

NOTES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

The following notes on fieldwork carried out in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes in 2018 (a few in 2017) have been compiled from information provided by commercial archaeological organisations and local societies, based on lists of projects provided by the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Historic Environment Records (HERs). The writer is grateful to all those organisations and individuals who have provided this information for their assistance. Nevertheless, the report is incomplete, since some sites may still be ongoing or may not even have started, and unfortunately, as usual, not all organisations appearing on those lists have responded to requests for information. Therefore, the regional journal *South Midlands Archaeology* should also be consulted.

The reader is reminded that the 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.

Summaries for 2019 should be sent to the Associate Editor at recsbuckseditor@gmail.com, by 30 November 2020 at the latest.

Bob Zeepvat

For the sake of brevity the names of the contributing organisations have been abbreviated as follows:

AA	Albion Archaeology
AS	Archaeological Solutions
BA	Border Archaeology
BHS	Bancroft Heritage Services
CA	Cotswold Archaeology
JMHS	John Moore Heritage Services
KDK	KDK Archaeology
MOLA	Museum of London Archaeology
OA	Oxford Archaeology
TVAS	Thames Valley Archaeological Services
WA	Wessex Archaeology

PREHISTORIC

Aston Clinton, land at Westonmead Farm SP 8528 1316

An evaluation by CA in April identified a ditch containing prehistoric pottery, corresponding to activity identified in a preceding evaluation. A Roman *tegula* recovered from a ditch is likely to have been residual. An undated ditch, potentially associated with a modern farmstead, was also present.

Bow Brickhill, land south of Caldecotte SP 8920 3410

A magnetometer survey area close to the scheduled remains of the Roman town of *Magiovinium* was undertaken by MOLA between December 2017 and March 2018. A Roman road leading north from the town was detected. This had suburban settlement or industrial remains lying to either side, and a separate area of Roman suburbs was detected in the southernmost part of the survey area. Few archaeological remains were detected elsewhere, apart from a large isolated enclosure of possible Iron Age or Roman date and medieval to early post-medieval ridge and furrow.

In October 2018, MOLA undertook a trial-trench evaluation on the site. Ninety two trenches were planned, though three could not be excavated due to on-site restrictions. Archaeological remains correlated well with the results of the geophysical survey, revealing two principal areas of archaeological activity. Activity on the site commenced in the mid to late Iron Age, with a D-shaped enclosure on the highest part of the site, although this appears to have been heavily truncated through later ploughing. Only a single internal feature was present and little can be said about the function of this feature. The second focus of activity comprised a Roman road and associated settlement leading north from *Magiovinium*, although limited amounts of Iron Age pottery

recovered from this area hint at earlier activity. An isolated post-medieval brick clamp kiln was also found and medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation was present in the southern part of the site.

Calverton, land at Two Mile Ash Farm

SP 8103 3847

Forty-six trenches were opened by BA at Two Mile Ash Farm, part (Area 10, Field 4) of the Milton Keynes Western Expansion Area (MKWEA). The site consisted of mixed agricultural land utilised predominantly as pasture. Twenty-five trenches were found to contain features of varying archaeological significance, largely dating to the post-medieval period. Of these, 18 contained probable post-medieval agricultural features. In addition, an ENE-WSW ditch terminus contained the largest pottery assemblage recovered during the course of the evaluation, comprising Late Iron Age grog-tempered, reddish brown ware. While its function remains unclear, the moderate to abundant charcoal present within the ditch fill suggests a non-domestic function, the feature being located some distance from habitation. Sixteen trenches contained no features of archaeological significance.

Hanslope, land off Long Street Road

SP 7982 4789

AA dug thirty-one trial trenches in October 2018, followed by a 1-hectare excavation that was completed in January 2019. This revealed the remains of a small middle to late Iron Age settlement on one half of the site, including two roundhouses measuring 10–11m in diameter. Several postholes survived within the roundhouses, while nearby gullies probably represent associated animal pens or other ancillary structures. A ditch leading south-west from the roundhouses had two small enclosures to its side. A few pits were also found near the roundhouses, but these were relatively sparse and contained lower densities of animal bone and pottery than the ditches and gullies. Four four-post structures were also identified, three of them arranged diagonally, side-by-side.

The other half of the site contained medieval pits and ditches associated with small plots of land to the south of Long Street Road. Pottery dates

these features primarily to the 12th–14th centuries, with a limited amount of activity continuing to the 16th century. A short length of stone footings, two parallel gullies and a small hearth represent the remains of a narrow agricultural or industrial outbuilding. A more substantial building may also once have existed here: large amounts of building stone were present in the subsoil and in the tops of some of the features, and some of it had also been packed into a cluster of pits. Only small amounts of pottery and animal bone were recovered, as well as several metal items including a copper-alloy spur buckle. In addition, metal-detecting of the subsoil found six medieval silver pennies (or parts thereof).

Princes Risborough, land between Longwick Road and Mill Lane

SP 8062 0446

An evaluation by CA in January identified a rectangular or D-shaped enclosure associated with late prehistoric pottery and containing discrete features. The remains likely represent stock management at the periphery of a settlement. A ditch to the north-west yielded a single fragment of Roman box flue tile. A medieval/post-medieval extraction pit and the remnants of ridge and furrow cultivation were also present.

Stoke Hammond, land east of Fenny Road

SP 8822 2963

Between May and August 2018 an excavation was carried out by AS, ahead of residential development. The excavation yielded 977 sherds of Roman pottery of mainly late 1st to early 2nd century date. There were also some earlier Belgic grog-tempered sherds and some late Roman pottery of probable 4th-century date. The pottery came from 37 features, mainly ditches which included enclosures and a possible droveway. The sparse to moderate pottery distribution was indicative of low level domestic activity. Twenty-one pieces of slag from five contexts suggests that ironworking was carried out in the area, but not necessarily in the immediate vicinity. A possible prenatal/neonatal cremation in a ceramic pot was identified by small bone fragments which also included canine bone, while the majority of the animal bones from the site were from cattle and indicative of butchery

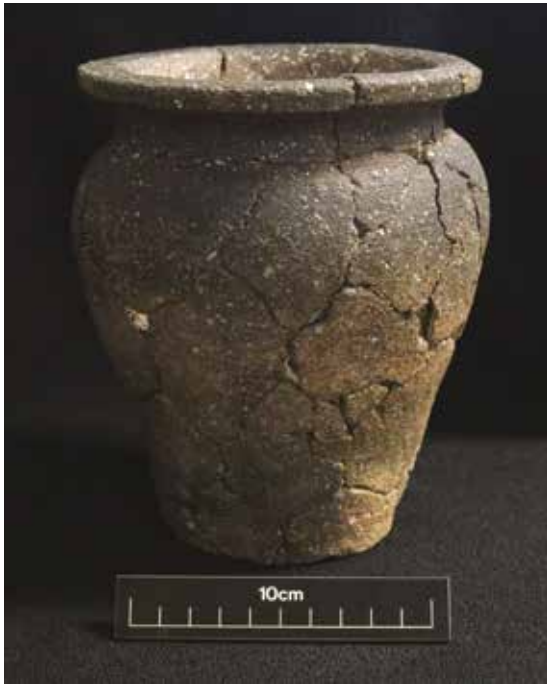


FIGURE 1 Stoke Hammond: Late Roman wheel-made shell-tempered jar that contained a possible neonatal burial

and meat waste, which provided the bulk of the meat from the site. Sheep, pig, dog and red deer bones, while an oyster shell had been transported from the coast. Environmental remains indicated the late Iron to early Roman economy was based mainly on spelt wheat with hulled barley and oats, while a single pea/bean seed was also recovered.

Wavendon, Eagle Farm

SP 9268 3822

MOLA carried out an excavation on land at Eagle Farm between March and June 2018. A settlement was uncovered which may have started in the middle Iron Age, though most evidence suggested a late Iron Age date for most of the remains. The main feature within the site was a large ditched enclosure but no evidence for internal structures was found within it. Relatively few features and artefacts were found within the site and the enclosure may have been more agricultural in function. During the Roman period, two distinct phases of activity occurred. Several new encl-

tures were established. Much of the pottery appears to date to the pre-Flavian period. The presence of kiln furniture would suggest that there was an area of craft/industrial activity in the vicinity, if not actually on the site. After the first Roman phase there appears to have been more limited activity on the site with no evidence for activity continuing beyond the 2nd century AD.

ROMAN

Aylesbury, Walton Road

SP 8255 1337

In August 2018 KDK undertook an evaluation at 67-71 Walton Road, in order to inform a development proposal for the demolition of existing properties and the construction of seven new dwellings on the site. Walton, is one of a number of areas in the county where there is evidence for continued occupation from as early as the Neolithic period.

Two trenches were excavated, revealing a number of features which can be attributed to the Roman period onwards. Within one trench, a possible pit containing Roman pottery, a natural feature and an undated calf burial were observed. The other trench revealed a pit, a ditch and several partial features. Pottery from the site had a date range spanning the Roman to medieval periods.

During the Victorian period, the site was situated within the boundary of an engineering works, the main building of which was located to the northeast. The remains of a 19th-century structure exposed in one trench are likely to be part of a small rectangular building associated with the works, shown on late 19th-century Ordnance Survey maps.

Burnham, East Burnham Quarry

SU 9505 8379

Between 2015 and 2019, WA carried out a phased programme of strip and record excavation on a 12-hectare parcel of land comprising the Phase 2 Extraction area at East Burnham Quarry. This report summarises the results of the first two stages of archaeological investigation, which were successful in identifying a number of archaeological features of significance.

Phases 2/1a and 2/1b (August 2015, May 2016)

identified five probable field boundary ditches, representing possibly two separate phases of land division. Though not conclusively dated, the evidence suggests that these phases of land division were of post-medieval and/or possibly medieval date. No significant traces of activity predating the medieval period were revealed, beyond a small quantity of residual worked flint. This phase of fieldwork confirmed that the initial interpretation of a cropmark as a possible Neolithic long barrow or enclosure were erroneous. This feature, which had also been detected by geophysical survey, was shown to coincide with an infilled ditch that can be correlated with a field boundary shown on the 1841 tithe map.

Phases 2/2a and 2/2b (June 2017, May/June 2018) identified two probable field boundary ditches, thought likely to derive from a single phase of land division and shown on the 1841 tithe map. These were also not conclusively dated, though the available evidence suggests that this phase of land division is of post-medieval and/or possibly medieval date. No significant traces of activity predating the medieval period were revealed.

Phase 2/3a (August/September 2018, April/May 2019) identified two pits, an enclosure ditch, five field boundary ditches and a series of brick-earth quarry pits. Pottery recovered from the pits and enclosure ditch dates to the Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British period: the remaining features are largely undated. Most of the archaeological remains are located in the north-east corner of the site, suggesting the potential for a settlement to the east/north-east.

Calverton, Land Parcel D: Field 8

SP 8070 3727

Thirty-two evaluation trenches were opened by BA as part of investigations of the Milton Keynes Western Expansion Area (MKWEA, Area 10), to identify and investigate areas of archaeological potential.

Activity was concentrated in the eastern part of the site where a series of ditches were identified. None could be conclusively assigned a function, owing to a paucity of dating and environmental evidence. Limited conclusions drawn from environmental sampling suggest that the ditches were some distance from any occupation and were probably associated with agriculture. Whilst some

pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), glass and slag were recovered from soil samples, they proved undiagnostic. Only one ditch contained dateable material, consisting of two pottery sherds dated to the mid-1st century AD, probably from a globular beaker or jar. In an adjoining trench was a second ditch, U-shaped in plan, suggesting that it was possibly the corner of an enclosure. It contained no finds, and its projected alignment and function remain undetermined.

Calverton, Whitehouse Secondary School site

NGR: 8090 3774

Excavation was undertaken by BA of 1700m² of land south-west of Shenley Hill Farm, on land designated for Whitehouse Secondary School as part of investigations of the Milton Keynes Western Expansion Area (MKWEA, Area 10). Four phases of activity (Late Iron Age/Early Roman, Roman and post-medieval) were identified:

Phase 1 comprised Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British activity, represented by four drainage ditches/gullies. Phase 2 represented Early Romano-British activity (late 1st /2nd Century AD) in the form of two rubbish pits, although no evidence of habitation was identified in the vicinity. Phase 3 comprised later Romano-British activity (3rd century), being represented by a rubbish pit that appeared to contain domestic waste; three drainage ditches, one of which was probably a recut of an earlier ditch; a possible clay extraction pit that may have been waterlogged after its excavation. The latter feature produced by far the largest proportion of the pottery, mainly jars, recorded from the site.

Phase 4 dated to the post-medieval period and was represented by three north-northwest-south-southeast oriented drainage ditches, and another on a north-south alignment.

Cheddington: land west of Cheddington

SP 9188 1749

An excavation by CA between August and October identified at least three phases of activity, dating from the late Iron Age/early Roman period to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD. The earliest features included two enclosures with pits and a working hollow and may represent the periphery of a settlement associated with

the final occupation of Southend Hill, a multi-vallate Iron Age hillfort (SM 1017517). Early and late Roman enclosures, pit clusters and ditches were also found, along with three late Roman inhumation burials and evidence of smithing. A small number of features, including a path, produced early to middle Saxon pottery. During the 11th to 13th centuries, a substantial ditch forming the western boundary between medieval Cheddington and the surrounding agricultural landscape was established. An enclosure, a cess pit, possible post-built structures, and two rectilinear back plots also date to this period. The back plots were sub-divided during the late medieval period and re-established in the post-medieval period. Post-medieval garden soils and modern stone spreads were also present.

Little Brickhill, land at Eaton Leys
SP 8894 3316

WA was commissioned to undertake strip, map and sample excavation of six areas totalling 2.95ha at Eaton Leys, Milton Keynes, in advance of residential development. This work followed on from a scheme of earlier investigations comprising desk-based assessment, geophysical survey, evaluation trenching and fieldwalking.

The most significant remains from the excavation were in Areas A and D. Area A contained ditches forming droveways and a co-axial field system. These appear to be late Iron Age/early Romano-British in date, at least some forming part of the hinterland of the Roman town of *Magiovinium*, just to the north of the excavated area. Five cremation graves and five other features containing cremation-related deposits, some forming loose groupings, were also identified in Area A. Most were undated, although three belong to the 1st century AD. The group of vessels from one grave is particularly significant, containing as it does decorated samian vessels, which are rarely found in funerary contexts. Area D contained an early/middle Saxon cremation cemetery containing over 30 burials, most of which had been placed in urns. A small four-post structure possibly representing a mortuary house or shrine was found alongside the graves. Areas B, C and E contained further cremation-related deposits, along with minor linear features, discrete pits and postholes. Most were undated but some are assumed to be

Romano-British. Area F proved to be archaeologically sterile.

Worked flints provide clear evidence of earlier prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site, probably from the Mesolithic and/or Early Neolithic periods, although the assemblage is small and redeposited. Most of the finds assemblage comprises late Iron Age/Romano-British pottery: other material types are not well represented and are in generally poor condition, particularly the animal bone. Of most interest are the human remains, pottery, metalwork and glass from urned and unurned Saxon cremation burials. These are significant, as cremation assemblages of this date are very rare in this region. Some evidence for cremation in the Late Iron Age/early Romano-British period was also encountered. Further analysis of the human bone will provide more detailed demographic data and further information related to the mortuary rites. Over 300 environmental samples were collected from a range of features, although in general they are not particularly informative. The environmental remains recovered from the samples are dominated by wood charcoal, most of which originates from cremation-related deposits, probably representing fuel for funeral pyres. Charred remains of cereals and other plants are generally rare and poorly preserved, and were found in secondary deposits.

Steeple Claydon, Buckingham Road
SP 4705 2271

Between July and September, MOLA undertook an excavation on land at Buckingham Road. A pastoral field system was established in the late Iron Age, with two possible stock enclosures evident. This developed during the late Iron Age/early Roman transition to encompass a boundary ditch and further enclosures, including a possible corral and paddock, in addition to pits and drainage ditches, largely located in southern area of the site. One early Roman urned cremation was found deposited in the boundary ditch. In the later Roman period the earlier enclosures were modified and further ditches were established to ease the drainage. The site was in use until the mid-3rd century AD. Medieval furrows and modern land drains were also noted across the site.

Tattenhoe, Lizard Drive

SP 8368 3342

In September, AA undertook trial trenching in support of a planning application for commercial development on two adjacent fields (Sites A & B) south-east of Lizard Drive, Snelshall East.

Most of the north-western field had been subjected to substantial modern landscaping that had effectively levelled a once-undulating field. One small ditch on the western periphery of the field produced two small sherds of highly-abraded early Romano-British pottery. However, the location and alignment of the ditch suggest that it was probably associated with a post-medieval field boundary, visible on the 1926 OS map. The south-eastern field appeared to be relatively undisturbed. A single furrow was identified, suggesting medieval arable cultivation: the absence of other furrows indicates significant truncation by modern ploughing.

Whaddon, land south-west of Tattenhoe Bare Farm

SP 818 330 (centre)

Evaluation was carried out by BA on c.3.5 hectares of land between Shenley Road and the A421 Buckingham Road. Of the 296 trenches opened, 97 contained features and deposits of archaeological significance. These included a Romano-British enclosure complex, previously identified by geophysical survey, features associated with the medieval deer park of Whaddon Chase and evidence relating to a Second World War transmitter station known as 'Tattenhoe Bare'.

The Romano-British enclosure comprised a number of ditches, with probable stock enclosures or corrals at its southern end. The site appears to have remained in use over a considerable period, as attested by the addition of ancillary enclosures on its eastern and northern sides, and to have contained several roundhouses, with evidence for ditched areas, beam slots with associated postholes and ring gullies recorded. Cobbled surfaces and buried soils with associated drainage gullies were revealed along the central line of the enclosure, probably representing former work surfaces. Romano-British ceramic building material recovered from these deposits suggests the presence of a substantial structure within the vicinity at this time. A single un-urned, sub-adult cremation

was found to the west of the enclosure, close to its entrance. Pottery dates suggest a main phase of occupation during the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, while very limited 3rd and 4th-century material was recovered. Other finds included metalwork and ceramic building material (including *tegula* and *imbrex*). These finds are consistent with the large quantity of Romano-British artefacts, previously recovered during field-walking within the eastern boundary of the site.

A post-medieval structure comprising a foundation wall and wood-lined pit was uncovered to the southeast, possibly associated with the management of Whaddon Chase, the boundaries of which remained intact until 1840. Post-medieval ditches were encountered across the site. Modern pits revealed to the north-east were possibly dug to support radio masts associated with the Second World War transmitter station.

SAXON & MEDIEVAL**Aston Clinton, Church Lane**

SP 8779 1199

Excavation at Park Farm, Church Lane, by CA between August and September identified a ditched field system and a possible trackway of medieval date. A number of pits also dated to this period. Evidence of at least two phases of modifications to the field system ditches was recorded and they remained in use into the post-medieval period.

Bierton-with-Broughton, land west of Rowsham Road

SP 8436 1617

Evaluation trenching by TVAS in advance of a small housing development revealed three pits, most probably dating to the 12th century AD, and several large quarry pits, at least one of which was modern.

Great Horwood, land south of Little Horwood Road

SP 7774 3113

CA carried out an evaluation in April and May, followed by excavation in August. Investigations identified a curvilinear ditch containing 5th to 8th-century pottery and remnants of medieval

ridge and furrow cultivation. An undated pit was also present.

Hanslope, land west of Castlethorpe Road

SP 7983 4697

An excavation by CA between April and June identified a Roman ditch and several phases of early medieval occupation. The earliest comprised an enclosure and possible droveway, potentially originating in the Middle/Late Anglo-Saxon period. Between the 11th and 13th centuries, four enclosures likely to belong to the now-deserted hamlet of Green End, situated to the immediate west of the site, were established. Pits and a hollow containing domestic refuse also date to this period. During the 13th and 14th centuries, the enclosures were reworked and expanded.

Newport Pagnell, North Crawley Road

SP 8891 4371

An evaluation by CA in July and August in Tickford Fields, north of North Crawley Road, recovered a small assemblage of residual Neolithic and Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flints and late prehistoric pottery. A Roman pit and ditch terminus were the earliest cut features. Medieval settlement was indicated by pits, gullies, a metalled surface and a possible oven, found along with ditched enclosures. The remnants of medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation and evidence of post-medieval quarrying were also found, along with stone walls that could represent the remains of a 17th-century tomb belonging to Mark Slingsby, a local attorney.

Stoke Poges, Stoke Road

SU 9775 8163

Excavation by TVAS of two small areas north of the existing Slough municipal cemetery for an extension to the cemetery revealed a range of features, including a series of medieval pit clusters and ditches. Of particular note was the presence of evidence for blacksmithing.

Waddesdon, Church of St Michael and All Angels

SP 7420 1697

Two further phases of a long-running watching brief were conducted by TVAS on various minor

works in the churchyard and the interior of the church. Excavation located stonework, probably predating the 14th century, underlying the eastern foundation of the existing Chancel, as was also the case to the south, south-east and below the chancel arch. A second stone foundation was recorded under the buttress to the east of the rebuilt south porch. Disarticulated human bone was recovered generally throughout the areas of excavation, though the most came from overburden deposits to the exterior of the north aisle door. Two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from overburden deposits exterior to the south aisle. Part of a badly truncated vault was located in the eastern bay of the south arcade, its backfill dating to the mid-17th century or later. Parts of the previous underfloor ducting truncated medieval levels in the north-east nave. Four undated graves cut through the medieval horizon.

Waddesdon, land west of Warmstone Lane

SP 74882 16622

WA undertook a strip, map and sample excavation covering an area of 1.2ha, followed by a watching brief on a parcel of land at Warmstone Lane. The excavation area was targeted on two evaluation trenches opened by WA on the site in 2015. These trenches revealed a small area of medieval activity. The watching brief area covered the rest of the field to the north and west of the excavation area.

The excavation revealed a small number of shallow pits and postholes dating to the medieval period adjacent to those found in the evaluation, confirming that medieval activity had occurred in the area. Two shallow gullies, interpreted as field boundary or drainage gullies, were observed to the south of the concentration of pits and produced medieval pottery sherds. A possible pond was also shown to be present on site.

The watching brief revealed further evidence of medieval activity, including a possible fence line and further shallow rubbish pits to the north and east of those uncovered in the excavation.

Westcott, land west of Ashendon Road

SP 7190 1692

Between December 2017 and February 2018 an evaluation was undertaken on land west of Ashendon Road, as part of the pre-application process for the development of the site. Ten

trenches were excavated revealing a number of medieval features, the most notable being the remains of a limestone building which had been constructed on top of an earthen platform to the north of the site. Several limestone spreads, a large number of ditches and several pits were also observed whose dates ranged from the Romano-British through to the medieval period. The presence of relatively high status building material and artefacts may suggest that this was once part of one of the medieval manorial complexes before the village shrank.

POST-MEDIEVAL

Akeley, Chapel Lane

SP 8000 3784

In March 2018 an evaluation was undertaken by KDK of land adjacent to Rose Cottage, Chapel Lane, in order to fulfil a planning condition for the construction of a bungalow on the site. A trench excavated within the footprint of the proposed development revealed three features of late post-medieval/ modern date, including two possible plough marks and a small pit containing a high proportion of bottles.

Aylesbury, Temple Square

SP 8181 1376

In July 2017 KDK undertook an historic building appraisal of 2-4 Temple Square, in order to inform development proposals. Both buildings are Grade II listed and are located in what was considered by Pevsner to be the smallest and neatest of the three squares in Aylesbury. Surviving timberwork within Number 2 suggests that this dates from the late 16th century with a late 17th or early 18th-century rear wing. Number 4 is a late 19th-century structure with modern extensions to the rear. An historic property boundary alteration allowed a small section of the ground floor of 28 Temple Street to become incorporated into the retail unit within 2 Temple Square.

Buckingham, Market Hill

SP 6956 3408

In August 2018, JMHS carried out evaluation and excavation at Fleece Yard, Market Hill, after

planning permission was granted for the demolition of two commercial units (No. 8 & 9) and the erection of five dwellings and associated parking. The evaluation suggested that the area showed signs of truncation from Victorian residential use and 20th-century commercial redevelopment.

The earliest features revealed by the excavation were two post-medieval pits, containing brick and tile fragments, animal bone and a small amount of diagnostic pottery. A third pit contained mid to late Victorian pottery. These features were followed by the remains of 19th-century buildings. There were also several undated pits which could only be identified as predating the modern layers and two pits related to the demolition of the Victorian building. The fragmentary remains of an undated drystone wall possibly post-dated the demolition of the Victorian buildings but could have been earlier. Only one fragment of medieval pottery was recovered during the excavations and no features could be dated to earlier than the 17th century.

Calverton, land at Two Mile Ash Farm

SP 8121 3833

Forty-eight evaluation trenches were opened by BA in an area of predominately pastoral farmland to the south of Watling Street at Two Mile Ash Farm (Fields 1-3), as part of investigations of the Milton Keynes Western Expansion Area (MKWEA).

Ten trenches contained features of varying archaeological significance, largely dating to the post-medieval period. These comprised possible clay extraction pits (Field 1), a single post-medieval gully (Field 2) and remnants of ridge and furrow, as well as an associated field boundary, and areas of rooting containing residual late prehistoric or Romano-British pottery (Field 3).

Chesham, Pednormead End

SP 9551 0134

WA undertook a photographic survey and monitoring prior to and during the restoration of a 150m reach of the Missenden Stream at Pednormead End. The works comprised a Level 2 photographic survey of the watercress beds and any associated infrastructure, particularly two weirs, as well as a short account of the watercress industry. Following the photographic survey, groundworks were monitored by a watching brief.

The groundworks were very shallow, confined to the digging of a new, deeper river channel. This limited the opportunity to reveal archaeological evidence, although a mortared brick surface was uncovered approximately 25m east-north-east of Weir 1. This corresponds to a gap in the river depicted on the 1843 Tithe and later 19th-century Ordnance Survey maps, labelled as a footbridge on the 1963-64 Ordnance Survey map. In addition, unstratified burnt flint and fragments of post-medieval pottery were recovered from the field north of Weir 2 as well as modern artefacts found within the topsoil of the river channel.

Watercress production on an industrial scale began in the early 19th century and grew rapidly in the mid-19th century as railways made transportation to town markets more efficient. Photographs available online appear to show that 19th-century watercress beds were initially constructed of wood, superseded by concrete structures in the 20th century. Structures associated with watercress production include beds, bunching sheds, and reservoirs for storing the fresh cress. Some sites had their own rail tracks. However, no evidence of structures definitively associated with the watercress industry were found during the photographic survey or watching brief.

Edlesborough, High Street

SP 9732 1923

In August, MOLA carried out a trial-trench evaluation on land by the High Street. This comprised twelve trenches, six of which revealed archaeological remains from post-medieval to modern date. Most were for drainage, associated with the moated site of Manor Farm on the eastern edge of the development. A single boundary ditch was identified, as well as several postholes indicating a former fence line. Examination of the topsoil and subsoil revealed post-medieval and modern material across the whole site.

Great Linford, Linford Wharf

SP 8549 4255

In July, BHS undertook a programme of historic building recording at 6 The Wharf, Great Linford, in advance of extensions to the existing cottage. The cottage, along with an adjoining outbuilding, was constructed c.1816/17 by the Newport Pagnell

Canal Company alongside the entrance lock to the canal – a branch off the Grand Junction Canal at Linford Wharf - to house the lock keeper and toll collector. Following the closure of the Newport Canal in 1864, the entrance lock was filled in, becoming part of the cottage garden, and the property was sold by auction in 1867. Until at least the start of WW1, the cottage was let to a succession of tenants, either local agricultural workers or tradesmen working in Wolverton or Newport Pagnell.

The two-storey cottage is constructed of brick, beneath a slated roof, with chimney stacks at each end. Set into the side of the entrance lock to the canal, only the upper floor is visible to the north, with its central ‘front’ entrance. To the south, both storeys are visible, with a central ground-floor entrance. Apart from a flat-roofed, single-storey brick extension added to its west end in the 1960s, the cottage largely retains its original external appearance, though windows have been replaced with modern UPVC casements and the original living room window has been replaced by a rectangular UPVC bay window. Internally, the cottage retains its three original fireplaces, quarry tiled floors and many other features. The interior layout also appears largely unchanged.

To the south of the cottage, the present single-storey outbuilding is constructed of brick, beneath a hipped gable slated roof with a single chimney stack. It was probably built at the end of the 19th century, replacing a larger structure on a different alignment, probably contemporary with the cottage. Internally, the outbuilding comprises two rooms, a workshop and a store. Apart from some recent internal decoration it appears largely unaltered. Its function remains uncertain.

The cottage and other buildings at Linford Wharf are illustrated in the article on the Newport Pagnell Canal, elsewhere in this issue.

Great Missenden, High Street

SP 8963 0108

In May, AA undertook trial trenching in advance of a sheltered housing scheme on the site of the former police station at 115-117 High Street. The five trenches revealed layers and features that mostly contained ceramic building material that is difficult to date more precisely than the late medieval to post-medieval/early modern period.

However, most of the features and deposits appeared to correlate with details shown on the 1878 Ordnance Survey map.

Hardmead, Church Farm

SP 9380 4858

In November, historic building recording was undertaken by BHS of an outbuilding at Church Farm, prior to its refurbishment and conversion for residential use as an annex to the Grade II-listed farm house. Church Farm was established in the 18th century: the farm house was reputedly built with stone recovered from the demolition of Hardmead manor house. The section of stone wall incorporated into the outbuilding may date from that period.

The outbuilding is a single-storey, 5-bay structure, constructed of brick beneath a tiled roof, probably in the mid-19th century. Its internal floors and roof structure show frequent use of recycled bricks and timber from earlier buildings. The outbuilding served a range of functions: fuel store for the farm house, stables, tack room/workshop and housing for a trap or similar vehicle. Apart from repairs to its fabric and fittings, the building appears to have undergone little change since it was constructed.

Hedsor, Cliveden

SU 9098 8533

A watching brief was undertaken in February and March by OA on behalf of the National Trust during trenching works in the grounds of Cliveden House, connected with the laying of cables for the site's security system.

The most significant features revealed were the remains of a building on the north side of the large wall which now forms the north side of the spa. The bricks used in the building are suggestive of an 18th-century date. The structure had a brick paved floor. It is most likely that this was a small shed or privy built against the tall garden wall, which itself appears to pre-date 1749, but there is the possibility that it pre-dates the tall wall and instead represents the north end of a longer building that extended further southwards. The relationship between this brick structure and the tall spa wall was not exposed in the trench.

Hughenden, Hughenden Manor

SU 8597 9525

OA was commissioned by the National Trust to undertake a watching brief during the installation of an effluent pipe disposal system within the Trust's Hughenden Manor landholding. The pipe ran in a broadly south-westerly direction from Hughenden Manor to Coates Lane. The watching brief was carried out between January and April. A brick wall, thought to be of 19th-century origin, was recorded to the south of the south gate to the Manor. No other archaeological features or deposits were observed.

High Wycombe, Leigh Street

SU 8562 9326

Building recording was carried out by TVAS at Leigh Court, Leigh Street, in advance of conversion and partial demolition. The site was first built on in 1901, though Leigh Street itself was laid out between 1897 and 1899. The earliest block was set back from the street frontage and was characterized by wooden beams and columns. It is possible that this building was extended to the south-east prior to the construction of Birch House along the street frontage in 1913. The houses 'Malvern' and 'Llanberis' as well as the 'embroidery building' date between 1908 and 1925. Birch House was extended in 1926. Most of the remaining extensions, including blocks A and C, the rear embroidery building and Wheelers Yard, were erected between 1925 and 1937 with only relatively minor subsequent extensions.

Medmenham, Ferry Lane

SU 8060 8379

In March and April, JMHS carried out a watching brief on groundworks at Ferry Nab, Ferry Lane during construction of a swimming pool. Ferry Nab was built in the late 19th century by Robert Hudson to the designs of Romaine Walker, on the site of the Ferry Boat Hotel, which fell out of use following the decline of local river transport and ferry traffic.

During the watching brief, a ditch and a foundation wall of flint and chalk rubble were identified. Finds analysis and the study of historical maps suggest a possible date for the

ditch before the mid-19th century. A wine bottle provided a possible terminus *post quem* of the late 18th century for the wall, although it was found at the top of the rubble fill, near to the edge of the deposit. Therefore, it is possible that this may have been intrusive from contexts below or from above the wall. In addition, the foundation wall appeared to have been truncated by levelling activities in the area.

Newton Longville, Borough Farm
SP 8558 3072

In November, AS carried out historic building recording prior to demolition of the existing farmhouse. The building conformed to a date of c.1850, being a typical mid-Victorian tenant farmhouse in its form and plan. The house retained its original layout and many of its fixtures and fittings, including fire surrounds, door handles, kitchen units and wall paper, though an upgrade in the mid-20th century saw the introduction of services and a bathroom. In the 1970s the roof covering was replaced, and most likely that of the veranda as well. A utilitarian lean-to, most likely used as a back kitchen, was constructed between 1880s and the 1910s.

Princes Risborough, Bell Street
SP 8085 0325

JMHS carried out a watching brief at the rear of 24-26 Bell Street in February, during initial ground reduction and excavation of the foundation trenches for the construction of a three-bed detached dwelling with associated parking and external works.

Excavations revealed post-medieval disturbed ground layers directly overlying the natural. Cutting these layers were one small pit, one garden feature wall and one undated tree-throw hole. The small pit was filled with mid-brown/grey silty clay containing four sherds of 16th to 19th-century pottery and one fragment of post-medieval brick.

Princes Risborough, Duke Street
SP 8070 0355

Evaluation trenching by TVAS in advance of a small housing development on land at Duke Street

exposed a small number of pits beneath made ground and a buried soil. One of the pits was of late medieval date. The other pits were similar but contained no datable finds.

Swanbourne, Mursley Road
SP 8030 2726

In September, AS carried out historic building recording to Historic England Level 2 on the porch of Old House, 6 Mursley Road, in order to fulfil the requirement of a pre-application response. The porch is referred to in the listing description as late 19th/20th century, the brickwork is consistent with a 19th-century date and a porch is visible on the 1880 OS map which may suggest a date in the 1870s.

West Wycombe, West Wycombe Park
SU 8410 9387

In March and April, OA undertook a watching brief for the National Trust on excavations for an IT cable trench at the east of West Wycombe Park. The fieldwork revealed a series of levelling and made-ground deposits for the existing road surfaces, overlying two 19th-century wall foundations. Historic mapping suggests the walls relate to outbuildings and a boundary wall. No further archaeological remains were revealed.

UNDATED OR NEGATIVE

Amersham, Whielden Street
SU 9567 9703

An evaluation by CA in February on land at 1 to 3 Alpha Court and to the rear of 60 to 64 Whielden Street identified no deposits or features of archaeological significance.

Aylesbury, Buckingham Road
SP 8177 1420

Between April and May, a watching brief was undertaken by KDK at Britannia Inn, Buckingham Road, as a condition of planning permission for the construction of 14 self-contained apartments and associated landscaping on the site. The site stratigraphy was found to consist of made-ground deposits overlying the natural stratum. Aside from

the remnants of a modern wall, no archaeological features or finds were observed.

Aylesbury, Kingsbrook
SP 8488 1482

In April, OA carried out a 30-trench evaluation on land at Kingsbrook on the eastern edge of Aylesbury, in relation to the new urban development to the east of Aylesbury. The evaluation followed a geophysical survey that had identified ridge-and-furrow cultivation features. The evaluation confirmed the presence of shallow furrows across much of the area and identified probable former field boundaries at two locations. No other archaeological features were encountered.

Bierton-with-Broughton, Manor Farm
SP 8493 1330

An evaluation by CA in July of land at Manor Farm recorded five undated ditches and a pit to the immediate east of the site of a medieval moated manor house, believed to represent the Manor of Broughton Parva occupied between the 12th to the 15th centuries.

Bradwell Abbey, Bradwell Abbey
SP 8272 3952

In 2017, OA undertook a watching brief and recording during below-ground works and a programme of enabling works and repair to the buildings at Bradwell Abbey. The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (no. 19062) comprising a complex of listed buildings (no. 1009540).

During the first phase of investigative works, six shallow test trenches were excavated at the footings of selected buildings, primarily to investigate the drainage around the foundations. During this work, one return wall was partially exposed, extending eastwards from the east foundations of the Bakehouse. No other features of archaeological significance were detected. Recording of exposed lintels in the farmhouse was also carried out. In addition, a preliminary investigation was undertaken of the walls of historic buildings that were to be the subject of trial pointing and lime washing.

Burnham, High Street
SU 9307 8255

OA carried out a single-trench evaluation ahead of residential development to the rear of 73 High Street, Burnham, in December. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered. A probable former topsoil was identified below the existing car park surfacing and made ground.

Calverton, Land south-east of Calverton Lane
SP 8074 3755

Forty-nine evaluation trenches were opened by BA in an area of predominately pastoral farmland to the SE of Calverton Lane and to the SW of Oakhill Lane, as part of investigations of the Milton Keynes Western Expansion Area (MKWEA).

Three trenches contained archaeological features. A possible posthole exhibited a potential recut: finds from the fills of both cuts comprised fragments of medieval (or later) CBM, which suggests a relatively late date. Other features included a possible sub-circular pit and a hedgerow: neither contained finds.

Calverton, land west of Whitehouse Farm
SP 8089 3743

BA undertook an evaluation comprising 18 trenches in an area identified as 'Land Parcel D: Field 9', part of the Milton Keynes Western Expansion Area (MKWEA). Ditches were identified in seven trenches, notably those located close to the current field boundary. A few of the linear features were found to cut the subsoil and were identified to be of relatively modern date. The only datable material recovered during the evaluation was a single residual ceramic fragment, similar to locally produced early Romano-British pottery found throughout the Milton Keynes area. The only other archaeological material recovered was burnt mammal bone and an undiagnostic animal bone fragment.

The archaeological sterility of these features suggests they were positioned at some distance from occupation, probably serving an agricultural function. A number of plough scars noted in the south-west part of the field suggest previous arable use and it may be that at least some of the undated linear features are representative of a relict field system.

Drayton Parslow, Holy Trinity Church
SP 8373 2841

Between November 2017 and March 2018 a watching brief was maintained by KDK at Holy Trinity Church, during the installation of new soakaways and drainage through the cemetery. These were excavated to the north of the chancel and from the southwest corner of the nave. Every attempt was made to avoid known burials on the site but a partial articulated burial comprising the lower leg and feet of an adult individual was revealed.

Great Kimble, Church Lane
SP 8245 0606

A watching brief by TVAS on the digging of foundations for a new building at Great Kimble C of E School revealed no deposits of archaeological interest.

Great Missenden, High Street
SP 8941 0121

Rubicon Heritage Services carried out an evaluation in January in relation to consideration of land to the rear of the Old Red Lion, High Street, for development. Six trenches were excavated, revealing considerable modern disturbance had occurred on the site, with little evidence of earlier activity. An undated circular pit, the remnants of two possible hedgerow field boundaries and two probable shrub pits were the only features not to contain modern material. It is likely the medieval burgrave plots of the High Street properties did not extend into the main part of the site.

Hanslope, Hartwell Road
SP 7953 4800

In July, a Heritage Asset Impact Assessment was prepared by KDK for land to the rear of *The Globe* public house, Hartwell Road, to inform development proposals. The site is located in an area of open ground to the rear of the 18th-century public house. Although little information is available about the site, cartographic evidence suggests that this plot of land was wooded from at least the 18th century through to the late 20th century. Prior to this, KDK undertook a watching brief at *The Globe*. This recorded a dry-stone wall believed

to be associated with a stone barn that was once located on the site, No further archaeological features or finds were revealed.

Hanslope, High Street
SP 80325 46925

In November, a watching brief was undertaken by BHS during groundworks for a new dwelling adjacent to *The Cock* public house in the High Street, in response to a planning condition. The site lies on the former green within the historic core of the village, and had the potential to reveal evidence of medieval and later activity. Examination of historic mapping showed the site had been part of the rear garden of cottages fronting Gold Street (parallel to the High Street), before becoming the garden of the pub.

Removal of topsoil and turf revealed nothing of significance and very few finds, all of post-medieval date. The footing trenches encountered an undated spread of limestone rubble beneath topsoil and above the natural clay, presumably material that had been dumped, levelled and buried in the cottage gardens.

High Wycombe, Abbey Barns South
SU 8750 9130

Magnetometer survey by TVAS undertaken to inform an application for development covering c.19ha identified a range of magnetic anomalies, but most were of no archaeological interest (geological or made ground). Only two were felt likely to reflect buried archaeological features and a series of parallel anomalies most likely represent previous agricultural activity.

Hulcott, All Saints Church
SP 8533 1669

In September, a watching brief was undertaken at All Saints Church by Groundworks Archaeology. No archaeological features were identified within the monitored areas, but disarticulated bone was recovered from the burial horizon.

Longwick, Thame Road
SP 7904 2074

In February 2018 an evaluation was carried out

by KDK on land adjacent to Thame Road, prior to residential development. Seven trenches were opened, but no archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed.

Marsh Gibbon, Castle Street

SP 6485 2307

In late July, OA undertook a trial-trench evaluation at Box Farm, Castle Street, to inform proposals for the construction of a new bungalow. The site is located within the conservation area of the historical village and to the rear of a Grade II-listed, 17th-century farmhouse and barn. The evaluation revealed a general sequence of mixed topsoil and subsoil deposits sealing natural geology. A modern backfilled feature, possibly a pond, was identified in the northern end of the trench. The evaluation did not identify any archaeological remains, but found signs of modern disturbance.

Princes Risborough, Merton Road

SP 8093 2088

A watching brief by TVAS during extensions to the car park at Princes Risborough School revealed no deposits or finds of any archaeological interest.

Stoke Mandeville, Marsh Lane

SP 8313 1035

An evaluation of land off Marsh Lane by CA in August recorded two undated, but probably post-medieval/early modern, ditches.

Wavendon, Lower End Road

SP 9297 3820

Magnetometer survey by TVAS in advance of housing development on land at Eagle Farm, Lower End Road, detected a number of magnetic anomalies representing ditches of archaeological interest as well as those of agricultural origin. Evaluation trenching is planned for 2019.

Wavendon, Newport Road

SP 9141 3718

Ten evaluation trenches excavated by TVAS in advance of housing development at 34 Newport Road revealed only a modern ditch.

Wavendon, land at Newport Road

SP 9109 3761

Five evaluation trenches were opened by BA in an area of land south-west of the A5130 Newport Road relating to the proposed Newport Road Junction, as part of the Milton Keynes Eastern Expansion Area. Only one trench revealed a feature of potential archaeological interest. This was interpreted as a hedgerow, although this conclusion remains circumspect due to disturbance by nearby rooting. Evidence of ridge and furrow was also noted.

Wavendon, Stockwell Lane Extension

SP 9103 3756

A trial-trench evaluation was undertaken by BA in an area of c.0.34ha southwest of the A5130 Newport Road and to the east of Stockwell Road, forming part of the proposed Newport Road Junction within the Milton Keynes Eastern Expansion Area. Five trenches were excavated, but no features or deposits of archaeological significance were encountered.

Wendover, High Street

SP 8697 0786

In July, a watching brief was undertaken at 1 High Street, as a condition of planning permission for the construction of a new dwelling. Ordnance Survey maps dating to the late 19th century show a north-south orientated range to the rear of 1 High Street. The excavation was undertaken within the footprint of this now demolished range, exposing a thick chalk layer which appeared to be the compacted base of the internal floor for this building. No further archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered.

Westcott, land east of Ashendon Road

SP 7202 1691

In November 2017 a trial-trench evaluation was undertaken of land east of Ashendon Road, in order to inform proposals for the development of the site. Five trenches were excavated within the footprints of the proposed buildings. The development area has large mounds to the north and west, creating a bowl in the centre of the site. No archaeological cut features or deposits were recorded. The stratig-

raphy and topography of the site suggests that the centre of the site may have been a dew pond.

Wolverton, Woburn Avenue

SP 8095 4040

Fifteen evaluation trenches were excavated by TVAS in order to inform an application for planning permission for an extension to the municipal cemetery. No evidence for an extension of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery lying to the west was found, nor any other archaeological features or finds.

Wotton Underwood, Beechwood House

SP 6867 1607

An evaluation by CA in July identified no archaeological remains.

REPORTS NOT RECEIVED

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

Aston Clinton, Chapel Drive: evaluation

Bierton-with-Broughton, Kingsbrook MDA: evaluation

Broughton, Glebelands: excavation

Buckingham, 10 Market Square: evaluation

Buckingham, 10 Tingewick Road: evaluation

Buckingham, West End Farm: excavation

Castlethorpe, Castlethorpe Fishponds: watching brief

Charndon, Main Street: evaluation

Lavendon, land east of Castle Road: evaluation

Middle Claydon, East-West Rail Site B2: evaluation

Mursley, East-West Rail Site B4: evaluation

Newport Pagnell, land off Little Linford Lane: evaluation

Newton Longville, East-West Rail Site B5: evaluation

Olney, land off Warrington Road: evaluation

Pitstone, Cheddington Road: watching brief

Stoke Mandeville, Thornbrook House: evaluation

Stone, land SW of Aylesbury: evaluation

Swanbourne, Mursley Road: excavation

Swanbourne, East-West Rail Site B14: evaluation

Waddesdon, cycle route: watching brief

Walton (MK), land west of Walton Manor: evaluation

Water Stratford, Green Pastures: evaluation & excavation

Winslow, High Street: evaluation