

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

The following notes on fieldwork carried out in the county in 2009 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 (HERs) maintained by Buckinghamshire County Council and Milton Keynes Council are the primary sources for more detailed information on sites and finds. For non-commercial enquiries both HERs are available online via the national Heritage Gateway: www.Heritagegateway.org.uk. 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
JMHS	John Moore Heritage Services
NA	Northamptonshire Archaeology
OA	Oxford Archaeology
TVAS	Thames Valley Archaeological Services
WA	Wessex Archaeology

PREHISTORIC

Broughton: Brooklands

SP 910 397

OA undertook a series of open area excavations on an area of land to the east of Milton Keynes. These followed on from previous work carried out by OA (*Records* 49, 256: 50, 108) and were carried out in advance of a scheme of mixed-use development.

Five sites were excavated on locations previously revealed to be rich in archaeology by trial trenching and geophysical survey. Areas 5 and 9 proved least productive, containing medieval and post-medieval plough furrows and some undated ditches and post-holes respectively. Areas 6 and 8, which were adjacent but separated by a modern road, produced evidence for middle Iron Age settlement comprising up to 15 penannular round-house gullies and numerous pits and waterholes, associated with middle Iron Age pottery. The middle Iron Age settlement was overlain by a late Iron Age to early Roman ditched enclosure and trackway, which probably linked the site to the major Iron Age and Roman settlement at Broughton Manor Farm, just a few hundred metres to the west. Activity at Area 7 comprised a middle to late Roman enclosure, along with a trackway and a number of smaller enclosures, possibly used as animal pens, a scattering of pits and a trackway orientated north-south. The upper fills of the enclosure ditch produced a mixed assemblage of late Roman and early Anglo-Saxon pottery, suggesting possible continuity of occupation into the 5th and 6th centuries. Area 10 produced a pit alignment and small penannular gully dating to the late Bronze Age to early Iron Age.

Buckingham to Brackley Pipeline

SP 6753 3487 to SP 6877 3424

Earlier work by OA along this pipeline route had identified the possible course of two Roman roads and a ring ditch. Remains found during subsequent

trenching and a watching brief spanned the prehistoric to post-medieval periods. Finds included occasional prehistoric flint and pottery dating to the Early to Middle Iron Age, Roman and post-medieval periods. A sequence of Early to Middle Iron Age occupation included small enclosures and a roundhouse. No trace of the putative Roman roads was found. The watching brief element revealed deposits of modern ploughsoil sealing earlier 18th/19th-century worked soils, including ridge-and-furrow ploughing, as well as two possible clay or gravel pits and a dew pond.

Marlow: Lower Pound Lane

SU 8414 8539

Evaluation trenches were excavated by OA in order to assess the archaeological implications of undertaking flood alleviation works at this site. The trenches were targeted on geophysical anomalies and variations in the sub-surface topography identified from a previous borehole survey.

Significant early prehistoric archaeology had been previously identified to the north of the site on a gravel island. At least three ring ditches potentially indicating Bronze Age round barrows have been identified as crop marks and within the geophysical surveys. The evaluation revealed a low density of potential archaeological features scattered across the site. This included pits, postholes and ditches, most undated but others dated by worked flint to the Neolithic period. Apart from a rectangular ditch, there appeared to be little correlation between geophysical anomalies and the archaeology. Trenching suggested that many of the geophysical responses were caused by geological variations rather than archaeological features. Most of the features in the low-lying areas of the site were cut through alluvium. Some trenches also exhibited evidence of truncation from ploughing.

The most significant feature identified was a Neolithic rectangular enclosure originally identified during the geophysical survey and then targeted by the trenching. This produced an assemblage of worked and burnt flint.

ROMAN

Aston Clinton: Brook Street/London Road

SP 8751 1234

Trial trench evaluation by CA in December in advance of development identified one Roman ditch and seven medieval/post-medieval furrows.

Calverton: Passenham Quarry

SP 778 390

Previous work by NA, ahead of gravel extraction, had examined Bronze Age round barrows and an Iron Age pit alignment (*Records* 48, 290). Excavation continued during June to August, uncovering a further length of the pit alignment. A previously unknown, circular stone-built Roman mausoleum was also unearthed during the stripping of the topsoil. The mausoleum was about 5.0m in diameter. The encircling stone wall, which had no entrance, was 1.0m wide and built of rough limestone. Sections of wall foundation contained stone pitched in opposing directions. At the centre of the mausoleum was a Roman jar *c.*500mm in diameter, containing the cremated remains of at least one individual, together with 1376 square-sectioned iron nails of various sizes. Many nails were unused and as good as the day they were made, while others had been clenched over and retained with a washer.

Denham: The Lea

TQ 0490 8600

Following previous work by CA (*Records* 49, 258), a further phase of excavation in advance of gravel extraction was carried out over an area of *c.*0.2ha in the south-eastern corner of the northern field. Ditches representing a continuation of the Middle to Late Bronze Age field system lay at the south-western edge of the excavation area. The eastern part of an enclosure which probably dates to the 1st to 2nd centuries AD, was further investigated. The only internal features were two probable Roman wells in the south-western corner. A south-eastward continuation of a previously located ditch, dating to the 3rd-4th century, was also identified, extending beyond the eastern edge of the excavation area.

Dinton: Cuddington Road

SP 7578 1157

An evaluation was conducted by JMHS at Marsh Mead Farm in August, in advance of development. It revealed several Roman field ditches, dating to the 2nd century or later, and a single post-medieval gully. A pit or ditch terminal was also recorded, possibly of Middle Iron Age date.

Emberton / Petsoe: Milton Keynes Windfarm

SP 9150 4922

Following evaluation of the proposed wind farm site in 2006, AA undertook open area investigation of two areas, as well as archaeological observation of all other ground disturbance during December 2009 and January 2010.

The main area of investigation was on the higher ground on the south side of the valley of the Petsoe Brook. It revealed part of a Roman settlement, comprising a series of regular, rectangular enclosures, on the upper slopes of a tributary stream. Initial finds analysis indicates that the settlement was occupied in the 1st–2nd centuries AD, the enclosures being modified several times during this period. The enclosures were associated with a series of large quarry pits, dug for boulder clay and served by a metalled track. At least one water pit was dug: the abandoned quarries also appear to have been deliberately left open to collect water.

In contrast, medieval and later features were revealed in the lower part of the valley. A ditch, several pits and quarries were identified on the margins of Petsoe Manor. Several of these features contained dumps of limestone slabs, suggesting disposal of demolition material from buildings in the vicinity.

SAXON & MEDIEVAL***Aylesbury: Buckingham Road***

SP 8188 1523

In May, Foundations Archaeology undertook evaluation of the site of the former Aylesbury Football Club in advance of proposed redevelopment. A palaeochannel was identified in one trench, and a series of linear and discrete features towards the eastern end of another trench. Several of the latter

features were investigated but did not reveal any artefactual evidence, and it is suggested that they are riverine in origin. A single feature of possible post-medieval date was also identified. Only a small section was present within the trench, so its origins were not clear.

The skeletal remains of a single individual were identified in one trench, but could not be examined in great detail due to safety constraints. The burial was aligned east-west, with the head to the east and lay on its side. Radiocarbon analysis of a skull fragment suggested a date in the early 13th century. The burial did not appear to be a formal inhumation and may owe its location to conflict, crime or misadventure.

Aylesbury: Cambridge Street

SP 8205 1393

In September TVAS carried out a trial trench evaluation at Hampden Veterinary Hospital, revealing a ditch containing medieval pottery. A subsequent watching brief on the site during development revealed no further archaeological features or finds.

Brill: Temple Street

SP 6547 1403

An excavation was conducted by JMHS to the rear of the properties at 7 and 9 Temple Street in September. The site is located within the boundaries of Prosser's Yard pottery (*Records 27, 72–93*). Several postholes and nine large pits were located, all apparently associated with pottery production. One pit contained saggars and kiln waste dating from the 15th century: other pits were identified as sand pits. Another contained clay dumps within the backfill; 15th century saggars were also associated with these.

Buckingham: Church Street

SP 6948 3368

In November and December, Network Archaeology undertook a small-scale excavation in the rear garden of 23 Church Street, in advance of the construction of a house. A previous evaluation on the site had revealed a possible limestone rubble surface, apparently cut by a shallow gully. Both features contained fragments of medieval pottery and

animal bone, some of which showed evidence of butchery.

The excavation confirmed the presence of the limestone surface and gully, and also revealed two possible remnant stone walls with associated foundation trenches, two possible pits and a small number of plant or tree holes. The excavation also confirmed the presence of pottery, thought to be medieval in date, and animal bone within the limestone surface and within several of the features.

Buckingham: Market Hill

SP 6949 3411

Between March and April, Network Archaeology undertook evaluation and mapping/topographical survey at Market Hill, Buckingham. The proposed development area was located behind the Old Latin School, immediately north of Buckingham town centre.

The evaluation trenches revealed evidence of human activity dating from the 11th to 19th centuries. A small quantity of 11th-century pottery was recovered from several features across the site. One trench revealed numerous pits dating from the 13th to 19th centuries. Evidence of possible medieval sand quarrying was also identified. A number of former boundaries, shown on the 1847 title map, were observed in several trenches. A sequence of post-medieval walls was also recorded in one trench, probably representing a building visible on mid 18th-century mapping.

Evidence of horn and antler working was also recovered, possibly associated with the operation of a fleece yard to the east of the site. Palaeo-environmental sampling revealed evidence of cess deposits within a small number of pits, while a few features contained evidence of small scale metal-working. Faunal remains indicate localised butchery, while fish bones, including herring and eel, are suggestive of long-distance trade, possibly as early as the 13th century.

The associated survey was conducted on the landscape in which the trenches were set and revealed the remains of a post-medieval ornamental garden to the rear of the Old Latin School. A recently abandoned 1960s building and associated garage, an undated well and a pair of possible column bases, possibly associated with the ornamental garden, were also recorded, as was an extant 18th-century summerhouse which appeared to be

constructed on stone footings, perhaps indicating the position of an earlier structure.

Buckingham: The Chantry Chapel

SP 6957 3403

Historic building recording and assessment were carried out by NA in November, prior to alterations to the interior of the building by the National Trust. The Chantry Chapel was founded in the 12th century, but later converted into a school building. The aumbry and piscina still remain from its use as a chapel. Its fabric was renovated in the 19th century, resulting in suites of windows which are almost entirely of that period. Earlier, blocked windows can be discerned, as can a configuration of scaffold put-log holes deriving from previous building or renovation works. Sections of panelling were removed from the north and west walls at the northern end of the building. The removal of panelling from the north wall led to the exposure of a blocked doorway in the north-west corner of the building, linking the chapel to the adjacent house. The chapel housed the Royal Latin School until it was relocated in 1907, and the adjacent building served as the schoolmaster's house. The doorway was probably blocked in the late 1850s when major works were carried out. Small section excavations at the base of the west wall revealed layers of disturbed gravel around a series of modern pipes.

Chicheley: Chicheley Hall

SP 9055 4585

Investigations undertaken by AA at Chicheley Hall during a programme of building refurbishment revealed remains of medieval to 19th-century date. Early medieval remains included part of the cemetery associated with the adjacent Church of St Lawrence, together with pits and ditches which may have formed part of a manorial centre. Finds from one pit included wall plaster and a stirrup, suggesting high-status occupation. A small number of features indicated continued use of the site through the medieval period. Documentary evidence suggests that the site formed part of a grange belonging to Tickford Priory. To the south of the house, a watching brief on a service trench revealed a number of pits and ditches appearing to form part of an area of former medieval settlement. Post-medieval and later evidence relating to the devel-

opment of the site as a country house included evidence for the internal arrangement of the stables.

Gerrards Cross: Camp Road

SP 9941 8779

Following an earlier evaluation (*Records* 47.1, 224), in July AS conducted an excavation on land adjacent to Moray House, 44 Camp Road, prior to residential development. The excavation revealed evidence dating to the early medieval period (pits, ditches and a posthole), as well as modern features.

Haddenham: Townsend

SP 7388 0839

In November JMHS carried out a watching brief during development at 37 Townsend. Several pits were noted towards the rear of the plot and it seems likely that these are 13th century in date. They were sealed by a later medieval cultivation soil. The site then appears to have gone out of use until the post-medieval period, when it was again under cultivation.

Hambleton: Ridge Wood

SU 778 865

During 2009 Chiltern Archaeology undertook an archaeological survey of Ridge Wood. The survey suggested that there are enough species of ancient flora in the south and southeast to indicate this woodland has been in existence for a considerable time. Ridge Wood is shown as woodland on the earliest map of the area (1761) and remains woodland from this time to the present-day. In contrast Great Wood, comprising the north and west parts of the wood, contains no such ancient indicator species and shows evidence of much replanting. The earliest maps of the mid-1700s show Great Wood largely cleared of trees and under cultivation or grazing. Large areas of the Great Wood began to regenerate during the early to late 1800s.

The Glade, the wide, redwood-lined, formal bridleway through the wood, was laid out at some time between 1883 and 1898. This and other Victorian tracks then became the main routes through the woods, and previous pathways (such as the deep worn holloways and other now faint ancient paths) became disused. Other features, such as saw pits, are close to the holloways, indicating these paths

were still the dominant entry and exit points when the pits were in use. The size and sinuous nature of a ditch and bank on the east side is characteristic of a woodland boundary feature from the early medieval period. Indeed, the most northerly holloway respects this feature, and hence puts the ditch and bank as the most ancient structure seen in the woodland survey. Seven saw pits were identified, all along the east side of Ridge Wood, indicating they were used by the village of Hambleton. This is also the only area where notable coppicing was observed, although at a low level.

High Wycombe: Crendon Street

SU 8680 9296

In September AS carried out a trial trench evaluation prior to residential development of land to the rear of 18 Crendon Street. The evaluation revealed three medieval (mid 12th to early 14th century) pits, a modern pit and post-medieval building remains.

Middleton: All Saints Church

SP 8876 3917

Between April and June, ASC maintained a watching brief at All Saints Church, Middleton (Milton Keynes village), during the construction of a new north porch and associated services. High quantities of disarticulated human remains, and eighty articulated or partially articulated burials were excavated. A number of burials showed evidence of having been in coffins, though the majority lacked evidence of grave type. Roman pottery and a deposit containing slag, heated clay and pottery provided further evidence for Roman settlement activity within the area.

Pitstone: Moat Farm

SP 9438 1519

A programme of recording was carried out at Moat Farm by ASC to assess the archaeological features and stratigraphy in and around a damaged area of the moat, which is a scheduled ancient monument. The base of a brick and lime mortar dam was cleared of spoil, cleaned and recorded, and the silt immediately adjacent to it was removed. The dam base appeared to incorporate part of an earlier structure, possibly a bridge, built at least in part of Totternhoe clunch. Other features associated with

the dam and adjacent sluice appeared to have been constructed in an effort to reduce erosion of the sides of the moat.

POST-MEDIEVAL AND UNDATED

Amersham: Old Amersham Farm

SU 9510 9784

A trial trench evaluation was conducted by Marlow Archaeological Society in April at the farm. About 1m depth of demolition material was found to overlay natural gravel/clay. It appeared that the natural soils had been levelled to form the farmyard. A number of Neolithic worked flints came from the top of the natural and an undated posthole was also revealed.

Aylesbury: Aylesbury Crown Court

SP 8231 1308

During May trial trenches were opened by AA on land surrounding the recently closed Equitable Life building, site of the new Crown Court. Although only post-medieval remains of local significance were identified, the potential for archaeological preservation was confirmed despite major development and ground reduction in parts of the site. This suggested that remains associated with the nearby, important site of Saxon and medieval Walton might be revealed during re-development.

Demolition of the existing building was monitored during October 2009, revealing further remains of the pre 20th-century landscape. A former topsoil, subsoil layers and a modern sump, on the location of a former pond shown on post-medieval and modern maps of the area, were recorded. The sump lay in the most truncated part of the site, beneath the former office block.

Aylesbury: Exchange Street

SP 8221 1364

AS conducted an evaluation at the Waterside Redevelopment site, Exchange Street in October, in compliance with a pre-planning application requirement in advance of a proposal to drill boreholes across the site. The site is located on low-lying land between the historic cores of Walton and Aylesbury, and was deemed to be of particular importance for the Saxon and medieval periods,

and also for study of the Roman-Saxon transition. The evaluation revealed only modern walls, probably associated with the development on the site before it was converted into a car park.

Aylesbury: HM Prison Aylesbury

SP 8272 1444

In October AA carried out a historic building survey and watching brief at the Segregation Unit, Block D, Aylesbury Young Offenders Institution. The present Block D was due for demolition and replacement with a new purpose-built wing.

Aylesbury Prison was constructed between 1844 and 1847. The architect was Charles James Pierce and it was built as a male local prison, D-Wing being the debtors' wing. By 1895 it had become a female convict prison, although D-Wing housed local male remand prisoners. Between 1902 and 1905 D-Wing was briefly used to house female inebriates while a separate prison was being built elsewhere on site. When male prisoners were not on remand in D-Wing the area was reserved for industrial beadwork.

Although D-Wing retained much of its later 19th-century form, it clearly underwent a number of changes in the later Victorian period. The most substantive change was the shortening of the wing that is likely to have taken place between 1885 and 1902, most likely *c.* 1895 when Aylesbury became a female convict prison. Other small alterations to cell layout and the removal of a central stair well also appear to have taken place, although there is no evidence of this former layout in the current fabric. More recent changes to D-Wing had been largely cosmetic, and it probably remained much as it had been in the early 20th century.

The watching brief undertaken during groundworks associated with both the demolition of D-Wing and the construction of the new building revealed no archaeological remains.

Aylesbury: Quarrendon Leas

SP 8023 1585

The hand-excavation of test pits by NA was undertaken to determine the character and extent of modern disturbance and deposit accumulation on the moated area of the medieval earthworks at Quarrendon Leas (Scheduled Ancient Monument: 12004). The test pit excavation was followed by a

watching brief during the construction of a foot-path across the scheduled monument. The investigation revealed a brick drain and yard and track surfaces associated with Church Farm, which formerly occupied the site until its demolition in the late 20th century, and a range of demolition deposits and made ground. No deposits predating the 19th century were encountered.

Biddlesden: Whitfield Wood
SP 6427 3930

A walkover survey of Whitfield Wood by NA identified a number of features, including an earthwork platform, a former gravel pit, and a series of woodland earthworks and drainage ditches.

Bradenham: Bradenham Manor
SU 829 970

Archaeological recording and analysis were carried out by NA for the National Trust on both the ruined and standing horticultural glasshouses which formerly served Bradenham Manor. Historic maps show that the lean-to and gardener's shed date from 1885–98, and the main greenhouses and boiler room between 1900 and 1921. A dated threshold stone (1908) may denote this second construction phase.

Bradwell: Moat House
SP 8300 3960

A watching brief was conducted by ASC in March 2009 at the Moat House, on the excavation of an open area and one trench, during the construction of a garage. One possible wall and adjacent floor surface were revealed in a small area within the trench, but no other archaeological features were observed within the open area or anywhere else within the trench.

Bradwell Abbey: Alston Drive
SP 8268 3947

In August a watching brief was carried out by ASC at Bradwell Abbey during excavations for concrete display bases for nineteen sculptures, located around the grounds. One location revealed a stone floor surface thought to be associated with either the Cruck Barn or the surrounding farmyard. Within the remaining trenches only disturbed

ground was encountered, and no archaeological features or deposits were observed.

Brill: Church Street
SP 6555 1376

A watching brief was conducted by JMHS in May at Penn Cottage, 20 Church Street, during the excavation of footings for a replacement rear extension. Three pits dating from the 17th to 18th centuries were observed, in addition to an undated pit. Good assemblages of post-medieval Brill production wares, as well as high-status material of non-local production were recovered.

Charndon: The Old Longhouse
SP 6715 2439

Historic building recording by Chiltern Archaeology in October 2009 revealed that The Old Longhouse was built in the 18th century as two small witchert cottages, semi-detached and one storey, perhaps intended for agricultural workers. The cottages used local building materials – witchert with wood inserts for the walls and limestone for the grumpling layers. There was one main entrance doorway to each witchert cottage, sited on the front of the building and facing onto Main Street. During the 19th and 20th century various alterations involved the addition of an extension at each end of the witchert structure, closing up the original two doors and increasing the height of the top witchert walling with breeze block to form an extra level and bedrooms on an upper floor. The two new extensions and the upper floor rooms were linked by two corridors which were added to the rear and ran the full length of the new building. These corridors linked all rooms and led to the staircase put in at the north end. During these renovations the grumpling layer at the front of the witchert building was reinforced with a very hard concrete revetment which would improve drainage away from the witchert walls.

Cliveden: Green Drive
SU 4913 1852

Marlow Archaeological Society were commissioned by the National Trust to carry out some excavation of specific features identified in a survey conducted by WA. Area A comprised small

areas of brickwork visible in the bank of Green Drive. Excavation revealed this to be a substantial structure some 1.2m thick which joined a wall at a right angle. The excavation was extended to expose this wall which turned out to be 35m long and 1m thick, with a return at both ends and at intermediate points. All the returns had been cut at the same point and it was apparent that the structure had been carefully demolished to one level. Construction comprised a brick foundation with brick and flint above, and a centre of packed chalk. A ditch had been dug along the west side of the long wall and at the bottom of the bank adjacent to the drive. Adjacent to the main return were other later brick structures and indications of floors of compacted earth/brick dust. Examination of the associated finds suggests a 17th-century date for the main structure with the stratigraphic sequence extending into the early 20th century.

Cuddington: St Nicholas' Church,
SP 7372 1120

A watching brief carried out by TVAS in January during the installation of a new floor in the nave revealed an earlier floor. Below this were two crypts, one dating to the 18th century.

Dinton: Oxford Road, Dinton Castle
SP 76540 11548

Dinton Castle, a Grade II* listed octagonal 'sham gothic castle' folly, was built in 1769 by John Vanhatten to house his collection of fossils. The structure includes many large locally-found ammonites incorporated in its external walls. Building recording was carried out by NA between March and October during urgent structural repairs. The folly was photographed and the internal elevation was drawn, showing the different blocks of stone and brickwork. Repairs were made to the brickwork and windows.

Frieth: Frieth Hill
SP 7949 9023

A watching brief carried out by JMHS at The Cottage, Frieth Hill during the excavation of footings for a replacement extension to the rear of the property in October revealed an undated lime-slaking pit.

Grove: Church Lock Cottage
SP 9212 2248

A watching brief was undertaken by ASC in April during the construction of an extension to Church Lock Cottage, a Grade II listed former lock-keeper's cottage alongside the Grand Union Canal. The watching brief revealed a series of small below-ground structures at the south-west end of the cottage, extending beyond the limits of the single-storey extension that had been demolished at the start of the project. The cellar rooms, which were soundly constructed of brick, were bonded to the lower part of the house, and were most likely contemporary with it. Their function remains unknown. No archaeological deposits or artefacts relating to the adjoining former church were encountered.

Gerrards Cross: Bulstrode Park
SU 9870 8820

OA carried out a watching brief within the grounds of Bulstrode House in March. Evidence for an east-west aligned boundary or garden wall running parallel to the house was encountered. The bricks used in its construction date to the early to mid 18th-century, which falls within the period of landscaping by Henry Wise and Claude Desgots during the 1730s. Deposits relating to the 19th-century remodelling of the formal gardens were uncovered. Concrete and brick bases along the eastern edge of the formal gardens belonged to huts constructed in the Second World War to provide temporary accommodation for military personnel.

Haddenham: Townsend
SP 7407 0920

A small area excavation was undertaken by JMHS in June at Berry Cottage, 15 Townsend. The investigation located two post-medieval postholes, sealed by a sequence of later garden soils.

Iver Heath: Chandlers Hill
TQ 0287 8347 to TQ 0418 8355

A desk-based assessment by Archaeology & Planning Solutions established that a proposed underground electricity cable across Chandlers Hill crosses a landscape with high archaeological

potential. This was followed up by an aerial photographic assessment and a geophysical survey. However, relatively few further archaeological features were identified within the footprint of the cable route, one major exception being part of the site of a World War II anti-aircraft battery.

Luffield Abbey: Silverstone Race Circuit

SP 6740 4190

Two phases of work were undertaken by WA during November, comprising a watching brief on three areas totalling within the proposed track amendment area towards the centre of the site, and a strip, map and sample excavation of a further area, between the existing racetrack and a stretch of former runway.

Features of archaeological interest were only encountered in two of the watching brief areas. These comprised six undated field boundary ditches. Five were aligned north-east to south-west, one east-west, and most coincide or share alignments with features shown on post-medieval mapping. One continues the alignment of a ditch encountered during an earlier evaluation (*Records* 49, 263), a feature which contained sherds of early Romano-British pottery. Seven pieces of cattle bone were recovered from one of the ditches, and it is not certain that the ceramics recovered during evaluation were not redeposited.

The excavation area proved to have been very heavily disturbed by drainage services, and airfield and racing circuit installations.

Maid's Moreton: St Edmunds Church

SP 7059 3516

In September AS carried out a trial trench evaluation at St Edmunds Church, prior to the construction of a church hall. The evaluation revealed a layer of rubble and a cobbled surface. The rubble included post-medieval brick and tile, and the cobbled surface contained late 17th to early 18th-century pottery and brick and tile. The cobbled surface likely represents a trackway which led from the church to the old rectory.

Nether Winchendon: Manor Farm

SP 7320 1220

OA undertook a programme of building recording on structures at Manor Farm during September. The recording followed a previous investigation at the site by Cotswold Archaeology in 2006 and the current work was intended to add to the existing understanding of the farmstead. The project covered five structures, the main one of which was a threshing barn which incorporated a considerable number of reused timbers from a previous building. These included moulded beams which would have been from a high-status building, probably of Tudor date. It is likely that they were from Nether Winchendon House, dating from around 1530, and may have been taken from the house during renovations in the 18th century. The structure of the barn is also of interest as its design incorporates two separate functions, each requiring distinct forms of framing, within a single-phase building. The other main buildings recorded were a granary, a cowhouse, shelter shed and ancillary building. A set of carefully carved initials and date on a truss in the shelter shed suggest that this was probably constructed in 1835. The building recording is being followed by a separate, on-going archaeological watching brief.

Newport Pagnell: William Cowley Parchment Works

SP 8757 4348

During December 2009 and January 2010 AA conducted a historic building survey of the rear workshop of the William Cowley Parchment Works, Caldecote Street. Following the workshop's demolition in March 2010, the site was evaluated by three test pits, to determine whether elements of the town's civil war defences were located at the site, as suggested on maps dating to 1644, and whether any structures predating the 19th-century parchment works were present.

As the only extant parchment works in England, the Caldecote Street site is of great significance and interest. Documentary evidence suggests that the parchment works were constructed in, or a short while before 1876, as part of an already established tradition of parchment making in Newport Pagnell. The workshop scheduled for demolition was built sometime between 1883 and 1899 when William

Cowley is first associated with the site. Although the workshop had been altered and re-modelled many times, the core of the building remained largely intact, with evidence for long thin stretches of glazing and large louvered, upper-storey openings, which were part of the original design of the building and provided ventilation for the drying of animal skins, still visible.

The test pits revealed only features and deposits associated with the recently demolished workshop. These included remnants of foundations and three sunken, wood-lined lime pits, used for the soaking of animal skins.

North Marston: The Old Forge

SP 7759 2268

NA carried out a trial trench evaluation on land at The Old Forge in September. A wall foundation was found for a post-medieval building thought to have occupied the site from the mid 19th century until c.1966–85.

Penn: Elm Road

SU 9074 9362

A watching brief was undertaken by ASC in July at The Old Antique Shop, Elm Road, during groundworks for a single-storey rear extension to the shop. A posthole of possible medieval date, a ditch or robber trench and a tentatively identified wall foundation of the post-medieval period were present in the area affected by groundworks.

Penn: Elm Road

SU 9063 9396

TVAS carried out a watching brief in July at Victoria House, Penn Road. An undated ditch with two re-cuts and a construction trench for a brick and stone wall foundation were observed. These probably represented the line of the parish boundary.

Pitstone: Pitstone Green Farm

SP 9376 1565

A building assessment of Pitstone Green Farm was undertaken by NA, for the National Trust. The farmhouse was not included as it is under separate tenancy. The original farm had been mapped by

1810, although that was probably demolished and the present farm built around 1830. The farm comprises a brick-built farmhouse and a group of brick and timber farm buildings which have been added to, altered and reconfigured according to agricultural requirements up to the late 20th century.

Princes Risborough: High Street

SP 8080 0334

Three trial trenches were excavated to the rear of 27–29 High Street by JMHS in November. A large proportion of the area had been excavated in two main events from the 17th century onwards. Possible evidence for burgage plot boundaries was also recorded.

Ravenstone: Horseshoe Farm

SP 8510 5087

ASC undertook a trial trench evaluation in April at Horseshoe Farm, North End, in advance of the construction of a house. A cobbled surface and a wall footing, thought to be associated with buildings shown on the site on 19th century mapping, were revealed. A brick floor was also uncovered within the trench, at a higher level than the wall footing or cobbled surface, suggesting it was associated with a later building, and may have been part of an early floor surface associated with a recently demolished barn. The site had evidently been terraced at some point, creating a sharp fall in ground level between the eastern end of the site and the road to the west. The absence of any earlier archaeological finds or features suggests that it was truncated during the post-medieval period.

Sherington: Sherington Manor

SP 8892 4622

In April the initial phase of a staged programme of archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ASC at Sherington Manor. A single trial trench was excavated adjacent to a medieval moated site (SAM 29471) within the grounds of the manor. A shallow spread containing a mixture of local flint, a small quantity of ceramic building material, and animal bone was noted at the north-northeast end of the trench. Definitive dating evidence was not present although the ceramic building material and the location of the deposit suggest that it may be asso-

ciated with construction of the nearby 18th century manor house. Finds or features defining activity associated with the medieval moated site were not observed.

Stoke Mandeville: Woolpack Inn, Risborough Road
SP 8355 1025

Following a fire that badly damaged the 17th-century timber-framed Woolpack Inn, a Grade II listed structure, a record of the building was made by CA during May to mitigate the effects of the fire damage and to inform restoration. The fire had destroyed one roof slope of the northern range and caused the collapse of the entire roof structure and upper floor of the thatched section. Nevertheless, the ground floor and elevations to eaves level and the central roof truss of the north range survived to be recorded in detail, and large elements of the timber structures of both it and the thatched, southern range were recovered from the wreckage.

The north wing had a tiled roof and the south was thatched. The study of the building has confirmed a likely 17th-century date for the northern range but has shown that the southern range is considerably earlier and that the northern range was a structural addition to it. The truss design, jointing and timber reduction techniques indicate a late medieval tradition, and a date probably in the late 15th to 16th century. The older range had been under-built in brick in the late 18th or early 19th century. The overwhelming majority of the timber work and all the older work is in elm, so dating by dendrochronology was not possible. Many additions and extensions had been made to the building in the last three or four decades, including significant internal alterations to the historic core. Substantial changes had been made to the core in the later 18th to early 20th centuries as well. Archaeological monitoring of excavations for new foundations and floors revealed that the buildings had been erected on a laid platform of clay which sealed an old ditch or watercourse. Two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered.

Stoke Poges: The Manor House
SU 9762 8286

WA carried out an evaluation in advance of proposed development in November. Evaluation had

already been undertaken on part of the site to inform a previous planning application, along with an archaeological desk-based assessment and geophysical survey. Relocation of the proposed buildings as part of a new application necessitated the additional trenching.

In all three trenches evidence of disturbance and modern landscaping was represented by redeposited soils, up to 0.45m in depth. These overlay features dating to the medieval and post-medieval period. Footings of a substantial wall orientated north north-west by south south-east was recorded, with a robber trench running parallel to it. A gully terminus and a pit were also recorded: the fills of both features comprised mostly broken tile. It is likely that these features are related to the walled kitchen garden landscaped by Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown in 1765/6.

Stowe: Stowe Landscape Gardens, Grotto
SP 6764 3750

A programme of recording was carried out by NA, prior to the restoration of the interior of the 1730s grotto. The main focus was to trace the course of a lead pipe feeding the marble basin at the back of the grotto. The pipe had been truncated at a high level but the outlet from the basin could be traced below the pebble floor as a narrow brick-lined culvert, eventually exiting into the small lake below the grotto. Recording of the original pebble floor was also carried out and this confirmed that a series of narrow lines running across the floor corresponded with the positions of timber battens used to run a level float across the floor when it was laid into wet mortar.

Stowe: Stowe School
SP 681 383

A watching brief was carried out by OA for Stowe School during the construction of new playing fields and resurfacing of an existing athletics track. Evidence of the 18th-century landscaped gardens, including two possible pathways and a stone wall, was observed within the area of the athletics track, together with evidence of the original ground levels prior to the construction of the athletics track.

Waddesdon: Windmill Hill Farm

SP 7342 1550

Historic building recording was undertaken by ASC on two barns at Windmill Hill Farm, prior to their conversion for use as part of a research centre. Both buildings date to the late 19th to early 20th centuries, and have been used for agricultural purposes since their construction. Building 1 comprised two storeys, the lower floor having been used originally to house cattle and horses, and latterly as a storage space. The upper floor was latterly used as a grain store, and paraphernalia associated with this remain both inside and outside the building. Building 2 was a single storey structure which appeared to have started life as a piggery. In the latter part of the 20th century it was used as stables, but the internal evidence suggested that it was more likely used latterly to house cattle.

Wavendon: St. Mary's Church

SP 9115 3720

A watching brief was conducted during ground-work within the graveyard of the church by JMHS in October 2009. One burial was located: this was recorded and left in situ.

Weston Underwood: Weston House

SP 8672 5078

In June a watching brief was carried out by ASC at Weston House during the excavation of footings and associated service trenches, during the conversion and extension of an existing garage and workshop. One wall, a possible wall, a layer of mortar and a possible ditch, all of post-medieval date, were revealed in the footing trenches.

Whitchurch: Oving Road

SP 8003 2096

Historic building recording of the Quaker Barn, 1 Oving Road was undertaken by ASC in October prior to its conversion for residential use. The barn is a three-bay un-aisled structure under a clay tile roof. It was built in the late 17th/early 18th century using locally sourced stone and some timber that had previously been used in a domestic setting. The barn appears to have been rebuilt in the late

18th century, and an inscription on the northern tiebeam commemorating a wedding in 1794 may provide an indication of when and why. At the time the barn was owned by Thomas Fowler, a local churchwarden who was also active in the Methodist movement. The wedding was that of his daughter, and the barn may have been a wedding gift, or the venue for the wedding festivities. His house, now known as *Quaker Barn*, was then called *Normead*, a name it retained until at least 1934. Records suggest that the barn has always been associated with the farmhouse, and was always used for storage.

Wing: Overstone Combined School

SP 8804 2244

In October 2009 AS conducted an evaluation of land at Overstone Combined School, Church Street. The evaluation was commissioned to inform proposals for the construction of new children's centre and nursery. The evaluation revealed a single modern ditch.

Wingrave: United Reform Church

SP 8686 1892

Historic building recording of the United Reform Church in Church Street was carried out by ASC as a condition of planning permission for development of the site. The earliest record of Nonconformism in Wingrave dates from 1669, when it was recorded that Anabaptist meetings had been held for several years. Initially Nonconformist meetings were held in private houses specifically licensed to hold services. In 1813 William Cox offered licensed land to the local Nonconformists, who in 1817 formed an Independent Church consisting of Baptists, Congregationalists and Quakers, and known as the Union Church. The present meeting room, which was built in 1832, is orientated east-west and is brick built under a hipped roof with slate tiles. It was built onto an earlier meeting room dating from c.1817. Beyond this is a kitchen. Two school rooms were added to the north of the kitchen and rear meeting room in 1904. As elsewhere, the congregation declined in the post-war years and the church was closed in 2005.

Winslow: Cattle Market

SP 7698 2748

Following an initial desk-based assessment, an evaluation was undertaken by ASC on the site of the Cattle Market in January to assess its archaeological potential prior to redevelopment. Seven trenches were opened within the footprint of the proposed buildings. Archaeology was observed in four of the trenches. This comprised two postholes and two probable gullies, none of which were dated, and the remains of a wooden Victorian cattle pen. The site appeared to have been heavily landscaped, probably when the original cattle market was constructed. The natural geology was overlain by made ground that deepened from the northern edge to the southeast corner of the site, at which point it was over a metre in depth.

Wolverton: Wolverton Park

SP 8203 4136

Over the course of the development from 2006 to 2009 AA carried out a historic building survey, along with a watching brief on groundworks in the Royal Train Shed and Triangular Building. The Wolverton Park development includes three key areas of the surviving 19th-century core of Wolverton Works: Wolverton Park and velodrome; the adjacent Royal Train Shed, a former carriage works that was used to house the Royal Train from 1963 onwards; the Triangular Building, in which the famous Class 31 locomotives, nicknamed 'Bloomers', were constructed from 1851 to 1862; and the Reading Room.

The building survey revealed that few of the original fixtures and fittings of the structures had survived. However, the development of the buildings and their change of use over time could still clearly be read from the surviving fabric. The development work also revealed the relationships between the buildings in greater detail.

The watching brief in the Royal Train Shed revealed three phases of railway tracks, carriage inspection pits and two phases of building foundations below the latest floor surface. A series of parallel rail track foundations, part of a traverser line and multiple storage tracks dating to the late 19th century when the building was used as a paint shop, was recorded below the concrete floor of the Triangular Building.

NEGATIVE**Amersham: High Street**

SP 9546 9728

A trial trench evaluation undertaken at 74 High Street by JMHS in January did not reveal any archaeological remains.

Aylesbury: Buckingham Street

SP 8188 1404

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered in a watching brief carried out by TVAS at Aylesbury Methodist Church, Buckingham Street. The natural geology was not reached and it is possible that this indicates the presence of a deep feature such as a ditch associated with the Iron Age hillfort located in this part of the town.

Aylesbury: Oxford Road

SP 8150 1380

Foundations Archaeology undertook a watching brief on development at *Big Hand Mo's* public house, Oxford Road. No archaeological finds or features were identified within the excavated areas.

Aylesbury: Tring Road

SP 8325 1340

Following an initial desk-based assessment, an evaluation of the southern part of Tring Road allotments was undertaken by ASC in December, in advance of proposed incorporation of the this area into the adjoining municipal cemetery. The evaluation, comprising a metal detector survey and trial trenching, was required because previous discoveries within and around the allotments had indicated that the site may contain burials of the Saxon period. The evaluation did not reveal burials of any period. Little evidence of activity pre-dating the medieval period was observed, and the area appears to have been arable land during the medieval and post-medieval periods. Significant truncation and reworking of soils and natural sediments was identified, and it is suggested that ploughing and recent use of the site as allotments had destroyed any shallow archaeological features which might have been present.

Bledlow-cum-Saunderton: E-Shelter, Saunderton
SP 8072 9850

Following a watching brief during geotechnical works, an evaluation was undertaken by WA on this site, located on the edge of a dispersed Bronze Age barrow cemetery. A Scheduled Bronze Age bowl barrow (SM 27122) lies within the limits of the site. At the west end of the Site, made ground deposits were present overlying possible redeposited subsoil or topsoil layers. The sharp, clean interface between the buried topsoil and natural chalk suggested previous landscaping may have occurred throughout the area. At the east end of the site, intact soil sequences were recorded most trenches, although in the north-west corner natural deposits had been heavily truncated and a thick layer of made-ground deposited.

No archaeological features were identified and no finds were recovered from the site. Given the lack of disturbance in the eastern part and the absence of any truncated features or stray finds in the western area, it seems probable that the prehistoric mortuary activity is confined to the north of the site.

Brill: High Street
SP 6538 1383

A watching brief by OA at Kings Ride House, High Street, in September revealed deep deposits of worked/garden soil overlying weathered ironstone. No significant archaeology was observed.

Denham: Village Road
TQ 0429 8695

A watching brief was carried out by ASC at Cedar Cottage, Village Road, during the construction of a single-storey rear extension to the existing cottage in September. The site has been much disturbed due to services, and a former concrete pond and stream. No archaeological features or deposits were observed.

Foscott: Foscott Old Church
SP 7168 3576

No archaeological remains were encountered during a watching brief carried out by JMHS.

Granborough: Biggin Field
SP 7630 2626

A 'strip, map and sample' excavation was undertaken by ASC in June 2009 at Biggin Field during construction of a new barn, adjacent to the earthwork site marking the deserted medieval village of Biggen. The footprint of the structure was excavated down to the top of the subsoil under archaeological supervision, and the excavation of two foundation pits was monitored. No archaeological features or deposits were located, and no medieval artefacts were observed.

Great Missenden: High Street
SP 8960 0111

ASC carried out a watching brief in June at the Fire & Rescue Station, High Street, to monitor groundworks for a single-storey extension to the existing building. The watching brief revealed only made ground from an earlier demolished building on the site, and a modern brick soakaway. No archaeological deposits or features were observed.

Haddenham: Fort End
SP 7407 0879

An evaluation was conducted at the rear of 1 Fort End in December by JMHS. A single trench was excavated down to the natural geology. No archaeological remains were encountered.

Haversham: High Street
SP 8292 4280

In February a watching brief was carried out by ASC on land south of 6 High Street, during the clearance of an area prior to the construction of a stable block. No archaeological finds or features were observed within the stripped development area. Pottery of medieval to modern date was recovered from the topsoil.

Haversham: Mill Road
SP 8373 4372

A watching brief was undertaken by ASC in June during the excavation of footings for a single-storey extension to Old Mill View, Mill Road. The present house partly occupies former farm build-

ings belonging to Hill Farm, and a number of discoveries of Roman artefacts, features and structures from in and around the farm have been taken to indicate the likelihood of a well-appointed Roman villa in the vicinity. The watching brief revealed a rough limestone rubble surface, most likely that of the farmyard, cut by a number of modern service trenches. No finds of archaeological significance, Roman or otherwise, were recovered from the footing trenches.

Iver: Project Pinewood

TQ 0212 8453

A trial trench evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at Project Pinewood during September and October. Natural clays were overlain in many parts of the site by natural gravels and a sequence of subsoil and topsoil. No archaeological features were identified in any of the trenches. The only features recorded across the site were a series of modern plough scars.

Lane End: Laurel Farm

SU 8035 9330

A watching brief was undertaken by ASC during the construction of a ménage at Laurel Farm, Wheeler End. A modern service trench and a bowl-shaped depression were the only features noted: no archaeological deposits were present. On the west side of the field the ménage partly overlaid an undated chalk extraction pit, which was partly infilled to provide a level surface for the ménage.

Leckhampstead: Middle End

SP 7265 3763

A watching brief was carried out by ASC during groundworks for construction of a ménage at Valley House, Middle End in September. The site is located within the vicinity of earthworks associated with two medieval manor houses and a possible Civil War gun battery. The northeast of the development footprint was subject to a shallow, partial topsoil strip prior to deposition of levelling material: the presence or absence of archaeological remains was not determined. The ground level was substantially reduced at the southwest of the development footprint, but no archaeological finds, features or deposits were present at this location.

Marlow: Unicorn Bridge House

SU 855 861

In December Foundations Archaeology undertook an evaluation in advance of a proposed single storey extension to Unicorn Bridge House, located close to the site of a medieval or post-medieval mill on the Thames. The single evaluation trench revealed an undated soil layer 1.8m below the modern ground surface, beneath post-medieval and modern made ground. No archaeological features were present within the trench.

Olney: Lavendon Road

SP 8924 5231

In March ASC carried out a programme of evaluation trenching at Lavendon Road Farm, Olney, to assess its archaeological potential prior to the construction of a house extension. One trench was opened within the footprint of the proposed extension. No archaeological cut features, deposits or artefacts were observed in the trench, although the remnants of a back-filled 20th century swimming pool were encountered.

Penn: Elm Road

SU 9080 9394

A watching brief undertaken by TVAS during construction of a club house at Penn and Tylers Green Lawn Tennis Club, Elm Road, revealed no archaeological finds or features.

Radclive, Beeches Nursery

SP 6764 3396 and SP 6772 3391

A trial trench evaluation by NA on land at Beeches Nursery, Radclive, revealed no archaeological remains.

Ravenstone: Bay Lane

SP 8493 5083

In April ASC carried out a watching brief at Sunnyside Cottage, Bay Lane, during groundworks for a double garage. The development area is directly adjacent to the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Ravenstone Priory. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

Stony Stratford: High Street

SP 7874 4049

A watching brief by ASC at 58 High Street in July, during the excavation of a footing trench and a service trench, revealed only the remnants of a modern drain.

Tattenhoe: Bare Farm

SP 8217 3349

In October an evaluation was undertaken by ASC at Bare Farm to inform development proposals for the site. Five trenches were excavated, to determine whether Iron Age features present in the adjacent fields extended onto the site. The south-eastern corner of the site contained at least five animal burials, four sheep and one cow, probably the remains of modern stock buried whilst the farm was still operational. No archaeological features, deposits or stratified finds were noted. It is probable that the roundhouses present in the fields to the south and southeast of the site were contained within the associated boundary ditches, and the linear features that were orientated towards the site either terminated or turned before reaching the evaluation trenches.

Tattenhoe: St Giles Church

SP 8280 3395

ASC maintained a watching brief at St Giles Church in August, as a condition of scheduled monument consent, to observe the relaying of the existing church path. Due to the shallow nature of the works no archaeological features or deposits were found.

Whitchurch: Market Hill

SP 7998 2090

A watching brief carried out by TVAS at Mullions, 11 Market Hill, revealed no archaeological finds or features.

REPORTS NOT RECEIVED

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

Gerrards Cross, M25 various sites
North Crawley, High Street
Wexham, Langley Park Visitor Centre
Winslow, Home Close
Wolverton: Manor Farm Quarry