

# NOTES

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

The following notes on fieldwork carried out in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes in 2017 (some in 2016) have been compiled from information provided by commercial archaeological organisations and local societies, based on lists of projects provided by the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Historic Environment Records (HERs). The writer is grateful to all those organisations and individuals who have provided this information for their assistance. Nevertheless, the report is incomplete, since some sites may still be ongoing or may not even have started, and unfortunately, as usual, not all organisations appearing on those lists have responded to requests for information. Therefore, the regional journal *South Midlands Archaeology* should also be consulted.

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

Summaries for 2018 should be sent to the Associate Editor at [recsbuckseditor@gmail.com](mailto:recsbuckseditor@gmail.com), by 30 November 2019 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
HN	The Heritage Network
JMHS	John Moore Heritage Services
KDK	KDK Archaeology
MoLA	Museum of London Archaeology
OA	Oxford Archaeology
PCA	Pre-Construct Archaeology
TVAS	Thames Valley Archaeological Services

### ***PREHISTORIC***

#### ***Aston Clinton, Aylesbury Road*** SP 8749 1249

Between May and June, AA undertook an open-area excavation within the northern half of a paddock to the rear of 93 Aylesbury Road, targeted on features revealed during previous trial trenching (*Records* 58, 146).

Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age boundary ditches represent the earliest features. They included two sides of an enclosure that extended beyond the north-west edge of the site. The course of a former channel of the nearby Bear Brook may have defined one of the other sides of the enclosure. (A similar feature was revealed during excavation on the other side of the watercourse at Brook Farm (*Records* 58, 146–7). No associated pits or postholes were revealed, although a number of irregular hollows left by vegetation growing within the historically wetter ground had silted up during the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age. The location of the enclosure and its limited finds assemblage suggest that any related settlement focus is likely to have lain to the west and north-west of the site.

Later features were largely associated with the site's agricultural use during the medieval and post-medieval periods, consisting of a series of furrows pre-dating some upstanding ridge and furrow earthworks within the site. Historical mapping and aerial photography indicate that the site lies within an area of field systems that would have adjoined the medieval settlement of Aston Clinton. A distinct area temporarily set aside for quarrying, probably during the late medieval/early post-medieval period, was also revealed.

#### ***Aston Clinton, Aylesbury Road*** SP 8698 1223

Two small areas of land at Aylesbury Road were excavated by TVAS on the site of a new housing development. One area contained only modern

features but the other revealed a Middle Bronze Age ditch and an early Roman ditch.

### **Haddenham, Aston Road**

SP 7458 0839

An excavation by CA on land north of Aston Road identified a Late Bronze Age ditch, a probable Iron Age ditch and pit and a number of broadly prehistoric postholes. Late medieval/early post-medieval furrows and post-medieval field boundaries were also present.

### **Little Brickhill, Eaton Leys**

SP 8894 3317

On land at Eaton Leys, an evaluation by CA recorded a small pit containing a sherd of prehistoric pottery. Features of Late Iron Age/Early Roman date were identified 330m south of the Roman settlement of *Magiovinium*. Two trackways running south from the settlement were adjoined by a series of enclosures. Quarry pits, ditches and pits containing domestic waste were also identified, as were nine dispersed possible cremations.

### **Stoke Mandeville, Lower Road**

SP 8273 1146

An excavation by CA on land off Lower Road identified a Bronze Age ditch which probably formed part of a field system or land division. A small quantity of animal bone and Late Bronze Age pottery was retrieved from the ditch and included a sherd decorated with a shoulder cordon with tool-made vertically incised lines (Fig. 1a). Similar pottery was retrieved from two pits of an undetermined function located either side of the ditch. The larger of these (Fig. 1b) produced a sherd with a fingernail decoration on the body, similar in style to Late Bronze Age decorated assemblages from Southern England (Barrett 1980, 302). The smaller pit contained a moderate assemblage of animal bone and pottery, one sherd of which was made with a finer flint temper than the majority of the assemblage. A number of natural features potentially relating to Bronze Age tree clearance were present, some of which contained Bronze Age pottery. The pottery assemblage for the site as a whole is typical of Late Bronze Age domestic assemblages from this region and is suggestive of

settlement in the vicinity. A Roman field boundary ditch and probable medieval furrows were also present. (See also the note in this volume by Banks, Stansbie & Whelan – Editor)

Barrett, J. 1980 'The Pottery of the Late Bronze Age in Lowland England', *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* 46, 297–319

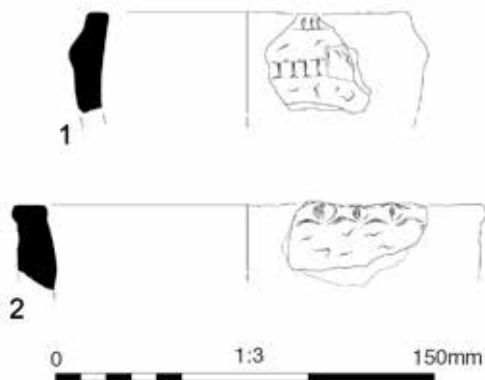


FIGURE 1 Bronze Age pottery from Lower Road

### **Wexham, Uxbridge Road**

SU 9985 8095

TVAS are maintaining an extended ongoing watching brief on gravel extraction at George Green Quarry, off Uxbridge Road, in the hopes of recording Palaeolithic deposits. Fieldwork for the first areas of extraction (May 2017), including detailed sedimentological assessment, revealed no artefacts of Palaeolithic date, nor any deposits which may have contained in-situ Palaeolithic remains. Preliminary results indicate Late Bronze Age and Iron Age features are present, along with probably residual earlier Bronze Age pottery, and very limited evidence of Roman land use.

## **ROMAN**

### **Aylesbury, Berryfields**

SP 787 160 (centre)

In July and August 2016, OA undertook excavation of an area measuring 0.64ha at Berryfields. This work filled a gap left by a series of earlier excavations undertaken sporadically from 2007 to 2014 in advance of residential development.

A ladder settlement of middle Roman date had

been previously identified during evaluation to the west of the area and has been preserved in situ. The current phase of excavation identified the presence of two related enclosures on the same alignment extending to the south-east in the later Roman period, suggesting expansion of the settlement in this direction. A single waterhole of middle Iron Age date was identified at the junction of three ditches, which although undated may represent field boundaries. This is related to a wider landscape of middle Iron Age activity belonging to a settlement with its focus in the west and revealed by an earlier phase of work.

***Aylesbury, Weedon Road***

SP 8107 1486

An evaluation by CA at St Michael's RC School revealed an isolated late prehistoric posthole and two probable Roman field ditches. Several post-medieval quarry pits, a trackway and five small pits were also present.

***Beaconsfield: A355 Relief Road***

SU 9510 9075

An evaluation comprising fifty-four trenches was undertaken by OA in March, on the proposed line of the Beaconsfield Eastern Relief Road. Seventeen of the trenches were devoid of archaeology. There was a scatter of undated ditches and probable pits in the northern field that represent human activity of one or more periods. The absence of finds suggests that this activity was peripheral to settlement. The ring ditch suggested by a previous geophysical survey was investigated but proved to be a large pit containing finds indicating an 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup>-century date. The purpose of this feature is still unclear. Finds from the north-west end of the site were largely post-medieval except for two flint knives, a whetstone and a couple of small pieces of Roman pottery. Trenches alongside the eastern edge of the northern field contained colluvial layers overlaying natural geology as well as some ditches and a pit. None of the ditches contained dating evidence, but the pit contained small fragments of early Roman pottery, showing that the colluvium here was Roman or later.

Archaeological features were more distinct and more numerous in the central and southern part of the site, where concentrations of struck flints

and Roman pottery were found, as well as a small piece of possibly Roman window glass, fired clay and burnt flint. This area also produced evidence of two enclosures and a charcoal-filled pit. Residual struck flint was recovered from a number of trenches and two pits. One of the pits was 5m across, was not bottomed and so could represent a shaft rather than a pit. Post-medieval field boundaries were also found.

***Bow Brickhill, Crossroads Farm***

SP 892 341 (centre)

A magnetometer survey of c62ha of land east of Fenny Stratford was undertaken by MOLA between December 2017 and March 2018 to map areas of potential archaeological interest within a proposed development site on land north-west of Crossroads Farm. The survey area lay to the north of the scheduled remains of the Roman town of *Magiovinium*. A Roman road was detected leading north from the town (cf *Records* 29 (1987), 24 & fig. 19), with suburban settlement or industrial remains lying to either side, and a separate area of Roman suburbs was detected in the southernmost part of the survey area. Few archaeological remains were detected elsewhere, apart from a large isolated enclosure of possible Iron Age or Roman date and medieval to early post-medieval ridge and furrow.

***Buckingham, Osier Way***

SP 6921 3263

A trial-trench evaluation was undertaken by PCA in October and November on land off Osier Way, to investigate the potential for archaeological remains prior to the submission of a planning application for development. The investigation demonstrated that whilst much of the site has little potential for archaeological remains above a general background scatter within the subsoil, the fringes of some form of activity of Romano-British to medieval date were noted in the south-east part. Whilst most of the anomalies seen in a previous geophysical survey were shown to be either geological or of modern date, two parallel linear anomalies were shown to represent two ditches of Romano-British date. The diversity and quantity of material recovered from the two features indicate probable occupation in the vicinity, beyond the proposed development area. Agricultural furrows

were recorded across the site and dated from the early medieval to the post-medieval period. Also of note was the presence of drainage ditches filled with horn cores at the north end of the site, as it represents a departure from the normal use of angular stone in such circumstances and suggests that butchery (or de-horning) of cattle occurred in sufficient numbers to make such an exploitation possible.

***Buckingham, Tingewick Road***

SP 6865 6649

AVDC granted planning permission for the erection of up to 400 dwellings within two parcels of land located either side of Tingewick Road, north of the A421. Geophysical survey and subsequent trial-trench evaluation demonstrated that the southern parcel of land between Tingewick Road and the A421 contained significant heritage assets. In November and December, AA undertook open-area excavation in four discrete areas, three of which contained archaeological remains.

The most significant remains dated to the late Iron Age–early Roman period; they represented isolated enclosures and ditches on the periphery of a settlement focus that lay to the east. Several ditches showed evidence of re-cutting, indicating that they were maintained over an extended period. A small assemblage (7kg) of contemporary pottery and fired clay (1.2kg), almost entirely of local provenance, was recovered. The limited assemblages of animal bone and charred plant remains were typical of a rural farmstead of the period, but the quantities were too small to support any detailed analysis of the site's environment or its arable economy.

***Cheddington, Mentmore Road***

SP 9185 1751

An evaluation by CA on land between Long Marston Road and Mentmore Road recovered a sherd of residual later prehistoric pottery within a Roman ditch. Several phases of Roman rectilinear enclosures yielded a finds assemblage indicative of domestic activity in the vicinity, including pottery and burnt animal bone. Medieval or post-medieval ridge-and-furrow remains and a post-medieval trackway were also present.

***Denham, Denham Park Farm***

TQ 0215 9021

Excavations were undertaken by AS in advance of mineral extraction recorded phases of late Bronze Age and Roman activity. The late Bronze Age features were concentrated on a small area in the western part of the site. They consisted of two ditches, representing boundaries or enclosures and a large number of pits and postholes, including at least one concentration which may represent a structure. The late Bronze Age archaeology recorded at Denham Park Farm appears to represent activity adjacent to, or on the periphery of, a settlement that would have commanded views of the surrounding landscape, particularly the valley of the river Colne.

The Roman archaeology consisted of a set of boundary ditches representing a field system or set of enclosures and associated pits located in the western part of the site. Further Roman features were sparsely distributed across the eastern part of the site. To the north of the Roman enclosures was a focus of industrial activity associated with iron smelting. This has been tentatively dated as Roman due to its proximity to the concentration of Roman activity. However, dateable ceramic evidence from these features is of late Bronze Age date, which clearly must be residual. This type of industrial activity is not unusual for this area; sites across the Solent-Thames region attest small-scale ironmaking, including the continuation of prehistoric traditions alongside shaft furnaces. The Roman activity here may represent areas appended to a low-status agricultural settlement in the immediate vicinity, but alternatively could represent a small part of a larger estate focussed on the villas and high-status sites known from the Colne valley.

***Long Crendon, Chearsley Road***

SP 6970 0921

Results of archaeological excavations at Madges Farm by TVAS between May and October in advance of a housing development are still being analysed, but the site consisted primarily of dense masses of intercutting pits, mostly of Iron Age date, with much less significant Roman, medieval and post-medieval components. Ditches and post-built structures were also present.

**Longwick, Thame Road**

SP 7875 0525

In April, OA was commissioned to undertake a trial-trench evaluation comprising sixteen trenches on land adjacent to Thame Road, in advance of development. The evaluation confirmed the presence of a few linear features, on an approximately NW-SE alignment. Some in the two most northerly fields were parallel with present-day field boundaries. Roman pottery was recovered from one of these linear features but the rest remain undated. Medieval pottery was recovered from unstratified contexts.

In June and July OA returned to the site to carry out a targeted excavation of some of these features. Two areas were excavated. The excavation revealed part of a possible Roman trackway orientated NNW-SSE, formed by two ditches 10m apart containing Roman ceramic building material and pottery. This trackway may have linked to the Lower Icknield Way (a prehistoric or Roman trackway) to the south. The excavation also revealed a number of undated parallel ditches orientated north-west to south-east, which may be evidence of medieval to early post-medieval strip farming.

**Olney, Walkers Bridge Field**

SP 8966 5281

Monitoring by AS of excavations for the footings of the new agricultural building in the north-eastern corner of Walkers Bridge Field revealed a Roman ditch, orientated north-west/south-east, and a Roman pit which cut an undated pit. The fill of the latter consisted of compact pale grey soil with red, orange and yellow mottling and crushed limestone. This feature may have been a setting for a large post, suggesting the Roman pit may represent deliberate removal of the post.

**Pitstone, Marsworth Road**

SP 9351 1546

An evaluation by CA on land between Marsworth Road and Vicarage Road identified several probable Roman field system ditches, later re-cut by ditches belonging to a medieval field system. Undated ditches and postholes were also present.

**Wavendon, Glebe Land**

SP 917 392 (centre)

A geophysical survey by MOLA covering c9ha of the Glebe Land development site was undertaken in July. The survey detected a possible enclosure and other, less distinct, anomalies which may relate to field boundary ditches of broadly late prehistoric to Roman date. Remnants of medieval to early post-medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation were also recorded extending across almost the entire survey area.

In August, 33 evaluation trenches were excavated across the site. At the south edge of the development area were two ditches and two pits which dated to mid-1<sup>st</sup> to mid-late 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD. These features were likely associated with a Roman droveway recorded less than 100m to the south at Magna Park. In the north half of the area were eight undated, small ditches, two of which were closely parallel. These were severely truncated and hard to interpret but may have formed a possible trackway.

**SAXON & MEDIEVAL****Haddenham, High Street**

SP 7398 0852

A small excavation by TVAS in advance of housing re-development at 23 High Street explored mainly medieval settlement features. Results are still being analysed, but it appears the main phase of occupation was early medieval, with little if any continuity into the later medieval period, similar to results from other excavations in Haddenham.

**Long Crendon, Wainwrights**

SP 6975 0861

Development of a 1.9ha plot for housing was preceded by an investigation carried out by TVAS in April and May. This consisted of magnetometer survey and evaluation trenching, which led to two areas being targeted for excavation. The excavation revealed three north-south ditches, probably all of prehistoric date (some certainly later Bronze Age), a curving ditch and a few other features, more certainly of early/middle Anglo-Saxon date and indicating occupation of this period. Finds were

few, but the Anglo-Saxon chronology is supported by a 7th- to 8th-century radiocarbon date.

***Shabbington, The Vines***  
SP 6659 0711

Excavation was undertaken by TVAS in May and June on a small residential development in the heart of the village. This revealed medieval pits and boundary ditches, also a small amount of residual Roman pottery.

***Soulbury, Liscombe Park***  
SP 8858 2565

In March a trial-trench evaluation was carried out by MOLA at Liscombe Park, in advance of submission of a planning application for a proposed swimming pool and pool house to the south-west of the main house. The works found medieval ditches and pits, probably dating to the 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. Primary butchery waste was found in the ditches. Probable evidence for cereal processing or cereal storage was recovered from a large pit. The site is directly west of the deserted hamlet of Liscombe and presumably the remains recovered were agricultural activity associated with it. After a period of abandonment a large post-medieval boundary was recorded. Neonate or juvenile cattle, sheep and pig bones from this ditch suggest a range of animals were being bred on this site.

***Swanbourne, Mursley Road***  
SP 8040 2731

Four trenches were cut by AS prior to residential development, revealing finds and features in the north-eastern half of the site. The earliest features were of Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age date and comprised two ditches and a pit. The latter, a discrete feature, was suggestive of settlement. Two medieval (11th – 12th / 13th century) ditches, were also recorded. Pottery sherds were small in number (two in each feature) and abraded, so it is possible that the pottery is residual. A residual late medieval (15th – 16th century) peg tile was present. Post-medieval and modern features were also revealed, including ditches and a hollow way.

***POST-MEDIEVAL***

***Bierton, Cane End Road***  
SP 8410 1686

JMHS carried out an evaluation of land north of Cane End Road in November, in advance of a new crematorium. The eight trenches opened were mostly devoid of archaeological features, though furrows on an east-west alignment were present within some of the trenches. Three modern features were identified and a post-medieval ditch was excavated.

***Bradwell, Bradwell Road***  
SP 8320 4118

Historic building recording was undertaken in January by BHS of a large outbuilding within the curtilage of the Grade II-listed *New Inn* in New Bradwell, 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.) which were 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 a fire station, housing a fire engine. A tall pole adjacent to the building is believed to have carried an air-raid siren.

***Calverton, Upper Weald***  
SP 7995 3775

BHS undertook historic building recording in November of an outbuilding at Fairfield Farm, Upper Weald, prior to conversion for residential use. The building was constructed, probably c.1877, as the coach house and stables for Fairfield House,

the residence built at that time for the steward of the estate of Lord Egmont. There is little evidence of its subsequent history, but it appears to have retained those functions until the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century before changing to its present use as a chemical store and workshop, for which it earned the epithet ‘The Old Tool Store’.

The building is a single-storey brick structure with brick floors under a boarded roof, now clad in modern machine-made pantiles. Internally there are two rooms, separated by a full-height brick partition wall, the coach house being at the south-west end. The larger stable was originally divided by timber partitions into two loose boxes, with an open area between. The timber partitions and other fittings, such as iron hay baskets in the rear of the loose boxes, have since been removed and a work bench installed. Externally, the building retains most of its original door

furniture and its original metal-framed windows with ‘hit-and-miss’ ventilation, made at a foundry in Bedford.

### ***Dinton, Dinton Castle***

SP 7654 1155

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was carried out by MOLA at Dinton Castle between March and April 2017. The works, which observed service runs and ground interventions on the site (Fig. 2), formed part of an approved planning application for restoration and refurbishment of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century folly as a residential dwelling. An Anglo-Saxon inhumation cemetery was excavated adjacent to the site in 1994 (Hunn, Lawson & Farley 1994). Archaeological features identified during the current works included a limestone wall, two small gullies, four



FIGURE 2 The site at Dinton during excavation work, looking north-west

post-medieval pits, a section of metalled footpath trackway and a disturbed inhumation burial. The human remains are thought to be charnel from the Saxon cemetery which were disturbed and reburied during construction of the folly.

Hunn A, Lawson J & Farley M 1994 *The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Dinton, Buckinghamshire, Anglo-Saxon Studies in Archaeology & History* 7, 85–148

### ***Great Linford, Linford Manor***

SP 8516 4233

A watching brief by CA in the park at Linford Manor recorded several post-medieval stone features, possibly relating to a structure at the Hine Well, first shown on an estate map of 1641 (BAS 623/43).

### ***Haddenham, Haddenham Airfield***

In response to an outline planning condition for the redevelopment of land south of Haddenham Airfield, HN was commissioned to undertake a programme of evaluation and monitoring in three areas of archaeological potential, which had been defined following desk-based research, geophysical survey and trial trenching. This had shown that the site had been in use as agricultural land for most of its history, with pockets of late post-medieval quarrying and substantial modern make-up and levelling, probably associated with the construction of the World War II airfield. Two linear features, either late Bronze Age/early Iron Age or Saxon in date, crossed Areas A and E on diverging south-east to north-west alignments and may indicate trackways leading from a point to the south-east of the site.

#### *Area A: Zone 2*

SP 7337 0905

Work in this area comprised monitoring of a site strip for new playing fields. Two substantial ditches and a large pit, identified and investigated in the initial assessment phase, were confirmed as a field boundary and a medieval quarry respectively.

#### *Area E: Zone 5*

SP 7344 0892

In this area, works comprised the monitoring of ground reduction for an access road and an attenuation tank. Five linear features were revealed during the course of the work, four in the access road area and one in the attenuation tank area. The accumulated evidence suggests that three of the linear features recorded in the access road represent the bases of medieval or post-medieval furrows.

#### *Area D*

SP 7315 0875

The works in this area, the proposed site of a sustainable drainage system, comprised a programme of trial trenching. Seven trenches were excavated across the area, which was formerly public open space with a drainage pond and defined areas of plantation. These supplemented a single trench excavated during an earlier phase of investigation, carried out to support the planning application. No archaeological features, finds or artefacts were encountered.

### ***Marsh Gibbon, Station Road***

SP 6477 2327

An evaluation was undertaken by JMHS on site previously occupied by a small garage at *Sunnymead*, on the west side of Station Road, immediately north of the Church of St Mary. Two trenches were excavated down to the natural clay. One contained a wall foundation, stone-lined pit and a ditch: the other was heavily disturbed by modern services. A subsequent watching brief during groundworks for a new dwelling identified two ditches that were probably two phases of the northern boundary of the adjacent churchyard. Partial remains of the late post-medieval buildings known to have existed on the site were found. These seemed to indicate two phases of building.

### ***Newport Pagnell, Silver Street***

SP 8755 4358

In November, historic building recording was undertaken by BHS of an outbuilding to the rear of 49 Silver Street, prior to its demolition



as part of a wider refurbishment of the property. The outbuilding was probably constructed in the 1870s, about the same time as the house. Originally it formed part of a row of outbuildings along the boundary with Eton Court: the other structures were demolished by the early 20th century. It appears that this outbuilding was constructed as a cart store and stable, in connection with the occupation of the first recorded occupant of 49 Silver Street, Enoch Holland, as a 'general carrier'. The building appears to have fulfilled this function for only a decade or so, after which it was retained for more general use.

From the survey it is apparent that the building had undergone some structural changes during its existence. The roof, probably originally slated, had been re-clad with corrugated iron sheeting. The original opening at the rear of the cart store had been walled up with reclaimed brick. The external doors had been removed from cart store and stable and the floor of the hayloft above the stable had been repaired on several occasions.

#### ***Olney, High Street***

SP 8898 5140

Between June 2015 and February 2017, KDK undertook a programme of observation and recording at 8 High Street, during the excavation of a series of footing and service trenches. Several medieval and post-medieval pits were observed during the investigations, which took place in an area thought to encompass two medieval burgage plots in the historic core of Olney. The investigations also uncovered evidence of a post-medieval stone building foundation and post-medieval brick boundary and garden walls.

#### ***Olney, High Street***

SP 8894 5176

In August, KDK undertook a programme of historic building recording and observation and recording at 100 High Street. The property is situated to the northern end of the High Street, within the medieval planned borough. The development lies within the curtilage of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century Grade II listed Coach House and the area investigated comprised a 19<sup>th</sup>-century workshop and storage area with attached garage and WC to the east. Two footing trenches were excavated to the

north of the WC, revealing the foundations of a limestone wall. No further features or artefacts of archaeological significance were observed.

#### ***Olney, Market Place***

SP 8887 5125

In August and September, refurbishment works at the *Bull Inn* were monitored by BHS. This Grade II-listed, 18<sup>th</sup>-century inn is located on the market square in the historic centre of Olney, and the development had the potential to reveal buried heritage assets relating to the inn or earlier.

Archaeological monitoring failed to reveal any significant buried heritage assets. The excavation of footings for a new kitchen extension encountered only modern redeposited layers and a Victorian rubbish pit. Reduction of the former inn yard area revealed a well, which formerly provided water for the stables on its west side. Finally, ground reduction for a car park to the rear (west) of the existing buildings revealed the floor of a former 19<sup>th</sup>-century WC and associated boundary/garden walls of the same date.

#### ***Pednor, Little Pednor Farm***

SP 9257 0279

A watching brief and building assessment were undertaken by JMHS during groundworks for the foundations of an extension to Little Pednor Farmhouse. Two features were identified by the watching brief. The most significant of these was a broad cut over 2.5m across and 0.3m deep, containing a basal layer packed with flint nodules. It is believed that this was the foundation for an extension of the moat rampart. The other feature was an area of flints, considered to be the remains of a cobbled surface located inside the banks of the moat.

A recording exercise to Historic England's Level 1 was carried out on a barn that was to be dismantled. The barn was of 20<sup>th</sup>-century origin.

#### ***Prestwood, Wycombe Road***

SU 8758 9941

CA undertook historic building recording at the Grade II listed *Polecat* public house, a probable 17<sup>th</sup>-century timber-framed hall and cross-wing house. A number of Georgian alterations, including

the re-facing of the building in brick, and two single storey 20th-century extensions were identified.

***Princes Risborough, Bell Street***

SP 8085 0325

A watching brief during development works for a new house to the rear of 24-26 Bell Street was undertaken by JMHS. Monitoring of the initial ground reduction and excavation of the foundation trenches revealed post-medieval disturbed ground layers directly overlying the natural. Cutting these layers were one small pit, one garden feature and one tree throw hole.

***Stowe, Stowe Gardens***

SP 6777 3719

Several archaeological projects were carried out in 2017 in the gardens at Stowe, with the aim of providing evidence for the continuing restoration of the temples and associated statuary. These were monitored and recorded by the National Trust's archaeologist, Gary Marshall. The largest of these projects involved deep machine excavations to create concrete foundations for a new dam on the Worthies Lake in the Elysian Fields area of the gardens. The task commenced with the breaking up and removal of the existing 1950s concrete dam. Beneath this structure the foundations for a stone-built dam were revealed, probably dating from the 1730s when the stream running through the Elysian Fields was contained as a series of small pools. Fortunately it proved possible to retain part of this structure as the facing for the new concrete dam. Embedded within the stonework was a large oak timber, bored through its centre to form a horizontally-set pipe. This would have served to drain the Worthies Lake, an aperture cut into the upper surface of the pipe providing a means of expelling the water. When not in use the aperture would have been sealed by a vertical wooden plug known as a 'tampion'. Previous excavations at Stowe on the Eleven Acre Lake have confirmed the presence of a similar structure with the tampion still in-situ and protected by pierced wooden boards acting as a trash grille. These structures provide interesting evidence of 18<sup>th</sup>-century water management and control within the designed landscape. The pipe appears to have been re-used as it carried a flange at one end, suggesting it was previously intercon-

nected with a number of other pipes.

During the excavations a sequence of peat deposits up to 1.2m thick was revealed. The sequence was sampled in 0.1m thick spits and sent to Museum of London Archaeology for analysis. Radio-carbon dating of the lowest levels suggest the peat formation could date back more than 14,000 years (14140-13831 Cal BP, Beta 471352). The sequence throughout confirms an on-site environment of grass-sedge-dominated fenland, the adjacent terrestrial zone being dominated by grass communities with occasional dwarf willow and juniper bushes.

This project necessitated the temporary draining of the Worthies Lake. During this process, two small brick culverts were exposed on the south-west bank of the lake. A large number of brick and stone culverts have been unearthed in the gardens at Stowe over the past 30 years and they suggest that garden staff in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries were faced with the same problems of localised waterlogging and flooding as their modern-day successors!

Other restoration-led projects undertaken in 2017 included a machined excavation to locate the foundations for the statue of Thalia at the Fane of Pastoral Poetry, and machined excavations to locate the foundations of the Cowper Urn on the Eleven Acre Lake. Both of these proved negative, although at the latter site a well-laid cobbled path dressed with gravel was encountered, forming a semi-circle on the edge of the lake. Unusually, the historic maps for Stowe provide no clue as to the purpose of the latter structure. Further excavations were also undertaken to locate evidence for the statue group of Apollo and the Nine Muses at the Doric Arch, three of the ten statue bases having been unearthed in excavations undertaken in 2002. A single further base was uncovered during the current project, also a well-laid orange gravel path running alongside the east face of the arch. Restoration of this statue group is scheduled to take place in the second half of 2019.

***Swanbourne, Deverells Farm***

SP 8019 2729

Prior to residential development, AS carried out a trial-trench evaluation and historic building recording. Three trenches were cut, in all of which archaeological features were present. The earliest

finds were pieces of residual struck flints. All the features were large and deep pits, excluding a single ditch, all containing medieval pottery. Associated finds included small quantities of animal bone and shell. Altogether the features were indicative of settlement remains.

Historic building recording to HE Level 1 was carried out on a series of barns on the site before demolition and conversion to a dwelling could take place. The buildings had seen much rebuilding and alterations. The main barn was of 19<sup>th</sup>-century date, a three-bay structure with a double-framed king post roof, utilising some reused materials. Some structural event had necessitated the insertion of a secondary roof structure, directly abutting the original truss form. The second range had the characteristics of an 18<sup>th</sup>-century barn in its timber-framing, originally built up against a structure which pre-dated the current main barn in the same position. It once extended further to the south but had been truncated with the building of further ranges in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

***Taplow, Cliveden Estate***  
SU 9084 8571

Historic building recording was undertaken by OA on the Grade I listed Blenheim Pavilion at Cliveden during a programme of repair works, which included the removal of plaster from the internal walls of the structure. The Blenheim Pavilion is one of the most significant garden structures in the grounds at Cliveden. It was designed by the Venetian architect Giacomo Leoni and was constructed in the 1720s to the north-west of the mansion, forming a distant, eye-catching structure along two avenues. It formed part of the wide landscape improvements at Cliveden undertaken by the Earl of Orkney and is believed to commemorate the Battle of Blenheim, when the Earl served under the Duke of Marlborough and led the final assault.

The removal of plaster revealed two blocked doorways in the rear wall. These correspond with the evidence of an original plan of the building showing doorways here leading to a further set of rooms which included a central bath-house but which no longer survive. It was previously uncertain whether the bath-house extension was ever constructed, but the doorways provide strong evidence to suggest that it was.

***Taplow, Cliveden Estate***  
SU 9123 8497

Historic building recording was undertaken by OA on a small, circular grotto-type structure known as the Flint House, in the grounds at Cliveden. The recording was undertaken in association with a programme of conservation work which has cleared detritus from the structure and exposed parts that were previously hidden. The grotto appears to have been constructed in the third quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century as part of wider works to create a naturalistic designed landscape in the Rushy Valley, to the east of the mansion. The structure is built with flint: it is likely that it was constructed to provide a simple shelter on walks through the woodland and also to provide a platform above where views could be enjoyed looking west towards the Octagon Temple.

The work to clear the top of the grotto has exposed six small circular holes which continue down through the walls. It is believed that these probably formerly held posts which supported a simple roof over the upper viewing platform. This may well have been a thatched, rustic-style conical roof with open sides, probably incorporating a timber balustrade.

***Wavendon, Crow Lane***  
SP 9298 3783

In November BHS undertook historic building recording of *Chimney Cottage*, Crow Lane, to inform rebuilding following a serious fire. The house was originally constructed c.AD1600, as a four-bay, one-and-a-half-storey house of the 'lobby' or 'baffle entry' type, probably for a smallholder or yeoman farmer. As built, the house had two brick chimney stacks, the larger central stack incorporating a bread oven, and a timber box frame infilled with wattle-and-daub. Much of the latter remains in situ, though much of the north end of the building has been rebuilt in brick. Internally there are three downstairs rooms including a kitchen and parlour: the original layout upstairs is uncertain. At some later date, a single-storey lean-to, possibly a wash-house with its own chimney stack, was added to the south end of the structure.

By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the building had been divided into three cottages. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century the central and northern parts of the

building were at least partly rebuilt in brick and the upper floor in the northern cottage was replaced. The cottages reverted to a single dwelling between 1925 and 1963, by which time the building had been re-roofed with corrugated iron sheeting. In the late 1960s the building was extensively renovated: further works have taken place since. It was listed Grade II in 1984.

The fabric of the southern part of the building appears to remain largely unaltered, with much of the timber framing and a fair amount of wattle and daub infill still in place, though on the ground floor some wattle and daub has been replaced by brick. In contrast, part of the central bay and much of the northern one have been rebuilt in brick, and exterior walls have been rendered. Internally, the ground floors have been concreted or surfaced with modern slabs. The enclosed staircase on the west side of the kitchen seems likely to have been the original access to the upper floor, the steep stairs near the north end probably having been inserted when the building was in multiple occupation.

#### **UNDATED OR NEGATIVE**

##### ***Amersham, Market Square***

SU 9577 9733

A watching brief by TVAS during construction of an extension to 15 Market Square, a listed building, revealed layers which initially appeared to be medieval but which overlay clearly post-medieval material. The rear wall of the existing building, which is thought to predate most of those around it, was also recorded photographically before it was concealed by the new extension.

##### ***Aston Clinton, Weston Road***

SP 8688 1201

OA was commissioned to undertake a trial-trench evaluation in advance of development on land off Weston Road. Two phases of trenching were carried out in December 2016 and January 2017. In all, fifteen trenches were excavated across the site and confirmed the absence of archaeological features, indicated by a previous geophysical survey. Alluvial deposits were recorded within all the trenches, resulting from past overbank seasonal flooding from the adjacent stream. The risk of flooding may have deterred occupation within the

area and thus explains why the site had hitherto only been used as agricultural land.

##### ***Aylesbury, Castle Street***

SP 8158 1383

HN was commissioned to undertake an evaluation of land to the rear of 54 Castle Street, in response to a planning condition. The evaluation revealed a considerable depth of overburden in both trenches, some of which may have been imported to level the site following the demolition of the buildings that formerly bounded it. A modern brick wall, probably a boundary, on a concrete foundation was encountered in one trench. In the same trench two undated linear features were also observed, cut by the wall in the north-eastern corner of the site. These have been interpreted as possible boundary or garden features.

##### ***Aylesbury, Tring Road***

SP 8314 1393

A six-trench evaluation was carried out by PCA in September at the site of the former BPCC Hazel's print works, in advance of large-scale residential development with associated landscaping and access routes. Within five trenches, natural alluvial clays were truncated by modern drains, foundation cuts and deposits associated with the construction of the print works. The only trench unaffected by this truncation was located at the south-west end of the site and revealed two linear features, one posthole and one pit, cut into the underlying natural clay. With the exception of an animal jaw bone fragment no finds were recovered from these features, but it is thought likely that they date to the prehistoric or Roman period.

##### ***East Claydon, New Farm***

SP 7380 2573

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out by AS during the demolition of the existing barns at New Farm and construction of a residential development. The site had potential for evidence relating to the late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval development of the area. In the event no archaeological remains earlier than modern brickwork, likely the remains of a soakaway, were uncovered.

**Granborough, Winslow Road**

SP 7672 2546

In advance of the construction of five new houses on land at Winslow Road, a magnetometer survey revealed a series of anomalies representing a buried bank and ditches. A group of four parallel linear positive anomalies probably represent furrows. Subsequent evaluation trenching by TVAS confirmed the furrows, which contained modern material, but revealed no other features or finds of interest.

**Grendon Underwood, Lawn Farm**

SP 6905 1992

In November MOLA carried out an evaluation on land at Lawn Farm, prior to the construction of fourteen houses. Six trenches were excavated and contained no archaeological features or artefacts.

**High Wycombe: Easton Street**

SU 8693 9287

In October and November 2016, KDK undertook a programme of observation and recording on land adjacent to 23 Easton Street, as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site. In the post-medieval period a house known as *The Limes* was built on the site: this was replaced c.1960 by three buildings associated with Wycombe College. When these buildings were demolished in the mid-1990s the site became a car park.

The footprints of the proposed construction were excavated to the required depth under archaeological supervision. Several walls associated with the Wycombe College building were discovered, though due to the high level of disturbance on the site, no features or artefacts of archaeological interest were revealed.

**High Wycombe, Oakridge Road**

SP 8552 9359

Monitoring by TVAS of service trenches for a building conversion in March and April at Ruskin Works, Oakridge Road, revealed nothing of archaeological interest.

**High Wycombe, Priory Avenue**

SU 8664 9321

In July, KDK undertook observation and recording at 1-3 Priory Avenue, in advance of the construction of part two-storey and part three-storey side and rear extension to a pre-existing building. No features, deposits or finds of archaeological significance were observed during this exercise, though much of the ground reduction had taken place without archaeological supervision. The site had also been heavily truncated during the construction of the existing building.

**Lavendon, New Row**

SP 9136 5365

In December, AA excavated six trial trenches within a c.0.5ha site on the western edge of Lavendon, to the south of the junction of New Row with the A428 Northampton Road.

The extant ridge and furrow earthworks within the site and a single, truncated, undated ditch were recorded. In the central part of the site an extensive depression, filled with a sterile colluvial deposit probably represents a former dry valley or 'slade'. The absence of residual artefacts in the excavated soils further suggests that the site has always been at some distance from any focus of habitation.

**The Lee and Hedgerley, East Claydon to Iver Overhead Power Line**

SP 8911 0351 and SU 9828 8744

A watching brief by CA on maintenance works on this cross-country infrastructure route identified no features or deposits of archaeological significance.

**Longwick, Ivy Farm**

SP 7943 0456

In January, AA undertook trial trenching in support of a planning application for residential development on land at Ivy Farm, Longwick. The c.0.6ha site was located on the eastern edge of the village and was pasture at the time of the fieldwork.

An earlier geophysical survey had not identified any anomalies that were likely to be archaeological in origin. Six trial trenches were opened but no archaeological features were identified.

The excavated topsoil and subsoil deposits were scanned for artefacts, but only occasional fragments of post-medieval tile and pottery were observed.

**Loughton, Leys Road**

SP 8399 3757

HN was commissioned to undertake archaeological monitoring of the groundworks for the construction of a house with detached garage and associated access, services and landscaping, on land at 20 Leys Road. The site is close to a scheduled medieval moated site, with associated fishpond, leats, stock enclosures, channels and fields. Seven building platforms have been identified, all of which lie adjacent to the old course of the Loughton Brook, which now passes to the west of the site.

A modern soakaway was exposed within the centre of the footprint of the new dwelling. No other features, deposits or finds of archaeological significance were encountered in the course of the project.

**Nether Winchendon, St Nicholas' Church**

SP 7735 1225

Observations were made by TVAS for the excavation of the storm-water drainage trenches. The trenches revealed 0.6m of made ground below the topsoil but did not reach undisturbed natural strata. No features of archaeological interest were observed, though a worn Roman coin, pierced for use as a pendant or medallion, was recovered from the graveyard soil.

**Stoke Mandeville, Wendover Road**

SP 843 102 (centre)

From January to April MOLA carried out a magnetometer survey on land at Wendover Road. The survey covered c18ha of land and revealed two faint linear trends that may represent archaeological remains in the southern field.

**Shabbington, Dukes Close**

SP 6650 0678

An evaluation was undertaken at Franklins Farm, Dukes Close by JMHS. Three trenches were

excavated, recording a series of linear features representing the remains of a series of undated boundary or enclosure ditches overlain by ridge-and-furrow cultivation of medieval and post-medieval date. Extant ridge-and-furrow earthworks were visible within the field. A single small pit containing an iron nail of post-medieval date was also recorded.

**Stoke Poges, Wexham Street**

SU 9873 8255

A watching brief by TVAS on car park construction at Wexham Park Hospital in February and March revealed nothing of archaeological interest.

**Taplow, Cliveden Estate**

SU 9140 8553

A watching brief was undertaken by OA at Cliveden during the excavation of a cable trench through areas of the grounds to the north of the house. The main excavations were cut through the overflow car park and alongside the Grand Avenue, directly north of the mansion. The excavations were relatively shallow and no significant archaeological features were encountered.

**Waddesdon, Church of St Michael and All Angels**

SP 7420 1697

Two phases of watching brief were conducted by TVAS on various minor works in the churchyard and in the interior of the church. Disarticulated human remains were recorded, with some articulated remains noted in one grave in the nave, but left undisturbed. No features and no other finds of archaeological interest were noted.

**West Wycombe, West Wycombe Park**

SU 8277 9461

In March, OA undertook a watching brief at West Wycombe Park on excavation of trenches for drainage, water and electrical services to be laid across the western car park to serve temporary toilets. These excavations revealed little to no significant archaeology, other than a flint quarry pit of unknown date.

**REPORTS NOT RECEIVED**

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

Aylesbury, r/o Buckingham Street: excavation

Aylesbury, Quarrendon School: evaluation

Buckingham, Hunter Street: excavation

Denham, Area 4: evaluation

Fenny Stratford, r/o Bridge Inn: watching brief

Great Linford, Manor Park: geophysics

Haddenham, Haddenham Glebe: excavation

Hanslope, north-west of Castlethorpe Road:  
geophysics

Iver, Richings Park: excavation

Ivinghoe Aston: geophysics & excavation

MK West Expansion Area, Area 10 Field 6: evaluation

MK West Expansion Area, Area 10 Parcel 2:  
evaluation

MK West Expansion Area, Whitehouse School:  
evaluation

Mursley, 12 Main Street: evaluation

Newport Pagnell, Little Linford Lane: geophysics

Newport Pagnell, 11 North Street: evaluation

Newport Pagnell, Tickford Field: geophysics

Olney, 124-126 High Street: evaluation

Olney, Hyde Solar Farm: watching brief

Olney, south of Lavendon Road: evaluation

Quainton, Doddershall embankment (HS2): evaluation

Steeple Claydon, Calvert Depot (HS2): evaluation

Stowe, Stowe School: excavation

Taplow, Berry Hill Farm: excavation

Wavendon, west of Newport Road: evaluation

Westcott, east of Ashendon Road: evaluation