

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES FROM BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM

These notes include archaeological discoveries reported during 1988 and a few earlier finds not previously noted. Discoveries by the Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit (MKAU) are included by courtesy of Mr D. C. Mynard, and fuller accounts of these sites appear in south Midlands Archaeology (CBA 9). The assistance of many informants is gratefully acknowledged; other discoveries are by Museum staff. The compiler would be pleased to learn of any errors or omissions. Findspots are recorded under civil parish.

Some selection of material has been necessary; single struck flakes for instance have not

normally been included, nor field scatters of medieval pottery unless of sufficient quantity to indicate settlement, nor single Roman coin finds. Abbreviated grid references have unfortunately to be given for a number of sites to prevent looting.

Numbers in parentheses are accession numbers of material at the County Museum. The initials DCM indicate the material is in the Museum, but that no accession number has yet been allotted. The County Museum Archaeological Group is abbreviated CMAG.

M.E.F.

PREHISTORIC

Bledlow cum Saunderton SP 7869 0062
Fieldwalking by CMAG of a field, adjacent to an Early Iron Age site partially excavated in 1938, defined its limits more closely in terms of pottery scatter and suggested a second focus. Over 300 sherds were recovered from the area as a whole, over 200 struck flakes, 7 cores, 3 scrapers, a piece of a polished greenstone axe and a leaf-shaped arrowhead. A number of battered spherical flint 'hammerstones' were also collected and a quartzite cylindrical rubber. (101.1988)

Bledlow cum Saunderton SP 7742 0153 (area)
Fieldwalking by CMAG retrieved over a large area a background scatter of some 300 struck flakes of Neolithic–Early Bronze Age date. There was no clear focus, many 30 m squares containing between 9 and 13 flakes. Also present were 5 scrapers, 16 blades, 10 cores or fragments, and two pieces of polished flint axe. (247.1988)

Brill SP 6559 2391
In 1987 footings trenches for a small extension

to the Brill cricket pavilion were observed. The pavilion lies partially over the presumed line of the ditch which would accompany the E–W bank on the southern edge of the field. A clean fill of ironstone and sand was encountered which contained a probable Iron Age sherd at a depth of 1.15 m. Taken in conjunction with other finds from the area, the surviving bank could now be interpreted as belonging to an earthwork of the same date. A further report is planned.

Newport Pagnell SP 8948 4345
A water-pipe trench skirting the southern margin of the embankment now carrying the Tickford End–North Crawley Road, adjacent to the Newport Pagnell by-pass, cut through a Middle Iron Age site previously identified (*Recs, Bucks.* 28, 148). A number of pits and ditches were exposed and some further material recovered. The conjectured extent of the site was confirmed. The relative scarcity of finds and the uneven interface of the buried 'soil' with the underlying natural, could arise from intensive corralling of stock at the site.

Shenley Brook End See Saxon & Medieval field. (27.1988)

Waddesdon SP 758 154 *Walton* See Romano-British
A Mesolithic core and a broken blade were found by Mr E. R. Kendrick on a ploughed *Whaddon* See Medieval

ROMANO-BRITISH

Buckland SP 8813
A scatter of Romano-British sherds including bases of two colour-coat beakers (?Oxfordshire), were found during ploughing. The find was reported by Ms C. Hitchens. (69.1988)

Edlesborough SP 9618
The Manshead Archaeological Society report the discovery of Romano-British sherds including colour-coat and Oxford mortaria (sherds), also some flue tile fragments, found during fieldwalking. (321.1987)

Little Missenden SU 9091
Roman coins were discovered by Mr E. Miles.

Shenley Brook End See Saxon & Medieval

Walton (Wavendon Gate) SP 904 369 (area)

Following discovery by Mr G. Heritage of a Romano-British cremation burial, accompanied by a glass beaker, on the line of a new road at Wavendon Gate, further investigations were carried out by Mr R. J. Williams of

MKAU. Preliminary work brought to light a total of 13 cremations and a substantial associated ditch, the upper fill of which contained much Saxon pottery and bone. Apart from the glass vessel, other cremations were accompanied by samian dishes, other glass and remains of a polished tinned bronze mirror. The group is thought to be of second century AD date.

A subsequent evaluation by machine trenching was carried out north and south of the road, and on a site south of the existing Wavendon to Walton Road.

To the north of the new road a substantial late Iron Age settlement was discovered including enclosures, gullies and two penannular ditches indicating circular timber buildings.

Work to the south of the new road showed the substantial ditch encountered at the outset to be part of a rectangular early Roman enclosure. One second-century inhumation was discovered south of the road. South of the old road two further inhumations were discovered and a detached skull. Further work is planned.

SAXON & MEDIEVAL

Brill SP 6564414170
Following a report by Mr H. Granger of medieval pottery turning up in quantity on a redevelopment in the yard of Temple Farm (Brill), a fragment of medieval pottery kiln was recorded in an exposed section. A substantial dump of ceramic in the same section may be in an infilled sandpit of the same period. (8.1989)

Great Missenden
Work by the county Architects Department at Missenden Abbey involved lowering a substantial area outside the front entrance to a depth of 0.5 m. Rapid investigation by Mr M. Collard for BCM with the help of CMAG,

exposed a late fifteenth-century oblong building with fireplace at the north end, which overlay and incorporated other walls belonging to claustral buildings.

Hanslope SP 8046
Further discoveries of medieval and later metalwork were made by Mr R. King and others. Finds included a medieval seal, spur, and buckles.

Latimer SP 98838 02246
Following the discovery of the Joiners Close tile kiln (*Recs. Bucks* 29, 228) local enquiry by Mrs M. Wells revealed that a further tile kiln had

previously been discovered c. 1953, about 150 m to the east. Copies of photographs taken at the time are now at BCM.

Latimer SP 98964 01924
Fifteenth to sixteenth-century sherds, many overfired and likely to be wasters, were discovered in a roadside bank by Mr G. C. Lamb. These are at a sufficient distance from the Joiners Close tile and pottery kiln, previously reported, to suggest that further kilns exist at Ley Hill. Other sherds were reported to have been discovered in the general area in 1966 by Mr R. W. Griffiths (*Rec. Bucks* 89). (75.1988)

Shenley Brook End (Westbury) SP 8265 3545
The medieval settlement at Westbury was partially examined by Mr M. R. Petchey for MKAU in 1985–7. Evaluation of five further areas took place under the direction of Dr R. Ivens. This further work determined the former line of a road running north towards Shenley Church End; elsewhere cobbled surfaces and ditches, pits and post-holes of medieval date were located. The village earthworks appear to continue as far west as the southward turn of the main village street. Evidence for earlier occupation included pits and ditches containing pottery of the Iron Age and Roman period, also a probable furnace of the early Roman period. Further work is planned.

Tattenhoe SP 829 339
As recently as 1963, Tattenhoe was described as one of the best examples of a deserted medieval village in the country. Recent farming activities have, however, seriously damaged the earthworks. Dr R. Ivens for MKAU excavated a series of areas to assess the quality of the surviving remains. The sixteenth-century manor house, whose presence was thought to be indicated by earlier finds of floor tiles, was not

located in Area 1, although boundary ditches and roughly paved tracks were present. However in Area 2 east of the church, a substantial flagstone floor, with yards and wall footings nearby, may indicate its presence. Patchy archaeological remains were encountered in Area 3, including a holloway, tracks, pits, gullies, and a heavily robbed stone building. Much of the disturbance may be due to landscaping around the former manor house.

Walton See Romano-British

Whaddon SP 8160 3450 (area)
A watching brief was carried out for HBMC when field drains were being laid on the site of Snelshall Priory, a Schedule Ancient Monument. The majority of drains were laid in holloways and pre-existing ditches; only one traversed the interior. The maximum trench width of 0.5 m and generally less, made observation difficult; nevertheless the site proved remarkably barren both of structures and finds. Traces of narrow unmortared limestone-filled trenches, possibly footings, were observed only at five points to the north-east of a pond lying in the north-western part of the site. One fragment only of roof tile was recovered and no ceramic.

About 160 m south of the site on rising ground a rim and two sherds of ? middle Iron Age pottery were recovered.

Wooburn SU 896 874
A watching brief funded by Ortem Development Ltd during construction of factory units near Jackson's Mill, Bourne End, failed to provide evidence for the extent of the Saxon cemetery believed to exist in the area (*Recs. Bucks* 29, 170). Substantial concrete foundations and floors may however have removed superficial features.

POST-MEDIEVAL AND UNDATED

High Wycombe SU 8737 9205
Reconsideration of Keep Hill, formerly described as an 'Ancient British camp', has led to the conclusion that the earthworks on which the attribution was based are in fact holloways. The once scheduled site has now been descheduled.

Iver TQ 0231 7767
Trial excavation of a cropmark feature thought to be an enclosure, at Sutton Lane, by Mr M. Collard for BCM, provided only negative evidence.

Olney

SP 888 520
An excavation was carried out by Mr M. Collard for BCM at Dartmouth Road Farm, in advance of development, in order to test for the extent of a cemetery. A report is included in this volume. (181.1988)

Whaddon

SP 8100 3467
An area of dry crumbly fired clay in a ploughed field in Whaddon Park, containing fragments of poorly fired clay, may be the site of a brick clamp. (81.1988)