

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

The following notes on fieldwork carried out in the county in 2012 have been compiled from notes provided by commercial archaeological organisations and local societies, and a list of projects provided by the Milton Keynes Historic Environment Record. 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.

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

PREHISTORIC

Aylesbury: Walton SP 8268 1333

Albion Archaeology undertook trial trenching in advance of a planning application for the construction of a new 6th form block at Aylesbury High School, Walton. A single ditch, possibly a late Iron Age field boundary, was revealed. A possible continuation of the ditch was recorded on a watching brief during groundworks, although no further dating evidence was recovered.

Bradenham: Saunderton SU 8194 9831

The National Trust worked in conjunction with the Princes Risborough Countryside Group during 2012 to complete several geophysics surveys in the arable field immediately north of the Clare Charity Foundation on the north side at Saunderton. One of these surveys targeted a scheduled Bronze Age barrow in the field which until the 1990s had suffered repeat plough damage. The barrow now survives to a height of about half-a-metre and although the profile of the barrow has been much reduced by ploughing the geophysics confirmed that the outer ditch survives in good condition. Other surveys within this field targeted a ring ditch feature which had been spotted during the previous year from aerial photos. The relatively small size of this feature (approx. 14m diameter) would suggest that it may correspond with an Iron Age round house, though if this is the case it seems to be an isolated example. The surveys picked up distinct evidence of ploughed-out ridge and furrow ploughing and outlines of fields marked on the 1840s tithe map.

***Calverton: Milton Keynes Western Expansion
Area, Area C***
SP 7995 3916

Between February and March, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology conducted an evaluation of the proposed development area of the Milton Keynes Western Expansion. 25 trenches totalling 750 metres in length were excavated to the underlying natural geology. Archaeological remains found comprised ditches, pits and gullies. The main concentration of features was in the northwest corner of the site. The features appear to be either for drainage or were part of early field systems which pre-date the medieval ridge and furrow, which was found in most of the fields in the area. The greatest concentration of features was located in the north-west corner of the investigation area. Late Iron Age to Romano – British ceramic was recovered from the pits and one ditch, whilst 4 sherds of early Bronze Age pottery was located within another ditch. A midden was also identified towards the southern extent of the study area, containing a large quantity of animal remains. A single sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered from colluvial deposits overlying the midden.

***Calverton: Milton Keynes Western Expansion
Area, Areas A & B***
SP 7976 3946

Between March and June, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology conducted open area excavation at the proposed development area of the Milton Keynes Western Expansion. Two open areas (A and B) were investigated in adjoining fields off Watling Street (V4), south-east of Stony Stratford.

Area A contained a series of ditches, burials, pits and gullies ranging from Iron Age to post-medieval date. The features excavated consisted of a possible prehistoric barrow with two associated pits and two possibly three associated ditches, a medieval field system extending across the whole site, a series of Roman ditches in the northern extension area, twenty-three pits and 17 Saxon burials roughly in three clusters with three isolated burials. All were in poor condition and had been truncated by furrows or in one case, by the medieval ditch. The area was badly truncated by medieval plough furrows.

Area B was divided into two halves due to the presence of a north-east to south-west orientated service pipe. Topsoil stripping revealed features of which the vast majority dated to the period of the late pre-Roman Iron Age, and were characteristic of the hinterland of a settlement during that period. A single possible Anglo–Saxon pit was identified, and later features consisted of a series of medieval plough furrows dated to the 11th – 15th centuries AD.

Pottery of both Later Iron Age and Early Romano–British origin was recovered from individual fills within features across Area B. Despite this, the enclosure ditches to the south-east were specifically later than those to the north-west, possibly indicating a shift in the settlement towards the south-east. The movement of the settlement would have been rapid, as the same type of Late Iron Age and Romano British ceramic was recovered from earlier as well as later enclosure boundaries. This movement of settlement could be possibly associated with the construction of the Roman Watling Street in the 1st century AD.

Little Kimble: Doe Hill Farm
SP 8313 0766

An evaluation by CA in September in support of a planning application identified the remains of an Iron Age settlement, including an enclosure containing a small ditch and a pit, and associated with Middle Iron Age pottery. A series of undated ditches outside the enclosure may have been part of an associated field system. Two phases of medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation were also recorded.

Padbury: land near Norbury
SP 2301 4713

In October a watching brief was carried out by ASC on the excavation of a trench for an underground electric cable in a field south-west of Padbury. The cable forms part of a supply route between Steeple Claydon and Buckingham. The trench was cut through topsoil straight into the natural geology, in which nine archaeological features were encountered, including four ditches and one pit. Four of the features contained pottery dated Late Iron Age to Early Roman pottery. This indicates the presence of a substantial concentra-

tion of archaeological remains within this field with a date which suggests activity associated with the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Norbury Camp, immediately to the west.

Shenley Church End: Milton Keynes Western Expansion Area, Area D
SP 8152 3826

Excavation by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology in Area D expanded an area around the location of an evaluation trench and small mitigation area to further investigate features observed during the first phase of works in 2011. A large watering hole that contained two Iron Age log ladders, a small wooden platform and associated pits along with a pit cluster to the east of watering hole were excavated. The watering hole and pit cluster to the east contained Iron Age ceramic, and the later pits associated with the watering hole contained fragments of Romano-British pottery.

Wolverton: Manor Farm, Old Wolverton
SP 811 421

During the summer of 2012 the Cambridge Archaeological Unit completed another phase of fieldwork at the sand and gravel quarry at Manor Farm, Old Wolverton. The principal findings from this season were the terminus of a Neolithic monument, part of a series of cursus monuments that extend along the gravel islands, and a second pit alignment (the first discovered in 2011).

Two ditches forming a curved west terminus of a Neolithic enclosure, breached by a single causeway, were revealed within the quarry limits. The terminus was partially enclosed by the eastern end of a cursus monument, which was excavated in 2010. A single sherd of Peterborough Ware pottery was recovered from the surface of the ditch of this newest monumental enclosure, indicating its Neolithic date. The decision was made to excavate the enclosure during a later phase of work, when a more substantial portion would be exposed.

At the opposite end of the quarry, the northern arm of a possible enclosure was excavated, and yielded a small collection of earlier Neolithic flints. The enclosure appeared to turn a corner at its western end, potentially ‘abutting’ the course of the river Ouse. The overlying alluvial layers sealed the ditch, so its relationship to the pre-alluvial monu-

mental landscape is unclear.

Cut from within the alluvial layers, a double pit alignment comprising two rows of northeast-southwest aligned oval and sub-circular pits was exposed. The pits cut the earlier ‘enclosure’ feature. Unlike the single pit alignment investigated in 2011, which meandered in a south-north direction, the pits of this new alignment formed two very straight and parallel lines, spaced approximately 2m apart along the entire exposed route. Furthermore, whilst the single alignment comprised pits of variable shapes and depths, the pits of the double alignment were more uniform both in shape and dimensions. A total of 58 pits were revealed, 27 along the eastern alignment and 31 along the western. In spite of intensive excavation of the pits, no material culture was recovered. Based on comparable examples of pit alignments, previous excavations at the quarry and the relationship between the pits and the alluvial sequence, it seems likely that the pits belong to a phase of Early-Middle Iron Age activity.

ROMAN

Castlethorpe: South Street
SP 8015 4435

During a watching brief conducted by JMHS in July as part of a new housing development at Maltings Farm, South Street, Castlethorpe it became clear that an extensive area of a Romano-British farmstead and associated enclosures was extant beneath the former farmyard to the rear of Maltings farmhouse. A portion of the investigation area was destroyed without archaeological monitoring as the main contractor did not contact JMHS at the commencement of development.

The remains investigated comprised pits, an oven, post pads indicating a structure, a number of small ditched enclosures and a large north/south oriented ditch on the east side of the settlement. Finds included two fibulae brooches and pottery. The watching brief will continue as the development proceeds.

Newport Pagnell: Bury Field Common
SP 8690 4437

In May ASC, Community Landscape and Archaeology Survey Project (CLASP) and CA undertook

collaborative exploratory geophysical survey at Bury Field Common, Newport Pagnell. The survey results confirm that subsurface remains of an Iron Age/Romano British settlement are preserved at the common, which was suspected after chance finds of artefacts during non-archaeological work. The most readily identified settlement evidence comprises an expansive system of ditched enclosures. The full extent of the enclosures has not been defined by the completed geophysical survey, but it is hoped that further phases of survey will be arranged to achieve this objective.

Stoke Mandeville: Former BOCM Research Centre, Risborough Road
SP 8357 0912

Between August and November Network Archaeology undertook a watching brief and subsequent open-area excavation in advance of construction of a new residential care home located approximately 1 mile south of Stoke Mandeville.

These works identified a multi-phase Iron Age / Romano British settlement containing elements of both domestic and agricultural activity. Key features of this site included a substantial ovoid enclosure ditch and a number of both curving and straight ditches. Other significant discoveries included unlined wells, a tiled hearth and an infant burial lying within the fill of a Roman ditch. As well as pottery, animal bone and tile, the finds also included a small quantity of Roman coins and a possible iron spearhead but, most unusually, an egg shell which was in surprisingly good condition.

Post-Roman activity on the site appears to have been limited to agricultural practices prior to the construction of the BOCM research centre in 1947.

Stowe: Stowe Music School
SP 6844 3755

In July Network Archaeology undertook an evaluation in advance of construction of a new music school at Stowe School. The evaluation identified an un-urned Roman cremation, as well as evidence of landscaping, apparently associated with the construction of a new student accommodation block in the 1970s, rather than being related to Stowe House and Gardens.

SAXON & MEDIEVAL

Aylesbury: Church Street
SP 8184 1390

In February and March a salvage excavation was carried out by ASC at the County Museum during landscaping changes to the museum garden. The excavation uncovered three phases of archaeological activity ranging from Saxon to post-medieval date.

The first phase was represented by a 'dark soil horizon' that has been identified on previous excavations on the site and around Aylesbury. This contained finds of residual Iron Age, early Saxon, early to late medieval and post-medieval pottery. The Iron Age pottery was probably associated with the Iron Age hill-fort within which the site stands, and may have started to be formed at some point in the Saxon period, with substantial disturbance during later periods.

The second phase was represented by five articulated burials cut through the soil horizon into the natural strata. Two burial phases were identified. The first consisted of a row of four burials aligned northwest-southeast, with heads to the northwest. A radiocarbon date of AD 650-690 was obtained for the deepest of these. The second consisted of a single burial overlying the deepest burial and possibly cutting another burial that was aligned east-west, with the head to the west. All the burials were laid out in an extended, supine position, with no grave goods. The burials are thought to be part of a wider cemetery associated with a minster on the site now occupied by St Mary's Church.

The most recent phase of activity consisted of a number of post-medieval pits and a post-medieval construction cut for the site boundary wall. One of the pits contained a collection of disarticulated human bone from a single individual, probably representing the modern re-interment of an individual from the earlier cemetery.

Brill: Church Street
SP 6556 1380

An historic building assessment and archaeological watching brief were conducted by JMHS at The *Red Lion* public house between January and May, before and during alterations. This determined that although some of the building can be dated to the

17th century as claimed by the RCHME and other sources, part of the timber frame of the back part of the public house may be considerably older and is possibly the remains of a medieval hall of the later 14th century. Further rebuilding of the structure is evident in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.

The watching brief was conducted as part of the below-ground refurbishment works. A kiln was discovered beneath a Phase 2 wall of the building (17th century). The kiln was well preserved and had surviving evidence of a domed roof and dating evidence suggesting a 15th or 16th century origin. It could have been used for malting or tile manufacture. To the northeast of the public house further archaeological features were identified.

Haddenham: Church End
SP 7408 0811

Evaluation at the former Red Lion PH in September by TVAS uncovered three pits, one of approximately 5m in diameter. A small collection of pottery suggests that at least two of the pits are medieval. A few residual sherds of Roman pottery were also recovered.

Hanslope: Newport Road
SP 8053 4675

In July, Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd undertook archaeological investigation and recording during ground preparation for a new building within the curtilage of the 17th century Maltings Farmhouse in the historic core of Hanslope village. The development plot was surmised to be the site of a medieval tenement, one of a row that fronted the village green at Church End.

The investigation revealed a series of ditches and gullies broadly dated by pottery to the 12th / 13th century. These features were masked by an occupation layer of 13th / 14th century date. A cobbled surface revealed at the same level was undated, but possibly of the same period. The evidence pertains to domestic occupancy of the site, thus supporting the theory of a tenement. The archaeology had suffered no disturbance during the post-medieval to modern periods. To date, the discoveries represent the most significant body of evidence for 13th-century settlement at Church End.

Iver: Chandlers Hill
TQ 0287 8347 to TQ 0418 8355

Evaluation works were undertaken by Foundations Archaeology in January in response to a proposal for the installation of an underground electricity cable between Slough and Mansfield Farm in Iver. The area of archaeological interest was centred on Chandlers Hill, between Bangors Road North (TQ 0287 8347) and Mansfield Farm (TQ 0418 8355).

A geophysical survey (Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2009) revealed areas of potential archaeological activity. The twelve evaluation trenches were targeted on the identified anomalies, with six test pits excavated within the proposed drill launch-and-receive working areas, in order to test the potential for the presence of prehistoric flint scatters.

The archaeological works revealed a total of nine ditches, one of probable Saxon date, one post-medieval and seven undated. A focus of activity was revealed in Area 4, within Trenches 7 and 8. Artefactual evidence from the test pits was restricted to post-medieval ceramic fragments, ceramic building materials and clay tobacco pipe.

The anomalies highlighted by the geophysical report were in part supported by the evaluated features, although many were of natural origin as a result of geological changes, in particular outcrops and patches of gravels within the sands and clays.

Medmenham: Ferry Nab
SU 8061 8382

A watching brief was conducted by JMHS during groundworks in November. Archaeological remains comprising two chalk walls post-dating the 12th century, and possibly relating to abbey outbuildings were present in one of the watching brief areas, in addition to the walls and concrete floor of a late 19th or early 20th century half-cellaried structure, which may be a WWII bomb-shelter, in a second watching brief area.

Olney: Cobbs Court, High Street
SP 8889 5172

During February and March, Souterrain Archaeological Services Limited carried out archaeological investigation and recording during ground preparation for an office extension at 1 Cobbs

Court, Olney. The site is a former medieval burgage plot on the west side of High Street.

The earliest archaeological features comprised five medieval cellar-pits, one with evidence of a suspended floor, and a series of substantial post-holes. The structures probably belonged to a tenement that fronted the former High Street in the 12th to 13th centuries. Faunal remains and environmental data from the fills of the cellar-pits present an image of domestic occupancy and economy, with diet including wheat, cattle, sheep or goat, pig and eel. Primary butchery of livestock was carried out either at the site or nearby. The cellared structures were removed, possibly in the late 13th century, to make way for a timber-framed building on stone sill-beam pads. A deep dry-stone lined cellar adjoined the timber-framed building, which was disused by the early decades of the 19th century. It is the first time that archaeological investigation has been able to positively identify the existence of a 12th/13th century tenement in the High Street, pre-dating the formally planned medieval burgage tenements.

Olney: High Street

SP 8890 5154

In October a watching brief conducted by Souterrain Archaeological Services Limited during ground preparation for a new extension at the rear of 39 High Street, Olney. The site is a former medieval burgage plot on the west side of High Street. The burgage plots are understood to have been created in the 13th century. Three intercutting pits were exposed which are broadly dated by pottery to the 13th century. One of the pits was clay-lined and may have been storage pit, possibly for foodstuffs.

Wendover: Tring Road

SP 8700 7888

AS carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Brook House, Tring Road undertaken prior to the determination of planning permission to demolish an existing dwelling and construct a new one. The three trial trenches contained 4 pits, 3 ditches and a wall. One ditch at right angles to Tring Road contained 53 sherds (882g) of late medieval pottery (c.15th century), and may have constituted a 'burgage plot' or similar. The

remaining features were 17th century and later and were related to Brook House.

POST-MEDIEVAL AND UNDATED

Amersham: Plantation Road

SP 9723 9860

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake a rapid historic building survey of the most significant areas of *The Pheasant* public house, though some areas were not accessible. High resolution digital images were taken of key areas and details of historical significance. A supplied floor plan was hand annotated with key features and areas.

The rapid survey of both the cartographic and fabric evidence has been able to suggest a chronology and phased development of the building. This suggests that the earliest phase of building on the site is a small timber framed dwelling of two bays with central chimney stack dating to the 16th or early 17th century. There is evidence from one of the exposed beams now inside the main pub to suggest that the original walls were infilled with wattle and daub. It is possible that the original building did not have a first floor, or only a single first floor chamber in the east bay, with stair access on the south side of the chimney. There is evidence to suggest that the west bay was floored out in the 18th century. The exposed west floor beam and first floor doorway cut through the tie beam strongly suggest that this is the case. The larger west dormer window on the north side of the building was probably inserted at this time.

This building probably existed in that form until the second half of the 19th century, when it was extended to the east by a single bay of similar scale to the pre-existing two. By the early 20th century the building is first referred to as 'Beer House' probably licensed to sell alcohol. Sometime before the Second World War and 1964 the building was further extended to the west and east, probably into a more recognisable plan form of a public house with bar and seating area, with staff accommodation provided by the single-storey flat at the west end. Access was created into the first floor of the timber-framed section via a staircase from the west and an additional bedroom built onto the south side of the building.

In the late 20th century the building underwent a major re-organisation with a large single-storey extension to the bar area and larger kitchens and up-to-date toilets built to cater for increased clientele. The external form of the front range of the extended property survives relatively well, and the uneven ridge line demonstrates the early origins and phases of extension of this range. The narrow, linear form and simple roofscape of the original cottage has been replicated in its eastward extensions.

The large extensions to the rear (south) have impacted negatively on the legibility of the early building from the south. Internally, evidence of the survival of the early cottage is limited at ground level to the low ceiling heights, the large fireplace with bressumer, the cross beam supporting first-floor joists in the eastern bay, and the beam of the east end wall. It is assumed that the boxed-in structural beam along the line of the removed south wall of the original east bay is a steel joist. At first floor level, more comprehensive evidence survives, with the brickwork of the chimney stack, the timber framing of the walls, including corner posts and wind braces, and much of the roof structure.

Aylesbury: Walton Road

SP 8246 1328

An archaeological strip, map and sample exercise was undertaken by NA between November 2011 and January 2012, during groundworks connected with the construction of a new single-storey extension and car-park extension at *The Grove*, 41 Walton Rd. Modern disturbance was noted throughout the investigation area and a single water-filled post-medieval well was recorded. The shaft measured 0.86m in diameter and in excess of 5.0m deep. It was constructed of unworked stone with brick repairs to the upper part. No earlier archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

Beaconsfield: London End

SU 9470 9019

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology at 37–47 London End, Beaconsfield in June in advance of a proposed commercial and residential redevelopment of the site identified a hollow backfilled with late 18th/early 19th century material.

Beaconsfield: Windsor End

SU 9448 8987

Four trenches in relation to a planning proposal were excavated to the natural geological formation by JMHS in September. These revealed 18th century or later garden features including a well.

Burnham: Land to the rear of Burnham House

SU 9310 8250

A watching brief by TVAS in April during construction of a new house discovered only a late post-medieval well, a late post-medieval pit and modern wall.

Buckingham: Christ's Almshouses

SP 6966 3404

In June Network Archaeology Ltd undertook small-scale trench evaluation within the courtyard and garden of the Christ's Almshouses, close to the centre of Buckingham.

Two trenches were excavated, identifying a roughly-hewn limestone wall running northeast to southwest across the rear courtyard. Both trenches were excavated to a depth in excess of 1m but the base of the wall was not located. A number of deposits probably associated with landscaping and containing material dating from the 16th to 19th century were also identified.

Calverton: Milton Keynes Western Expansion Area, Area G

SP 7960 3891

Between May and June, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology conducted an evaluation at the proposed development area of the Milton Keynes Western Expansion. 22 trenches totalling 660 metres in length were excavated to the underlying natural geology. A substantial ditch was revealed in one trench. Evidence of stone quarrying was identified in the south-west corner the study area, represented by a large, steep curvilinear cut encountered in two trenches.

**Charndon to Westcott & Woodham:
A41/Creighton Road**

SP 695 227 – SP 704 223, and SP 707 180

Archaeological Project Services undertook a programme of investigation. Dispersed prehistoric activity has been identified in the area and the nearby A41 follows the route of the Akeman Street Roman road. Geophysical survey identified few potential archaeological remains. A trackway and infilled ponds were recorded but are known from early OS mapping. Magnetic anomalies thought to mark the lines of former field boundaries were also recorded. Subsequent trial trench evaluation identified a number of ditches and a trackway, all evident on 19th century maps of the area. A cluster of ditch, gully and posthole features indicated a localised area of 15th to 17th-century settlement. Investigation alongside the A41 at Woodham did not reveal any evidence associated with the Roman road.

Chesham: Hawridge

SP 9501 0584

A watching brief was conducted at Hawridge Court by JMHS in May during the groundworks for an extension. An undated buried soil horizon was noted.

Chesham: Missenden Road

SP 9556 0130

In July ASC undertook a watching brief during groundworks for an extension to 23 Missenden Road. The site lies within the historic core of Chesham, Roman pottery has been found there, and evidence of Roman settlement has been recorded in the vicinity. Ground reduction and the excavation of footing trenches for the extension revealed that much of the area had been built up in several episodes of dumping, possibly over several centuries. Analysis of pollen from a peaty deposit within this sequence revealed that the deposit had been laid down in a herbaceous fen adjacent to open agricultural land, both pastoral and arable, possibly during the Iron Age or Roman period. Excavation of a soakaway in the lawn to the north revealed undisturbed natural stratigraphy. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were revealed during the watching brief.

Haddenham: High Street

SP 7387 0835

A watching brief by TVAS at 44 High Street in February during small-scale extension works revealed no deposits relating to late Saxon, medieval or early post-medieval settlement. Intercutting pits and layers were all of 19th or 20th century date and a witchert wall was stratigraphically later than these.

High Wycombe: Lane End

SU 8078 9179

A building appraisal by TVAS at Methodist Chapel, The Row, in July showed that the building (to be converted for residential use) had undergone little modification since its construction in 1865, with just internal divisions at ground and first-floor level added in the 20th century.

Lillingstone Lovell: Hall Farm

SP 7125 3987

Two brick-floors were revealed during a watching brief by TVAS in March, during construction of a new grain store, and were preserved in-situ. These may be from an outbuilding associated with manorial buildings known to have been demolished in 1788.

Ludgershall: High Street

SP 6600 1733

Two trenches excavated by JMHS at Pear Tree Farm, High Street in September revealed a similar sequence of deposits. Three small pits were located; one was 19th century or later and it is possible the other two were of a similar date although could date from the late 16th century onwards. A residual waster may indicate 16th-17th century pottery production in the area.

Marlow: Cromwell Gardens

SU 8505 8655

One evaluation trench was excavated at Broomhurst, Cromwell Gardens by JMHS in May in relation to a proposed development. Two pits of late post-medieval date (19th century) were encountered at the northern end of the trench.

Marlow: High Street

SU 8501 8634

An evaluation in relation to a development proposal comprised two trenches and was conducted by JMHS on land to the rear of 90 High Street in April. The remains revealed comprised a small late medieval or early post-medieval building along with indications of two other structures.

Marlow: Riley Road

SU 8479 8659

Trial trenching by Albion Archaeology on the site of a supermarket revealed two post-medieval pits and one modern pit. The larger post-medieval pit produced peg tile, ceramic building material, animal bone and an abraded residual sherd of possible Roman pottery. The post-medieval pits may be related to the use of this land as the gardens or back-plots of houses and shops on West Street, as shown on the 1843 Great Marlow Tithe map.

Mursley: Salden Manor

SP 8251 2971

During January and February ASC carried out a strip, map and record excavation and watching brief at Salden Manor during groundworks associated with the construction of a garage and driveway. The work identified the remains of a substantial 18th century (or earlier) brick structure, partially faced with clunch. Small portions of both internal and external floor surfaces were also identified. The excavation of footings identified a series of poorly defined intercutting pits and layers that both pre- and post-dated the building. Foundations and floor surfaces relating to late 19th century buildings were also identified in both the driveway and garage areas.

Nash: Wood End Farmhouse

SP 7839 3383

In November Network Archaeology undertook an historic building survey on an outbuilding in the garden of Wood End Farmhouse, Nash. The survey showed that the outbuilding was likely to have been constructed fairly recently, possibly during the 1950s, and that there was no evidence of any earlier structure.

Olney: High Street

SP 8896 5154

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at the Carlton Club, 38 High Street by NA in April during groundworks connected with the construction of a single-storey kitchen extension. Excavation of the foundation trenches located two large pits of probable late-medieval or early post-medieval date. A stone structure with a later brick relieving arch, probably dates to the 18th-19th centuries, and there are also other stone and brick walls. Map evidence indicates that these structures had been demolished by the end of the mid-20th century.

Padbury: Old End

SP 7153 3050

NA carried out an assessment of elements of the 17th/18th century Sunny Hill Farmhouse at Old End in June. This demonstrated that the partition and chimney are likely to date to 1842 when the facade of the building was rebuilt in brick.

More detailed recording of the building was undertaken between July and September. Structural alterations were recorded with particular attention to the western ground floor partitions and northern chimney which are to be removed during the proposed works. The chimney is likely contemporary with a brick rebuild of the southern facade in 1842. The partition, which dates to the original 17th century construction of the building, retains some of this original fabric along with later phases of alteration dating to the 19th century and 20th centuries.

Shenley Brook End: Little Stocking

SP 8330 3530

Between November 2012 and April 2013 a watching brief was carried out by ASC on land at Emerson Farmhouse, 27 Little Stocking, during groundworks associated with the residential development of the site. The work revealed that the area around Emerson Farmhouse had previously been subject to considerable lateral and intrusive truncation. The only surviving features were two pits of probable post-medieval date, one of which contained the sawn skeleton of a horse.

Quinton: Shipton Lee

SP 7350 2080

A building assessment was carried out on the grade II listed Grange Farm buildings at Shipton Lee by JMHS in July to inform proposals for alteration. Uncovering the chimney at the west end of the Farmhouse, demonstrated that the original chimney stacks must predate the currently surviving timber-framing, which is almost certainly of a 17th century date or earlier. This is indicated by the surviving stair supports and floor line that would necessitate an entrance through the timber framing that currently survives, which is not there. The external wall may have been rebuilt or encased by the early 18th century, although it should also be recognised that such chequered designs do occur on buildings as early as the early 17th century. If the chequered design is of the early 17th century then there is no need to envisage a rebuild or encasement, hence this could be one of the earliest chequered brick designs in Buckinghamshire and the Home Counties. If a rebuild or encasing, then this is not the case, but this process of rebuild or encasement could have occurred even in the latter part of the 17th century.

The ovens are difficult to date, but on their brick size they may be constructions of the early 18th century, and could, considering the date of the chimney, be replacements for earlier ovens attached to the back of the chimney.

The dating of the chimney, or parts of the chimney, to the early 17th century or perhaps 16th century (albeit with suspected later encasement) implies that the building probably started life as a three-celled structure with two gable-ended chimneys. This basic plan was maintained, probably into the 19th century when the two western cells were joined together. This plan-form was widespread in the southeast of England, and some examples are titled 'manor'. It is possible that this three-celled structure could have been part of the Dormer Mansion. If this is so then the outline of the three-celled unit, and the features on the internal wall against the chimney, step supports, floor support and corner timber could date from c.1540.

Skirmett: Shogmoor Lane

SU 7769 8989

An archaeological watching brief was conducted at Crooked Chimney Cottage, Shogmoor Lane by

JMHS in April during groundworks for a new extension. Two postholes were encountered in the new footing trench, cut into the surface of the natural geology. One pit was seen in the section of a new soakaway. No dating evidence was recovered.

Soulbury: Liscombe Park

SP 8828 2569

In January historic building recording was undertaken by ASC of a barn at Home Farm, Liscombe Park. The building is single storey under a tiled roof. The original brickwork, set in Flemish bond with burnt headers, is particularly striking and remains largely intact on the north and west elevations. The building was probably constructed in the late 18th century. It was extended to the south in the mid to late 19th century and subsequently suffered substantial rebuilding to the east.

Stony Stratford: High Street

SP 7845 4068

In April historic building recording was undertaken by Souterrain Archaeological Services Limited of the historic inn formerly known as the *Rising Sun* at 131 High Street, prior to development and conversion works. The original house was stone built with a façade of Flemish bond brickwork. It consisted of two storeys, an attic and five bays. Two of the original lower windows have voussoirs forming segmental arches. It is roofed in brick-red ceramic tiles. A poorly executed brick extension was added to the rear of the building possibly in the mid-19th century, which involved the reconstruction of two thirds of the roof below the ridge beam. Inside, much of the original timber frame is visible, with joists bearing carpenter's numerals.

At the rear is a former stable block and carriage house arranged around a yard. Like the main house the original structure was stone built, but has been partly re-built in brick. It is roofed in red ceramic tiles. The carriage house, a single celled stone-built building, is in poor condition and roofed in corrugated steel. A ceiling has been inserted, with possible servant accommodation above. The roof frame has two historic trusses with threaded purlins and crudely applied concave braces, suggesting an 18th century revamp of trusses acquired from earlier structures.

The historic appraisal deduced that the house, stables and carriage house were likely to have been built in the second quarter of the 18th century, although the building may not have become an inn until 1753.

Stowe Landscape Gardens: The Grotto
SP 6764 3750

During the restoration of the Grotto, a watching brief was conducted by NA on behalf of the National Trust. The work provided an opportunity to examine the construction of the pebble mosaic floor, which was set in lime mortar in a succession of small areas, each perhaps representing a day's work or a batch of mortar. The drain which served the, now incomplete, marble basin was also recorded and a lead water pipe of uncertain function were also recorded. Observation of service trenches for the new water and electricity supply revealed only levelling layers outside the structure.

Stowe: Stowe School
SP 67387 37433

In August Network Archaeology Ltd undertook a watching brief during the construction of a French drain alongside Nugent House, Stowe School. The watching brief demonstrated that the foundations of the building were not insubstantial. The exposed wall face showed evidence of five distinct constructions on the basis of coursing style and/or material fabric. A thick layer of what appeared to be puddle clay had been used as a damp proofing course, facing the subterranean element of the wall.

Taplow: Cliveden
SU 9104 8514

A watching brief was maintained by Network Archaeology on behalf of the National Trust over a series of trenches throughout the estate for the purpose of installing a new sewer system. The most significant findings were made in proximity to the 17th-century South Terrace, though medieval pottery recovered from the area known as the Rushy Valley indicates the site of a probable midden dump and hence occupation in the vicinity. A wooden stake-lined feature in the same locality remains undated. In the area of the gardener's compound a brick-lined bottle-shaped sump was

found, indicating the site of a possibly 19th century soak-away. One arm of the sewer was laid along the main gravel walk below the South Terrace and this encountered a number of structural features, including two substantial north-south orientated brick walls at either end of the terrace. These could be associated with an earlier configuration of steps for the terrace shown on Colen Campbell's view of the site published in *Vitruvius Britannicus* (1717). Further monitoring on the west side of the terrace revealed an east-west orientated brick wall, believed to correspond with a retaining wall shown on early 18th century plans of the terrace. Excavations on the west lawn of the terrace exposed brickwork believed to be the rear wall of the terrace before it was concealed in the early 19th century.

Thornborough: Coombs Farm Barns
SP 7328 3237

A heritage asset assessment carried out by NA on the 19th century and later farm, ahead of a proposal for conversion to domestic use, demonstrated that the buildings are in poor to very poor condition.

The yard is split into two main elements, a courtyard and secondary yard. In addition there is a range of derelict domestic buildings to the south, an open-fronted shed, and a modern Dutch barn. The farmyard buildings appear to be broadly contemporary, constructed in red brick. The roofs are all kingpost truss with Welsh slate over, the exceptions to this are two buildings which are now roofless. Three buildings have corrugated iron roofs and another has a corrugated asbestos roof. Original windows, where they survive, are wood-framed casements with a varying number of top lights and the bottom part having wooden horizontal sliding hit-and-miss ventilators.

Wendover: Wendover House School
SP 8720 0725

In June 2011 a heritage impact assessment was prepared by ASC for Wendover House School, to inform development proposals for the site. The school is on the site of Wendover manor house and is located immediately south of the 14th century church. Wendover is located on the crossroads of two ancient route ways and between two significant prehistoric landscapes; a Neolithic/early Bronze

Age ritual landscape to the west and a late Bronze Age/early Iron Age hill fort to the east. Roman and early Saxon remains have been found in and close to the site, which became part of a multiple estate in the middle Saxon period only to fragment in the 12th century.

The development of the manorial site and the church is unclear, as there is little archaeological or historical evidence for pre-medieval origins at the present location. Local lore tells of the church being moved by the devil during construction and archaeological evidence suggests the area to the north of the site could be the focus for Anglo-Saxon and early medieval settlement. The establishment of the borough in the early 13th century led to a new street plan, which not only isolated the church and manor from the commercial centre but also emphasised the socio-political divide between Wendover Borough and Wendover Forrens.

Wendover House School was established within the grounds of the manor house that had been rebuilt in the late 19th century. The oldest parts of the building are the Grade II listed stable block, which bears the date 1735, and part of the main building, which could be 17th century. Archaeological remains uncovered during construction works include a female skeleton to the east of the site and medieval and post-medieval features in the walled garden to the northwest. Roman coins and medieval pottery have also been found in the grounds. The earliest occupation evidence recovered from the school grounds and the churchyard so far is of 12th century date.

In August an evaluation and watching brief were undertaken ahead of the proposed development. A small number of ditches spanning the prehistoric to post-medieval periods were identified, and post-holes, a pit and ditches of late medieval date. The watching brief was negative.

Weston Turville: New Lane

SP 8549 1233

An earth resistance survey was conducted by Wessex Archaeology over arable fields to the north of Rectory Farm, off New Lane, Weston Turville. The survey area was targeted upon a rectangular enclosure identified through a recent gradiometer survey: the character and appearance in plan suggested that the enclosure dated from the Romano-British period and, as it was considered

that there was the potential for structures with stone foundations to exist at the site, a supplementary earth resistance survey was commissioned. The earth resistance survey covered some 2.7ha and demonstrated the presence of anomalies of definite, probable and possible archaeological interest within the survey area, along with regions of low and high resistance and numerous linear trends.

The large rectangular enclosing ditch identified in the gradiometer survey was clearly visible, with strong rectilinear anomalies forming its circuit. Several other rectangular sub-enclosures were detected on a similar orientation to the outer enclosing ditch.

Numerous linear anomalies consistent with ditches were identified, predominantly oriented orthogonally to the main enclosure. It is considered likely that some of these represent the remnants of ridge and furrow, although the contrast of the anomalies with the general background makes it difficult to ascertain accurately which represent ploughing. Elsewhere, numerous amorphous regions of low and high resistance are consistent with pits and other archaeological features, although their character makes them difficult to interpret confidently.

Winslow: The Old Vicarage

SP 4768 2277

In January a watching brief was carried out at The Old Vicarage by ASC, during residential redevelopment. The project revealed a large north-south feature along the western side of the footing trench. This feature was initially uncovered during an evaluation of the site carried out in May 2011. It extended beyond the limit of the footing trenches, contained animal bone and possible medieval and post-medieval pottery, and may have been a pond. Other features revealed in the evaluation, notably two ditches on the south side of the site, were not revealed in the watching brief.

One feature uncovered during the watching brief was a brick wall along the southern side of the footing trenches. It was constructed of un-frogged red bricks, bonded with a yellowish mortar. An earlier house is known to have existed at the southern end of the site, represented by a slight platform. The wall may be associated with the earlier house as it is in close proximity to the platform. A further possibility is that the wall may be a

boundary associated with the garden of the Old Vicarage.

Wolverton: Holy Trinity Church, Old Wolverton
SP 8042 4121

In February ASC undertook a watching brief in the churchyard of Holy Trinity Church, during the implementation of drainage works. Five articulated/partially articulated burials, six skulls and disarticulated remains were recorded. One of the trenches excavated during the project was in close proximity to the base of the adjoining medieval motte, and revealed a series of made-ground deposits that contained no finds. These deposits were part of the levelling of the churchyard and backfilling of the motte ditch, carried out in the 19th century.

Woughton on the Green: The Green
SP 8750 3752

In October a historic building assessment was prepared by ASC for 5 The Green, to inform proposals for the refurbishment and repair of the building for residential use. The property comprises two early 19th century linked dwellings, Cottage Farm fronting the green and Woodbine Cottage to the rear, both listed Grade II. They have been unoccupied for several years, and are presently in a dilapidated state.

Cottage Farm was constructed in the first half of the 19th century: cartographic evidence suggests a date between 1825 and 1867. As built, the house occupied a similar footprint, but structural evidence indicates that the roofs of the northern part and the original southern wing were lower, possibly with dormer windows to the first floors. At this time the building probably accommodated two separate households: one in the original northern part of the building and one in the original southern wing.

In the late 19th century the walls and roof were raised to their present configuration, and the southern wing was extended. From the cartographic evidence, these changes had probably taken place by 1881. Since that date the only changes to the building appear to have comprised provision of modern services, the construction of a single-storey kitchen extension (now demolished) to the south end, and the replacement of some orig-

inal windows in the northern part of the building with UPVC units. The latter appears to have occurred after 1975, when the building was listed.

Apart from the basic fabric of the building, the assessment revealed few features of architectural or historic significance. Timber framing indicating the early lower roof of the building survives on the first floor and in the attic. The fireplace, cupboards and wainscoting in one of the ground floor rooms of Cottage Farm are surviving early 19th century features, and there is a mid to late 19th century tiled fire surround in Woodbine Cottage.

NEGATIVE

Aston Clinton: College Road
SP 8761 132

Following an evaluation in 2011, a second phase of evaluation was undertaken by NA in June. Remains of medieval ridge and furrow were identified in two trenches. No other archaeological remains were noted.

Brill: Church Street
SP 6560 1392

A watching brief was conducted by JMHS in September during the ground reduction and excavation of foundation trenches within the footprint of a new extension at Brill Sports and Social Club, Church Street, Brill, Buckinghamshire. No archaeological finds or features were found.

Buckingham: Church of SS Peter & Paul
SP 6947 3377

In March a watching brief was carried out by ASC at the Church of St Peter and St Paul during the excavation of an inspection trench, dug to examine structural movement of the church walls. The church stands within the grounds of a former Norman castle. The work revealed that the church is constructed on made ground associated with the clearance of the castle mound. The full extent of the church footings was exposed revealing a brick and mortar foundation with a flint/pebble and mortar foundation base. No finds, features or archaeological deposits were exposed.

Chartridge: Bellingdon Brickworks
SP 9335 0640

ASC undertook a strip, map and sample excavation in September in a field east of Bellingdon Brickworks, in advance of the extraction of clay for brick-making. The project was split into two phases: the first consisted of the removal of the ploughsoil and excavation of any features of archaeological significance. Apart from remains of a former chalk extraction pit, no other features were present on the site. The second phase comprised geo-archaeological investigation of the site to identify the survival of potential palaeo-environmental information. No such deposits were identified, and the conclusion was that there was nothing to be gained by further observations in this area of the Chiltern plateau.

Chesham: Germain Street
SP 9589 0143

No deposits or finds of an archaeological nature were observed in a watching brief held by TVAS at 1 Germain Street in January and February during construction of a mixed-use development.

High Wycombe: Former RAF Daws Hill
SU 8700 9170

A trial trench evaluation by TVAS in June and July in advance of a proposed housing development revealed no significant archaeological remains.

Little Brickhill: Watling Street
SP 9069 3259

During May ASC undertook a watching brief at Pine Haven, Watling Street, during groundworks for two new houses on the site. It was thought that the site retained some potential for the survival of Roman remains, due to its proximity to Roman Watling Street, and a higher potential for the survival of remains relating to Little Brickhill's medieval tile industry. However, no significant archaeological finds or features were observed during the watching brief, and evidence for possible sand quarrying was recorded during the project.

Little Marlow: Ferry Lane, Bourne End
SU 9768 5706

An evaluation comprising two trenches was conducted by MOLA at Tudor Lea, Ferry Lane between May and June prior to residential development of the site. The natural Teddington terrace gravels were observed to be capped by peat deposits (close to the river) in turn sealed by alluvial clays and silts of up to 2m in thickness. The alluvial deposits were sealed by a worked topsoil and turf.

A shallow, 20th century horticultural bedding trench was observed in the second evaluation trench, being c.2.50m wide and running parallel to and c.9m from the current river bank. This contained occasional sherds of pottery (including plant pots), glass and corroded iron nails. No other archaeological features or deposits were observed.

Long Crendon: Gurkha Tavern
SP 6894 0896

AOC Archaeology undertook a watching brief in February on ground reduction during residential development at this former public house. The sequence of deposits identified during the watching brief were recorded as a natural clay and stone horizon, overlaid by a 19th-20th century tile and brick floor layer, which in turn was overlain by a hardcore and gravel layer laid as a preparation layer for the modern concrete floor. No features or finds of archaeological interest were identified during the watching brief.

Loughton: The Green
SP 8343 3781

During September and October a watching brief was carried out by ASC at Fullers Barn, The Green, during ground reduction and service trenches for the construction of an art studio. The area subject to the watching brief consisted entirely of made ground and no archaeological features or artefacts were observed or recovered.

Lower Pollicot: Manor Farm Barn
SP 7028 1302

In August Network Archaeology undertook a watching brief in advance of construction work at Manor Farm Barn in Lower Pollicot. The single

foundation trench identified only layers of made ground, and no archaeological features or deposits were present.

Marlow: Chapel Street

SU 8505 8678

Evaluation by TVAS at Peerland House, Chapel Street in November prior to construction of a new house, encountered a substantial amount of modern made ground but no deposits or finds of archaeological interest were observed.

Olney: High Street

SP 8888 5126

In June a watching brief was maintained by ASC during excavations for the footings of an extension to the rear of 15 High Street, Olney. The site lies within the historic core of the town, and had the potential to reveal evidence of earlier activity, notably of medieval or earlier date.

The watching brief revealed nothing of archaeological interest in the area of the new extension, and no artefacts were recovered from site or the spoil removed from it. The site and adjoining areas were covered by a significant depth of modern made ground, and it is likely that levels have been modified and possibly truncated, though the survival of archaeological features elsewhere in the garden cannot be ruled out. Cartographic evidence suggests that the site has been occupied by a succession of outbuildings since the late 19th century, and it is likely that construction works connected with these outbuildings have already caused significant disturbance to the site area.

Oving: Marston Hill

SP 7864 2179

Wessex Archaeology undertook a watching brief during groundworks at Anmer and The Kennels, Marston Hill, Oving. Made ground deposits containing post-medieval and modern material were noted across the area and it was clear the site had previously been heavily landscaped and disturbed both by former construction works and vegetation. No archaeological features were identified during the fieldwork.

Shabbington: Kimbells Close

SP 6678 0697

A watching brief was conducted at 17 Kimbells Close by JMHS in November during groundworks for a new stable block. No archaeological finds or features were found.

Shenley Brook End: Egerton Gate

SP 8346 3580

Between November 2011 and May 2012 ASC undertook a watching brief on land adjacent to 6 Egerton Gate during the construction of a new house. The overburden, containing sherds of 20th century pottery, slag, and fragments of brick and slate, directly overlay the natural clay strata, into which the footing trenches were cut. Two sewer trenches were excavated out into the road, revealing a series of made-ground deposits. No significant archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed.

Tattenhoe: Portishead Drive

SP 8275 3398

AS carried out an evaluation of land at Portishead Drive, Tattenhoe, Milton Keynes. Five trial trenches were excavated prior to the determination of a planning application to erect a new public house on the site. Trial trenching revealed plough furrows, ditches and gullies of likely agricultural features. Sparse finds (animal bone and brick/tile) were present, but were not sufficient to date the features, and no finds of significant quantity suggestive of settlement remains were found.

REPORTS NOT RECEIVED

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

Astwood: Astwood Grange – Trial trenching

Calverton: Beachampton Road – Watching brief

Wavendon: Deethe Farm – Trial trenching