

SP 7396 0802

Investigations by JMHS at 15 Flint Street involved the archaeological inspection of foundation trenches and the digging of an evaluation trench through the location of a proposed swimming pool. No archaeological finds or features were noted in the extension footings, and machining in the area for the swimming pool was not deep enough to encounter any significant archaeological deposits. A pit containing a single sherd of pottery datable to the 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries was revealed in this area.

***High Wycombe: London Road***

SU 8835 9252

The site of the former Ercol factory in London

Road was subject to a small area excavation and a trial trench evaluation, undertaken by WA. The natural chalk was overlain by modern made ground. The excavation, which targeted two possibly prehistoric features recorded during an evaluation in 2006 (*Records* 48, 301), recorded no additional features apart from a tree-throw hole. The evaluation revealed only a large sub-circular feature, probably a natural solution hollow, from the upper fill of which only two animal bones and some ceramic building material were recovered.

***Little Horwood: Manor Farm Cottages***

SP 791 315

A trial trench evaluation was carried out by AS in advance of proposed development. Four evaluation trenches were excavated, revealing a modern pit and two postholes, two undated postholes and a soakaway.

***Little Horwood: Warren Court Farm***

SP 7918 3210

A watching brief was carried out by ASC at Warren Court Farm during groundworks for a new ménage. Aerial photography of the area had highlighted possible enclosures and trackways in the adjacent field. Only the topsoil was removed from the development area, and no finds or features were observed within it.

***Medmenham: SAS Institute***

SU 8170 8460

A watching brief was undertaken by NA during groundworks connected with construction of a new cricket pavilion at the SAS Institute. Excavations showed that the area had been subject to extensive disturbance, possibly related to the 20th-century RAF base. No archaeological features were uncovered.

***Penn: Church Street***

SU 9134 9330

A watching brief was conducted by JMHS at Penn Ridge during removal of foundations for the existing residence. No finds of archaeological importance were observed and it was clear that

there was no potential for remains in the area of the proposed new build.

**Saunderton: Church Lane**  
SP 7948 0182

ASC undertook an evaluation at Church Farm House, Church Lane, in advance of proposed development. Owing to its proximity to a scheduled ancient monument, the area was considered to be archaeologically sensitive. Two trenches were excavated, both revealing only modern features containing brick, tile and other waste material.

**Shenley Brook End: Whaddon Road**  
SP 8348 3541

A watching brief was carried out by ASC at 9a Whaddon Road during the construction of a garage, and an extension to an existing house. No archaeological remains were observed.

**Stokenchurch: Park Lane**  
SU 7616 9672

TVAS excavated three evaluation trenches at Mallards Court, Park Lane. These revealed no archaeological features or finds, despite the location of the site in an area where medieval settlement related to the manor house might have been expected.

**Stone: Oxford Road**  
SP 7875 1245

ASC undertook a programme of evaluation on land to the rear of 34 Oxford Road, in advance of residential development. Thirteen trenches were excavated, but no significant features were revealed. A programme of sieving of samples from the trenches recovered only modern pottery, a possible medieval body sherd, a piece of flint debitage, and a well worn flint end-scraper.

**Thornborough: Old Manor**  
SU 741 336

An evaluation by OA revealed layers of modern worked soil overlying natural clay and alluvial deposits.

**Tylers Green: Bank Road**  
SU 9029 9384

An evaluation was undertaken by ASC at Gorse View, Bank Road, in advance of residential development. A modern pit was uncovered at the southern end of the site, but no significant finds or features were observed within the trenches. The garden of Gorse View is dominated by a large hollow, which appears to be an unrecorded clay extraction pit, possibly related to the tile industry in the area.

**Wolverton: Manor Farm**  
SP 8072 4176

A watching brief was carried out by ASC at Manor Farm as a condition of scheduled monument consent, during the excavation of a series of service trenches around the farmhouse. The soil profile observed in all the trenches consisted of a modern highly disturbed soil layer, overlying the natural limestone. No features or finds of archaeological significance were revealed during the watching brief. Where the trenches met the walls of the house it was noted that the footings comprised four of five courses of stone laid directly on the natural limestone. This is the final stage of archaeological work connected with the refurbishment of this site: previous investigations have included historic building recording (*Records 41*, 241) and a watching brief and excavation (*Records 45*, 226).

**REPORTS NOT RECEIVED**

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

Aylesbury, Masonic Hall  
Aylesbury, Prebendal House  
Broughton, Eastern Expansion Water Main  
Burnham, 24 High Street  
Burnham, East Lodge  
Calverton, Manor Farm  
Newport Pagnell, Aston Martin Works  
Marlow, Lower Pound Lane  
Quarrendon, Aylesbury Vale Parkway  
Quarrendon, Berryfields MDA  
Wexham, All Soul's Quarry