

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

The following notes on fieldwork carried out in the county in 2010 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](http://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
MOLA	Museum of London Archaeology
NA	Northamptonshire Archaeology
OA	Oxford Archaeology
TVAS	Thames Valley Archaeological Services
WA	Wessex Archaeology

## PREHISTORIC

### *Aylesbury: Prebendal House*

SP 8166 1386

Between August 2008 and October 2010, OA carried out a watching brief at Prebendal House during a programme of internal and external alterations. The watching brief revealed a substantial, north-south aligned linear feature to the west of the site. Although no securely datable artefactual evidence was recovered during the watching brief, a comparison with the alignment of a section of the Iron Age hillfort ditch excavated to the north in 1985 suggests that the feature is likely to represent the southern continuation of the western line of the Iron Age or possibly Saxon defensive circuit. The feature was cut by three pits, at least one of which produced 14th century pottery. A large undated pit was revealed to the east, and appeared to be truncated by the construction trench for the southernmost of two brick-vaulted cellars of Prebendal House. It is probable that these cellars survived from a 17th-century precursor to the 18th-century house. The cellars under the southern wing of the house appear to be on a similar alignment and are probably associated. Both the cellars appeared to truncate a section of brick wall on a slightly different alignment to the main house, and possibly represented a remaining component of an earlier structure. A possible buried soil which appeared to pre-date the construction horizon for the 18th-century house was also revealed. The remaining deposits and structures encountered during the watching brief were associated with the construction of Prebendal House and the landscaping of the gardens from the 18th century onwards.

### *Buckingham: London Road*

SP 7060 3260

In March an evaluation was undertaken by NA on land at London Road, Buckingham. Sixty-one trenches were excavated. There was one ditch with

a shallow pit close by. A small quantity of pottery suggests that the features were middle to late Iron Age, perhaps of 1st century BC date.

***Chalfont St Peter: The Grange***

SU 9988 9061

Twenty-one evaluation trenches were excavated at Holy Cross Convent School by MOLA between August and October. Prehistoric features, including ditch termini and a possible eaves drip gully, were identified, concentrated in the south part of the site. The possible eaves drip gully could suggest a domestic settlement. Stratified struck flints in some features are likely to be of Neolithic to Bronze Age date. Possible prehistoric features were also located in the east part of the site, although no dating material was recovered here. Probable 16th–18th century structures and possibly earlier boundary ditches were concentrated in the west of the site. The structures included walls, a possible floor and post holes that may relate to a building or to garden features. Elsewhere on the site, a likely 19th century soakaway pit was identified.

***Wolverton: Manor Farm***

SP 808 422

Since 2007, the Cambridge Archaeological Unit has monitored the stripping of the gravel quarry at Manor Farm. The quarry is located on the southern floodplain of the river Great Ouse; the gravel terrace is thus concealed by up to 2m of alluvial deposits. The remains of activity spanning the Upper Palaeolithic to the Saxon period have so far been uncovered. Of particular significance are *in situ* Upper Palaeolithic knapping debris, the remains of three Neolithic cursus monuments and a late Neolithic hengiform monument. Following an earlier summary (*Records* 50, 107–108), further evidence for transient Mesolithic activity, Bronze Age settlement and Roman activity has also been found.

During 2010 re-fitting flints from a single terminal Upper Palaeolithic knapping event were recovered from a probable buried soil deposit truncated by a large palaeochannel at the western end of the site (Phase 3). Further work on this deposit was carried out in April 2011 by AHOB (Ancient Human Occupation of Britain) under the direction of Rebecca Scott. Residual Mesolithic flints have

been recovered from the uppermost deposits of the aforementioned palaeochannel, the gravel surface, and the fills of tree-throws and later cut features. Excavation of tree-throws in Phase 3 attests to the occasional deliberate deposition of flint knapping waste and calcined animal bone fragments in tree-throw hollows.

As well as the southern terminal of Cursus 1, (*ibid.*), the eastern terminal of Cursus 2 has since been exposed in Phase 4. Unlike the square terminal of Cursus 1, the Cursus 2 terminal was skewed seemingly to respect the western terminal of a probable earlier, east-west aligned cursus monument (Cursus 3). Cursus 3 also yielded evidence for internal banks, and its southern ditch was breached by a single causeway. Unlike Cursus 1 and 2, the ditches of Cursus 3 were wide and shallow and its terminal corners were not as sharply angled. Furthermore, Cursus 3 had an external width of approximately 40m, 10m wider than the other two monuments. Re-fitting Early Bronze Age flints and Deverel Rimbury pottery were recovered from the uppermost ditch fills of Cursus 2 and 3, suggesting that the monuments had been largely infilled by the Early-Middle Bronze Age.

A late Neolithic hengiform monument was revealed ‘within’ Cursus 3. This comprised nine oblong pits with a central pit/posthole and three intercutting internal postholes. The pits contained a large quantity of Grooved Ware pottery, as well as a deposit of calcined animal bone. The cremated remains of an adult human were recovered from the three internal postholes.

In addition to the probable Neolithic pits reported in the previous summary, the remains of Bronze Age settlement activity have also been found in Phases 3 and 4, represented by two partial field systems, a partial ring gully, several burnt stone pits and cremation deposits. The field system ditches cut Cursus 2 and Cursus 3, and in conjunction with the two Deverel Rimbury pits (previously reported) as well as the early-Middle Bronze Age material recovered from the upper cursus ditch fills, it is likely that the settlement remains date to the Middle Bronze Age.

In addition to the north-south aligned Roman trackway (*ibid.*), a second Roman trackway also comprising a limestone rubble surface and flanking ditches, aligned roughly east-west, was revealed in Phase 4. This trackway was heavily disturbed by a

large braided palaeochannel system extending along the southern edge of the extraction area. Wooden posts driven into the alluvium and/or channel deposits at points along both trackways probably represent repair efforts or fording places. The Saxon posts found within the alluvium (*ibid.*) are suggestive of later efforts to cross this floodplain landscape. Several patches of limestone trackways revealed in Phase 4 and located at variable heights throughout the alluvial sequence, are likely indicative of these, and later attempts to traverse the floodplain, with the uppermost trackways probably dating to the post-medieval period.

### ROMAN

#### ***Bierton: Bierton Church of England Primary School***

SP 8375 1514

A watching brief conducted by Network Archaeology between April and May during the construction of a single storey extension to the school assembly hall revealed a possible Romano-British boundary ditch which showed evidence of being re-cut on at least three occasions, as well as fragments of Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval pottery and tile.

#### ***Denham: The Lea***

TQ 0490 8600

Recording within the final phase of the quarry was undertaken between May and June by CA. The earliest feature was a ring ditch, probably a former barrow. A number of shallow pits were excavated within and immediately adjacent to the ring ditch. These may represent former interments, but had been heavily truncated and no human remains were present. The ring ditch was truncated by part of an extensive Late Bronze Age field system noted in previous excavation phases. The remains of what could have been a contemporaneous enclosure were also exposed. A number of other pits were present, some of which were Late Bronze Age in date.

Six late Roman *bustum* burials were found, four of which were aligned in a row. One may have been deliberately sited within the Bronze Age barrow. A pit adjacent to one of these was potentially the setting for a grave marker. Several of the *bustum*

burials contained at least partially anatomically discernible skeletons overlying pyre debris.

Three inhumations were also encountered, one of which cut through a *bustum* burial. One of the burials contained a possible Roman coin and a fragment of unburnt wood, and another lay within a small enclosure.

#### ***Hambleton: Horseleys Field***

SU 788 855

A magnetometry survey undertaken by English Heritage on behalf of Chiltern Archaeology in spring-summer 2010 showed a wide variety of archaeological features including a potential temple, tracks, enclosures, mounds and pits as well as the original course of the Hamble Brook.

#### ***Hambleton: Hog Pit Field and Bath Ponds Field***

SU 786 855 to SU 780 857

A magnetometry survey was undertaken by Chiltern Archaeology between August and October. Results will appear in the Yewden Villa monograph, in press 2011. Results showed a wide variety of Iron Age and Roman features including Iron Age huts, pits, tracks and enclosures as well as the Roman villa site of the 1912 excavation surrounded by further unexcavated archaeology including main tracks/roadways, small paths, further buildings and pits.

#### ***Hambleton, Yewden Villa***

SU 7840 8555

Yewden villa and the archaeology of the wider surrounding area of the Hambleton valley were investigated by Chiltern Archaeology between 2008 and 2011. The project *Romans in the Hambleton Valley* was lottery funded and involved a team of trained volunteers. During the programme a large area of the valley, from Mill End to Hambleton village, was investigated by geophysics, field walking and metal detecting surveys. In addition, three woodland archaeological surveys and an underwater evaluation of the river Thames (banks and channel) were carried out. A full evaluation of the finds from the 1912 excavation (Cocks 1921) was also undertaken.

The field surveys revealed evidence from all eras in the Hambleton valley. The area from the

River Thames at Mill End to the modern village of Hambleden has produced archaeological evidence dating from the lower Palaeolithic to the modern period. Within the immediate area of Yewden villa, south of the village, the most abundant finds and features were Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman. Geophysical survey revealed the presence of a broad range of features including field boundaries, enclosures, tracks and further buildings. Iron Age and Roman settlement overlap in the fields adjacent to and within Yewden. Evidence from geophysics has also indicated the location of two potential temples near the villa. A further building inside the villa enclosure was identified as a possible shrine.

Evaluation of the finds from the 1921 Yewden excavations stored in the County Museum became a prime focus of the project when it became apparent that the vast majority had not been catalogued, or been subject to expert analysis. During the project, the skeletal remains from the excavations were found to be in very good condition and have been re-examined (Mays and Evers 2011). It was concluded that the large number of infant burials found at the north end of the site mostly died at 38-40 weeks gestation, and that the likely cause of this was infanticide. This aspect of the work received extensive coverage by the media. The part of the 1912 collection that had received previous attention (iron, coins, copper alloy and worked bone) was re-evaluated and the uncatalogued material was sorted, identified and researched. The results are included in the recently published site monograph (Evers 2011).

#### *References*

- Cocks AH 1921 'A Roman-British homestead in the Hambleden valley, Bucks.', *Archaeologia* **71**, 141-98.
- Evers J (ed) 2011 *Romans in the Hambleden Valley. Yewden Roman Villa*. Monograph 1. ISBN 978-1-904898-12-2
- Mays S and Evers J 2011 'Perinatal infant death at the Roman villa site at Hambleden, Buckinghamshire, England.' *J. Arch. Sci* (in press)

#### **Long Crendon: Drakes Drive**

SP 7035 0815

Evaluation by TVAS in October prior to an application for planning permission at Long Crendon

Industrial Estate revealed a range of archaeological deposits mostly of Roman date. Several linear features appear to represent an enclosure complex, presumably relating to a low status farming settlement. In addition, two sherds of Saxon pottery were recovered from one ditch, along with several prehistoric flint flakes from topsoil and subsoil layers.

#### **Quarrendon: Berryfields**

SP 7912 1559

Throughout 2010 OA continued to undertake investigations ahead of large-scale housing and mixed use development on this 200 hectare site to the north west of Aylesbury. Works focussed on land to the south of the main A41 Aylesbury to Bicester Road, on the western side of the river Thame. At this point the Roman Akeman Street crosses one corner of the site. Although the line of the road has been largely identified for preservation in situ, two sections were excavated across it where impact was unavoidable. Both confirmed the results of the earlier geophysical survey, showing a road approximately 20m across with double drainage ditches to either side. Possibly contemporary field boundaries run at right angles to the road. The body of the road was not well preserved but where it did survive it appeared as a low soil agger, with patches of gravel or cobble surfacing. Elsewhere, away from the road, occasional pits and isolated lengths of truncated ditch appear to be of either Iron Age or Roman date but make no coherent pattern. Medieval ridge and furrow are well preserved across the site and largely follow the alignment of the earlier Roman enclosures and boundaries. Work will continue through 2011 into 2012.

#### **SAXON & MEDIEVAL**

#### **Chilton: The Old Forge**

SP 6873 1162

Between April and June JMHS conducted a watching brief during construction and landscaping works at The Old Forge. Machine-excavated foundation trenches to the south of the house revealed two 13th-century pits. Within the house an older floor level and a posthole which probably relate to the 17<sup>th</sup>-century forge were revealed beneath the

floor of the Boot Room, Hall & Store.

***Newport Pagnell: Willen Road***

SP 8810 4216

Following a desk-based assessment by ASC, in October and November evaluation was undertaken of an area of land to the south of Caldecote Farm, Willen Road, to inform proposals for gravel extraction. The site is located on the gravel terraces on the west side of the Ouzel valley. Fieldwork, excavations and chance finds over the last half-century have revealed significant evidence of prehistoric activity, Bronze Age burial and Iron Age and Roman occupation within this landscape. The evaluation revealed a small amount of prehistoric activity at the eastern end of the site with a large pit containing butchered animal remains. Evidence of medieval settlement comprising pits and ditches has been identified on the northern periphery of the site. The main part of the site seems to have been in agricultural use since the medieval period and a number of trenches contained undated features.

***Olney: High Street***

SP 8894 5184

In October a pre-determination evaluation was carried out by ASC on land to the rear of Brock's Garage, 124 High Street, prior to the residential and commercial re-development of the site. The evaluation identified a medieval ditch, a post-medieval, irregular sided pit and a large feature, possibly a pit, of medieval date. The medieval ditch contained pottery dated to the 13<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup> centuries, and may represent a property boundary. The early development of the northern end of the town is not well understood, and the ditch suggests that there was activity in the area as early as the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

***Ravenstone: Northend***

SP 8505 5089

Tree-ring analysis of timbers from the bellframe and west tower of the Church of All Saints, Ravenstone by English Heritage identified felling dates in the range AD 1149–74 for a floor timber, 1176–1201 for a floor beam of the winding chamber, 1193–1228 for an upper beam and 1651–76 for the bellframe. Given that the construction of the tower is not believed to pre-date the 13<sup>th</sup>

century it is possible that the timbers in all but the bellframe may be re-used.

***Shabbington: Ickford Road***

SP 6659 0687

In March AS carried out an archaeological excavation on land to the rear of Franklin's Farmhouse, Ickford Road, Shabbington ahead of residential development. Four phases/periods of archaeology were present. Phase 1: A single prehistoric pit containing two sherds of coarse flint tempered pottery. Phase 2: Three narrow 11<sup>th</sup>–13<sup>th</sup> century ditches, possibly rear boundaries demarcating land plots facing Ickford Road. The faunal assemblage showed that cattle were being exploited. Phase 3: Five late 13<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup> century possible croft ditches and a gully were perpendicular to the Ickford Road and Phase 2 ditches, showing reorganisation of space. The ditches contained cereal grains and evidence of pastoral husbandry and horn working. Phase 4: a single ditch of 15<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup> century date running parallel to the line of a later footpath (*see published note, this volume*).

***Shabbington: Mill Road***

SP 6666 0675

TVAS undertook a watching brief at the Church of St Mary Magdalene between October and November during works to install a new kitchen and toilet. The project revealed the presence of a number of limestone walls, one of which, below the West Tower inside the church is thought to be a part of the original end of the nave, probably constructed in the 12th century, and certainly pre-dating the 15th-century tower. It was constructed of large, irregular, unmortared limestone blocks, with rough faces. A second similar wall close by outside the church to the north was on the same alignment, suggesting that it might be related and of similar date, although constructed of much smaller blocks. However, it is unclear how this fits with the plan of the church, and it may be a separate structure aligned on the end wall of the nave. Two other walls recorded further north-east in the churchyard were of uncertain date or function. A single, disturbed, undated grave was also recorded.

**Walton (Milton Keynes): Groveway H9**

SP 888 366

In May JMHS conducted an evaluation at Schering-Plough Campus, Groveway, Walton. Three trenches were excavated, revealing ditches and postholes relating to Roman activity between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD, predating the earthwork remains of the medieval village of Walton. Some medieval features were also identified although are limited in their scope. Other undated features might belong to the middle/late Iron Age to medieval periods.

**Whitchurch: White Horse Lane**

SP 80239 20773

During October JMHS conducted an evaluation at the White Horse public house, White Horse Lane, Whitchurch. Two trenches were excavated. Trench 1 was located adjacent to the standing building and revealed a quarry pit, yielding some burnt brick, stone and tile with pottery indicating a late 15<sup>th</sup>-century date. A further two pits with late 15<sup>th</sup>-century pottery were also investigated. Trench 2 was located east of the White Horse, in the former pub car park. Post-medieval quarrying and an undated, pre-19<sup>th</sup> century posthole, were revealed. Remains of a 19<sup>th</sup>-century stone building, as well as a later brick lean-to, were also identified.

**Winslow: Market Square**

SP 7639 27610

In April an excavation was carried out by ASC adjacent to St Laurence's Room, Market Square, in advance of an extension to the building. The excavation uncovered a number of ditches, gullies and pits of medieval date, seven articulated inhumations and a quantity of disarticulated human bone. Radiocarbon dates of AD 945±40 and AD 1505±40 were obtained for bone from two of the inhumations. These dates confirm that the south side of the original churchyard was encroached upon by the expansion of the Market Square, probably following the grant of a market in 1235 by Henry III.

**Worminghall: The Avenue**

SP 6419 0801

In May JMHS conducted a watching brief during ground works for two new house extensions at Court Farm, 75 The Avenue. Two medieval pits and an undated pit were found. An unexplained modern structure of concrete and corrugated iron was also found, adjacent to the house.

**POST-MEDIEVAL AND UNDATED****Amersham: High Street**

SU 9539 9749

Between February and May historic building recording and a watching brief were undertaken by ASC on the barn to the rear of 163 High Street, as a condition of planning permission for the conversion of the building for residential use.

The barn is a 3-bay, 17<sup>th</sup>-century timber framed structure with a late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup>-century extension to the southwest. Cartographic evidence suggests that it may have been part of a complex of buildings forming a courtyard to the rear of the High Street at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It had been modified on previous occasions, including the insertion of windows in three walls and the introduction of a mezzanine floor. The original entrance to the barn appears to have been at the south end of the east wall, which now has a single door with a window above.

Ground reduction revealed quantities of 19<sup>th</sup>-century and later bottles, ceramics and building materials, some of which were in the backfill of three small pits. The floor appears to have been largely dug out and replaced to include a concrete layer.

**Aston Clinton: College Road North**

SP 8770 1350

NA was commissioned to carry out a magnetometer survey on 55ha of land in 12 fields to the east of College Road North, Aston Clinton in November. The survey identified a small grouping of linear anomalies, which appear to represent enclosures or field system boundaries, and two isolated anomalies which probably represent small pits. None of these features are securely datable. Ridge-and-furrow cultivation systems, of medieval or later date, were detected in two fields.

**Aylesbury: Exchange Street**

SP 8225 1365

In August and September, TVAS conducted evaluation trenching on part of the Aylesbury Waterside commercial development. Foundations were discovered of late 19th- or 20th-century buildings, which all appear on various editions of the Ordnance Survey maps of the site. Underlying deep alluvial deposits appeared to represent over-bank flooding deposits with no evidence of extensive organic preservation or evidence of palaeochannels or water management features. No pre-Victorian features were encountered.

**Aylesbury: Lower Brook Farm, Worminghall**

SP 6437 0823

An evaluation was undertaken by CA in August following a planning application submitted for the erection of a single dwelling. Two ditches containing finds dating to the post-medieval/modern period were recorded.

**Bletchley: Land at Shenley Road / Ludlow Close**

SP 8560 3333

Groundworks associated with residential development at the junction of Shenley Road and Ludlow Close were subject to archaeological monitoring between November 2010 and April 2011 by Albion Archaeology. A few very small, abraded sherds of late Iron Age pottery define the earliest activity on the site. The earliest features comprised a series of ditches. They probably represent elements of a post-medieval field system, lying to the north of the Three Trees crossroads which formed an early settlement focus. A number of brick structures and post-pads were also revealed, representing part of a complex of farm buildings shown on the first edition 25-inch OS map of 1895.

**Bradwell Abbey: Bradwell Abbey, Alston Drive**

SP 8268 3947

During March and April a watching brief was carried out by ASC at Bradwell Abbey during the installation of a security fence and associated tree planting. No archaeological features or deposits were observed.

In August seven test pits were excavated at

Bradwell Abbey in order to determine the depth, construction and condition of the footings below the farmhouse and associated buildings, to inform proposals for structural stabilisation and repair. A test pit against the farmhouse revealed that its relatively shallow footings stand on natural Cornbrash limestone. Three test pits to the south, against the former stables (now the Interpretation Centre) uncovered further shallow footings, stone surfaces both predating and contemporary with the existing medieval structure, and a probable 19<sup>th</sup>-century lean-to structure. A test pit against the Stone Barn revealed shallow footings. A test pit against the 19<sup>th</sup>-century Red Barn, at the south end of the site, revealed substantial limestone footings beneath the brick wall. The final test pit, against the 19<sup>th</sup>-century farm cottages, revealed typical Victorian stepped brick footings.

**Brill: The Green**

SP 6572 1380

In June JMHS conducted a watching brief during the excavation of footings for an extension to the side of the property at 15 The Green. One undated pit and an undated ditch were observed, along with the footings of an early modern privy.

**Burnham: Burnham Beeches**

SU 95 85 (Centre)

In March ASC undertook an archaeological field survey of Burnham Beeches, in order to aid the future management of the estate. Burnham Beeches is owned by the Corporation of London, and was purchased to provide an open space for public enjoyment whilst preserving the natural aspect of the site. It covers an area of approximately 220ha within which are areas of woodland pasture, beech coppice, heathland and bog. It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, (SSSI), a National Nature Reserve (NNR) and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Within the Beeches are two Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs); one a late prehistoric hill fort and the other a medieval moated site. A third SAM, an 18<sup>th</sup>-century animal enclosure, lies immediately south of the site. Burnham Beeches is itself a relict archaeological landscape, with pollards and coppiced beeches providing evidence for former woodland management practices.

Over one hundred individual archaeological features were recorded during the survey, ranging in date from the Iron Age to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, mostly related to land management, quarrying or World War II activity. As a result of intensive use of the Beeches during the war years, followed by a major re-constitution of the landscape afterwards, many slighter features, such as saw pits or charcoal burners' yards, have been destroyed.

***Chalfont St Giles: Old Jordans***

SU 9747 9126

Network Archaeology carried out a watching brief and historic building recording survey during re-development of the Old Jordans Hostel between April and July. The watching brief recorded a small number of archaeological features, including a remnant garden soil associated with the original farmhouse, a possible drainage ditch, an industrial refuse pit and a decommissioned stone lined well. No structural evidence of any previous occupation of the site was recovered during the watching brief and the artefactual evidence could all be dated to the post-medieval / early modern period (1540–1939), corroborating the known history of Old Jordans as a post-medieval farmhouse and early modern hostel. No evidence for any in situ 17<sup>th</sup>-century remains was found.

***Cheddington: Cheddington Manor***

SP 9165 1740

In April AS carried out an archaeological evaluation at Cheddington Manor, in advance of construction of a one storey extension including a swimming pool. The evaluation revealed early modern brick garden walls.

***Edlesborough: St Mary the Virgins Church***

SP 9700 1905

A watching brief carried out by Network Archaeology between January and February during the construction of a new path and steps through the graveyard identified six complete or near complete human skeletons, as well as numerous fragments of dis-articulated human bone which accounted for another thirty-four individuals. Of these forty individuals, twenty-seven were adults, three juveniles, six children, two infants and the

remaining two neo-natals. All the burials were considered to be of post-medieval date and all were located immediately below the surface of the former path.

***Gayhurst: Hanslope Road***

SP 8391 4706

The farmhouse and an adjacent well-house at Old Bunsty, Gayhurst are both Grade II listed buildings and adjacent farm buildings are listed by curtilage. Building assessment and historic map consultation by NA in March, ahead of proposed alterations to the property, has shown that Old Bunsty farmhouse has been in existence on virtually the same footprint since at least 1810. Architecturally its form is likely to be of the 18th century, although evidence for anything earlier is scant. Subsequent structural alterations have been considerable, but confined to the rear service wing, which has undergone various subdivisions. Only a few historic non-structural features are visible in the interior.

***Gerrards Cross: Oxford Road***

TQ 0036 8764

During June JMHS conducted an evaluation at Oxford Road, Gerrards Cross. Four trenches were excavated to reveal the underlying natural geology. Limited excavation in Trench 1 revealed walls, a throughway and compacted earth surfaces, and evidence for the division of external space. These features may reflect the post-medieval remnants of a tenement and/or the French Horn Inn that once occupied the site.

***Granborough: St John the Baptist Church***

SP 7678 2500

In September and October an excavation and watching brief were carried out by ASC at St John the Baptist Church, during the construction of a toilet and associated services. The development area did not contain any articulated human burials, and only two fragments of disarticulated human bone were recovered. A limestone surface of probable post-medieval date was excavated.



**Haddenham: Rudds Lane**

SP 7406 0924

An evaluation conducted in February by JMHS at 26 Rudds Lane revealed evidence of ridge and furrow, as well as a single undated posthole.

**Fawley: Marlow Road**

SP 7649 8432

During October JMHS conducted an evaluation at Fawley Court, Marlow Road, Fawley. Four trenches were excavated to the underlying natural geology within the courtyard of Fawley Court. The earliest feature was a ditch orientated on a north-south alignment sealed beneath a deposit containing 18<sup>th</sup>-century bricks. The fill of this ditch contained a well-preserved wooden stake. A second shallow gully was undated but was probably of post-medieval date. Trench 2 revealed a chalk floor/yard surface dated to the 19th century, probably a yard surface which was not recorded on any historic maps. The latest features included two modern red brick walls, which may have once formed part of garden buildings such as greenhouses, or garden walls.

**High Wycombe: All Saints Church**

SU 8650 9300

A watching brief carried out during September and October by OA at All Saints Church in advance of the installation of new toilets and kitchens revealed three internal brick-built burial vaults of 19th-century date, containing triple-shelled wood and lead coffins. Small assemblages of disarticulated human remains, medieval tile, metalwork, animal bone and shell were also recovered. The bulk of the material was redeposited, probably during restoration work in the 19th century. The exception to this were three damaged and poorly preserved 14th-century floor tiles, found *in situ*.

**High Wycombe: Archway**

SU 8635 9335

An evaluation by TVAS at the Dovecot car park in July, preparatory to an application for planning permission, showed that, although archaeological levels survived on this site beneath a considerable depth of modern made ground, just a single

undated gully was observed. The soils buried by the modern made ground are of a humic / peaty nature and it is possible that these will prove suitable for a reconstruction of the vegetational history and environment of the site. Bulk and column samples of this deposit have been taken and retained for future study.

**High Wycombe: Grafton Street**

SU 8497 9371

In August AS conducted a desk-based assessment and historic building recording of the boiler house and associated chimney at the William Bartlett & Son site, Grafton Street, High Wycombe. The project was instigated in advance of changes for mixed residential, retail, and commercial/business use. It revealed that the initial factory buildings were constructed in 1901/1902, although the boiler house and factory chimney date from a later phase of development on the site. The construction of the boiler house coincides with phases of development carried out between 1912 and the early 1920s.

**Ickford: Church Road**

SP 6460 0737

A watching brief by TVAS in March during sewer construction in the grounds of St Nicholas' church recorded undated inhumation burials, disarticulated and disturbed bones. No artefacts were recovered.

**Little Missenden: Church of St John the Baptist**

SU 920 989

A watching brief was conducted in June by JMHS during the lifting of a ledger slab in the north chapel in the church in preparation for its repair. Previous repair of the floor in the post-medieval/modern period was evident. Medieval tile found in the fill of the vault was also present in other parts of the church flooring, bonded with concrete mortar, suggesting re-use or re-setting of these tiles in the modern period. During examination of the vault fill three fragments of human bone were identified. All bone and artefacts were returned to the vault prior to levelling.

**Long Crendon: Chearsley Road**

SP 6947 0884

During July JMHS conducted an evaluation at the site of a new Scout Hut, Chearsley Road, Long Crendon. The evaluation showed that the site appeared to have been quarried and contained a number of make-up layers, the earliest of which was of an ill-defined date, but the later fills more recent. Three modern features truncated these deposits.

**Loughton: All Saints Church**

SP 8375 3788

In January a watching brief was undertaken by ASC at All Saints Church during the installation of underfloor heating, and a new floor. The existing floor was removed, revealing several 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick-built burial chambers and tombs, three areas of redeposited burials and one fully articulated burial. The burial chamber in the chancel, belonging to the Smith family, was accessible by a set of brick steps. It contained four lead-lined coffins and an empty shelf intended for a fifth burial. The burial chamber in the south aisle had been backfilled and had no steps into it. The vault, which probably belonged to the Hanstrapp family, had been truncated to accommodate the joists for the existing floor. The individual tombs in the chancel were under ledger slabs dedicated to members of the Crane and Athawes families, dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries respectively. The various brick-built structures all appeared to date from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and their construction had clearly caused major disruption to existing burials within the church, which had been carefully reburied in three locations, all within timber coffins. The exposed historic fabric of the building revealed little out of the ordinary. The foundations were 200-550mm deep and consisted of the same density of Blisworth limestone as the main walls. The exception to this was the tower arch, where the foundations were far more substantial.

**Marsh Gibbon: Church Street, St Mary's Church**

SP 64756 23228

A watching brief conducted by JMHS took place in July during the demolition of the existing churchyard wall and excavation of footings for a new wall

at St Mary's Church, Marsh Gibbon. Evidence was uncovered to show the 19<sup>th</sup>-century raising of the graveyard levels and repairs to the wall. A small quantity of disarticulated human remains was also found.

**Middle Claydon: Claydon House**

SP 71937 25310

An archaeological watching brief was conducted by NA on behalf of the National Trust in November and December during the excavation of a trench for the installation of a new central heating oil pipe on the south side of Claydon House. The trench led from a small enclosed yard to the south-east of the house, across the south lawn and then bifurcated before entering the building through two separate openings in the south facade. It revealed truncated brick wall footings, a culvert and an unidentified tile and stone feature.

**Newport Pagnell: Tickford Street**

SP 8808 4375

Evaluation of the former Aston Martin site, in advance of a new superstore development, was conducted by AOC Archaeology in July and August. Alluvial or natural deposits of varying character were observed in all the trenches, consisting of sandy clay, alluvial blue clay and alluvial sands and gravels. The key features present were a medieval pit and post-medieval pits and ditches, adjacent to the Tickford Road frontage and northern boundary. Multiple post-medieval pit and structural features were also identified, concentrated in the western half of the site. A large undated palaeochannel feature was also located during the course of the evaluation in the northeast corner of the site.

**North Crawley: High Street**

SP 9278 4473

Evaluation was carried out by NA in November 2009 ahead of a housing development proposed on a vacant irregular plot of land adjacent to 25 High Street. The earliest features were three truncated boundary gullies, which suggest that the line of the High Street on the north side was slightly different than its current position; parallel with the present south side, observable at the Old Bakehouse, 26

High Street, which is thought to date from the 17th century. The remains of a small cottage was probably that recorded on the Ordnance Survey in 1881, showing that the street frontage was fully developed by then. The pottery and small amount of clay pipe found in demolition layers suggest that the cottages had been demolished by *c.*1920, as indicated by the 1925 Ordnance Survey map.

***Olney: High Street***

SP 8898 5141

NA conducted an evaluation of land at the rear of 12 High Street in February. Two trenches were excavated within the development area. Two modern pits and a former hedge-line were identified. The western part of the development site had been heavily disturbed by modern dumping and levelling activities, though the eastern part has remained undisturbed. A modern garden drain ran across the development area below the topsoil.

***Olney: Lavendon Road/Wellingborough Road***

SP 8903 5237

In July ASC undertook an evaluation of land adjacent to the junction of Lavendon Road and Wellingborough Road in advance of the proposed development of a car dealership and filling station. The development site is adjacent to the extensive Roman settlement at Ashfurlong: a geophysical survey had previously revealed probable quarrying on the east part of the site. The evaluation uncovered evidence for extensive quarrying, probably dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The finds recovered from the site date to the modern period, and it seems likely that any earlier archaeological remains located within the boundaries of the development site may have been destroyed by quarrying.

***Penn: Church Road***

SU 9160 9334

In January AS carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Church Road, Penn, ahead of a proposed single-storey extension to the church hall. An undated pit and two dark red bricks with white chalky mortar indicated the presence of a wall or demolition material.

***Shenley Church End: Shenley Road***

SP 8327 3665

In July an evaluation was carried out by ASC in advance of development on land adjacent to a former 19<sup>th</sup>-century cart shed in Shenley Road. Trenching revealed the remains of 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup>-century rubbish pits and a structural footing. No significant archaeological features or deposits were observed.

***Stony Stratford: High Street***

SP 7869 4047

Following a trial trench evaluation in 2008 (*Records* 50, 116–117), between May and November a watching brief was maintained by ASC at St Mary & St Giles Church during the construction of an extension to the church. Little in the way of significant features, finds or deposits was observed, as the work entailed excavating through made/disturbed ground. A few disarticulated human remains were uncovered, along with post-medieval pottery sherds, glass and tile fragments, clay pipe stems and animal bone fragments.

***Stony Stratford: Mill Lane***

SP 7852 4030

Archaeological buildings assessment was undertaken by NA on a complex of buildings including Stratford House and Ousebank Cottage between December 2009 to January 2010. In addition to two large dwellings, one over three floors with cellar, the other over two floors, the buildings included a stable, a former chapel, conservatory and garage. Recording has shown that the two properties coalesced in an organic fashion from a variety of early disparate buildings of uncertain association into a single sprawling property which eventually included such unusual elements as a non-conformist chapel. The properties bear no indication that they were ever intimately connected with the tannery purported to have lain at the far end of the plot. While the origins of the buildings probably lie in the 18th century, the fixtures and fittings of any note all belong to a suite inserted during the property's heyday, at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century. They last underwent any real alteration in the 1930s. While some of the properties appear to

have retained earlier fabric and features, large portions, irrespective of age, are in serious disrepair.

An evaluation was carried out by NA at the rear of Stratford House in January. The evaluation located a pit containing prehistoric flints and two small sherds of abraded Roman and Iron Age pottery, and several features of late post-medieval date relating to the site's later use as a tannery and private garden. Finds included part of a pipe clay wig curler, used by both men and women from the 16th to 19th centuries. A heavily corroded 19th-century box iron was also recovered, complete with its wooden handle. The iron would have been hollow with a lifting door on the back, into which a heated iron 'slug' would be placed.

***Stowe: Stowe House***

SP 6749 3748

A watching brief was conducted by NA from May to October, during the construction of a temporary turning area and the excavation of soil for new step foundations on the east side of the south front of Stowe House. Brick footings for former steps within some of the recessed arches along the south front were found. Excavation for the turning circle was contained within the topsoil and only the upper surface of the underlying levelling layers was exposed.

***Stowe: Stowe Landscape Gardens***

SP 67395 36990

An archaeological watching brief was conducted by NA on behalf of the National Trust in September during the excavation of trial trenches across the historic line of a lakeside path on the north side of the Eleven Acre Lake at Stowe Landscape Gardens. The work was undertaken in order to identify, if possible, the correct historical route of the path prior to its reinstatement by the National Trust as part of their ongoing restoration of features within the designed landscape, and to improve access for visitors. The gravel surfaced path was located in all but one of the trenches and the line of the path corresponded well with the route indicated from contemporary site maps.

***Turville: Turville Valley Road***

SU 7643 9104

In June JMHS conducted a watching brief during the excavation of footings for an extension at White Cottage. An 18<sup>th</sup>-century garden soil horizon with a later posthole and a demolition/construction layer were observed.

***Wendover: Tring Road***

SU 8700 7888

In December 2009 and January 2010 AS carried out historic building recording at Brook House, Tring Road, which had been severely damaged by fire in December 2007. The recording was carried out as part of a strategy for the future of the building. The house comprised an historic timber-framed main range of probable c.1600 date, which had been jettied to the front and side, together with a contemporary rear service range to the west. The building was probably remodelled in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, when chimney stacks were added, and the original timber-frame was underbuilt and bricked up. This was further augmented in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, when a second rear range was constructed.

***Wendover: St Mary's Church***

SP 8710 0730

A watching brief carried out between November 2010 and January 2011 by OA at St Mary's Church during the installation of a new suspended floor uncovered clusters of truncated burials (12 in total) around the pier bases of the north and south aisles, two brick burial vaults within the nave, and three brick vaults in the south aisle. All the vaults dated to the 18th century. Ground reduction and underpinning within the south porch revealed five burials. These pre-dated the porch, which was built in the 19th century, and probably relate to headstones relocated to an area adjacent to the south-west corner of the south aisle. This work also exposed two possible chalk surfaced paths leading to the south door. No evidence was found for any of the earlier internal medieval floor surfaces, or for any earlier phases of the church's construction.

**Wexham: Langley Park**  
TQ 0087 8183

A watching brief was conducted by NA during the construction of new footpaths, a new visitor centre and lake clearance works at Langley Park, Wexham from July 2009 to February 2010. A GPS earthwork survey was conducted to plot the probable original lakeside edge. A photographic survey was also undertaken of the 19th/20th-century boat-house on the lake edge. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

**Whitchurch: North Marston Lane**  
SP 7938 2130

In April an evaluation was undertaken by ASC on land at North Marston Lane, in advance of the construction of a housing development. Four trenches were excavated but the only evidence of past activity was a quarry pit, probably dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. No other archaeological features or artefacts were present.

**NEGATIVE**

**Aylesbury: Tring Road**  
SP 8325 1340

In December evaluation of the southern part of Tring Road Allotments was undertaken by ASC in advance of a proposed extension to Tring Road Cemetery. The evaluation was required because previous discoveries within and adjacent to the allotments had indicated that the site may contain burials of the Saxon period. The evaluation revealed no burials of any period, and little evidence of activity pre-dating the medieval period. The area was in use as 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 will have destroyed any shallow archaeological features which may have been present.

**Burnham: Church Walk**  
SU 9273 8236

Nothing of archaeological interest was recorded during an evaluation by TVAS at 10 Church Walk

in March in advance of new house construction.

**Calverton: Upper Weald**  
SP 8015 3777

During November and December, a watching brief was carried out by ASC at 3 Upper Weald during groundworks for the construction of a garage, and an extension to the existing property located within the footprint of a demolished barn. No archaeological finds or features were observed during the watching brief, although an area of disturbed ground was recorded below the demolished barn.

**Cheddington: Mentmore Road**  
SP 9200 1758

Following earlier building recording work (*Records* 50, 112), between April and December ASC undertook a watching brief at 22 Mentmore Road during groundworks for an extension to the existing house. The watching brief revealed some post-medieval pottery fragments, part of the foundations for a recently demolished garage and some related disturbance to the north of the building. No further archaeological finds or features were observed.

**Dorney Reach: Meadow Way**  
SU 9157 7955

During March a watching brief was undertaken by ASC during groundworks for a new play area at Trumpers Field, Meadow Way. No archaeological finds or features were observed during the watching brief, and it was noted that there was a lack of subsoil across the development area. The site forms part of a school playing field and is adjacent to the M4. It was concluded that the site is likely to have been truncated, either during the levelling of the playing field, or as part of the easement of the M4.

**Haddenham: Banks Road**  
SP 7416 2278

In June ASC undertook a trial trench evaluation on the site of the former Spicer Hallfield factory, Banks Road, prior to redevelopment. The evaluation followed an earlier desk-based assessment, and was carried out in order to establish whether any archaeological deposits survived on the site. The

evaluation demonstrated that most of the site, with the exception of the area adjacent to the south-eastern entrance, had been subject to widespread truncation during construction of the factory and only those areas on the extremities of the site, to the north and south, retained any potential for surviving archaeology. The only features noted were modern, and only a single unstratified, abraded body sherd of medieval date was recovered. It appears that the site lay beyond the occupation area of medieval Haddenham.

***Haddenham: Townsend***  
SP 7404 0915

Evaluation trenching by TVAS in February at Townsend Garage in advance of new house construction revealed no archaeological deposits or finds.

***High Wycombe: Grafton Street***  
SU 8497 9371

In August AS conducted a programme of geotechnical pit monitoring and recording at the William Bartlett & Son site, Grafton Street, High Wycombe. The work was carried out ahead of new residential development on the site. There were no archaeological features or finds.

***Horsenden: Horsenden Manor***  
SP 7940 0283

Network Archaeology carried out a watching brief in June during the construction of a new general purpose storage building and related drainage. No archaeological observations were made.

***Ivinghoe: Windmill Close***  
SP 9457 1607

In October an evaluation was carried out by ASC at Old Brewery Stables, Windmill Close, in advance of the construction of a house. The remains of a demolished 20<sup>th</sup>-century building comprising a Totternhoe clunch wall and frequent fragments of 20<sup>th</sup>-century tile were found. No significant archaeological features, deposits or finds were observed.

***Little Missenden: Hyde Heath***  
SU 9275 9956

In February AS conducted archaeological monitoring and recording at Hill House, Chalk Lane, Hyde Heath, ahead of the creation of a new ménage. There were no archaeological features or finds.

***Loughton: Pitcher Lane/School Lane***  
SP 8380 3775

In June an evaluation was undertaken by ASC on land between Pitcher Lane and School Lane in advance of the construction of a housing development. Seven trenches were excavated but no significant archaeological features were present. The development is unlikely to have an impact on significant archaeological remains and the archaeological impact of the development is considered to be low.

***Ludgershall: High Street***  
SP 6599 1755

In July ASC undertook evaluation of land to the rear of 'The Bungalow' in Ludgershall High Street, in advance of the construction of a house. A single trench was excavated but no significant archaeological features were present.

***Marlow: High Street***  
SU 8489 8650

In July AS carried out an evaluation at 30-32 High Street on a small plot of land with a 19<sup>th</sup>-century Grade II listed building fronting the road. The work was carried out ahead of a proposed new two storey extension to the rear of the property. No archaeological features were revealed, but 19<sup>th</sup>-century tableware and CBM was present in exposed deposits.

***Marsworth: All Saints' Church***  
SP 9198 1460

During May a watching brief was carried out by ASC at All Saints Church during the construction of a WC and tea port, and associated drainage. Forty-five articulated/partially articulated burials were revealed, along with significant quantities of

disarticulated human remains. A wall and possible floor surface were exposed along the southern outer wall of the church, and a further wall was revealed in the south-west part of the churchyard. Pottery sherds ranging from Roman to post-medieval date were found within the drainage trenches.

***Medmenham: Ferry Lane***  
SU 8061 8382

JMHS conducted a watching brief in March during the excavation of a drainage trench at Ferry Lane, Medmenham. The ground had been previously disturbed by drainage with no archaeology visible at a depth of 0.6m below modern ground level.

***Mentmore: Crafton Road***  
SP 8922 1978

In June a strip, map & sample excavation was carried out by ASC prior to the erection of a stable block and menage at Woodlands, Crafton Road. The site is adjacent to the deserted village earthworks of Crafton. No archaeological features or deposits were uncovered.

***Newton Longville: Drayton Road***  
SP 8692 3093

NA conducted a geophysical survey on land at Drayton Road in March. Magnetometry revealed faint evidence for a curvilinear ditch and an L-shaped ditched feature. There was no evidence of the truncated middle Iron Age ditches identified during the excavation of the adjacent access road. Remnant ridge-and-furrow of the medieval field cultivation system was present across the entire area and this may be masking earlier archaeology.

***Padbury: Manor Farm***  
SP 7207 3080

In April AS carried out monitoring and recording at Manor Farm, Church Lane, ahead of the construction of a new access road and brick boundary wall at the rear of the property. The site is near the medieval church of St Mary the Virgin but no archaeological features or finds were recovered. However, the groundworks were contained within the overburden.

***Penn: Church Road***  
SU 90785 93483

Between November and December AS undertook monitoring and recording at Wayside, Church Road, within the historic medieval core of the village. This work was conducted during the construction of side and rear extensions. No archaeological remains were present.

***Sherington: Church Farm***  
SP 8904 4650

During September, watching briefs were carried out by ASC during groundworks for a new driveway and field barn to the north of Church Farm. An area of linear earthworks of uncertain date had previously been recorded along the route of the new driveway. Little evidence of these was recorded above ground, and no evidence was observed below ground level. An area of burning and a spread of rubble, both of which included fragments of post medieval and modern brick and tile as well as animal bone, were also revealed. These are both likely to be remnants of agricultural activity within the field.

***Simpson: Bletcham Way***  
SP 8829 3519

NA undertook an evaluation on land north of Bletcham Way in July, ahead of the creation of a travellers' site. Six trenches were dug in heavily wooded land, some of which had been greatly made up. The excavation revealed a ditch, which was undated, and the remnants of a buried soil in the northern part of the proposed development area.

***Thornborough: Western Green Farm***  
SP 7353 3356

A watching brief by TVAS in July during levelling for a new menage revealed only a modern drain.

***Wotton Underwood: Old Vicarage***  
SP 6868 1602

In September JMHS conducted a watching brief during the groundworks for a new garage, swimming pool and tennis court at the Old Vicarage. No archaeological features were recorded.

**Wycombe: West Wycombe Hill**

SU 828 949

A watching brief was undertaken by NA in March on behalf of the National Trust, during the excavation of a mock grave for a media production at West Wycombe Hill (Scheduled Monument No: BU80), Wycombe. Material relating to a modern pathway was recorded lying directly above the natural substratum. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

**REPORTS NOT RECEIVED**

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

Bierton: Land East of Aylesbury – Geophysical Survey

High Wycombe: West Richardson Street – Trial trench evaluation

Ravenstone: Common Street – Watching Brief

Wexham: Langley Park Spa Site – Excavation