

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

The following notes on fieldwork carried out in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes in 2019 (a few in 2018) 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 be ongoing or may not have started. 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.

Readers of this compilation may also detect a change in presentation in this volume. Hitherto, it has been the practice to put archaeological summaries into period groups, depending upon the date of the features and artefacts recorded. While this works with chance finds and small-scale excavations of specific sites, the nature of modern, planning-related archaeology often leads to the discovery of features and finds of several periods, all of potentially equal significance, from a single site. Obviously this makes a period-based list difficult to maintain. I have therefore placed the summaries in this volume in parish order, alphabetically. If this fails to receive general acceptance, I will be happy to consider alternative suggestions.

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 2020 should be sent to me at [recsbuckseditor@gmail.com](mailto:recsbuckseditor@gmail.com), by 30 November 2021 at the latest.

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For the sake of brevity, the names of the contributing organisations are abbreviated as follows:

AA	Albion Archaeology
AS	Archaeological Solutions
BHS	Bancroft Heritage Services
CA	Cotswold Archaeology
FA	Foundations Archaeology
IA	Icknield Archaeology
JMHS	John Moore Heritage Services
KDK	KDK Archaeology
MOLA	Museum of London Archaeology
NA	Network Archaeology
OA	Oxford Archaeology
TVAS	Thames Valley Archaeological Services

## ***Amersham: High Street***

SU 95736 97286

A watching brief by CA at 18 High Street identified no features or deposits of archaeological interest.

## ***Aylesbury: AVDC MOT Centre***

SP 8283 1400

In early 2019, AA undertook trial trenching in advance of commercial redevelopment of a vacant plot within Stocklake Industrial Estate. The site was formerly open land traversed by westward-flowing minor tributaries (including the Bear Brook) of the river Tame. No pre-modern archaeological remains or artefacts were found. Significant deposits of modern overburden and a buried topsoil horizon were present in all trenches. A number of modern foundations and services, related to warehouses first depicted on the 1967 OS map, were encountered. Remains of the former course of the Bear Brook were revealed in one trench; the brook appears to have been backfilled and its course diverted prior to the construction of the industrial estate in the 1960s.

**Aylesbury: Buckingham Road**

SP 8188 1523

An evaluation comprising five trial trenches was undertaken by FA in April and May on land at the former Aylesbury Football Club, Buckingham Road, in advance of proposed development. Two of the trenches encountered a palaeochannel and a series of linear and discrete features, likely representing water-channels and ponds/pools typical of a riverside location. A small section of a post-medieval feature was identified in one trench but its origins were unclear. In another trench, an isolated recumbent human burial was found, aligned east-west. Radiocarbon dating of a skull fragment dated the remains to the medieval period, most likely the early 13<sup>th</sup> century.

**Aylesbury: Kingsbrook**

SP 8488 1482

In July 2019, OA carried out an evaluation at Kingsbrook, comprising the excavation of 69 trenches. Archaeological features were identified within four of these. A Roman boundary ditch was revealed at the western end of the site. This may have formed part of a series of rectilinear enclosures which were identified in a previous evaluation to the west. A concentration of shallow pits or naturally silted hollows were recorded in one trench to the north of the site and were dated to the post-medieval or modern period. These pits also contained several sherds of residual middle to late Iron Age pottery. A trench in the eastern part of the site revealed a shallow post-medieval ditch or possible plough furrow.

**Broughton (MK): Glebelands**

SP 9176 3918

OA undertook an excavation at Glebelands between September and November 2018. This revealed a Bronze Age cemetery comprising eight pits containing deposits of cremated bone. A variety of burial practices were evident. One burial was contained within an urn of early to middle Bronze Age type, while another was found within a pit with scorched sides and appears to be a form of *in situ* or ‘bustum’ cremation burial. Two further burials each contained remains from at least three individuals – two adults and a child in

each case – which is suggestive of family groups. One of these individuals returned a radiocarbon date in the early part of the middle Bronze Age. The other burial pits contained only very small amounts of cremated bone. During the Roman period, a small open-ended rectangular enclosure was constructed. Pottery from its ditches suggests that it was in use between *c* AD170–250. Finds were sparse, and there were very few internal features. The enclosure may have been associated with a settlement previously investigated at Magna Park to the south.

**Buckingham: Market Hill**

SP 6955 3404

A watching brief was undertaken by JMHS during ground reductions at the rear of the Old Latin House, Market Hill. The excavations revealed made ground deposits across the site which overlay pits and areas of intercutting features and general ground disturbance. The earliest features identified were several pits/negative features in the west of the excavated area, dated by pottery to the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. A fragment of post-medieval clay tobacco pipe was recovered from the surface of one of these fills but may have been intrusive from the layer above and an iron floor brad recovered from the fill of a pit containing 16<sup>th</sup>-century pottery may have been of 19<sup>th</sup>-century date, though the dating of the brad was uncertain. The rest of the site was dominated by widespread deposits that formed the fills of large cut/intercutting pits, some of which may have been related to small-scale quarrying for sand and gravel. Material recovered from these fills provided broadly post-medieval dating, none earlier than the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The fill of a large cut feature in the north of the site contained modern pottery.

**Buckingham: Tingewick Road**

SP469 233

An evaluation and subsequent excavation undertaken by NA during development at 10 Tingewick Road between October 2018 and June 2019 recorded a multi-phase site, comprising a single late Bronze Age inhumation, a group of Iron Age features and a partial pre-Saxon field system, including a large possible boundary or enclosure ditch. In addition, an unusual feature was recorded

that appeared to have been used as a well in the late Saxon period before going out of use and having a considerable amount of kiln material dumped into its upper fills. Although no evidence of dwellings was recorded, most of the features produced settlement waste, such as pottery and animal bone, indicating settlement was likely close by.

Activity on site appeared to have increased during the late Saxon period and into the 11th-12th centuries. The only evidence for activity after this period was provided by late medieval and post-medieval finds recovered from the upper fill of a single pit.

***Cuddington: land north of Aylesbury Road***  
SP 7405 1117

A trial-trench evaluation by TVAS on the site of a proposed housing development revealed only late post-medieval, modern or undated features.

***East Claydon: St Mary's Road***  
SP 4737 2255

In April 2019, historic timberwork within the north, south and east elevations was recorded by KDK at New Farm, 2 St Mary's Road, in order to fulfil a condition placed on Listed Building Consent for the repair and restoration of the building. This Grade II-listed house was first documented in 1675, when it was a village inn and was remodelled by Sir Ralph Verney, First Baronet of Middle Claydon. The building appears to have been constructed in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and features internal bracing, gently sloping jowl posts, bridle butted scarf joints in the wall plates and a single panel of wattle and daub. The infill, which had largely been removed prior to the survey, consisted of narrow red bricks. The remains of a timber mullioned window were noted in the south elevation immediately above a late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century casement window. The evidence suggests that this was one of a series of five windows in this elevation. Two further mullioned windows were revealed when the plaster was removed from the inside of the north wall and two complete windows survive at ground floor level in the same wall. Two brick-built fireplaces in the north wall are likely appear to post-date the brick infill, and may well have been installed in the later 17th century.

***Fleet Marston: Lower Fleetmarston Farm***  
SP 7706 1799 (centre)

FA undertook a watching brief during the replacement of a water main at Lower Fleetmarston Farm, between May and July. The groundworks exposed indeterminate clay substrates, situated directly under topsoil. No archaeological features, finds or artefacts were present within the monitored areas.

***Gawcott: Church Street***  
SP 68067 31821

Historic building recording was carried out by KDK of the barn at Brendale, Church Street, in order to fulfil a condition of planning permission for the demolition of the existing building and the construction of a new dwelling on the site. This 3-bay barn was built between 1862 and 1880 and is a mixture of brick and timber-framed construction under a corrugated metal roof. It contains a number of hand-worked timbers that have been reused from elsewhere. The building has three rooms that are not consistent with the bay division. The easternmost room was used as a clubhouse for Buckingham Wine Circle and the western one as a garage. Although containing some original fabric, the building has been extensively reworked.

***Great Horwood: land off Nash Road***  
SP 77237 31490

KDK undertook an evaluation of land off Nash Road prior to the construction of residential development and associated access. The general site stratigraphy consisted of topsoil, underlying subsoil onto the natural stratum. Aside from a possible linear feature which may have been an undated small ditch, no archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed.

***Great Linford: Manor Park***  
SP 8520 4238

CA carried out an archaeological investigation and a community project for The Parks Trust at Great Linford Manor Park, which included revealing, restoring and recreating aspects of the 18th-century formal grounds. The works revealed the full profile of the ha-ha wall, a foundation pit for an

ornamental sundial, a possible ornamental plinth base and an undated ditch. Several walls including two truncated by the Doric seat wall potentially pre-dated the manor and formal parkland.

***Great Missenden: High Street***

SP 8945 0114

An evaluation was undertaken by IA on land to the rear of 82 High Street. Four trial trenches were excavated but no significant archaeological features or artefacts were observed.

***Great Missenden: Kings Lane***

SP 8741 0298

A watching brief was maintained by IA at 'Kingfield', Kings Lane. The stratigraphy was entirely of natural composition and no archaeological features or artefacts were observed.

***Haddenham: Church End***

SP 74197 08024

A watching brief by CA on drainage works at Church Farm House identified no features or deposits of archaeological significance.

***Haddenham: Church End***

SP 7432 6795

A magnetometer survey undertaken by TVAS on the site proposed for new school buildings at St Mary's C of E School recorded relatively few anomalies, which most likely represent furrows, and a large area of magnetic disturbance around the edge of the field. Nothing that was obviously of archaeological interest was identified.

***High Wycombe: Abbey Barn***

SU 8741 9137

FA undertook a trial-trench evaluation in March on land at Abbey Barn, High Wycombe. Twenty-one linear features, including two termini, were revealed: five were thought to be agricultural in origin. Only one contained dating evidence, comprising post-medieval ceramic building material. Those in the south-eastern half of the site were undated but on a similar north-south/east-west co-axial alignment, which may

suggest that they were contemporary. A possible 'ring bank' in the south-east part of the site was identified on geophysical survey but was not seen within the evaluation trenches. A large feature, possibly a quarry or chalk pit, not noted in the geophysical survey, was found in the north-west half of the site. Twenty-four pit-like features were identified across the site, though only four appeared likely to be of any archaeological significance. Artefactual evidence within the evaluated areas – other than that already described – was restricted to two fragments of residual medieval pottery, one fragment of residual Roman greyware and modern material.

The evaluation site to the west showed evidence of modern intervention, thought to be the area of a baseball ground for the former RAF base. Modern build up was identified in two trenches to the south-east of the site, possibly related to the location of a former telephone mast.

***High Wycombe: Leigh Street***

SU 8562 9326

An evaluation and watching brief carried out by TVAS on an area of mixed development at Leigh Court encountered no finds or features of archaeological interest other than two World War II air raid shelters.

***Kingswood: Kingswood Lane***

SP 6848 1786 (centre)

Between May and October, FA undertook a watching brief during the replacement of a water main in Kingswood Lane. The groundworks exposed indeterminate clay substrates situated under either road surface deposits, or an intermittent subsoil and subsequent topsoil. No significant archaeological features, finds or artefacts were present.

***Lacey Green: Lily Bottom Lane***

SP 83087 01497

JMHS undertook an evaluation at Ironbeech Cottage, Lily Bottom Lane. The site is close to the line of the Buckinghamshire Grim's Ditch, which terminates 16m north of the site before continuing 55m to the south. A single trench was excavated revealing a large cut feature at least 1m in depth

that extended beyond the limit of the trench. Due to the small size of the trench it was not possible to view the feature fully in plan or profile. Interpretation of the feature was therefore uncertain; however, the most likely explanation is that the feature represents a backfilled quarry pit associated with 'Ironbeech Kiln', a possible brickworks of 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>-century date known from historic maps to have been located in the area of the site.

**Lathbury: Lathbury Quarry**  
SP 8758 4573

Between February and May 2019 AA undertook the excavation of two archaeological zones covering c.3ha in total (Fig. 1) identified by geophysical survey and trial-trench evaluation in 2000. Two small areas of late Bronze Age/early-middle Iron Age settlement were identified. However, the bulk of the evidence related to part of a late Iron Age/early Roman 'complex'-type farmstead and associated field-system, which occupied a loop in the Great Ouse. Geophysical survey as part of the evaluation had identified similar enclosures to the south, indicating that a number of farmsteads may have existed along the western side of the river during this period. Farmstead activity continued unbroken in the Roman period, with the establishment of new enclosures in the northern half of the excavation area and the likely utilisation of existing late Iron Age/early Roman enclosures to the south. A crop-processing area was indicated by a 'T'-shaped drying oven and a square, stone surface that may have functioned as a threshing floor in one of the new enclosures. Two inhumations and a cremation burial were recovered from the Roman farmstead; one individual was found with a 1st/2nd-century beaded *torc*.

Evidence for bloomery iron smelting was evidenced by a tapping furnace, heavy scorching and c.41kg of slag and other metalworking debris. This has been tentatively assigned to the Roman phase, based on its proximity to the farmstead, although tapping-type furnaces were commonly used during both the Roman and medieval periods.

Anglo-Saxon occupation was evidenced by thirteen sunken-featured buildings (SFB), as well as a small number of pits and postholes. Contemporary pottery and artefacts (pin beaters, bone comb, worked antler, copper-alloy mount) were

recovered from the majority of the buildings. The SFBs formed three clusters, plus one isolated building. The continued utilisation of late Iron Age and Roman fields and enclosures during this period was suggested by the positioning of the buildings adjacent to the earlier ditched boundaries, sometimes dug into them. The buildings were roughly rectangular in shape and contained the standard two opposing postholes, although several contained additional postholes arranged along the edges or inside the sunken area.

**Lavendon: Olney Road**  
SP 9159 5323

Following an initial geophysical survey, in March 2019 MOLA undertook a trial-trench evaluation at Olney Road, prior to development. The surviving archaeological remains were within the eastern part of the development area and comprised Iron Age activity defined by ditches, gullies and pits. The western part of the site had been heavily truncated by post-medieval quarrying and dumping. Medieval furrows relating to the open field system were still present in areas.

In July, targeted excavation was carried out on features recorded during the geophysical survey and trial trenching. The aim was to clarify the extent and character of Iron Age remains. The surviving remains comprised a sinuous ditch with a recut, and a number of pits that were middle Iron Age in date, probably representing peripheral activity close to occupation. An assemblage comprising 124 sherds (1,996g) of largely well-preserved pottery with low abrasion levels was recovered. Later activity comprised remnants of medieval/post-medieval furrows.

**Little Brickhill: Watling Street**  
SP 9112 3235

Between May and August 2019 KDK undertook a watching brief at Little Brickhill Service Station, Watling Street, during the construction of six detached dwellings and an access road. The stratigraphy of the excavated areas comprised made-ground and concrete overlying natural geology, and the absence of any subsoil indicates that the ground had been extensively disturbed and truncated within the footprint of the development. Truncation of the area and subsequent deposition

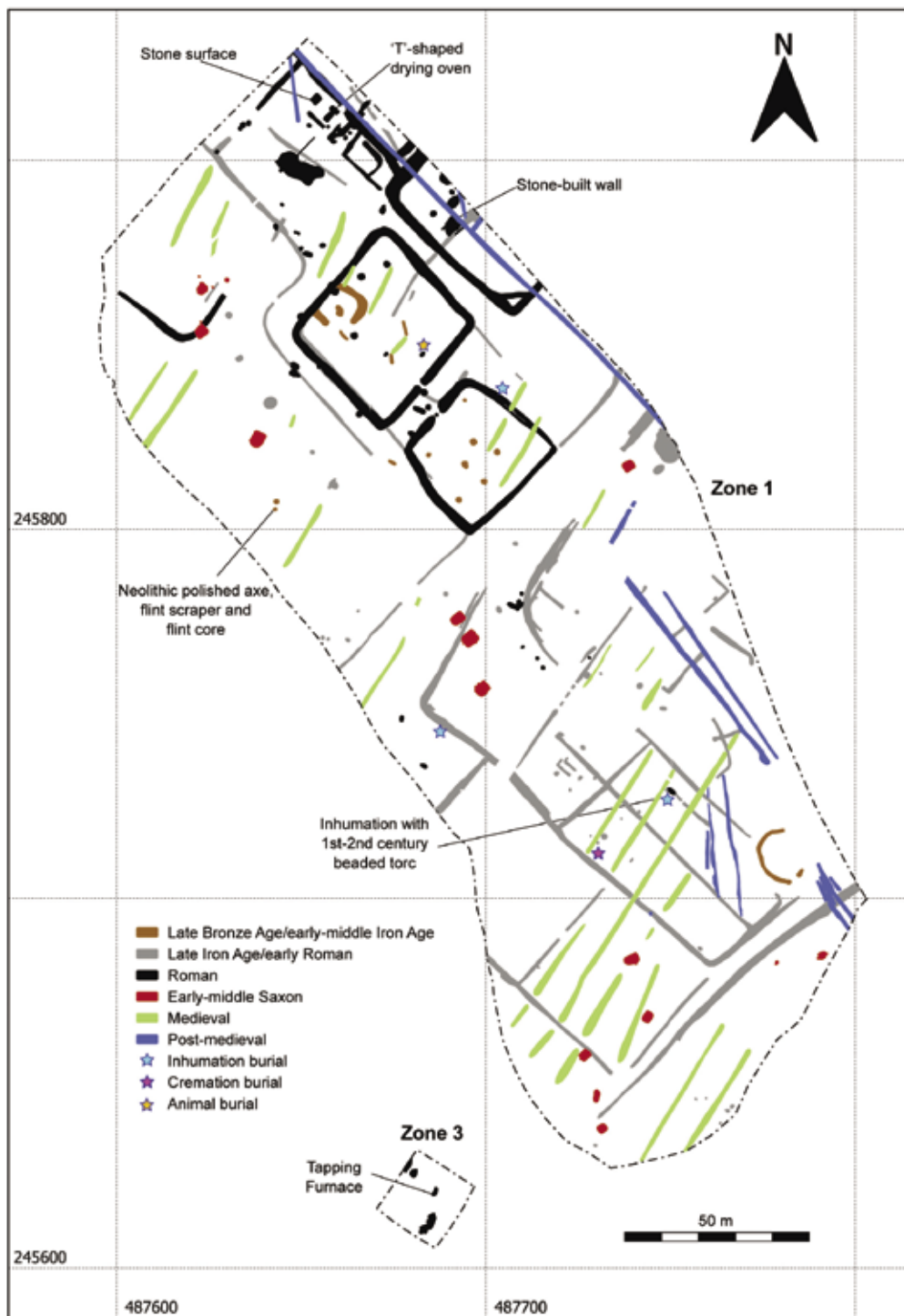


FIGURE 1 Lathbury Quarry excavation: overall plan

of tarmac, concrete, and made-ground, appears to have occurred during the 20th century, during the construction of the service station. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed.

***Little Horwood: Warren Road***

SP 8010 3240

In September 2019 KDK undertook an evaluation at 'Fernfield', Warren Road, in advance of an extension to the property. No archaeological remains were revealed within the single evaluation trench.

***Longwick: Thame Road***

SP 78603 05065

An evaluation was undertaken by JMHS on land south of Rose Farm, Thame Road. Eleven trenches were excavated, of which seven contained archaeological features. Of particular interest were two small pits containing charcoal rich fills; charred hazelnut recovered from one pit was subject to radiocarbon dating, which returned a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date. Ditches and shallow gullies were present in four trenches; with the exception of one trench these were found in association with possible posthole features. The date of these features is unclear, though they did not appear to correspond to the alignment of the ridge and furrow, perhaps suggesting that they are associated with the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pit. An unstratified, polished flint axe head of Neolithic date was found in the topsoil. Extant ridge and furrow was visible across the southern half of the site and furrows were seen to truncate the natural geology in places. The shallow depth of many features and the lack of a natural subsoil indicates that medieval and post-medieval ploughing of the site has resulted in relatively substantial truncation of any surviving archaeology.

***Marlow: High Street***

SU 8503 8638

In July, FA carried out an evaluation of land at Regatta House, 67-71 High Street. Three 1.5m test pits were excavated within an area of proposed development. No archaeological features or finds were present within the test pits, which identified

natural Shepperton gravel deposits overlaid by 0.8m-1m of made ground. No topsoil or subsoil was present, indicating that ground levels may have been reduced in the modern period.

***Newport Pagnell: Portfields Rise***

SP 85287 44042

OA undertook an evaluation comprising 14 trenches on the site of a proposed housing development on the west side of Newport Pagnell. Cropmark evidence and the results of a geophysical survey indicated the presence of several rectangular enclosures and a circular enclosure within the proposed development area.

The results of the trial trenching correlated well with the results of the geophysical survey. A trapezoidal enclosure of Roman date was identified, adjacent to an undated circular enclosure that may be contemporary or of prehistoric date. An early Roman farmstead was also identified, comprising two closely adjacent rectangular enclosures, the smaller of which contained two probable roundhouses. The enclosures were adjoined to the south-west by an area of smaller enclosures, possibly including further buildings. These were enclosed to the north and east by a ditched boundary. Artefactual evidence from the farmstead included an iron arrowhead and a rare example of a roughcast indented beaker in a colour-coated fine ware.

***Olney: land west of Yardley Road***

SP 88239 52502

Following a previous desk-based assessment and geophysical survey, in May and June 2019, MOLA undertook a trial-trench evaluation of land west of Yardley Road. The geophysical survey had identified a pit alignment and a possible settlement area: these were confirmed during the evaluation and found to date to the Iron Age. In the north-east area of the site, the last two pits of a pit alignment were identified; a length of the rest of the alignment had been identified in a previous excavation to the east of the site. In the southern extent of the site, the location of a small Iron Age settlement was confirmed, comprising three possible ring gullies and a potential boundary ditch with an elongated pit. Later modern dumping and disturbance was recorded in the south-eastern corner of the site.

***Olney: Warrington Road***

SP 8895 5260

OA undertook a trial-trench evaluation of a site to the west of Warrington Road, in support of a planning application for a mixed-use development. A geophysical survey of the site had identified the presence of a rectangular enclosure and associated features. It was believed this activity was associated with the known Roman settlement located directly to the east, which is a Scheduled Monument (NHL 1006918). The archaeological features identified in the trenching were confined to the eastern half of the site. The presence of the rectangular enclosure was confirmed, along with the remains of a Roman building with a tiled roof. The recovered artefacts, including pottery, CBM, animal bone, glass and metal objects, suggest the features date to the late Roman period, although an origin for the settlement earlier in the Roman period cannot be ruled out.

Historic mapping and LiDAR survey both indicated the presence of a trackway within the northern half of the development area. Linear features recorded within the north-eastern part of the site may represent a trackway, but these were only found within one trench.

***Quainton: land at Doddershall***

SP 7228 2044

A test-pit evaluation commissioned by Fusion was carried out by Connect Archaeology between December 2018 and January 2019. The site was to be used for topsoil storage and construction work in connection with HS2. It was bounded by the Doddershall House estate to the south, followed existing field boundaries to the east, west and north and covered an area of 11.4ha. Previous non-intrusive surveys including geophysical survey and LiDAR survey confirmed a number of positive linear anomalies across the area which may have been of archaeological or modern agricultural origin.

The evaluation involved the hand-excavation of 102 1m x 1m test pits, revealing the location and likely extent of the deserted medieval village of Doddershall, oriented on a main north-south road. The identified features were concentrated in a central area which may have been the location of the main street of the deserted settlement. Due

to the small size of the test pits, features could not be identified with any confidence but those that were recognisable included a stone-lined area, a ditch, a possible floor and a possible wall foundation. Other noteworthy features included a possible pond and a possible destruction layer. All the features produced medieval pottery: assemblage recovered indicates that the site was in use from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. This complements the historical documentation, which indicates that the village was abandoned and destroyed in the years following 1495. Although the site has been ploughed, a relict cultivation soil was noted sealing the subsoil and contained artefacts which likely came from formed deposits before the site was ploughed more recently. The survival of this soil indicates that although later plough truncation on site was widespread it was not heavy.

***Quainton: land near Railway Cottages***

SP 7267 2000

A trial-trench evaluation commissioned by Fusion for HS2 was undertaken between November 2017 and February 2018. The site, which comprised an area of c.25.5ha, is located east of Doddershall House and south-west of the village of Quainton, and is required for grassland habitat creation and embankment and bridge abutment construction. The evaluation totalled 115 trenches and was preceded by a programme of fieldwalking and a geophysical survey.

The most significant discovery was a farmstead comprising a series of rectilinear enclosures. This was entirely within the site, covering an area of c.1.7ha. The farmstead appears to have been established in the early Roman period, expanding in the later Roman period, and continuing until the very end of the Roman period. Features included enclosure ditches, pits, hollows and a waterhole, with the central area of the settlement producing dense concentrations of features. Finds spanned the entirety of the Roman period and included pottery, tile, iron-working slag, fired clay including daub with wattle impressions, iron, glass, worked bone, worked stone, a single human tooth, animal bones including sawn horn and antler, and oyster shells. The animal bone assemblage was of particular interest as it included species such as hare, rabbit, quail, house sparrow and house mouse, all rarely found on Roman sites. The site lies 2.3km north

of Akeman Street, which links Alchester (Bicester) with *Verulamium* (St Albans), and it is likely that this proximity to the road influenced the location and development of the settlement.

Prehistoric finds, all redeposited, included a small assemblage of worked flint and a limited number of later prehistoric pottery sherds. Furrows, ditches and a small number of pits dating to the medieval period were found across much of the site, showing that the site was part of the agricultural hinterland of the nearby medieval deserted village of Doddershall. An early post-medieval sub-oval enclosure and an adjacent pit were also discovered.

***Quainton: The Green***

SP 7466 2004 (centre)

FA undertook a watching brief during the replacement of a water main on The Green, Quainton. The groundworks exposed indeterminate clay substrates, situated under probable road make-up layers, which were sealed by a Modern road surface. A single brick-built drain, of likely post-medieval to early modern date, was encountered in the monitored area. No other significant archaeological features, finds or artefacts were present.

***Shabbington: Dukes Close***

SP 6640 0670

A watching brief was undertaken by JMHS on land adjacent to Franklins Farm, Shabbington, during site stripping for a proposed road and parking, and the excavation of footings for two housing plots. The watching brief identified two possible linear features in the stripped area of the road, which were probably natural features, potentially formed due to gleying. Over the course of the groundworks it became clear that the features identified in the evaluation did not appear to continue into the stripped area as expected and were instead likely to represent natural features.

***Soulbury: High Road***

SP 8829 2675

AA undertook a programme of evaluation and subsequent mitigation in advance of residential development on c.0.9ha of pasture in Boot Field,

west of High Road. Earthwork survey identified four lynchets or terraces, aligned roughly NE–SW across the slope, three possible building platforms towards High Road and traces of boundaries comprising ditches and low earthworks. Trial trenching revealed medieval and post-medieval features across the area. They comprised ditches, internal/external surfaces, a single posthole and other layers associated with the earthworks. The earliest dated features were a series of ditches, which were either directly dated to the medieval period by associated finds or indirectly by alignment or stratigraphy.

The open-area investigation provided evidence of activity on the site dating from the early medieval to the modern period. Pre-modern remains comprised elements of 12th–13th-century field boundaries (contemporary with the uppermost terrace at the north end of the site), and the remains of two heavily robbed post-medieval buildings, extensive cobbled surfaces, and drainage/field boundary ditches. The post-medieval remains broadly dated to the 16th–18th century and at least one of the buildings is likely to have been a dwelling. The buildings and some of the boundary ditches broadly correlate with the 1769 Soulbury manorial plan, which shows a series of roughly rectilinear enclosures extending across the PDA. Subsequent maps, such as the 1813 Ordnance Survey, indicate that the site was part of a large land parcel, with no evidence for the buildings, pointing to a relatively short-lived expansion of the village during the post-medieval period.

***Soulbury: Liscombe Park***

SP 8857 2566

KDK undertook a strip, map and sample excavation at Liscombe Park prior to the excavation of a swimming pool. This project identified a number of natural features affected by bioturbation, as well as a linear feature marking the presence of a removed hedge. A sub-circular discrete feature interpreted as a small tree throw also contained degraded animal bone and ceramic building material, similar to the ceramic brick and tiles found throughout the subsoil, no doubt related to past building works to Liscombe House and the neighbouring chapel. The works did not uncover the system of medieval and post-medieval features found during a previous evaluation, consequently

the excavated footprint may lie between the aforementioned features.

***Steeple Claydon: Queen Catherine Road***  
SP 7022 2686

In May 2019, historic building recording was undertaken by BHS on 'The Phoenix', a former public house on Queen Catherine Road, during remedial work and conversion for residential use.

The earliest parts of the building most likely date from the 17<sup>th</sup> century and comprise the body of the building, a box-framed, thatched structure of 1½ storeys. Though much of the original framing has been replaced with brick, some the original gable end frame remains. There is also some early wattle and daub, though it is uncertain how this relates to the rest of the structure at the east end, which appears to be mostly brick. Another distinctive original feature is the large fireplace in the barroom which, though partly rebuilt, retains several original niches (recently restored) in its rear wall, and also a fire window to the south.

From the historical evidence it is clear that the building started life as a village homestead, and did not become a public house until the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the first record of the 'Phoenix Inn' dating to 1853. It seems likely that a two-storey brick extension was added to the west end of the building at this time and also that the east end was extensively modified to create the cellar and the arrangement of rooms on the floor above, including the rear stairs. Much of the replacement of the original timber frame with brick likely dates from this period. The name of the inn derives from the fire insurance plaque on the front wall, which is probably of early 19<sup>th</sup>-century date.

During the later 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries the 'Phoenix Inn' appears to have continued to trade without much change, other than a series of extensions to the rear, presumably to provide additional bar space, toilets etc. Space was obviously a continuing problem, as extensions continued to be added up to the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

***Stewkley: High Street North***  
SP 850 265

A watching brief and controlled strip were undertaken by NA during development work on land adjoining 66 High Street North between February

and June 2019. These works confirmed the presence of an Iron Age field system first identified during a previous evaluation, as well as furrows dating from the medieval period or later.

***Stoke Goldington: George Inn Place***  
SP 8367 4880

In August 2019, BHS undertook historic building recording of a disused barn at 3 George Inn Place, prior to its conversion for residential use. The barn is not listed, though it falls within the Stoke Goldington Conservation Area.

The building is an eight-bay stone structure with a slate roof, last used agriculturally for rearing pigs, though the three-bay north-western end was most recently used as an equipment store by the local Scout group, until their demise in the mid-1990s. Cartographic evidence indicates that the north-western end of the building was built by 1880 – probably in the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The remaining five bays appear to have been added between 1880 and 1900, utilising existing stone boundary walls for the bases of the south-west and south-east sides. Little remains of any internal features.

***Stoke Hammond: Hillersdon Chase***  
SP 87975 29406

In January, KDK undertook an evaluation at 'The Mellows', Hillersdon Chase. Four trenches were excavated. A single undated posthole was exposed but no further archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed.

***Stoke Mandeville: Lower Road***  
SP 8302 1049

An evaluation was undertaken by JMHS on land to the rear of 19-21 Lower Road, owing to the potential for archaeological remains relating to the late prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval periods. Seven trenches were excavated. The evaluation confirmed the existence of a number of ditches for paddocks or enclosures. Two very small sherds, tentatively identified as medieval pottery, were found in one ditch. No other medieval activity is known in close proximity to this site, though medieval moated sites are known to the near west and south. However, these are likely to be

nucleated and not to have paddocks or enclosures this far away from them. Therefore, the sherds may be of earlier date, possibly prehistoric. The ditches therefore could be similar to the undated features found east of Lower Road by CA (see below), which were considered to be of later prehistoric date. No other finds were recovered from the remaining features during the evaluation. The features that were identified were not substantial in their size, and are likely associated with small-scale agricultural activity.

***Stoke Mandeville: land east of Lower Road***  
SP 83270 10736

Excavation and a watching brief undertaken by CA confirmed the presence of late prehistoric and Roman activity identified during a preceding archaeological evaluation. The earliest features were five Bronze Age pits. Early Iron Age pottery was recovered from a stake hole. Roman agricultural features included bedding trenches and associated field boundaries, possibly representing cultivation rows for grape vines, hops or soft fruit. Medieval and post-medieval furrows and post-medieval boundary ditches were also present.

***Stoke Mandeville: St Mary's Church***  
SP 8382 0942

In advance of the construction of an embankment for HS2, a programme of archaeological works comprising a trial trench evaluation along with survey, recording and salvage of the remains of St Mary's Church and its associated funerary monuments was commissioned by Fusion. During the survey phase, a programme of public archaeology, *St Mary's Field Museum*, was also delivered. This included hands-on experiences for over 30 members of the community and two open days, attended by over 300 people. An enormous amount of positive community engagement and goodwill was generated by this programme.

The site comprises a roughly rectangular plot of land delineated by watercourses on three sides. Documentary sources indicate that St Mary's Church and its churchyard dated from the 11<sup>th</sup> century, being deconsecrated in 1866. The church itself was demolished one hundred years later, leaving a mound of rubble overlying the remains of the building.

During the trial trenching, archaeological remains were identified in 19 of the 23 trenches opened. The evaluation showed that burial activity was limited to the area of the churchyard. Outside this, archaeological remains appeared to be more prevalent to the north of the church, comprising mostly landscape features dating from the medieval and post-medieval periods.

In the medieval period, the historical boundary of the church appears to have been formed by enclosure ditches. Within this area, a total of 111 burials were identified, of which 91 were excavated, the remaining burials being left *in situ*. Locations of the latter were plotted by GPS and protected with sand and geotextile for investigation during further mitigation works. The preservation of bone was good, with evidence for both coffin and shroud burials as well as vaults and tombs. No vaults or marked graves were excavated. Some phasing of use of the burial ground was indicated, including a possible break in continuity (or a significant slowing down of) burials between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, probable burial clearance and raising of ground levels.

Survey techniques employed in the site included unmanned aerial photography (including 'Structure from Motion' photogrammetry), 3D laser scanning, ground-based photography, DGPS survey, hand drawings and written notes. Salvage works resulted in the recovery of the churchyard fence and gate, funerary monuments, gravestones, and architectural fragments from the demolished church. A total of 716 worked stone items were catalogued.

The fabric of the church survived well beneath the rubble mound with largely intact floors and walls surviving to at least waist height. The earliest fabric (chancel arch) appears to date from 1090–1110. There is evidence for numerous phases of addition and modification of the fabric throughout the life of the building. In summary these phases include: the extension of the chancel; the addition of the south aisle; and the addition of a tower at the west end.

***Stone with Bishopstone & Hartwell: land south of Walton Court***  
SP 81072 11596

An evaluation by CA identified three foci of Roman settlement activity on the higher ground

above a floodplain. The southernmost settlement originated in the Iron Age and ditches of this date were replaced by Roman trackways, enclosures and at least one significant building evidenced by a robbed-out wall and associated tesserae. Enclosures were present in both other settlements as well as two undated but probably Roman inhumation burials. The finds assemblage comprised pottery, including continental imports and finewares, *tegula*, animal bones and coins. A small cluster of Roman ditches were present within the southern extent of the site. Ridge and furrow earthworks overlaid the northernmost settlement.

***Stony Stratford: High Street***

SP 78758 40427

Historic building recording by CA at the listed 16th/17th-century 'Old George Inn' revealed that the building likely comprised a hall and cross wing following a broad 'block' or 'gatehouse' type inn arrangement. The 'L'-shaped range fronting the High Street was the earliest element and the former rear (southern) gable end had been punched through in two places to open the earlier building into the late 18th/early 19th-century rear range. The ground floor interior of the later range has been completely gutted and modern partitions fitted to the first floor in the mid to late 20th century. A watching brief during groundworks associated with development at the site identified no features or deposits of archaeological interest.

***Stowe: Lamport Lodge***

SP682 375

A watching brief undertaken by NA during the installation of a new oil pipe at Lamport Lodge recorded only deposits of made ground likely to date from the post-medieval / early modern period.

***Upper Winchendon and Eythrope***

SP 7586 1397 (centre)

Between May and July, FA undertook a watching brief during the replacement of a water main between Upper Winchendon and Eythrope. The groundworks exposed indeterminate clay and chalk sand substrates, situated under intermittent subsoils and/or topsoil. A single undated probable agricultural ditch was present within the monitored

area. No other significant archaeological features, finds or artefacts were present.

***Walton: land at Towergate***

SP 9054 3748

An evaluation by CA identified a series of enclosures, ditches and pits of Late Iron Age to Roman date. A trackway revealed may also date to this period. Several undated gullies were also present.

***Wavendon: Lower End Road***

SP 68067 31821

Between March and June, KDK undertook an evaluation at Wavendon Golf Centre, Lower End Road, prior to the construction of a large new housing development with landscaping and supporting infrastructure. The evaluation documented settlement activity dating from the mid/late Iron Age and Romano-British period in the form of ditches, gullies, pits, post-holes, ceramics, and animal bone, with the potential existence of relatively high-status structures in a rural environment. Later activity comprised medieval ridge and furrow, and post-medieval to modern land drainage and management.

***Wavendon: Wavendon Lodge***

SP 93095 38271

OA carried out an excavation on land near Wavendon Lodge between May and July 2019. An area of 0.44ha was excavated, revealing a sequence of ditched enclosures dating from the late Iron Age/early Roman period to the late Roman period. Late Iron Age/early Roman features comprised a small ditch, a waterhole, and an L-shaped ditch that defined the corner of a field. In the early Roman period, an array of small ditched enclosures was laid out on a different alignment to the earlier features. These were probably small paddocks for livestock management and were replaced by three more substantial ditched enclosures, laid out on the same alignment and re-cutting some early Roman features. This arrangement was maintained through the middle and late Roman period. A ditch, orientated north-south, probably defined one side of a trackway between the enclosures. A penannular ditch, with an entrance on the east side, probably enclosed a circular structure,

although no internal features were found. Other features included an oblong oven, possible hearths, and several pits. Artefacts included pottery, ceramic building material, fired clay, animal bone, stone, metal and glass artefacts, predominantly of Roman date. Several ditches and pits were sampled for environmental evidence. The site forms the periphery of an Iron Age – Roman settlement lying to the east on the opposite side of Cranfield Road.

**Wendover: Chiltern Way Academy**  
SP 8726 0717

An evaluation by CA identified no features or deposits of archaeological significance.

**Weston Underwood: Weston House**  
SP 8672 5078

Between February 2018 and July 2019, BHS carried out a watching brief at Weston House during the installation of a ground-source heating system, excavations for the construction of a swimming pool and groundworks for associated structures. The present house, which is Grade II listed, comprises one of two wings, added in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century to a late 16<sup>th</sup>-century mansion built for Sir Robert Throckmorton. The mansion was pulled down in 1828, after which the surviving wing was extended and part of the adjoining Roman Catholic chapel was constructed.

Observations made during excavations for the swimming pool revealed the fragmentary remains of the footings for the front (north-west) wall of the mansion, part of an internal floor, which had apparently been surfaced with plain glazed tile, and a possible cellar, a rectangular area inside the mansion excavated into the underlying natural clay and backfilled with orange sandy clay containing limestone and occasional brick/tile fragments. No artefacts or other dating evidence was recovered during the watching brief. Based on the fragmentary nature of the surviving structural evidence for the mansion, it appears that its demolition in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was very thorough, and probably accompanied by some major landscaping which removed most remaining traces of the building.

**Wingrave: Mill Lane**  
SP 87244 18870

Between November 2018 and January 2019, KDK undertook a programme of historic building recording at Maltby's Farm, Mill Lane, as a condition of Listed Building Consent for renovations to the farmhouse. This primarily entailed the recording of the north elevation and roof timbers of the house. The fabric of the building has undergone relatively little change from its original structure, being timber framed with brick infill. The main part of the house is located in the west range, which has a three-bay staggered butt purlin roof, the exposed timbers of which revealed a series of carpenters' assembly marks, as well as a variety of mortice and tenon joints. Some machine-cut rafters were present on the west side of the roof, indicating repair in the recent past. The roof over the east range, which appeared to be a single trenched or clasped purlin structure with two bays, had undergone more change. The rafters had been repaired and replaced in an *ad hoc* fashion, resulting in a far less uniform structure comprising patchwork of reused timbers and makeshift bracing. The east range did not possess the distinctive carpenters' marks of the west range.

**Wolverton: Old Wolverton Road**  
SP 80517 41387

MOLA carried out a programme of historic building recording at Galleon Cottage, Old Wolverton Road, in December 2019 and January 2020. This was required prior to demolition of the building in line with proposals to construct a new detached dwelling. This non-designated heritage asset sits within the 19<sup>th</sup>-century canal-side development of Wolverton Wharf. The cottage was most likely constructed as housing associated with this function, although it now stands isolated. Any historic character or surviving fixtures and fittings have been eradicated by a mid-20th-century refurbishment which saw the roof replaced, as a single-storey rear extension was raised to create more accommodation. The refurbishment included the removal of the original staircase and the dividing wall between the ground floor rooms. Overall, the refurbishment swept away the historic nature of the cottage in an attempt to create an 'olde worlde' decorative scheme. Fake ceiling joists, robust

timber window lintels, and a stone-clad fireplace all contributed to the replacement of the historic fabric.

### **REPORTS NOT RECEIVED**

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

Aylesbury, 21a Buckingham Street: strip, map & sample excavation

Bletchley, land east of Selbourne Avenue: evaluation

Bradwell, 28a Vicarage Road: watching brief

Buckingham, Cornwall Meadows: watching brief

Buckingham, West End Farm: excavation

Castlethorpe, Prospect Road: geophysics

Chalfont St Peter, M25: geophysics & evaluation

Denham, Denham Park Farm: excavation

Denham, Denham Quarry: evaluation

Great & Little Hampdens, Ironbeech Cottage: evaluation

Great Kimble, Church Lane: watching brief

Great Missenden, Misbourne School: watching brief

Haddenham, land at Stanbridge Road: excavation

Haddenham, land south of Haddenham Airfield: watching brief

Hedgerley, Slade Farm: strip, map and sample excavation

Iver, Sutton Court Farm: geophysics

Lacey Green, Old Methodist Chapel: building recording

Olney, land south of Lavendon Road: excavation

Olney, land at Walkers Bridge: watching brief

Princes Risborough, Longwick Road: geophysics

Princes Risborough, The Spinney, Whiteleaf: watching brief

Quarrendon, Roman Park: strip, map and sample excavation

Wavendon, Eagle Farm: evaluation

Wavendon, Newport Road/Stockwell Lane: evaluation

Wavendon, land east of Orlensia Drive: evaluation

Wexham, Langley Quarry: excavation

### *HS2 projects:*

Chalfont St Peter, vent shaft: geophysics

Chetwode, Newton Purcell and Manthorne Farm: evaluation

Great Missenden, Kings Cottage: evaluation

Great Missenden, North Portal: evaluation & excavation

Steeple Claydon, Shepherds Furze Farm: evaluation

Stone with Bishopstone, east of Bishopstone: unspecified

Stone with Bishopstone, Sedrup Farm: unspecified

Twyford, Three Bridge Mill: unspecified

Waddesdon, HS2 Waddesdon: evaluation

Wendover, Ellesborough Road: evaluation

Wendover, Grove Farm: evaluation

Wendover, Rocky Lane: evaluation

Westbury, Grove Hill Farm: unspecified

### *East-West Railway projects:*

Charndon, site B14: watching brief

Marsh Gibbon, site A4: evaluation

Middle Claydon, site B27: evaluation

Swanbourne, site B28: evaluation

Winslow, site B3: evaluation

Unknown, site B4: unspecified

### *Milton Keynes Western Area Expansion projects:*

Whaddon, Shenley: evaluation

Calverton? Parcel D, fields 1, 2 & 4: evaluation

Calverton? Parcel D, fields 5 & 7: evaluation

Calverton? Parcel D, field 11: evaluation

Calverton? Parcel D, field 13: evaluation

Calverton? Fairfields playing fields: evaluation