

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

The following notes on fieldwork carried out in the county in 2013 have been compiled from notes provided by commercial archaeological organisations and local societies, and a list of projects provided by the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Historic Environment Records (HERs). 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 HERs maintained by Buckinghamshire County Council and Milton Keynes Council are the primary sources for more detailed information on sites and finds. For non-commercial enquiries both HERs are available online via the national Heritage Gateway: [www.heritagegateway.org.uk](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk)

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## 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
JMHS	John Moore Heritage Services
NA	Northamptonshire Archaeology
OA	Oxford Archaeology
TVAS	Thames Valley Archaeological Services

## PREHISTORIC

### ***Broughton: Broughton Manor Preparatory School*** SP 9025 3961

In April a strip, map and sample excavation was carried out by ASC at Broughton Manor Preparatory School, in advance of a classroom extension. Eleven features were revealed comprising seven ditches, three postholes/pits and one tree throw. Finds were recovered from most of the features with exception of the tree throw and two shallow ditches. Animal bone and pottery were the most abundant finds with two registered finds comprising a possible Neolithic flint blade and a single small unfinished spindle whorl, both of which are proposed as residual finds within a possible Iron Age/Romano-British curvilinear ditch. It was possible to relate several of the ditches to features recorded during extensive excavation of the surrounding area in 2007, which revealed a late Iron Age & Roman farmstead and related activity (see Atkins *et al* 2014, reviewed in this volume).

### ***Marlow: High Street*** SU 8501 8634

An excavation and watching brief were undertaken by NA on land to the rear of 90 High Street, prior to the proposed development on the site. An area of approximately 200sqm was opened, within which a pit containing a sherd of Bronze Age Beaker pottery was recovered accompanied by the disarticulated human remains of two juveniles aged 10-12, radiocarbon dated to 2140BC to 1950BC (95% confidence). Overlying this were remains of two stone buildings, perhaps dating to the mid-16th century, but with brick additions indicating a long period of use and refurbishment. The watching brief on the footing for a building to the north-east of the excavation area located a feature dating to at least the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

**Middleton, Milton Keynes: Land to the North-East of Middleton Primary School**  
SP 8851 3910

In June ASC undertook trial trench evaluation of land to the north-east of Middleton Primary School, ahead of the proposed construction of a drop-off parking area, sports pitch and associated landscaping. Poorly dated ditches and post holes were identified at the north of the site and Late Pre Roman Iron Age (LPRIA) or early Romano-British ditches and pits to the west. A large pit or intercutting pits at the centre and south-west of the site identified quarrying of LPRIA or early Roman date. The south-east part of the site had been significantly disturbed by recent activity associated with the former Hartigan's gravel quarry. The LPRIA or early Roman remains are locally significant as they are the first identified in Middleton.

During July and August excavation was undertaken on the site by ASC. Settlement evidence of the LPRIA and early RB periods was revealed, confirming the results of the evaluation. The earliest features comprised two superimposed pennisular gullies and associated postholes, representing two phases of roundhouse. Following the disuse of the roundhouse a large north-south aligned boundary ditch with an east-west branch was cut. Three phases of enclosure ditches, located on the west and east sides of the site, appeared to drain into the boundary ditch, suggesting it was in use for a long period of time. A number of gullies, pits and postholes were also identified. Features of other periods were limited to one early-mid Saxon pit and furrows of the medieval open-field system of Milton Keynes village. The results of the excavation will be published in *Records*.

**Shenley Church End: Milton Keynes Western Expansion Area, Area 10**

SP 81692 37353 (Site 1); SP 81462 37155 (Site 2); SP 81213 37213 (Site 3)

Border Archaeology undertook excavations between May and September on three sites within Milton Keynes Western Expansion Area, between Calverton Lane and Crownhill on the western outskirts of Milton Keynes.

While the excavations within sites 1 & 3 broadly revealed no significant archaeological remains, the excavations within site 2 revealed a significant

number of features indicative of fairly intensive settlement activity in this area, most of which appeared to be broadly datable to the Middle-Late Iron Age. The earliest feature identified was a substantial linear boundary ditch which exhibited evidence of several phases of disuse and reinstatement. Also belonging to this broad phase of Middle to Late Iron Age settlement activity were two pennisular gully features, interpreted as probable roundhouse structures, a series of curvilinear boundary or enclosure features, and several distinct groupings of pits and small linear features, which appeared largely to contain domestic waste (pottery and animal bone).

Of particular interest was an extensive complex of intercutting pits located within the south-east quadrant of site 2, which appeared to be datable to the Late Iron Age. Most of these appeared to be domestic rubbish pits, though one appeared to contain a possible cremation vessel. In spite of the relative proximity of the Roman road Watling Street (c.900m north of the excavations) no evidence for Roman settlement activity was encountered on the site. Similarly, no archaeological remains associated with medieval occupation were identified.

A later phase of agricultural cultivation on the site was represented by a series of regularly spaced, rectilinear ridge-and-furrow features which may be assigned a post-medieval date, while a series of land drains running north-south across the site constituted the latest phase of activity, dated to the late post-medieval or modern period.

**Stoke Hammond: Land off Drayton Road**  
SP 8697 3096

During late 2012 and early 2013 ASC carried out a programme of archaeological investigation, comprising strip, map and sample excavations and evaluation trenching, on the Newton Leys development, off Drayton Road. A large assemblage of struck flint, interpreted as locating significant Neolithic or Bronze Age activity, was recovered during fieldwalking of the area in 1995. However, archaeological features of these periods were not identified during the investigations and only three residual flint artefacts were recovered.

The results of the investigations were otherwise consistent with those of recent excavations completed adjacent to the site (*Records* 52,

33-75). The earliest identified evidence comprised dispersed and truncated ditch segments defining remnants of part of the field system of a middle Iron Age settlement excavated slightly to the north. The site then appears to have been little used until it was incorporated into the medieval open field system of Newton Longville, and it has since been in continuous agricultural use.

## ROMAN

### *Aston Clinton: College Road North* SP 877 135

Following an initial evaluation, earthwork survey and excavation were undertaken by NA in September, prior to the construction of a dairy facility on an area of late Iron Age/Romano-British settlement, on a slight ridge of ground adjacent to ponds and marshy ground. There seemed to have been a short-lived attempt at cultivation, perhaps a vineyard, in the Late Iron Age/early Roman period, but this was quickly abandoned. Settlement was subsequently focused on the slight ridge and comprised multiple enclosures arranged around a series of ponds. A possible rectangular timber building was constructed in the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD and a possible roundhouse was built in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. Both buildings had fallen out of use by the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> centuries. A number of burials and cremations dated to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries and included three examples of decapitation.

### *Aston Clinton: College Road North* SP 845 133 to SP 877 135

In October to November 2012 and March 2013, an archaeological strip, map and record was carried out by NA on the laying of new water and sewer pipelines. The pipeline extended approximately 3km and had an easement corridor of 30m. The works identified enclosures dating from the middle to late Iron Age. A sub-square mortuary enclosure was probably constructed in the mid to late 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. Although no central burial survived there were two associated cremation burials, as possible satellites, radiocarbon dated to the mid-1<sup>st</sup> to early 2<sup>nd</sup> century. The final phase of activity was a sub-square enclosure, with pits and postholes, constructed in the early 2<sup>nd</sup> century, with activity continuing into the 4<sup>th</sup> century. Along the easement

were two trackways dating from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, as well as contemporary and undated ditches.

### *Bierton: Land north-east of Aylesbury* SP 8200 1630

OA were commissioned to undertake evaluation trenching in 2013 on the site of a proposed housing development on land c.1.5km to the north-east of Aylesbury town centre, within the parish of Bierton-with-Broughton. Thirty-five trenches were located in three areas (1–3).

Area 1 contained extensive traces of Iron Age and Roman settlement. Mid-late Iron Age pottery was found in association with two small circular enclosures (possible roundhouses) and a series of sub-rectangular enclosures or field boundaries. Roman artefacts were predominantly associated with a roughly sub-rectangular enclosure. The date range of the Roman pottery appears to be focused predominantly in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, possibly extending into the early 3<sup>rd</sup> century. Oven or kiln fragments suggest that small-scale pottery manufacture was carried out on or near the site.

An earthwork enclosure was identified from aerial photographs and Lidar data, overlying the Roman settlement. This is interpreted in the Buckinghamshire HER as a possible medieval moated manor (HER0234400000). The enclosure is certainly post-Roman in date, as it was recorded directly overlying the Roman features, but otherwise the evaluation did not find any evidence for its date.

Area 2 contained a shallow, plough-eroded pit containing the surviving parts of an articulated cattle skeleton but no artefacts. Area 3 contained a ditch, which produced animal bone and a single sherd of possible late Iron Age pottery.

### *Dinton: Cuddington Road* SP 7578 1157

An evaluation in advance of new agricultural buildings was conducted by JMHS in October, identifying a number of features of a late Iron Age to early Roman date. The subsequent excavation identified a number of features, which could be divided into five phases. The earliest features were probably quarry hollows and agricultural plough soil deposits. These features lacked datable

material, but they were truncated by the phase 2 enclosure ditch.

Phase 2 saw the construction of an enclosure ditch, which contained quantities of Roman pottery, some Roman tegulae and box flue tile. There was also iron slag and vitrified furnace lining. The enclosure extended into the area of the stables, which was exempt from investigation. A 2<sup>nd</sup>-century ditch, although recut, may well be the east side of the enclosure. A few other features could be placed into this period, one of which was probably part of a ditch on the south-west side of the site, containing Roman pottery and daub.

Indications of any activity between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries were scarce. One feature, a hollow, was assigned to this phase, as it cut the Roman enclosure ditch and was itself cut by a small drainage ditch containing 17<sup>th</sup> century pottery. The hollow had either been dug for quarrying, or was perhaps a product of tree planting or bio-turbation.

Phase 4 was dated to the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and comprised a number of small discrete ditches, gullies and small pits. A few of these features contained dating evidence. There was a further small group of features that were not dated, but were attributed to this phase as they were sealed by the subsoil, which deposit also contained pottery attributed to the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

#### ***Lavendon: Bedford Road***

SP 9198 5340

The Salt Box is a plot of land off Bedford Road, on the eastern margins of Lavendon. An evaluation of the site was undertaken in June by Albion Archaeology prior to submission of a planning application for residential development. The application site comprised two land parcels, totalling c.0.96ha. It contained a series of buildings and areas of concrete hard-standing, marking the locations of former structures, concentrated in the western land parcel.

Six trenches were opened to investigate the areas of the main impact of the proposed development. Archaeological features were revealed towards the street frontage. These included a modern ditch and adjacent brick-lined well, together with a series of undated, intercutting pits, one of which appeared to be wattle-lined. A substantial ditch produced a small quantity of abraded Roman pottery. Intermittent traces of medieval cultivation furrows,

aligned NE-SW and at right-angles to the road, were also present.

#### ***Newton Longville: Salden Chase***

SP 8320 3220

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May–June 2013 on land south-west of Milton Keynes. Seventy-three trenches were excavated. The evaluation recorded numerous well preserved, substantial archaeological features and large quantities of pottery were recovered. There were four main areas of activity containing enclosures and associated features spanning the Iron Age/Roman transitional period to the 4th century AD. Trenches excavated adjacent to the old line of the A421 (Standing Way) and Weasel Lane recorded no archaeological remains associated with these ancient routes, and there was no evidence for further burials associated with a Saxon cemetery previously excavated at Bottle Dump Roundabout.

#### ***Stowe School: New Golf Course***

SP 6844 3755

Between November and December 2013 Network Archaeology excavated five evaluation trenches based on the results of a previous geophysical survey, in advance of the construction of a new golf course. The evaluation identified Roman ditches and a cobbled surface on the western side of Bycell road, northwest of Stowe Castle, as well as a ditch with associated re-cut dated to the 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> century AD to the east of Bourbon Tower, north of Lamport Lodge. An undated ditch was identified to the northeast of Stowe House, immediately south of the current sports pitches, and a further undated ditch and tree bole were located to the northeast of Bourbon Tower, east of the current sports pitches.

#### ***SAXON & MEDIEVAL***

##### ***Aston Clinton: Chapel Drive***

SP 8820 1240

An evaluation of land at Chapel Drive by NA, prior to a proposed development, recorded a medieval pit dated to the late 12th-13th centuries by a single sherd of pottery. Occasional furrows associated with medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation were

observed. Two small undated drainage gullies were recorded: their orientation and location suggests they are related to medieval agricultural activity.

***Astwood: The Old Swan Inn***

SP 9513 4735

An investigation was carried out by Souterrain during groundwork for a new house in the curtilage of a 17<sup>th</sup>-century inn, within the historic core of Astwood village. A concentration of 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup>-century rubbish pits was exposed along the northwest boundary of the site, together with a single pit of post-medieval date. The evidence most likely pertains to domestic occupancy of the site during this period. The apparent absence of archaeological features elsewhere within the development footprint (c.150 sq. m) seems to suggest that the pits were dug at the edge of a land plot, which was possibly the boundary of a medieval tenement. There were possible traces of a medieval ground surface above the pits. In the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century the surface of the site was covered with a substantial layer of hearth waste, presumably hard-standing for horse-drawn carriages. Apart from the insertion of land drains the medieval pits were undisturbed. To date, the discoveries represent the most significant body of archaeological evidence for medieval settlement at Astwood.

***Brill: Temple Street***

SP 6560 1410

An single trench evaluation was conducted by JMHS in May in advance of the proposed demolition of an existing house and the erection of two new dwellings. A NW-SE ditch was discovered at the north-west end of the trench. It contained pottery dating the fill of the ditch to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Other discrete features, interpreted as two postholes and pit, were adjacent to the ditch. Two contained pottery dating to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The earliest find was a residual early Neolithic flint blade. The features represent medieval and post-medieval activity on the site, which may be related to industrial functions such as a kiln, although only one fragment of manufacturing waste was recovered.

***Calverton: Milton Keynes Western Expansion Area, Area 11***

SP 8002 3926 (Area A1); SP 7980 3895 (Area B1); SP 7966 3910 (Area C); SP 7950 3928 (Area D) SP 7945 3903 (Area E); SP 7964 3953 (Area SK)

Border Archaeology undertook excavations between September 2013 and April 2014 within Milton Keynes Weston Expansion Area 11, between Calverton Lane (south-east), Watling Street (north-east) and Ridgeway (north-west) on the western edge of Milton Keynes.

Areas C and E revealed no archaeological remains. However, within Areas A1, B1, SK and D, significant archaeological remains were revealed, ranging broadly in date from the Bronze Age through to the post-medieval period. The results may be summarised chronologically as follows:

The earliest evidence of activity consisted of an isolated circular pit located roughly in the central part of Area D, its fill containing frequent charcoal and occasional worked flint and hazelnut shells, together with a small quantity of pottery of possible Bronze Age date.

Evidence of several distinct phases of Iron Age/early Roman settlement, cultivation and quarrying activity was revealed. In Area A1, the earliest phase of activity consisted of three deep circular and sub-circular well features, two of which were grouped together in the north east quadrant of the excavation area, while the remaining well was situated within the south-west corner. Two of the wells contained animal bone and a small quantity of pottery assigned a middle to late Iron Age date. Probably post-dating this phase of activity were two parallel, shallow linear ditch features identified in the north-west quadrant of the excavation area, containing a small quantity of animal bone and pottery identified as being of Late Iron Age date.

A later phase of Late Iron Age or early Roman cultivation activity was evidenced by a series of eight shallow linear ditches, aligned NE-SW and regularly distributed across the central and eastern parts of Area A1, and a pair of shallow linear features on the same alignment within the north-west quadrant of the excavation area. The linear features may represent agricultural cultivation features, forming components of a larger field system perhaps associated with a nearby roadside settlement adjoining Watling Street to the north-east.

Evidence of possible settlement activity of Late Iron Age or early Roman date was represented by a large ovoid pit located in the north west quadrant of Area A1, which contained moderate quantities of animal bone and occasional pottery, together with a ditch and a nearby ovoid pit on the north west side of the excavation area which contained very frequent animal bone and pottery, and has been assigned a Late Iron Age/early Roman date.

Within Area B1, evidence of activity tentatively assigned a Late Iron Age/early Roman date was revealed, consisting of a large, deep sub-circular feature located roughly in the centre of the excavation area, with a probable posthole slot at its base, presumably relating to a wooden structure which once stood within the pit. A small quantity of Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery was recovered from this feature: its function, however, remains uncertain.

In Area SK, further evidence of Iron Age occupation was represented by a pit containing frequent pottery and a copper-alloy object, possibly a figurine of Late Iron Age date, together with a curvilinear ditch feature and associated posthole interpreted as a possible enclosure and associated boundary marker, which contained animal bone and pottery of a similar date. Within Area D, evidence of Iron Age activity was restricted to a pit containing a small quantity of iron slag and burnt pottery, assigned a Late Iron Age date.

Evidence of Saxon activity within Area 11 was represented by a discrete group of three inhumations located within the northern part of Area SK, all of which were buried within shallow rectilinear grave cuts and oriented roughly east-west. All three burials appeared to have been disturbed. Within two of the grave cuts evidence of grave goods was found, the former containing a copper-alloy belt or buckle fragment, while the latter contained an iron blade fragment, possibly a dagger. All three inhumations were provisionally assigned an Anglo-Saxon date (primarily based on the evidence of the grave goods) and appeared to form an outlying part of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery identified during a previous excavation (*Records* 54, 208).

Evidence of medieval occupation within Area 11 was fairly limited, suggesting that this area was a sparsely settled, predominantly agricultural landscape throughout this period. Within Area B1, evidence of medieval quarrying activity (presumably for the extraction of clay and limestone)

was identified, represented by a substantial quarry pit, the upper fills of which contained midden waste including pottery of possible medieval date. Evidence of linear features and postholes possibly associated with timber structures adjacent to the quarry site were also identified and tentatively assigned a medieval date. Within Area D, a number of intersecting linear boundary or drainage ditch features were identified, which were assigned a medieval or early post-medieval date on the basis of pottery evidence.

***Emberton: All Saints' Church***  
SP 8848 4945

Archaeological monitoring was carried out by Albion Archaeology in August during the installation of new services: two trench-arch drains and associated storm water pipes; a pit for a sewage tank and pump; and re-routing of the water supply and electricity cables.

The results of the observations were broadly similar in all parts of the graveyard. No artefacts, cut features, burials or disarticulated bone were identified in most of the excavated areas. A small section of a north-south aligned limestone wall was visible in the trench north of the church to the north-west of the north aisle.

Burials and a larger amount of disarticulated human remains were encountered in the pump pit south-east of the south porch. The former 19th-century gravel path, leading around the west side of the church to the tower door, was identified in the trench leading around the north-west corner of the church towards the north porch.

Artefacts recovered from the graveyard soil comprised a small amount of late Saxon/Saxo-Norman pottery and two metal objects, a 13th-century French jetton and a 15th-century shoe buckle.

***Haddenham: Fern Lane, Fort End***  
SP 7408 0888

A watching brief by TVAS in November prior to housing construction revealed a late 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century property boundary ditch, redefined on up to seven occasions. Relatively few other internal features were recorded and the pottery dating suggests the site had gone out of use by the 13<sup>th</sup> century, which is somewhat earlier than the

14<sup>th</sup>-century abandonment usually recorded, but may tie in with documentary evidence for Haddenham's early decline. The site adds more data to an understanding of the nature and chronology of the development of Haddenham as a medieval settlement. Three residual sherds of Iron Age pottery hint at earlier activity in the area but no features can be securely dated to this period. A short publication note will be prepared.

***Monks Risborough: St Dunstan's Church***  
SP 8118 0433

In June and July Chiltern Archaeology carried out excavation of the site for an extension to the graveyard at St Dunstan's Church. A large quantity of unstratified finds were recorded from topsoil and subsoil, ranging from flint tools to a variety of post-medieval items, with large quantities of Roman and early medieval artefacts, notably ceramic building material and pottery. A number of intercutting features were recorded in the excavation area including pits, ditches and gullies, and postholes, with a date range including Iron Age and Roman, Saxon and medieval, up to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. During this time the site appears to have been close to habitation, and to have been used largely for rubbish disposal. The paucity of finds later than the 14<sup>th</sup> century probably reflects a change in the use of the area to farmland, probably for grazing.

The excavation also provided information regarding the church, the final phases of which have hitherto been dated to the 14<sup>th</sup> century. However, the discovery of building stone within dated contexts on the excavation indicates that the earliest parts of the church are Norman (mid to late 11<sup>th</sup> century), with further building in the early 14<sup>th</sup> and then 15<sup>th</sup> century. It is possible that there may well have been an earlier Saxon church on the site, given the ownership of the land by the Canterbury monks from the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> century. The monks actively managed the area up to the 14<sup>th</sup> century, and retained the land until dissolution in 1539.

***Mursley: Main Street***  
SP 8160 2850

In March OA East undertook an evaluation on land behind 9 and 11 Main Street in advance of the construction of two proposed new houses. The

evaluation showed that medieval deposits survived within the higher ground in the eastern part of the site whereas the western area, which lay close to a former pond or stream, contained no remains pre-dating modern landscaping.

Two medieval pits within the eastern area contained moderate assemblages of 13<sup>th</sup> to early 15<sup>th</sup>-century pottery. A sample from one of these pits produced a significant charred seed assemblage. Three undated postholes lay adjacent to the pits and may have been the remains of a late medieval/early post-medieval structure, or structures that fronted onto The Beechams. This road appears on the 1599 Salden Estate map to have houses along it, although surviving later maps of Mursley, from the 1825 Bryant Map onwards, show no buildings fronting onto this street. These results, therefore, appear to provide some tangible archaeological evidence for the well-documented post-medieval decline and shrinkage of Mursley. During the 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century the site was subject to significant landscaping, resulting in a covering of deposits between 0.6m and 1m thick.

***Nash: Land at Stratford Road***  
SP 7817 3408

Following an earlier desk-based assessment, in January ASC undertook an evaluation of land adjacent to Church Farm, in advance of the residential redevelopment of the site. Two trenches in the northern part of the site revealed a significant amount of modern build-up, indicating that this part of the site had been subjected to recent activity. Both trenches also contained a thick humic layer, probably indicative of the site being previously used for agricultural purposes.

One feature, a small pit, was discovered in the southernmost trench. This pit appeared to have been re-cut twice, and a single sherd of medieval shelly ware was recovered from its uppermost fill. The function of the pit remains unknown, but its presence, combined with records held in the Buckinghamshire HER, suggests medieval activity in the vicinity of the site.

***Olney, Warrington: Home Farm***  
SP 8981 5395

In December a trial trench evaluation was carried out by NA on land at Home Farm. Two trenches

were excavated across the proposed development area. Archaeological remains consisted of two pits, both containing medieval pottery dating to the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> centuries.

***Ravenstone: Priory Lade***

SP 85026 50943

Priory Lade is a house on the northern margins of Ravenstone, consisting of a T-shaped range of single-storey, former farm buildings. An evaluation was carried out by Albion Archaeology during November in connection with a planning application for proposed extensions. The building is located on high ground at North End, a short distance to the north-west of the parish church and immediately to the south of the site of the scheduled Augustinian Ravenstone Priory. In 1984, conversion of the buildings revealed traces of the priory church (*Records* 33, 114-127).

A single trench was opened on the footprint of the proposed extension on the south side of the building, adjacent to the area observed in 1984. Modern disturbance was revealed to a depth of 0.25–0.37m, probably related to the conversion of the former farm buildings. Below this, demolition debris (containing architectural stonework) sealed a stone floor and two wall robber trenches. The investigation recovered ten pieces of architectural stonework, together with painted glass, a small amount of pottery (both medieval and post-medieval) and unpainted wall plaster. The features are likely to be associated with the former priory and may represent part of the church.

***Stony Stratford: Market Square***

SP 7871 4040

Following an earlier trial trench evaluation (*Records* 49, 264), in April ASC undertook a watching brief during groundworks for the residential redevelopment of land adjacent to 2 Market Square. The evaluation had revealed a number of post-medieval and modern floor surfaces, as well as part of a late medieval limestone feature of unknown function. The watching brief did not reveal any new pre-modern features. An extension of one previously recorded late medieval limestone feature was tentatively interpreted as a wall footing.

***Twyford: Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary***

SP 6659 2666

Two trenches were excavated by JMHS in April on land to the east of the present cemetery, as part of plans for its extension. Trenches excavated through previously recorded earthworks confirmed them to be part of an early high medieval manorial complex. Ditches formed an enclosure round a raised platform. Pottery from its abandonment phase dated from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. The former vicarage, located 40m to the west, was probably the former manor house. It was built in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, and appears to have replaced the earlier structure located in the vicinity of the evaluation.

***Waddesdon: Waddesdon Manor***

SP 7460 1630

In May a desk-based assessment was compiled by ASC in order to inform proposals for the development of a car park and associated facilities in Bail Field, on the Waddesdon Manor estate. The assessment suggested that there was moderate potential for the survival of buried heritage assets largely due to the emparking of the land in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and the presence of remains of the shrunken settlement of Wormstone, which lies to the east of the site.

During August an evaluation was carried out by ASC in Bail Field, in advance of construction of the car park. The work identified up to five early medieval ditches in the east part of the site, close to the shrunken medieval settlement of Wormstone. A number of land drains and associated ditches and a post-medieval pit were also present. A small assemblage of animal bone and pottery was recovered. Residual sherds of Romano-British pottery in the medieval ditches indicate that Roman remains may be present nearby.

***Wavendon: Church Farm***

SP 911 365

NA was commissioned by Connolly Homes to conduct a geophysical survey of 24ha of land to the south of Church Farm. The survey identified an earthwork platform and an undated network of ditches at the northern end of the site, and mapped



extensive tracts of medieval ridge and furrow. Some modern disturbance was also identified, particularly towards the west of the survey area.

### **POST-MEDIEVAL AND UNDATED**

#### ***Buckingham: Christ's Hospital Almshouses*** SP 6967 3405

In June 2013, subsequent to a previous evaluation (*Records* 54, 213), Network Archaeology undertook a watching brief during ground reduction works associated with a new rear extension to the Christ's Church Almshouses. The watching brief recorded a limestone rubble wall, which had been identified during the evaluation. The wall, which had been truncated by modern services, ran the full breadth of the rear garden to the almshouses.

#### ***Chilton: Chilton House*** SP 6854 1162

In October a photographic survey was undertaken by ASC of a Grade II listed garden wall at Chilton House, to inform proposals for remedial repairs. The wall, which is constructed mostly of limestone blocks of varying sizes bonded with lime mortar, includes two moulded stone arches of 16<sup>th</sup> century date, is in a poor condition, with cracks and, in one part, a distinct lean to the east. Several episodes of past repair were noted, including possible rebuilding, and rendering with cement mortar.

#### ***Cliveden: The South Terrace*** SU 9102 8515

OA carried out an investigation of The South Terrace at Cliveden in 2013. The terrace is seen as the main surviving element from the Duke of Buckingham's original house, constructed in the 1670s, but the current project, which includes a general assessment of the overall structure and a watching brief during conservation works, suggests that relatively little of the visible structure is original. The grand central staircase has been the main focus of the current conservation works. Among the interesting elements of the current work has been the discovery of a previous face formed partly from fine jointed brickwork, beneath the current rendered surface.

A watching brief has also been undertaken

during the excavation of foundation pits for a large slide revealed a major east-to-west wall, possibly of 17<sup>th</sup>-century date, c.5m in front of the terrace. The current project is one phase of a longer investigation related to ongoing conservation works and it is highly likely that further interesting features and archaeological remains will come to light in the coming years.

#### ***Gerrard's Cross: Camp Road*** SU 9970 8814

A single trench was excavated by JMHS in advance of a new dwelling in September revealing a possible posthole or small pit. This feature was heavily truncated and remained undated.

#### ***Granborough: Marston Road*** SP 7675 2497

An assessment of the 16<sup>th</sup>-century cottage at 4 Marston Road was undertaken by NA ahead of renovation of the property. Originally built with an eastern open hall and central smoke bay and a two-floor western bay, the cottage was extended southward at ground-floor level during the 17<sup>th</sup> century in a phase of alterations which also saw the construction of central and western chimneys and a new stair. The early – mid 20<sup>th</sup> century saw a further phase of work which included the rebuilding of much of the main elevations, alterations to the west chimney, construction of a new corrugated roof over the original thatch and addition of internal partitions in the first floor rooms.

#### ***High Wycombe: Bassetsbury Manor*** SU 8766 9238

Evaluation trenching by TVAS in April prior to construction of a new school building discovered only late post-medieval features, although two sherds of late medieval pottery, a single Roman tegula fragment and a single struck flint were also found.

#### ***Hulcott: All Saints' Church*** SU 8656 9308

A watching brief was conducted by JMHS during exploratory trenches to determine the presence

of underground features around the south porch at All Saints' Church in March. The excavation uncovered the foundations of the porch and its buttresses that had been reworked in places with the addition of later bricks into a mainly flint foundation, along with a series of layered deposits that were different on the inside and outside of the church. No dating evidence was recovered from the surrounding layers and only one or two fragmentary pieces of disarticulated human bone were present.

**Iver Heath: Pinewood Studios, Langley Corner**  
TQ 0160 8489

AOC Archaeology undertook an evaluation during April on land adjacent to Pinewood Studios, consisting of ten trenches. The proposed development involves the expansion of the studios. Natural sandy gravel was recorded in all of the trenches. The evaluation identified a low density of features consisting of two undated gullies and an undated pit, in addition to two post-medieval or modern boundary ditches. The lack of dating evidence, or late date associated with these features, suggests the archaeological features are of negligible to local significance only.

**Lavendon: 5 Northampton Road**  
SP 9157 5364

A watching brief was undertaken by NA in September during groundworks connected with the construction of a single-storey extension on land at 5 Northampton Road. A post-medieval outbuilding was uncovered along with late medieval and post-medieval pottery from the garden soil.

**Marlow: Spittal Street**  
SU 8487 8670

In March AS carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at 25-31 Spittal Street, Marlow, as part of a planning condition attached to permission for the proposed construction of residential and commercial units.

With the potential for Saxon, medieval and post-medieval remains highlighted by historic environment record entries, the fieldwork revealed a flint stone well *c.*18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century in date; a brick well or soakaway *c.*19<sup>th</sup> century in date as well as

the remains of a contemporary wall, in addition to a number of modern features. The site was found to be heavily truncated by modern drainage features.

**Monks Risborough: Burton Lane, Monks Mede**  
SP 8122 0430

Evaluation in advance of a new house was conducted by JMHS in the garden of Monks Mede in January. The evaluation recorded a post-Roman quarry pit and a late medieval or early post-medieval wall base, in addition to undated postholes and a ditch. The ditch may well be part of the same enclosure observed in 2004. Un-stratified Roman building materials and medieval pottery indicate that some of these undated features may date from these periods. An early prehistoric flint bladelet was also recovered.

**Nash: Wood End Farmhouse**  
SP 7839 3383

Between January and February Network Archaeology undertook a watching brief during the excavation of foundation trenches for a new building at Wood End Farmhouse. The site had been previously occupied by an outbuilding which had been the subject of a historic building survey (*Records* 54, 215), and the garden lawn on the north side of the Grade II listed 15<sup>th</sup>-century farmhouse. The watching brief revealed an undated, stone-lined well over 6m deep, capped by concrete slabs, further concrete slabs indicating the possible location of a second well, the original limestone footings of the outbuilding and an undated pit.

**Newport Pagnell: Caldecote Farm**  
SP 8810 4216

Following earlier investigations, including desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and trenching, in October an earthwork survey was carried out by ASC on the site of the proposed Caldecote Farm Quarry, Willen Lane. The survey recorded banks, ditches and hollows at the north of the site, interpreted as post-medieval field boundaries and quarrying. Evidence of modern agricultural activity was also present. None of the earthworks appear to be related to the adjacent medieval settlement of Caldecote, although sub-surface features associated with the medieval

village were discovered in the vicinity of the earth-works during trial trenching.

***Newton Longville: St Faiths Church***  
SP 8477 3144

A watching brief by TVAS in February during minor construction work recorded five human skeletons, three of 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup>-century date and two possibly earlier, but also post-medieval. All were reinterred at the church.

***Olney: High Street***  
SP 8890 5150

A watching brief was undertaken at The Carlton House Club by NA in April 2012 during ground-works connected with the construction of a single-storey commercial 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 dated to the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> 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-20<sup>th</sup> century.

***Olney: Market Place***  
SP 8887 5135

In August a watching brief, following evaluation by NA, was carried out by NA on land at Sutcliff Baptist Church during a graveyard clearance and relocation of burials, ahead of an extension to the church. Several brick burial vaults of 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>-century date were seen, generally 1.6m deep, with a brick-lined floor and walls constructed with plain un-frogged bricks. The roofs of these vaults had been removed during the 1980s and the vaults backfilled with modern building material, such as 20<sup>th</sup>-century blue engineering bricks and edging bricks. The remains of earlier burials were observed to lie at a greater depth at the western extent of the churchyard. The tomb of John Sutcliffe was damaged beyond repair when lifted, and a replacement will be erected on the planned site.

***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, during groundwork 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.

***Slapton: Church of the Holy Cross***  
SP 9372 2069

Two watching briefs were conducted by JMHS at the church of the Holy Cross. The first watching brief in November 2011 observed a series of trenches around the church that uncovered a series of broader foundations, and also noted the apparent profile of a ditch through the churchyard. Surprisingly at this time no burials were noted in the graveyard, thus potentially indicating the probability of a low level of interment on the site over the years. The second watching brief in September, on a small section of trench cut for the insertion of an electricity cable, observed the remains of a brick foundation and a single grave cut.

***Stowe: Stowe School***  
SP 6805 3845

In January Network Archaeology undertook trial trench evaluation within the footprint of a proposed maintenance facility located 1.2km north-east of the Stowe School complex, along the northern edge of the current sports pitches, north of the Bourbon Tower. Four evaluation trenches were excavated, recording an undated possible boundary ditch and an undated posthole. The evaluation also showed that much of the proposed development area had been truncated previously to approximately 0.5m below ground level and built up with imported material. The date of this event is unknown but possibly related to the creation of the original sports field in the 1930s or the more recent AstroTurf pitches on land to the south.

**Thornton: Thornton Hall**

SP 7612 3542

In February a historic building assessment was carried out by ASC at Thornton Hall, to inform proposals for remodelling part of the ground floor of the house. The panelling in the Dining Room is in the 'Jacobethan' style, popular from c.1830 onwards, at which time the house was the farmhouse for Tyrellcote Farm. The panelling is machine-made, and therefore of later 19<sup>th</sup> or possibly early 20<sup>th</sup>-century date. Although it was not possible to remove areas of the panelling to examine the fabric of the walls behind, in the two locations where examination was possible the walls were plastered and painted, with skirting boards at the south-west corner of the room, indicating that the panelling had been applied over existing wall finishes. The panelling also respected a service pipe run down the south-west corner, and so must post-date it. The nature of the joins between panels, and the way panels have been cut to fit existing features in the room, all demonstrated that the panelling must have been brought in from another building, and made to fit its present location. Certain sections, notably around the cupboards flanking the fireplace, may have been made to cover areas for which none of the imported panelling was suitable.

The provenance of the panelling is uncertain. Evidence from a former occupant suggests that it was brought in c.1918, though its previous location is not recorded. It has been suggested that it came from Thornton Manor (now Thornton College), which was much enlarged and rebuilt in Tudor Gothic style in 1850 by the architect John Tarring for the Hon. Richard Cavendish. It is possible that the panelling was installed at the Manor at this time, and was taken to Thornton Hall in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century as part of the 'gentrification' of the existing farmhouse.

**Turville: Church of St Mary the Virgin**

SU 7670 9115

A watching brief was conducted by JMHS during drainage work in the churchyard in September. Twenty human skeletons were recovered for re-burial from a septic tank pit. Although several burial deposits contained coffin furniture and fittings, most did not.

**Westbury: Westbury to Buffers Holt Phase 2 Mains Replacement**

SP 5990 3647 to SP 6413 3602

Between August and October a watching brief undertaken by OA East along the easement of an Anglian Water mains replacement recorded only sporadic evidence of archaeological activity, in the form of post-medieval ditches and drainage features. Small sherds of Roman and medieval pottery were recovered close to the brook to the east of Westbury, but this deposition is thought to have been due to colluvial activity.

**Weston Underwood: Cross Lane**

SP 8666 5058

In February a historic building assessment was prepared by ASC for an outbuilding at Manor Cottage, Cross Lane, to inform proposals for its demolition and replacement. Manor Cottage is a stone-built, Grade II listed house of 17<sup>th</sup>-century date. The outbuilding lies within the curtilage of the listed building.

The outbuilding first appears in the historical record as a separate entity in 1882, though it is almost certainly earlier. Maps of late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup>-century date show an extended south-west wing of the house occupying this location. The building is a small, single-cell stone structure, wholly unremarkable with no significant features or fittings. The former existence of a brick flue and photographic evidence for a chimney on its south-east wall hint at a specific function other than general storage, but what remains undetermined. The outbuilding is not listed, though its location within the curtilage of the Grade II listed Manor Cottage implies at least local significance.

**Winslow: Rands Farm, Shipton**

SP 7770 2740

Planning permission was granted for the construction of a new agricultural access adjacent to Rands Farm in Shipton, a hamlet to the south-west of Winslow. Ground reduction for the 56m-long and 4.2m-wide trackway was monitored by Albion Archaeology during November.

Two post-medieval / modern ditches and several modern pits were cut through the subsoil. Seven postholes were located in the centre of the site; most

were covered by a thin layer of subsoil and only partially visible. The most distinct of the postholes produced a probable 13<sup>th</sup>-century sand-tempered body sherd; another retained the base of partially rotted wooden post. The date and function of the postholes remain uncertain. They are close to the known medieval settlement remains at Shipton, although the wooden post indicates at least one of them was modern in date.

***Wolverton: McConnell Drive***

SP 8196 4104

Planning permission was granted in 2008 for the conversion of the existing building at the former scrap yard on McConnell Drive, Wolverton, into two one-bedroom flats. The structure was recorded by Albion Archaeology in February and March prior to its conversion.

Wolverton is the world's first planned railway works town and was designated a Conservation Area in 2001. The building at the scrap yard was originally part of a goods yard within the railway works. Map evidence shows that the goods yard consisted of a large rectangular goods shed, into which trains were directed via turntables off the main line. A small office was attached to the western side of the goods shed. The site of the study building was initially occupied by a stable block with a number of small outhouses to the north. Around 1900 the goods yard was connected to the Wolverton & Stony Stratford Light Railway and the stable block was demolished.

Between 1900 and 1925 the study building was constructed of red brick in English bond, most likely as a larger and purpose-built administrative building. No original fixtures and fittings survived, apart from an internal wooden partition that would have formed a separate office space, most likely for the head clerk or manager.

***NEGATIVE***

***Aylesbury: Cole Road***

SP 8147 1208

In January AS carried out a watching brief on land at Ashmead Combined School as part of a planning condition attached to permission granted to a proposed development. This comprised a number of extensions and alterations to buildings

at the school, in addition to the demolition of an existing outbuilding.

HER entries indicated a potential for Iron Age and Roman occupational evidence since substantial features have been recorded at the nearby Walton Court Estate, west of the site. The watching brief observed no archaeological features or finds.

***Ivinghoe: The Old Brewery***

SP 9460 1600

A watching brief by NA in March at The Old Brewery recorded modern overburden throughout the investigation area. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

***Quainton: Shipton Lee, Grange Farm***

SP 7350 2080

A watching brief was carried out in October by JMHS while the building complex of the Grange was being redeveloped for modern housing which necessitated the wholesale refurbishment, restoration and in some cases, demolition of certain building elements. No archaeological features or deposits were noted.

***Stony Stratford: High Street***

SP 7886 4034

In April a watching brief was carried out by ASC during groundworks for an extension to 7A High Street. The proximity of the site to the High Street suggested it had the potential for the survival of archaeological remains that may have contributed to the understanding of the development of Stony Stratford. No pre-modern archaeological finds or features were observed within the trenches. One area of modern disturbance was recorded in the north-western part of the site, which may be connected to the construction of the bank on the adjacent plot.

***Winslow: Land east of Furze Lane***

SU 7644 2809

A magnetometer survey by TVAS in December prior to determination of an application for permission for residential development identified anomalies corresponding to the ridge and furrow still visible in the field, and plotted the extension

of this where no longer visible. The only other anomalies were magnetic spikes likely caused by buried iron objects.

***REPORTS NOT RECEIVED***

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

Astwood: Dovecote Farm – Trial trenching

Bierton: Land NE of Aylesbury – Geophysical survey

Chesham: Germain Street – Watching brief

Iver: Chandlers Hill – Watching brief

Mursley: Cowpasture Farm – Geophysical survey

Taplow: Taplow Quarry – Watching brief