

Bucks Archaeological Society Active Archaeological Group

Fieldwalk 17. 11.2013

Ridgebarn Farm, Cuddington

SP 7509 1154 (field centre)

Permission given by: Mrs R.C. Soames, Ridgebarn Farm, Cuddington.

Conditions:

The field lies adjacent to the Cuddington- Dinton road on the north side. The road runs along a ridge on the south side of the Thame valley. BGS maps the underlying geology as Purbeck. Surface debris indicated occasional outcrops of fragmented limestone (particularly on the east side of the field) and casts of large (possibly Portlandian) ammonites were observed. Some fossil bone was collected.

Collection method:

The field was walked by the Active Archaeology Group of the Bucks Archaeological Society. Some members had not fieldwalked previously but the group included several with considerable experience. Search conditions were reasonable with slight crop growth. About 12 individuals took part. The field was gridded into 20m squares numbered alphabetically on the E-W axis and numerically on the N-S. About 6 individuals collected in each square. A total of 27 adjoining squares were examined in a T-shape across the centre of the field. The area examined represented about 14% of the field area.

Initially all artefactual material was collected within each square but on completion of each most of the collected brick and tile was discarded.

Washed and catalogued material:

Most of the previously retained brick and tile, unless deemed of particular interest, was discarded at this stage as were pieces of unworked flint and twentieth-century material (e.g pieces of clay pigeon). An Excel spreadsheet listing all retained material will be supplied to the County Museum and the HER accompanied by this description and a plan.

Summary

No finds had been recorded from the field previously but past fieldwalking in the general area had been quite productive, including one field c400m away which had produced substantial amounts of Roman material (HER 4989). However, finds of note were few in this field and there were no obvious concentrations of material – with the exception of four pieces of Jurassic bone. Thirteen squares produced struck flint in very low numbers, roughly dated to the Neolithic – EBA and including one round scraper on poor quality flint. There was one prehistoric sherd and two RB rims (possibly relating to the find to the east) but only one further RB sherd. There were three medieval sherds and plenty of post-medieval sherds.

Deposition of finds

The finds have been donated (in 2016) to Buckinghamshire County Museum by Mrs Soames

Compiled by MEF January 2016