

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

The following notes on fieldwork carried out in the county in 2016 (and some in 2015) have been compiled from information provided by commercial archaeological organisations and local societies, based on a list of projects provided by the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Historic Environment Records (HERs). The writer is grateful to those organisations and individuals who have provided this information for their assistance. Nevertheless, the report is incomplete, since some sites may still be ongoing or may not even have started, and not all organisations appearing on those lists have responded to requests for information. Therefore the regional journal *South Midlands Archaeology* should also be consulted.

The reader is reminded that the HERs maintained by Buckinghamshire County Council and Milton Keynes Council are the primary sources for more detailed information on sites and finds. For non-commercial enquiries both HERs are available online via the national Heritage Gateway: [www.heritagegateway.org.uk](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk).

Summaries for 2017 should be sent to the Associate Editor at [recsbuckseditor@gmail.com](mailto:recsbuckseditor@gmail.com), by 30 November 2018 at the latest.

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

AA	Albion Archaeology
AS	Archaeological Solutions
BHS	Bancroft Heritage Services
CA	Cotswold Archaeology
CfA	CfA Archaeology
FA	Foundations Archaeology
IA	Icknield Archaeology
JMHS	John Moore Heritage Services
KDK	KDK Archaeology
MoLA	Museum of London Archaeology
OA	Oxford Archaeology
SAS	Southern Archaeological Services
WA	Wessex Archaeology

## **PREHISTORIC**

### ***Aylesbury: Woodlands***

SP 860 315 (centre)

Trial trenching undertaken by MoLA between August and October in advance of proposed development of this site, largely targeted anomalies detected in an earlier geophysical survey which identified six potential areas of archaeological interest. A total of 146 trenches were excavated, revealing archaeological remains comprising ditches, pits and furrows in 106 of the trenches. The trenching confirmed the results of the geophysical survey with regards to the presence of Roman enclosures (Site B), a Bronze Age pit and Roman enclosures (Site C), a Roman settlement (Site D) and an Iron Age enclosure (Site F). The land has been under cultivation from at least the medieval period.

### ***Calverton: Fountaine Land, Passenham Quarry***

SP 7800 3880

An evaluation was undertaken by MoLA in September on a site of proposed gravel extraction. Out of the 22 excavated trenches, seven contained features but only two were datable. These comprised a pit of late Neolithic date containing sherds from at least three Grooved ware vessels, worked flint and carbonised hazelnut remains. A ditch produced pottery of probable Roman date. Several irregular undated linear ditches and an irregular undated pit were also present.

### ***Castlethorpe: The Maltings***

SP 8002 4420

An evaluation was undertaken by CFA on land south of the Maltings in June. Five trenches were excavated, two of which produced an assemblage of Late Iron Age pottery from the fills of a pit and ditch at the southwest end of the site. The features and recovered pottery suggest a possible continuation of the Iron Age and Romano-British

settlement found immediately to the north of the site at Maltings Farm in 2012 (*Records* 54, 209).

***Denham: New Denham Quarry***

TQ 0447 8472

WA undertook an evaluation on 10ha of land at New Denham Quarry, ahead of a planning application to extend the present extraction area and restore the site to an outdoor activities centre. Eight of the trenches produced no archaeological remains: the ninth trench revealed a palaeochannel associated with worked flint of probable Mesolithic date. The flint was similar to material which has been found on numerous occasions in the area and forms an archaeological resource of national importance.

***Long Crendon: Chilton Road***

SP 6899 0960

In August, an evaluation was undertaken by CA to inform a planning application for a site in Chilton Road. A previous geophysical survey had identified a possible Iron Age hillfort, the presence of which was confirmed during the evaluation. A small assemblage of Late Bronze Age/Iron Age pottery was retrieved from several hillfort ditches and internal features including pits and ditches. Evidence of medieval/post-medieval ridge-and-furrow and modern agricultural ditches was also present.

***Maids Moreton: Towcester Road***

SP 7043 3580

In May an evaluation was undertaken by KDK at Scotts Farm, Towcester Road, in order to inform development proposals. The evaluation comprised 14 trenches across the site, which was covered by upstanding ridge and furrow, and revealed two small ditches within a single trench in the eastern field. These appear to pre-date the medieval field system and are possibly outliers forming part of a hinterland to the Iron Age / Romano-British farmstead located to the south-east of the site.

***St Leonards: Lanes End (Grim's Ditch)***

SP 9038 0752

A watching brief was carried out by SAS on the postulated course of the prehistoric earthwork

known as Grim's Ditch during demolition works at a former haulage yard. The monument for most of its course is scheduled, and comprises a bank and a ditch. A previous evaluation (Eyers 2015) confirmed the presence of a non-scheduled section of the ditch at this site. Its course was subsequently extrapolated along the north-west site boundary. Removal of concrete foundations exposed the upper south-eastern edge of the ditch for distance of c.13m, which was surveyed before being left *in situ*.

*Reference:*

Eyers J 2015 *Mount Pleasant, Taylors Lane, St Leonards, Bucks, HP23 6LQ: Archaeological Evaluation*. Chiltern Archaeol. rep. 132 (unpublished)

**ROMAN**

***Aylesbury: Aston Clinton Road***

SP 8484 1281

Between May and July MoLA undertook an excavation at Aston Clinton Road. Sparse features were found dating to the early to middle Iron Age (5th century BC to early-1st century BC) over a c100 by 50-metre area. These features included small gullies and a single pit: this low density of remains may suggest intermittent activity had taken place on the site at this time.

In the early to mid-1st century AD a farmstead was established. It comprised a late Iron Age/early Roman boundary ditch, a rectangular stock corral area, a midden-like organic layer, a pit cluster group and some small discrete features. In the mid-1st century to 2nd century a metalled trackway with fields laid at right angles to it was identified towards the eastern limit of the excavation. A roundhouse with associated discrete features was located at the heart of the settlement, focused within the northern perimeter of the site adjacent to the east of the trackway. A series of isolated pits were also present. In the 2nd century to 3rd/4th century a substantial sub-rectangular enclosure was constructed within a well-defined area in the north-east corner of the site. Within the enclosure were pits along with a large midden layer, but no structures were observed. Medieval furrows were recorded across the site. A report on this work is being finalised.

**Aylesbury: Broughton Crossing**

SP 8360 2145

Between July and September 2015, OA undertook a programme of strip, map and sample excavation at Broughton Crossing, followed by a watching brief in early 2016. The features on the site fall within four periods of occupation: pre-Roman, Roman, post-Roman – Saxon and medieval to post-medieval. Occupation was apparently continuous from the late Iron Age through to the Saxon periods, the main focus of activity being within the Roman era, from the late 1st to late 2nd centuries.

Over fifty Roman ditches formed the boundaries of fields and may have divided the landscape up into functionally distinct zones. The artefactual material was focused along the northern part of the site, suggesting a higher concentration of activity in that area. The remains may have been disturbed by the construction of the railway line in 1839.

Plough furrows, the remnants of ridge-and-furrow agriculture, were recorded in both the excavation and the watching brief. These may have been strip fields associated with the medieval settlements of Bierton and Broughton. A small number of pits contained medieval artefacts and indicate possible small-scale quarrying or extraction, but no evidence of medieval or later settlement was recorded on the site.

Nineteenth-century mapping for the area showed that there were ponds: these may have resulted from infilled quarrying. Post-medieval quarrying features of variable sizes were found within the site. Evidence was present across the site for post-medieval agricultural activity in the form of field drainage, indicating sustained attempts to utilise what were likely to be damp fields.

**Buckingham: Land East of Buckingham**

SP 7082 3451

An evaluation was undertaken by CA in September in advance of residential development. A Roman ditch and two pits containing pottery dating to the 2nd to 3rd centuries AD were identified. A possible medieval furrow was also present.

**Dinton: Cuddington Road**

SP 7578 1157

An excavation was carried out by JMHS at Springhill Stud, formerly Marsh Mead Farm, prior to the erection of farm outbuildings. The work began as an evaluation, but following the identification of significant archaeological features, a full excavation was undertaken.

The earliest features dated from the Iron Age or early Roman period and consisted of large pits, possible quarry pits and buried plough soil. Activity continued into the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, which features included an enclosure ditch. There appears to have been minimal activity at the site between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, with only one feature placed within this period. Activity increased during the 17<sup>th</sup> century, with several agricultural features being recorded and identified.

**Great Brickhill: Eaton Leys**

SP 888 329 (centre)

In August an evaluation by MoLA in advance of development, targeted geophysical anomalies at Eaton Leys. A single early-middle Roman cremation, located less than 200m to the south of the Scheduled Monument of the Roman town of *Magiovinium*, was the only feature uncovered in the northern part of the evaluation. One kilometre south of *Magiovinium*, further trenches also targeted geophysical anomalies. A settlement was located in the far south-western corner of the proposed development area where most of the features and artefacts were recovered and the geophysical survey suggested enclosures. The site seems to start in the early Roman period and continued at least to the mid-3rd century. One trench produced three early Roman features including a curvilinear ditch. A moderate quantity of pottery, mostly locally made jars, was recovered from these features.

**Padbury: Winslow Road**

SP 7246 3058

An evaluation carried out by MoLA in January prior to the proposed development of this site comprised seven trenches. Four parallel gullies were identified, two of which contained sherds of late Iron Age/Romano-British pottery. A single

posthole and shallow pit or gully terminal, both of uncertain date, were also identified. Earthworks of the medieval ridge-and-furrow field system survived across the site.

### ***Wavendon, Eagle Farm Primary School***

SP 9272 3814

MoLA undertook an evaluation in November to inform a planning application for the construction of a primary school. Two trial trenches, located on the north side of the site contained late Iron Age and early Roman features. The remaining five trenches revealed only furrows and land drains.

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

#### ***Aston Clinton: Aylesbury Road***

SP 8749 1249

Between November and December AA undertook trial trenching in advance of residential development of a c.2.25ha paddock to the rear of 93 Aylesbury Road. Ridge-and-furrow earthworks indicated that the site had formerly been under arable cultivation. In the north-eastern half of the site six large pits, eight small pits and eight ditches were identified. The features produced few artefacts and a broad medieval date is tentatively suggested.

#### ***Aston Clinton: Brook Farm***

SP 8770 1250

Between November and December AA carried out open-area excavation in advance of residential development at Brook Farm. The investigations uncovered evidence of Iron Age, Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval activity, although only medieval and post-medieval sub-surface features were present (Fig. 1).

The earliest remains took the form of residual Iron Age and Roman artefacts. Occasional abraded sherds of pottery indicate activity in the vicinity but not within the development area itself. This is unsurprising given the presence of Akeman Street, the Roman road from St Albans to Alchester, c.200m to the south and the Icknield Way c.1km to the east.

Medieval rectangular ditched enclosures and occasional pits and other ditches were mostly

confined to the southern portion of the site. Furrows associated with strip cultivation indicate that part of the site was open fields during this period. The enclosures were most probably small-scale livestock enclosures or meadows, conveniently sited near Bear Brook to allow the watering of animals. They lay on the periphery of medieval Aston Clinton, located beyond the limits of the development area to the south and east. The finds assemblage included two coins, a buckle and shoeing nails. It indicates that the enclosures and associated activity date to the 12th–14th centuries.

Also present was evidence for post-medieval field systems, some remnants of which survived as hedgerows or dips in the current landscape. It is clear that some of the medieval boundaries remained in use into the post-medieval period and beyond — some as late as 1814 when they were recorded on the enclosure award map. However, they had been removed by the time the 1861 map of Aston Clinton was surveyed.

Many of the ditches (medieval and post-medieval) drained down towards the brook (the south-west limit of the development area). Here, former channels attested to the ever-changing course of the brook. In one instance a former meander had been cut off as the stream was straightened by either natural action or human intervention. Several interesting finds were recovered from the former channel, including a 6th-century copper-alloy brooch, a mid-Saxon to 11th-century clay loom weight and a finger ring made of shale or a jet-like material.

Whilst no cut features of Saxon date were present within the development area, the presence of these artefacts in the former stream channel indicates contemporary activity in the vicinity. Early Saxon settlement at Aston Clinton has been postulated on the basis of the ‘-tun’ place-name (Masefield 2008, 205; Copley 1986, 5–6). Evidence of Saxon settlement activity was recovered from Woodlands roundabout, 1.5km to the west and a dispersed early Saxon cemetery was uncovered at Tring Hill Site D, 2.8km to the south-east (Masefield 2008, 5–16, 63–76).

#### ***References:***

- Copley G 1986 *Archaeology and Place-Names in the Fifth and Sixth Centuries*. Brit Archaeol Repts **147** (Oxford)  
Masefield R 2008 *Prehistoric and Later Settlement*

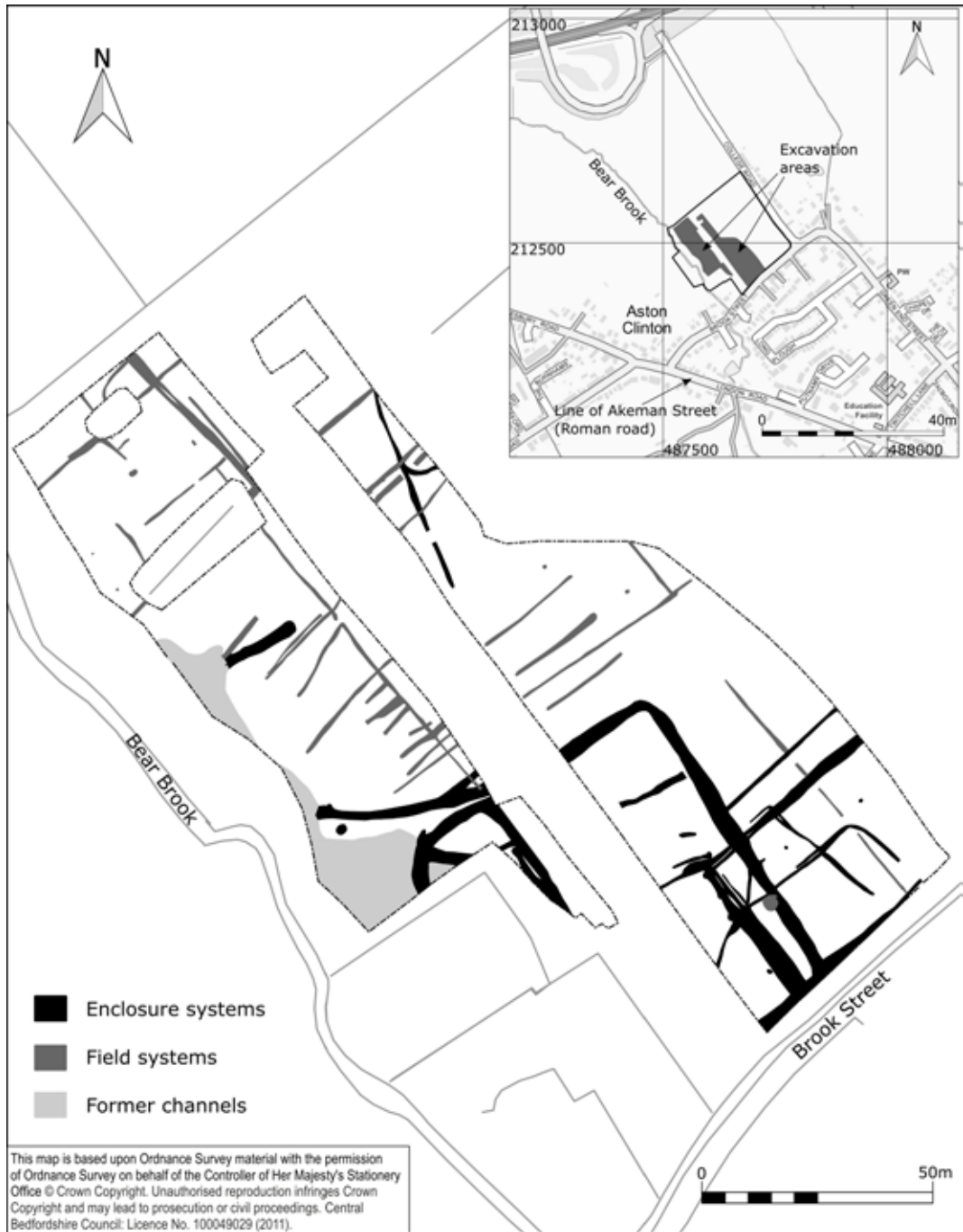


FIGURE 1 Brook Farm: site location and all-features plan

*and Landscape from Chiltern Scarp to Aylesbury Vale: The archaeology of the Aston Clinton Bypass, Buckinghamshire*, Brit Archaeol Reps 473 (Oxford)

**Brill: Temple Street**

SP 6560 1410

A watching brief was carried out by JMHS during the replacement of dwellings at 44 Temple Street. This revealed that the site was located on the edge of a dwelling founded in the 13th century, possibly associated with the nearby kilns; the core features excavated comprised an enclosure ditch and two pits which were found to contain evidence of domestic occupation. This occupation ended in the late 14th century. After a period of abandonment activity was resumed in the 16th century; this later phase was characterised by four rubbish pits, possibly associated with a nearby dwelling, and a ha-ha ditch associated with nearby Brill House, built in the 18th century.

**Buckingham: Hunter Street**

SP 6933 3352

A probable substantial boundary ditch of the 11th to 12th centuries, and several medieval build-up deposits were observed and recorded at the southern end of the site during a trial trench evaluation carried out by MoLA in September, in advance of a planning application for a new teaching centre and student accommodation.

**Haddenham: Gibson Lane**

SP 7405 0819

A watching brief and historic building assessment were undertaken at 2 Gibson Lane by JMHS in relation to alterations to an attached structure in the cartilage of this Grade II listed building. The watching brief noted three phases on the site, the earliest of which is assumed from pottery finds to be focused in the 11th century. Medieval features included five ditches, probably representing a series of recut boundaries of an enclosure. The next phase of activity is dated to the post-medieval period, possibly extending into the early 18th century and is represented by a probable quarry pit associated with the excavation of witchert from the knoll, perhaps for the purpose of building 2 Gibson Lane. This was

followed by alterations in the 19th century when the barn that was to be redeveloped, a limestone and witchert structure, was originally built.

**High Wycombe: All Saints' Church**

SU 8656 9308

Watching briefs were conducted by JMHS during an exploratory sondage in 2013 and additional groundworks in 2015, in order to determine the features around the south porch at All Saints' Church. The groundworks revealed the flint foundations of the porch and buttresses along the south wall, which are recorded as dating between 1273 and 1275. A medieval roof tile was recovered from a possible surface deposit surrounding the foundations. This indicated that the Penn-High Wycombe tile industry may have started producing roof tiles earlier than previously recorded. There was also evidence of later activity at the church, most likely dating from the 19th and 20th century and comprising reworking of parts of the wall in brick.

**Little Chalfont: Stony Lane**

TQ 0030 9810

In February, AA undertook trial trenching in support of a planning application for residential development of a c.11ha site in Stony Lane. The site is located on the northern margin of the village to the west of the lane and immediately to the south of the Chess valley.

Eleven trenches revealed a low density of features, most of which were undated. A small number of ditches and pits in the west may define elements of a field system and associated activity; the lack of artefacts suggests that there was no nearby settlement focus. The eastern part of the site contained a few dispersed, undated features, including (in the north-east corner) two furrows that attest to medieval or later cultivation.

**Ravenstone: North End**

SP 8503 5094

In 2013, AA undertook an evaluation in advance of proposed extensions to *Priory Lade*, in North End (*Records* 55, 302). 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. The work revealed traces of the priory church, as had conversion of the buildings in 1984.

In April, AA carried out a further programme of investigation in advance of the construction of the extensions, the foundations of which had been carefully designed to minimise their archaeological impact. Investigation of the small areas of impact revealed further structural remains, including wall footings and floors associated with the Priory, as well as evidence for their subsequent robbing. Fragments of architectural stonework and painted window glass were recovered.

***Winslow: Buckingham Road***

SP 7639 2850

CA undertook an archaeological evaluation of land off Buckingham Road in advance of commercial development of the site. Extant ridge-and-furrow earthworks were identified across most of the site, with an associated headland targeted by the evaluation trench located immediately north of these earthworks.

***POST-MEDIEVAL AND UNDATED***

***Aston Clinton: Chapel Drive***

SP 8805 1255

A detailed magnetometer survey by MoLA in April ahead of residential development identified a 19th-century field boundary and a modern pipeline on this site. Subsequently in May, 13 trial trenches were excavated, revealing nine ditches which probably represented field boundaries or drainage ditches from a medieval to post-medieval field system. One sherd of Roman pottery and one sherd of post-medieval pottery were recovered, along with a medieval iron spur.

***Aylesbury: Isis Close***

SP 4816 2112

An evaluation of land at Isis Close by CA in October in advance of residential development revealed an undated ditch.

***Aylesbury: Walton Street***

SP 8211 1357

A watching brief was carried out by JMHS during drainage and groundworks associated with the Aylesbury Waterside North scheme. The watching brief identified a drainage ditch of probable medieval date and a brick culvert and brick drain, both with wooden shuttering, dated to the 19th century, within the excavation for an attenuation tank. A well and garden soils dated to the 19th century were also recorded. In addition, alluvial deposits were encountered in the south-east part of the site.

***Broughton: Brooklands Farm Cottages***

SP 9045 4033

Historic building recording was carried out by SAS of two late Victorian farming estate 'cottages', north-east of the historic village of Broughton, prior to their demolition. The buildings comprised a pair of semi-detached, gable-fronted, two-storey dwellings, constructed in orange-red brick, with stone dressings to window and door openings, and roofed in Welsh blue-grey slate.

The cottages were erected in 1872 by gentleman farmer Roger William Giffard Tyringham, to house agricultural families who worked on his Broughton Estate. Beneath each gable was a dedicatory stone in the form of shield, two of which bore the initials 'RWGT', the other two with the date of construction. Each house contained original wooden fixtures, such as balustrade staircases, panelled doors and window casements. Of the two houses, No. 3 preserved more of its original character. Comparable estate houses exist in Broughton village.

***Buckingham: West Street***

SP 6948 3399

A watching brief was undertaken by CfA to the rear of 23 West Street, located close to the historic core of the town. Excavations for a new extension to the property in its rear yard revealed a 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup>-century pit or perhaps a ditch, possibly an early plot boundary, on the east side of the site. This was sealed by two layers of 19<sup>th</sup>-century made ground into which had been cut some 19<sup>th</sup>-century rubbish pits. No Saxon or medieval features were found.

***Buckingham: West Street***  
SP 6950 3390

CA undertook historic building recording of 29-30 West Street in October 2015 prior to proposed alteration works and confirmed that the Grade II\* listed building retained a 16<sup>th</sup>-century core with numerous later extensions and alterations.

***Calvert Green: Calvert Pit***  
SP 6952 2279

In August OA completed a programme of investigation prior to an extension of a former clay extraction quarry at Calvert. The fieldwork comprised two elements: a strip, map and sample excavation of c.1ha and trial trench evaluation.

The strip, map and sample excavation revealed an arrangement of shallow linear ditches with one part appearing to define a small enclosure. However, despite extensive excavation of the ditch fills, no artefactual evidence was encountered to suggest an ancient origin for these features or a more conclusive enclosure arrangement. Only occasional modern artefacts were recovered suggesting a 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century origin, with these ditches mostly appearing to converge upon the existing deeper drainage ditch aligned north-south across the site. It is likely that these reflect historical land drainage rather than more ancient, settlement-related activities. No archaeological features or deposits of significance were encountered within the evaluation.

***Clifton Hampden: Bridge End Cottage***  
SU 5464 9550

OA carried out the recording of a small internal stair at Bridge End Cottage prior to its replacement during construction works. The cottage is 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup>-century Grade II listed, one-and-a-half storey thatched building with possible 16<sup>th</sup>-century fabric and later extensions. It stands on the north side of the Thames, close to the 1867 bridge designed by George Gilbert Scott.

The stair was clearly a 19<sup>th</sup>-century replacement of an earlier stair, probably in the same location; no evidence of an earlier stair was found during the survey. It was a simple straight flight with winder design and showed signs of use and ongoing repairs. The doorway on the ground

floor was a simple plank door also dating to the 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

***Chinnor: Spriggs Holly Lane***  
SU 7657 9835

An evaluation was conducted by JMHS in advance of the proposed demolition of an existing dwelling and erection of a new building at Batt Hall, Spriggs Holly Lane. One trench was excavated to the east of the current house. No archaeological features were identified. Excavations during a subsequent watching revealed a section of robbed-out wall foundations of a Primitive Methodist Chapel, four un-dated pits and an early 20<sup>th</sup>-century boundary ditch.

***Denham: Village Road***  
TQ 0407 8706

In March, AA undertook a programme of historic building recording at Falcon Cottage, Village Road, prior to refurbishment and alteration of the Grade II listed cottage and a watching brief on the demolition of an existing rear extension and its replacement with a new structure.

Falcon Cottage was originally two cottages until converted into a single dwelling in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Examination of the historic fabric indicated a single construction phase, with a brick front and timber-framed rear and side walls. The design of the frontage suggests a probable early 18<sup>th</sup>-century construction date. Within the building there were few dateable features. The building provides an example of a type of compact, symmetrical plan that was introduced into smaller houses and cottages during the late 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Observation of the groundworks to the rear of the building provided an insight into the relatively recent history of the site. No features pre-dating the post-medieval period were identified, the earliest find being a residual sherd of 16<sup>th</sup>-century pottery. It is possible that the marked contrast between the northern and southern parts of the area reflect different land utilisation associated with the two original cottages.

The remains of two brick-built buildings on differing alignments were revealed in the southern part of the site. The heavily robbed and disturbed remains of an ancillary building adjacent to the



cottage correlate with a building depicted on the 1843 Tithe map. Traces of a second, possibly later, building with a brick floor were revealed further to the east.

Other activity included two large pits, containing small amounts of 17<sup>th</sup>- to 18<sup>th</sup>-century pottery, roughly contemporary with the original cottages. It is possible that the extensive deposits identified in the northern part of the site were an old cultivation soil. This could have been a vegetable patch, providing a contrast with the ancillary buildings on the southern part of the site.

***Great Horwood: School End Farm***

SP 7695 3124

OA carried out historic building recording on a barn in the curtilage of Grade II listed School End Farmhouse ahead of demolition, followed by a watching brief during the excavation of the foundations of a replacement building to the north-east of the barn.

According to map evidence, the barn was constructed between 1842 and 1880. It may have been built re-using the elm tie-beams from a building of half its width: alternatively, it was doubled in width before 1880 and a brick wall constructed along the centre of the building to support the beams. At some point in the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century it received a new roof and the slates, which may have already been in at least their second phase of use, were refitted.

On the available maps of 1842 onwards, no buildings are shown on the piece of land on which the replacement building was to be constructed. During the watching brief, an undated posthole was found along with a pit filled with early 20th-century domestic rubbish. It was also observed that a building referred to in the planning documents as being related to Second World War activities was likely to be the remains of a greenhouse.

***Haddenham: Land at Dollicott***

SP 739 091 (centre)

In August, an evaluation by MoLA comprising four trenches at Dollicott to inform a planning application for proposed housing development and associated roads identified one undated ditch.

***High Wycombe: Kitchener's Works***

SU 8557 9312

An historic building survey was undertaken by IA of the former Kitchener chair manufacturing works. The buildings are exclusively 20<sup>th</sup>-century in date, built in a traditional style soon after the site became part of the borough in 1901. The first occupant was William Styles Ellis. The nature of Ellis's business is not known, but chair manufacturing began on the site in 1922, when the factory was taken over by Burch and Alpe.

By the mid-1930s the business was being run by Morris, White and Boreham Ltd who went into receivership in 1935. The factory was offered for sale on 26th March 1935, when it comprised an office building, a separate two-storey block and an engine room. The works were later taken over by a company named Tyzacks and, in 1983, by Stewart Linford. The buildings latterly accommodated the Wycombe Living Chair Museum.

***Hillesden: All Saints' Church***

SP 6857 2876

A watching brief was conducted by JMHS to record and exhume three inhumations revealed during the excavation of service and soakaway trenches at All Saints' Church. In addition, the foundations of the church's west tower, graveyard soils and three probable graves were recorded. The latter were not excavated, as they were below the depth of the trenches. The three exhumed inhumations were re-interred beneath the floor of the church's west tower.

***Lavendon: Olney Road***

SP 9163 5355

A watching brief was undertaken by SAS at 8 Olney Road during groundwork for the restoration and conversion of a derelict 19<sup>th</sup>-century house, formerly a late Victorian post office and village store. The work augmented a historic building record made in 2015 which surmised that the building was already in existence prior to 1856 (Wilson 2016, 28). The house interior was re-examined after the stripping of lath and plaster from walls and ceilings, and the partial excavation of floors. Structural evidence was revealed that indicated pre-1840 construction date, supporting

cartographic evidence of a house at this location in 1801.

A small number of medieval pottery sherds were recovered from 19<sup>th</sup>-century floor make-up inside the house, possibly derived from an earlier tenement at the site. Foundation trenches for a new rear extension located two wells. The earliest was stone-built and probably belonged to the original house. The other, brick-built, was constructed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century. In addition, a wall safe was discovered, containing the birth certificate (1915) and marriage certificate (1939) of a former owner.

***Marlow: High Street***

SU 8495 8642

CA undertook a watching brief in December during groundworks for the construction of an extension to 66-70 High Street and recorded an undated, but probable post-medieval limestone courtyard surface. No further features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks.

***Medmenham: Danesfield House Hotel***

SU 8168 8439

During April 2016 OA carried out a trial trench evaluation at Danesfield House Hotel. Limited archaeological remains were uncovered during the works. With the exception of a single prehistoric pit all features could be associated with late 19<sup>th</sup>-century landscaping and garden activity or the RAF base established on the site in the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

***New Bradwell: Bradwell Road***

SP 8320 4118

Historic building recording was undertaken by BHS of an outbuilding within the curtilage of the Grade II-listed 'New Inn', Bradwell Road, as a condition of listed building consent prior to its demolition.

The 'New Inn' was opened in 1804 to serve the adjacent canal wharf and boatmen on the Grand Union Canal. By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century the stone-built public house had been extended to the south in brick, and was surrounded by a number of brick outbuildings (stables, granaries, coke and

salt houses, pigsties, brewhouse, wash-house etc), related to its function and that of the adjoining wharf. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century these outbuildings gradually disappeared, and the public house was subject to several phases of alterations.

The building forming the subject of the survey does not appear on Ordnance Survey mapping until 1969, though from its construction it probably dates from the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Most recently used as a garage and store, local sources suggest it was previously used as a fire station, housing a fire engine. A tall pole adjacent to the building is supposed to have carried an air-raid siren.

***Newport Pagnell: St John Street***

SP 8790 4360

In April a heritage statement, including historic building assessment, was prepared by BHS for 18-22 St John Street, to inform a planning application for construction of a new bar/restaurant, incorporating the existing buildings, which are Grade II listed, and new build to the rear of 22 St John Street.

During the post-medieval and later periods the undeveloped land on the site appears to have remained relatively undisturbed, though the creation of the car park to the rear of 22 St John Street appears to have resulted in reduction of levels at the south end of the plot.

18 & 20 St John Street are listed as being of early 19<sup>th</sup>-century date, though there is evidence to suggest that the building is earlier and was re-fronted at that date. Brick-built extensions to the rear of 20 and a separate two-storey outbuilding were all constructed before 1881, and were originally a two-storey cottage and workshops. There have been no major structural additions or removals since that date, other than those undertaken for conversion to a restaurant. Largely as a result of the latter, it appears that little of significance remains, other than the fabric of the building.

***Newport Pagnell: Tickford Street***

SP 8794 4367

In April a heritage statement was prepared for the 'King's Arms' public house, Tickford Street, to inform a possible listed building application for remedial works. The building, which was

constructed as a private dwelling, 'Tickford Lodge', probably in the late 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century, remained in private hands until it was sold to Charles Wells in the late 1960s and converted to a public house.

Tickford Lodge was a double-pile house of two storeys, with a cellar and attics. The stairwell (now altered) was unusually at right angles to the hall, and was lit by a large Venetian sash window, which survives. A particularly unusual feature is the ground-floor service passage on the north-west side of the house, with its own front door. Apart from these features, little remains of the original building apart from the surviving structure and roof. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century the house appears to have undergone refurbishment and extensions, the latter comprising bay windows to the front and rear. Some of the décor from this period survives in the bar.

Conversion of the building into a public house has involved significant alterations to the ground-floor layout, infilling the cellar, major alterations to the main stairs and the removal or blocking of all original fireplaces. Single-storey extensions have also been added to the south-east and south-west sides of the building to provide toilets and a cellar/store respectively.

***Newton Longville: Drayton Road***

SP 8490 3132

An evaluation was carried out by JMHS on land to rear of St Anne's Grange, Drayton Road, in order to inform a planning application for a residential development. No significant features dating from the medieval or post-medieval period were identified, but a single sherd of medieval pottery and several fragments of 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>-century pottery were recovered. Evidence was found of for a levelling layer over the site of an outbuilding, identified on Ordnance Survey maps and demolished in the late 1960s.

***North Crawley: High Street***

SP 2869 4681

A historic building record was made by SAS of a derelict Victorian timber-framed outbuilding at 36 High Street, erected at some time between 1864 and 1881 by the Woodings, a North Crawley family of carpenters and builders. The building consisted

of two adjoining box-framed timber structures, each constructed of hand-hewn timber, one of three bays with a rafter roof, the other of two bays but re-roofed in asbestos sheets. The two-bay structure was probably a wagon shed, while the three-bay structure served as sheds and a workshop for three terraced cottages, also built by the Woodings.

***North Crawley: High Street***

SP 2899 4669

An historic building record was made by SAS of a derelict timber-framed outbuilding at 46 High Street. Constructed of hand-hewn timber, it consisted of a box-frame of three bays with a ridged rafter roof covered in pantiles. The sill beams were formed of reclaimed timber from a medieval or post-medieval building. The outbuilding, first shown on the OS map of 1881, served part of a row of terraced cottages erected in 1864 by Lewis Wooding, a local carpenter and builder. It had been extensively restored and repaired in the late 19<sup>th</sup> / early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

***North Marston: 10 Church Street***

SP 7768 2259

A trial trench evaluation undertaken by MoLA in March, prior to proposed development of a single dwelling, identified an 18th-20th century shallow ditch and gully.

***Ravenstone, Stoke Goldington Road***

SP 8486 5042

In February a historic building survey was undertaken by BHS of the farm buildings at Yew Tree Farm, Stoke Goldington Road, prior to their refurbishment and conversion for residential use. The farm was established in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, possibly in the 1680s: one of the farm buildings may date from this period. The farm was probably established by the Finch family, who held the Ravenstone and Weston Underwood estates until the 1930s.

The first phase of new farm buildings, comprising a long narrow cow-house and a threshing barn, was constructed around a trapezoidal yard to the north-east of the farmhouse in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, probably by George Finch after he inherited the estate in 1769. The second phase of development, comprising a second yard north

of the threshing barn with a second cow-house and adjoining animal shelter, and a second animal shelter on the west side of the earlier yard, was constructed in the early-mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. By the 1930s the farm was in a poor state, and it was not until the 1970s that a final phase of development took place, involving conversion of some of the existing farm buildings to new functions, and the erection of two large steel-framed buildings on and adjacent to the north yard.

***St Leonards: Lanes End***  
SP 9038 0752

In January, a historic building record was made by SAS of a Second World War air-raid shelter at Lanes End. The structure was discovered by SAS during a site visit in 2015. Three-quarters of the shelter was below ground, the upper part covered with an earthen mound. The structure was rectangular with brick walls of single thickness and a concrete roof reinforced with scaffold tubes. Two entrances were discernible. Its interior had two components – a shelter, ventilated by a cast-iron pipe, and an ante-chamber. These were separated by a blast wall, double the thickness of the outer walls. Outside each entrance was a short length of concrete retaining wall. There was no indication of counterfort walls.

The underside of the roof bore the impressions of wooden shuttering which had evidently been lined with sheets of newspaper. Remarkably, the ink from at least four newspapers was partly preserved in the concrete, providing a *terminus post quem* for the construction of the air-raid shelter of 21<sup>st</sup> June 1940.

***Shenley Church End: Daubeney Gate***  
SP 8252 3680

CFA carried out an evaluation in March on land at Daubeney Gate in advance of development. Five trenches were excavated. In the western part of the site the trenches exposed three postholes, a single furrow of medieval or post-medieval date, and a linear feature filled with cobbles. The latter is associated with a track shown on the 1840 Tithe map. The eastern part of the site had been truncated by recent activity associated with the construction of nearby housing estates.

***Soulbury: Church Lane***  
SP 8825 2686

Between March and April AA maintained a watching brief on groundworks associated with the construction of two new dwellings on land at The Cottage, Church Lane. Plot 1 contained a series of pits, merging into a garden cultivation soil, with which they were probably contemporary. Domestic rubbish from the pits mostly dated to the Victorian period, although some later material was also present. There were fewer features in Plot 2, a series of ditches with relatively dark fills and modern artefacts at the surface. The features shared an alignment with an existing terrace and stable block; they are likely to be relatively modern, possibly defining parts of a garden or small land parcels.

***Stoke Goldington: High Street***  
SP 8381 4854

Two trenches were excavated by MoLA at 29 High Street in January, prior to proposed development. One post-medieval pit was identified.

***Stony Stratford: High Street***  
SP 7865 4052

In July and September a panel of timber framing and a cellar were recorded by BHS at 71 High Street, following a fire and subsequent demolition of this and the adjoining building, no. 73. The frame comprised part of the eastern gable end of an early timber-framed phase of the building, probably of late 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>-century date. The building was re-fronted in brick in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, probably in relation to one of the serious fires that swept the town at that time, and its original timber-framed frontage was dismantled. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the wall of no.69 adjoining the surviving section of frame was rebuilt in brick. There appears to have been no structural connection between no. 69 and the frame of no. 71.

The cellar, located beneath an extension to the rear of no. 71, is constructed of coursed ashlar, and is probably of 17<sup>th</sup>-century date, though the building above appears to have been a 19<sup>th</sup>-century rebuild in brick of an earlier structure with the same footprint. The cellar is accessed by a narrow flight of stairs, originally from within the afore-

mentioned extension. Noteworthy features include a large alcove at the southwest end, two niches in the north-west wall, a second alcove with a blocked opening in the north corner and a length of flat-bottom railway rail inserted as support for the floor above, probably in the 1920s or 1930s.

***Stony Stratford: Horsefair Green***

SP 7883 4028

In June OA undertook a watching brief on the excavation of service trenches on the south-eastern side of Stony Stratford Community Church, Horsefair Green. The watching brief revealed a tiled surface of probable 18<sup>th</sup>-century date which was post-dated by several brick-built shaft graves of 19<sup>th</sup>-century date, the upper parts of which were recorded and removed. Two earth-cut graves were also identified and recorded. Wall footings associated with the later phases of modifications to the church building were also identified.

***Stokenchurch: Wormsley Park***

SU 7394 9430

A watching brief was conducted by JMHS during the excavation of footings and grading of land for the construction of an auditorium at Wormsley Park. Grading to the north and south of the ha-ha identified the remains of a probable field boundary, while grading activity elsewhere failed to penetrate the subsoil. Excavations above the ha-ha wall uncovered the remains of a probable building constructed of timber and brick on a chalk platform, a possible Tudor conduit, and an earlier ha-ha produced evidence for a small area of medieval ridge and furrow in what was formerly a field called Home Field, a significant boundary marked on a map of 1759 and also a series of undated features from an area formerly called Haw Field.

***Taplow: Cliveden***

SU 9140 8553

OA was commissioned by the National Trust to undertake a watching brief to monitor the digging of a cable trench in the grounds to the north-east of the house. The trench extended through the eastern part of the overflow car park as well as alongside the Grand Avenue to the north of the

house. In some sections the cable was fixed to the wall: these areas were not monitored.

The trench in the overflow car park passed through an area where a tree-lined avenue is shown on a plan from 1749, but no clear evidence of this avenue was found. Aligning historic and modern maps, it appears that the trench may have been just to the east of the main avenue, which would have had a hard surface in the early and mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. This would have been the type of surface feature which would leave little archaeological evidence.

Historic maps suggest that the area which now comprises the overflow car park may have had a temporary use during the First World War. A distinct smaller area was laid out with simple tracks, probably during the Second World War: this area later became the National Trust's overflow car park. The current investigation has uncovered evidence of various 20<sup>th</sup>-century alterations and it is likely that they relate more to WW2 than WW1. The evidence includes modern make-up layers beneath the main exit road and also in the section of trench immediately to the south of it.

***Thornborough: Lower End Farm***

SP 7394 3383

In August an historic building appraisal was carried out by KDK on outbuildings to the rear of Lower End Farmhouse as part of the pre-planning application process. Lower End Farmhouse is a Grade II-listed building dating from the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The outbuildings which, like the farm are stone-built, date from the 19<sup>th</sup> century and are all that remain of a long range of farm buildings. They have all been extensively rebuilt and reconfigured internally.

***Wavendon: Lower End Road***

SP 9149 3755

In April and September KDK undertook an evaluation at the Gables, Lower End Road, prior to redevelopment of the site. Six trenches were excavated revealing only a single, undated posthole on the eastern side of the site. Much of the site appears to have been truncated, probably prior to the construction of the haulier's yard and depot which previously occupied it.

**Weston Turville: New Road**

SP 8569 1134

CFA carried out an evaluation in March on a proposed housing development on land next to New Road: four trenches were excavated. No archaeological features were identified during the work except for evidence of ridge-and-furrow ploughing, which was upstanding on the south-east half of the site.

**Winslow: Furze Lane**

SP 7643 2810

A trial-trench evaluation comprising 15 trenches was carried out by MoLA in January, prior to proposed development. One undated drainage gully was identified.

**NEGATIVE****Aston Abbots: The Green**

SP 8480 1997

In May a watching brief was carried out by KDK at 11 The Green, during the construction of a single detached dwelling. The site appeared to have been truncated, most likely during the construction of the adjacent house. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed.

**Beaconsfield: London End**

SU 9470 9000

In April 2016 OA undertook an evaluation at 38-58 London End in advance of proposed redevelopment residential and commercial use. The site is located within the conservation area of the historic town and to the rear of properties along the High Street, with the potential to contain medieval and post-medieval remains. The evaluation consisted of five trenches, which revealed a general sequence of late post-medieval to Victorian topsoil, sealed by modern make-up deposits and surfaces. A few modern pits were identified at the west end of the area as well as a service trench that truncated these deposits.

**Buckingham: West Street**

SP 69280 33987

MoLA undertook a trial trench evaluation in November in advance of proposed residential development at Nursery Bungalow, West Street. Successive layers of alluvium, areas of made ground, and modern disturbance were found. The latter two were probably related to the former nursery on the site.

**Chalfont St Peter: The Grange**

SU 9988 9061

WA excavated ten evaluation trenches on land at Holy Cross Convent School, The Grange. Three undated ditches were excavated, each on a different alignment. Previous phases of work had identified Neolithic and Bronze Age archaeology, but no dating evidence was recovered on this occasion. Large quantities of unstratified worked flint were recovered, although this was not closely datable. A single residual fragment of prehistoric pottery was recovered from a modern context.

**Cholesbury: Cholesbury Lane**

SP9299 0710

During a watching brief carried out by MoLA in June during the groundworks for a 'garden room' at the Old Manor House, Cholesbury Lane, only a modern brick-built septic tank and associated structures were encountered.

**Gerrards Cross: land north-west of Golf Course**

TQ 0146 9012

In March FA undertook a trial-trench evaluation on an area of land to the northwest of Gerrards Cross Golf Course, prior to the construction of a reservoir pond. The evaluation comprised the excavation of four 30m long evaluation trenches within the development area, one targeted on an anomaly identified in a geophysical survey undertaken in November 2015.

No archaeological features were present within the evaluated areas and the targeted geophysical anomaly was found to be a very shallow band of a slightly more clayey subsoil. Other trenches showed a build-up of colluvial sediments in a shallow northwest-southeast aligned valley and

a natural hollow. Two fragments of undiagnostic worked flint were found in subsoil and upper colluvial deposits. Both showed heavy post-depositional damage and were almost certainly residual.

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

An evaluation at 4 Marston Road was undertaken by MoLA in July to determine the likely impact of proposed development on the archaeological resource. Post-medieval and modern make-up layers were cut by two pits and a ditch. These features were then sealed by modern make-up layers.

***Hanslope: Long Street***  
SU 5990 8800

OA undertook a trial trench evaluation in October. Six trenches were excavated, but no significant archaeological activity was identified and no artefacts were recovered.

***High Wycombe: Hughenden Manor***  
SU 8599 9505

A magnetometer survey of c.2.3ha by MoLA in November prior the laying of a new sewer pipe detected only two modern service pipes. No evidence of features of archaeological interest was found.

***Little Horwood: Wood End***  
SP 7934 3077

In August 2015 KDK undertook a watching brief at Apple Tree Cottage, 24 Wood End, as a planning condition for an extension to the building. The footings were excavated under archaeological supervision, but no features or artefacts of archaeological interest were revealed.

***Ludgershall: Duck Lane***  
SP 6641 1778

A test-pit evaluation was carried out by JMHS at Kiln House, Duck Lane. No archaeological features related to the local medieval pottery and production site were encountered. The finds were

mainly of modern date, with occasional residual fragments of late medieval pottery and tile.

***Preston Bissett: Church Farm***  
SP 6572 2993

A watching brief was undertaken by IA at Church Farm during the conversion of disused farm buildings to residential units. The farm lies in the historic core of the village, close to the church, but no significant archaeological features or artefacts were observed. Further works will be monitored during 2017.

***Singleborough: Singleborough Lane***  
SP 7672 3205

A watching brief was maintained by IA during the construction of an extension at Ivy Cottage, Singleborough Lane. The area is within an area of potential medieval occupation and new extension was built on the site of an earlier extension to the building. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were observed.

***Stoke Hammond: Fenny Road***  
SP 8825 2964

A watching brief during geotechnical investigations on land at Fenny Road was carried out by CA in September. No finds or deposits of archaeological significance were identified.

***Winslow: Grandborough Road***  
SP 7672 2739

An evaluation was undertaken by IA on land adjacent to Tinker's Corner, Grandborough Road, on the periphery of the medieval settlement. Eleven trial trenches were excavated but no significant archaeological features or artefacts were present.

***Wolverton: Millers Way***  
SP 8193 4029

CFA carried out an evaluation on the site for a new exhibition hall to the west of Milton Keynes Museum. Three trenches were opened but no archaeological features were detected.

**REPORTS NOT RECEIVED**

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

Denham: Denham Park Farm, excavation

Marlow: 79-81 High Street, evaluation

Marlow: Portland Gardens, excavation

Aylesbury: Pebble Lane, watching brief

Woughton on the Green: Mercure Parkside Hotel, watching brief

Wing: Dormer Avenue, excavation & watching brief

Worminghall: Clifton Road

Weston Turville: land off Aston Clinton Road, excavation

Stowe: school gardener's compound, evaluation & excavation

Stowe: boy's boarding sch. & West House, evaluation

Stowe: Stowe School phase 3: evaluation

Quarrendon: Berryfields MDA, excavation

Edlesborough: Cow Lane, evaluation

Haddenham: 23 High Street, excavation

Long Crendon: 18 Chearsley Road, evaluation

Long Crendon: High Street, watching brief

Long Crendon: Thompson's Farm, watching brief

Burnham: East Burnham Quarry, excavation

Taplow: Berry Hill Quarry