

## 5. THE MIDLANDS

By ALICE LYONS

### BEDFORDSHIRE

(1) **Aspley Guise**, *Cranfield Road, Land south-east of Milton Keynes*, (SP 9364 3798): evaluation identified a late Iron Age to Roman farmstead dating between the early first century A.D. to the third or fourth centuries A.D. The finds assemblage indicates that cattle were bred on site and both cattle and sheep/goat were butchered. Crop processing and metalworking were also carried out in the vicinity.<sup>1</sup>

(2) **Cranfield**, *Land at Wharley End*, (SP 93484 42567): evaluation revealed a second century A.D. Roman ditch complex in the south-west part of the development area.<sup>2</sup>

(3) **Shefford**, *Land off Lychwood Lane*, (TL 13796 38824): trial trench evaluation<sup>3</sup> ahead of conversion of existing buildings and residential development encountered two parallel stone walls which are thought to be associated with a Romano-British building identified in the nineteenth century as a temple.<sup>4</sup>

### BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

(1) **Aston Clinton**, *Aylesbury Road*, (SP 8725 1234): excavation of a small area revealed one ditch which contained 57 sherds from an early Roman (incomplete) grog-tempered jar. The ditch was not aligned on Akeman Street which runs adjacent to the site.<sup>5</sup>

(2) **Aylesbury Vale**, *Land west of Cheddington*, (SP 91853 17510): an evaluation recorded Roman rectilinear enclosures which yielded a finds assemblage indicative of settlement activity.<sup>6</sup>

(3) **Hanslope**: hoard of 6 *denarii*: Vespasian, 1; Marcus Aurelius, 1; Pescennius Niger, 1; Caracalla, 1; Severus Alexander, 1; Uncertain empress, 1. Deposited c. A.D. 222–4 or later.<sup>7</sup>

### CAMBRIDGESHIRE

(1) **Brampton**, *Land north of 66-100 Thrapston Road*, (TL 2109 7127): evaluation identified early Roman ditches in the area around a ploughed-out ring ditch identified by geophysical survey.<sup>8</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Work by A. Whelan, Cotswold Archaeology. J. Cook sent information.

<sup>2</sup> N. Cox, OA East; for Gladman Developments Ltd; OA East Report 2149.

<sup>3</sup> Directed by W. Santamaria and T. Piggott of Wessex Archaeology, for Heritage Planning Services Ltd. A. Tuck sent information.

<sup>4</sup> Inskip, T., 1850 'On ancient relics collected in Bedfordshire'. Association of Architectural Societies Report Paper 1, pt 1, 165-172.

<sup>5</sup> Work by Thames Valley Archaeological Services. Compiled by S. Preston. L. Esteves sent information.

<sup>6</sup> Work by A. Roberts and R. Holt, Cotswold Archaeology. J. Cook sent information.

<sup>7</sup> BM ref. 2017 T848; PAS ID: IARCH-6E2B2D and individual records. A. James/E. Ghey sent information.

<sup>8</sup> N. Cox, OA East; for CgMs; OA East Report 2079. K. Hamilton sent information

(2) **Broughton**, *Land South East of Lodge Farm, Bridge Road*, (TL 26630 75690): evaluation identified Iron Age and Romano-British pits and ditches. Two human skulls were identified and reburied. These features represent a continuation of contemporary activity located to the north and north-east.<sup>9</sup>

(3) **Fordham**, *Land east of Newmarket Road* (TL 6330 6874): evaluation revealed an early Roman crouched burial placed within a natural hollow.<sup>10</sup>

(4) **Heydon**, *Woodstock, 63 Fowlmere Road*, (TL 4302 4051): in the south-western part of the evaluation area a metalled surface, or possible trackway of Roman date, was found.<sup>11</sup>

(5) **Hinxton**, *Land South of Hinxton Grange*, (TL 502 466): a 92-trench evaluation revealed limited evidence for activity in the Roman period, comprising a rectilinear enclosure and a small assemblage of residual finds, including eight sherds of early Roman pottery. The Roman evidence indicates a dispersed agricultural landscape.<sup>12</sup>

(6) **Sawtry**, *Gidding Road* (TL 1623 8329): in the northern half of the evaluation area, on higher ground, late Iron Age and early Roman enclosures were found.<sup>13</sup>

(7) **Sawtry**, *Glebe Farm* (TL 1626 8367): evaluation recorded ditches and pits relating to a series of late Iron Age and early Roman enclosures. This, combined with features identified by archaeological investigations to the south of Gidding Road (above), indicates the presence of extensive later Iron Age and early Roman activity in this location, in the form of 'ladder settlement' enclosures.<sup>14</sup>

(8) **St Ives**, *Gifford Farm* (TL 3268 7259): in the southern part of the evaluation area a square enclosure with an internal curvilinear enclosure identified by geophysical survey was investigated and contained early Roman pottery. Elsewhere in the south-eastern part of the site features attributed to the Roman period include probable structures and a possible shrine.<sup>15</sup>

(9) **The Stukeleys**, *Alconbury Weald Enterprise Zone*, (TL 2031 7661): evaluation carried out on land formerly occupied by Alconbury Airfield revealed features probably dug to provide drainage for agriculture and possibly associated with Roman settlement activity previously identified outside the evaluated area.<sup>16</sup>

(10) **The Stukeleys**, *Alconbury Weald Strategic Water Main and Cycleway*, (TL 2270 7520): monitoring and evaluation revealed features of Middle to late Iron Age date, along with Romano-British ditches. These were part of the Iron Age and Roman co-axial field systems associated with settlements that colonised the upland clays away from the Fen edge.<sup>17</sup>

---

<sup>9</sup> Directed by D. Freer of Wessex Archaeology, for Dignity PLC. A. Tuck sent information.

<sup>10</sup> R. Webb, OA East; for Waterman Environment and Infrastructure Ltd on behalf of Hermes Property Unit Trust; OA East Report 2137. K. Hamilton sent information.

<sup>11</sup> S. Ladd, OA East; for TC Property Developments Ltd.; OA East Report 2070. K. Hamilton sent information.

<sup>12</sup> Work by M. Jones, Pre-Construct Archaeology, for Terence O'Rourke. K. Anderson sent information.

<sup>13</sup> P. Moan, OA East; for CgMs; OA East Report 2080. K. Hamilton sent information.

<sup>14</sup> S. Graham, OA East; for CgMs; OA East Report 2153. K. Hamilton sent information.

<sup>15</sup> J. Fairbairn, OA East; for Hallam Land; OA East Report 2084. K. Hamilton sent information.

<sup>16</sup> R. Webb, OA East; for CgMs; OA East Report 2054. K. Hamilton sent information.

<sup>17</sup> E. Abrehart and R. Webb, OA East; for CgMs; OA East Report 2055. K. Hamilton sent information.

(11) **Wicken**, *Old School Lane, Upware*, (TL 53751 70051): evaluation revealed an area of late Roman settlement concentrated in the northern half of the site. The exposed features comprised a relatively dense network of ditches, gullies and pits forming parts of several rectilinear enclosures. Artefacts recovered included Roman pottery primarily dating to between 250–400 A.D., animal bone, ceramic building material, fragments of quern, stone, shell, three late Roman coins and a lead weight. The assemblage of ceramic building material suggests the presence of structures, while the stone observed in the topsoil may be indicative of stone footings or stone packed postholes.<sup>18</sup>

#### DERBYSHIRE

(1) **Catton**: hoard of 3 *siliquae* of Julian, mint of Arles. Deposited c. A.D. 360–3 or later.<sup>19</sup>

#### HEREFORDSHIRE

(1) **Ledbury**, *Land North of the Viaduct*, (SO 70274 39010): evaluation identified several first – second-century A.D. ditches and a pit occupying a small plateau overlooking the River Leadon. The finds assemblage is indicative of domestic activity in the vicinity.<sup>20</sup>

#### HERTFORDSHIRE

(1) **Hemel Hempstead**, *The Crown Estate* (TL 086 089): evaluation on The Crown Estate, Hemel Hempstead revealed elements of an early Roman field system.<sup>21</sup>

(2) **St Albans**, *St Michaels Infant School*, (TL 513753 204439): excavation revealed Roman extra-mural building foundations and associated layers.<sup>22</sup>

#### LEICESTERSHIRE

(1) **Ashby Magna**: hoard of 18 denarii: Mark Antony, 1; Titus Caesar, 1; Domitian, 2; Uncertain Flavian, 1; Nerva, 1; Trajan, 6; Hadrian, 3; Sabina, 1; Antoninus Pius, 2. The latest coin may be a plated copy. Deposited c. A.D. 159–160 or later.<sup>23</sup>

(2) **Hemington**, *East Midlands Gateway fields 35 and 43*, (SK 45555 26900): as part of a multi-phase project over several years, a trial trench evaluation in Field '43' revealed a series of ditches which probably defined plots of land associated with Romano-British activity immediately to the east.<sup>24</sup>

---

<sup>18</sup> K. Blackburn, OA East; for Emma Cross; OA East Report 2146. K. Hamilton sent information.

<sup>19</sup> BM ref. 2017 T497; PAS ID: PUBLIC-F47B3D, PUBLIC-1030CC and PUBLIC-A271C1. R. Thomas/A. Willis sent information

<sup>20</sup> Work by C. Leonard, Cotswold Archaeology. J. Cook sent information.

<sup>21</sup> G. Clarke, OA East; for The Crown Estate; OA East Report 2143. K. Hamilton sent information.

<sup>22</sup> J. Fairbairn, OA East; for St Michaels Infant School; OA East Report 2118. K. Hamilton sent information.

<sup>23</sup> BM ref. 2017 T1020; PAS ID: LEIC-40C0CE. W. Scott/A. Brown sent information.

<sup>24</sup> Overseen by P. Daniel of Wessex Archaeology, for CgMs. A. Tuck sent information.

(3) **Market Harborough**, *Great Bowden*, (SP 73752 88877 to SP 72381 88691 and SP 74877 88757): evaluation revealed the remains of three early Romano-British boundary ditches, contemporary pottery was also found.<sup>25</sup>

(4) **Gilmorton**, *Land off Lutterworth Road*, (SP 57048 87508): evaluation revealed at least three phases of activity as prehistoric, Roman and post-medieval artefacts were recovered. This could be characterised as small-scale prehistoric land use, a localised focus of Roman activity in close proximity to a rural settlement in the northern third of the site, and the remains of a medieval and post-medieval agricultural landscape. Other features included a number of small gullies and ditches that were widespread but remain undated and poorly understood both in relation to one another and the sequence of activity on the site.<sup>26</sup>

#### NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

(1) **Brixworth**, *Saxon Rise 2, Northampton Road* (SP 74940 69390): excavation identified late Iron Age enclosures, two possible ring ditches and extensive pitting replaced by a Roman 'linear complex' farmstead comprising a series of sub-rectangular stock enclosures, drying ovens and ditches.<sup>27</sup>

(2) **Rushden Lakes**, *Ditchford Fields*, (SP 93390 67800): evaluation of 50 trial trenches established the presence and survival of several archaeological features associated with the middle-late Iron Age settlement. Further archaeological features, consisting of a few ditches and a pit, were encountered in the far eastern part of the evaluation area. Little could be discerned of their character and function, though the recovery of a small amount of Roman pottery suggests that they may have been features of this date.<sup>28</sup>

(3) **Lilbourne**, *Night Owl Truck Stop, Watling Street*, (SP 5513 7664): evaluation identified late first-second-century A.D. boundary ditches relating to the organisation of the landscape following the construction of Watling Street. These were superseded by a second to fourth-century domestic enclosure with internal divisions and evidence for animal butchery.<sup>29</sup>

#### OXFORDSHIRE

(1) **Abingdon**, *Dunmore Road*, (SU 4918 9884): evaluation identified at least two phases of a Middle Iron Age to early Roman settlement comprising possible roundhouse drip gullies and postholes and a series of rectilinear stock enclosures.<sup>30</sup>

(2) **Benson**, *Littleworth Road*, (SU 6120 9200): a 2.5 ha excavation discovered of a series of enclosures and boundary features dated to the late Iron Age. A single rich cremation burial was found outside the main enclosure. Unusually for the area, the pottery assemblage contained a high percentage (19%, from both the grave and the enclosure ditches) of Central Gaulish and Gallo-Belgic

---

<sup>25</sup> N. Mason, OA East; for Anglian Water; OA East Report 2155. K. Hamilton sent information.

<sup>26</sup> R. Bradley, OASIS id: fieldsec1-290524.

<sup>27</sup> Work by P. Boyer, Cotswold Archaeology. J. Cook sent information.

<sup>28</sup> R. Bashford of Oxford Archaeology for Ditchford Reserve Local Wildlife Site. R. Shaffrey sent information.

<sup>29</sup> Work by J. Streatfield-James, Cotswold Archaeology. J. Cook sent information.

<sup>30</sup> Work by A. Barber, Cotswold Archaeology. J. Cook sent information.

fine ware imports of Augustan–Tiberian date. Unexpectedly the site did not continue in use into early Roman times.<sup>31</sup>

(3) **Bix and Assendon**: 2 denarii: Vespasian, 1, Divus Vespasian, 1, addenda to hoard 2015 T990. Dep.: c. A.D. 164 or later (original hoard).<sup>32</sup>

(4) **Brighthampton, Standlake, Land at Malthouse Farm, (SP 3857 0338)**: 10 30 m x 1.8 m evaluation trenches were located to investigate geophysical anomalies and to allow an evenly distributed investigation across the site. Most of the excavated evidence is for pits and ditches of medieval date, but a small number of late Saxon sherds and a single Roman sherd suggest activity of these periods in the vicinity.<sup>33</sup>

(5) **Chinnor, Land at Crowell Road, (SP 74925 00262)**: trial trenches revealed boundary and drainage ditches along with settlement-related rubbish pits dating from the late Iron Age/Romano-British period to the medieval period. Undated features were also recorded, and three small abraded sherds of Beaker attested to residual Bronze Age activity. The recorded features support the location of the site on the border between agricultural and settlement activity.<sup>34</sup>

(6) **Didcot, Land East of Park Road, (SU 51712 88661)**: evaluation uncovered a total of three ditches, three postholes and a feature interpreted as a possible tree-throw hole. The main focus of features, comprising the postholes and two of the ditches, was located in Trench 2 in the north-eastern part of the evaluation area. One of the ditches was dated by ceramic evidence to the Roman period and the other to the late Iron Age/early Roman period. Only one of the postholes was excavated and produced no dating evidence. The paucity of artefactual material suggests that the features are likely to be situated away from, or on the periphery of, any associated settlement.<sup>35</sup>

(7) **Emmer Green, Land off Peppard Road (SU 7235 7777)**: evaluation confirmed the presence of prehistoric activity at a low density across the area and the presence of a probable Roman farmstead focused on the central and eastern areas. The farmstead was represented by boundary ditches, pits, two ovens/kilns and a possible cremation burial. No certain evidence was discovered for buildings, although a single possible wall footing was identified.<sup>36</sup>

(8) **Grove, Land north of Grove (SU 3997 9087)**: evaluation identified an Iron Age settlement in the vicinity of a brook that continued to be used during the Roman period and underwent expansion with the creation of stone structures, gullies, pits and postholes. The finds assemblage included box flue tile and *tegulae*, samian pottery and brooch fragments and indicates that the settlement was occupied until the mid-third to fourth centuries A.D.<sup>37</sup>

---

<sup>31</sup> Work by A. Taylor of Thames Valley Archaeological Services. Compiled by S. Preston.

<sup>32</sup> BM ref. 2017 T44: PAS ID: SUR-2141C8. D. Williams/R Abdy sent information.

<sup>33</sup> By R. Bashford of Oxford Archaeology for CgMs Consulting. R. Shaffrey sent information.

<sup>34</sup> Directed by W. Santamaria of Wessex Archaeology for Pegasus Group. A. Tuck sent information.

<sup>35</sup> By R. McIntosh of Oxford Archaeology for Environmental Dimension Partnership (EDP) on behalf of Catesby Estates Ltd. R. Shaffrey sent information.

<sup>36</sup> By V. Hughes of Oxford Archaeology for Pegasus Planning Group on behalf of Gladman Developments. R. Shaffrey sent information.

<sup>37</sup> Work by S. Sworn, Cotswold Archaeology. J. Cook sent information.

(9) **South Oxford**, *South Oxford Science Village* (SP 5515 0150): evaluation of an early–late Roman planned settlement and pottery production site originating in the first to second centuries A.D. and intensifying into the third to fourth centuries. The finds assemblage includes metalwork, kiln furniture and pottery; human remains were also identified.<sup>38</sup>

(10) **Sutton Courtenay**, *Land off Harwell Road*, (SU 5018 9281): evaluation revealed a continuation of a scheduled Iron Age/Roman farming settlement located 200 m to the west. The identified features were situated on an elevated plateau above marshland and comprised multiple phases of enclosures, pits, postholes and a trackway. The finds assemblage indicates that the settlement was predominately occupied during the first to fourth centuries A.D.<sup>39</sup>

(11) **Wantage**, *Naldertown* (SU 3921 8813): a three-trench evaluation revealed numerous ditches which are likely to represent the remains of Roman enclosure and field systems. Stone roof tiles, ceramic building material, nails and large limestone fragments suggest that there may have been a structure or structures in the vicinity of the site.<sup>40</sup>

## RUTLAND

(1) **Uppingham**, *Leicester Road* (SK 8584 0031): evaluation identified remains of probable Bronze Age and later prehistoric date, along with a Saxon cremation. In addition, a double ditched boundary/trackway was recorded intermittently across the site. Prehistoric flints, Roman pottery and probable intrusive post-medieval pottery were retrieved from the fills of this feature, and whilst a Roman date is possible, a later prehistoric date is considered most likely.<sup>41</sup>

(2) **Leighfield**: hoard of 18 *sestertii*: Diva Faustina I, 1; Marcus Aurelius Caesar, 1; Marcus Aurelius, 1; Faustina II, 3; Lucilla, 1; Uncertain Antonine empress, 2; Postumus, 1; Uncertain. 8. Deposited c. A.D. 268 or later.<sup>42</sup>

## STAFFORDSHIRE

(1) **Four Ashes**, *West Midlands Interchange* (SJ 92294 09622): detailed gradiometer survey identified pit- and ditch-like features including a possible ring ditch and two probable former field boundaries. The features are located close to Watling Street Roman road and therefore might be Romano-British in date.<sup>43</sup>

---

<sup>38</sup> Work by C. Ellis, Cotswold Archaeology. J. Cook sent information.

<sup>39</sup> Work by A. Howard and J. Whelan, Cotswold Archaeology. J. Cook sent information.

<sup>40</sup> By Mark Dodd of Oxford Archaeology for Thomas Homes Ltd. R. Shaffrey sent information.

<sup>41</sup> Fieldwork supervised by J. Smith and F. Walker and post-excavation analysis undertaken by P. Cope-Faulkner of Archaeological Project Services on behalf of Robinsons.

<sup>42</sup> BM Ref. 2017 T540; PAS ID: LEIC-FF9BCD. The group was reported with 13 radiates and *nummi* thought to be stray finds. E. Ghey sent information.

<sup>43</sup> Directed by A. Schmidt Wessex Archaeology for Ramboll Environ. A. Tuck sent information.

(2) **Wheaton Aston II**: hoard of 5 *denarii*: Trajan, 3; Hadrian, 1; Antoninus Pius, 1. Deposited c. A.D. 140–44 or later.<sup>44</sup>

#### WARWICKSHIRE

(1) **Billesley**: hoard of 10 *denarii*: Vespasian, 1; Domitian, 1; Trajan, 2; Hadrian, 3; Antoninus Pius, 1; Diva Faustina I, 1; Marcus Aurelius, 1. Deposited c. A.D. 161 or later.<sup>45</sup>

(2) **Brinklow**: hoard of 6 *denarii*: 5 *denarii*: Republic, 5; Augustus, 1. Deposited c. 2 B.C.–A.D. 4 or later.<sup>46</sup>

#### WORCESTERSHIRE

(1) **Droitwich**, *Land North of Vines Lane* (SO 8982 6389): an evaluation identified a Roman rampart and ditch, cobbled surfaces and several ditches associated with the previously identified settlement of Bays Meadow (National Heritage List 30093) to the north.<sup>47</sup>

(2) **Evesham**, *former Vauxhall Inn, Abbey Road* (SP 03508 43661): a watching brief was undertaken during development works. Deposits predating the construction of the fourteenth-century Evesham Abbey precinct wall were observed which included a Roman metalled surface and disturbed Roman artefacts.<sup>48</sup>

(3) **Hartlebury**: hoard containing 1 radiate copy and 11 Constantinian nummi: A.D. 307–18, 1 (uncertain mint); A.D. 318–24, 10 (3 London, 4 Trier, 3 uncertain). Deposited c. A.D. 318–24 or later.<sup>49</sup>

(4) **Lower Moor**, *Land off Blacksmiths Lane* (SO 98180 47100): trial trench evaluation identified a Romano-British field system dated by a very small assemblage of pottery and roof tile.<sup>50</sup>

(5) **Worcester**, *Land off Parsonage Way and Trotshill Way*, (SO 388794 255976): an evaluation revealed a Roman agricultural enclosure ditch which appears to have been recut at least once.<sup>51</sup>

---

<sup>44</sup> BM ref. 2017 T300; PAS ID: WMID-D085A6. Found by C. Pearson, with a metal detector. Potteries Museum & Art Gallery hopes to acquire. V. Allnatt and R. Abdy sent information.

<sup>45</sup> BM ref. 2017 T1003; PAS ID: WAW-B34BC7. The soil containing the coins is thought to have been imported from an unknown location. A. Bolton sent information.

<sup>46</sup> BM ref. 2017 T731; PAS ID: WMID-59A91C. A. Hinds, V. Allnatt and E Ghey sent information.

<sup>47</sup> Work by T. Havard of Cotswold Archaeology. J. Cook sent information.

<sup>48</sup> Work by J. Wilkins. HER reference: WSM68507. Oasis ID: fieldsec1-280879.

<sup>49</sup> BM ref. 2015 T765, addenda to 2012 T148 and 2014 T573; PAS ID: HESH-10FFAA. P. Reavill and H. Nead sent information.

<sup>50</sup> Directed by Stuart Pierson of Wessex Archaeology for CgMs. A. Tuck sent information.

<sup>51</sup> Work by P. Lovett and T. Vaughan. HER reference: WCM 102229. OASIS ID: fieldsec1-283569.