

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Quarrendon Leas, Buckinghamshire



Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society & Buckinghamshire Conservation Trust

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Archaeological Watching Brief at Quarrendon Leas, Buckinghamshire

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Summary

This report describes a watching brief conducted by Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society volunteers during installation of a new fence at the 'Deserted villages and Civil War earthwork' scheduled monument at Quarrendon Leas (Aylesbury) in February 2024. The watching brief covered 184 screw auger holes for a new fence being installed by the Buckinghamshire Conservation Trust. Part of the new fence line was thought to cross the former burial ground around the ruined church of St. Peter.

The auger holes spaced at 1m intervals mainly revealed apparently naturally deposited alluvial clay silts directly beneath either topsoil and/or modern made ground. No structures were encountered and the only archaeological layer was a deep loam less than 11m wide located southwest of the church. During fieldwork proximity to the church ruin raised the possibility this was a cemetery/churchyard soil but the absence of human bone does not support that interpretation. It seems more likely to be either cultivation or occupation soil or the upper fill of a large cut feature such as a ditch or holloway.

Apart from modern building debris only a few sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery and fragments of undated animal bone were recovered.

St. Peter's chapel had obtained burial rights from its mother church at Aylesbury by the early 12th century (Everson, 2001, 16). Documentary evidence from the Bierton parish register suggests that there were only a handful of burials at 'Quarrendon chapel' after that of Sir Henry Lee on 4th April 1611. The last was probably Eliz(abeth) Atkins, a spinster buried on 31st August 1757.

Although small-scale observations of this nature ought to be treated with caution, the results suggest that St Peter's burial ground was probably smaller than interpreted by the Royal Commission (Everson, 2001, fig 19c). Comparison with the fully excavated church burial ground at Stoke Mandeville suggests that the likely smaller burial population at Quarrendon could easily be more tightly focussed around the church building.

Project Background

The Buckinghamshire Conservation Trust (BCT) owns and manages the Quarrendon Leas countryside site located on the northern outskirts of Aylesbury (NGR 480046 215831). The Quarrendon Leas site includes scheduled monument 'Deserted villages and Civil War earthwork' (List Entry Number: 1013416; SM 12004). BCT obtained scheduled monument consent for installation of interpretation boards, levelling the area within church and removal and erection of fencing granted on 4th October 2021 (ref: S00241834) subject to a condition requiring archaeological recording of groundworks.

On 20th February 2024 a small team from the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society's Active Archaeology Group maintained a watching brief on the installation of the new fence alongside a surfaced path that had been constructed in 2009 (Burke and Wolfram-Murray, 2009). The new fence covered a distance of c 186m between points A and B as shown on fig 1. The path and fence

skirt around the south of the ruined St. Peter's chapel and then run between an earthwork embankment and ditch on the south side and ponds to the north.

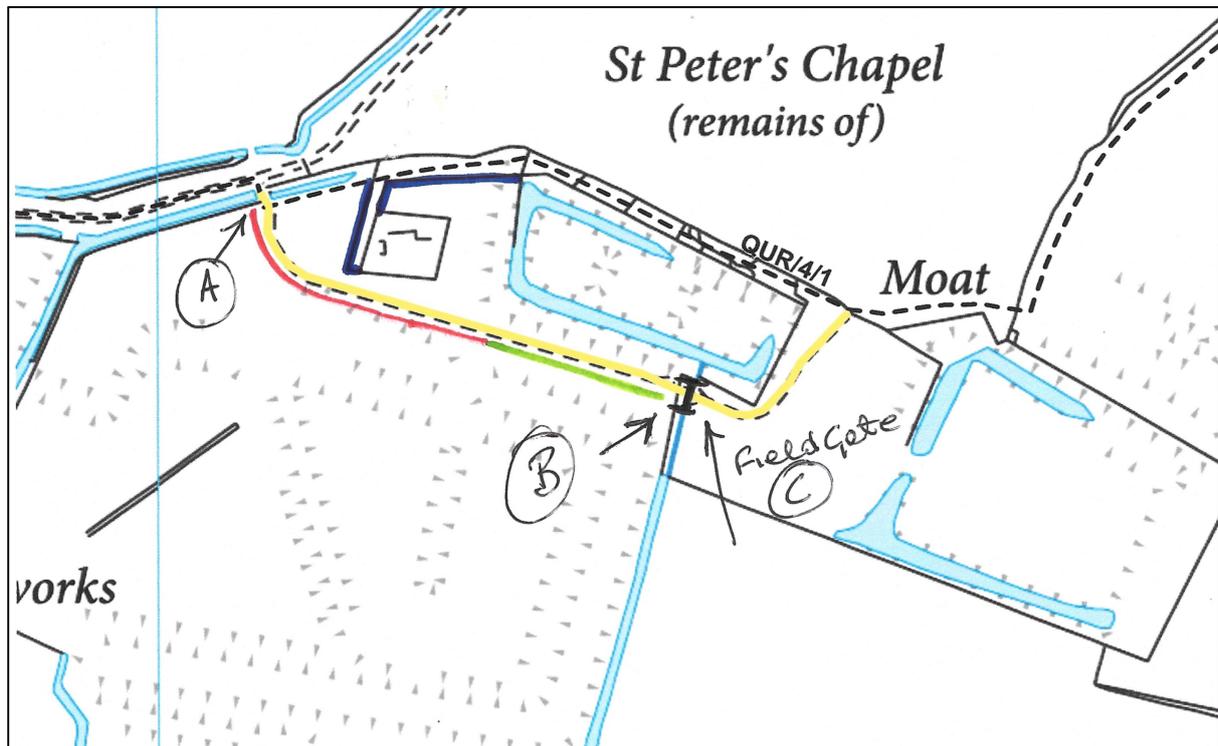


Fig 1: New fence location (red and green lines between points A and B)

Groundworks for the fence comprised 184 auger holes approximately 0.3m diameter and c 0.5m deep at 1m spacing excavated by a vehicle-mounted mechanised screw auger operated by the groundworks contractor. Along most of its length the new fence is 1-2m south of the path except at the very easternmost end where it steps out to 5.4m south for a new gate. Additionally two holes were inserted for a new gate immediately south of the church. The screw auger had been selected to minimise disturbance to buried archaeological deposits but unfortunately the smallest auger available was larger than anticipated resulting in an overall impact of about 13.1m² in total.

An informal walkover of the earthworks to the south of the church also recovered three medieval/post-medieval pottery sherds from a badger spoil heap near their southeast corner.

Archaeological Background

Quarrendon scheduled monument is located 2.8km northwest of Aylesbury town centre on the north side of the River Thames. Natural geology mapped by the British Geological Survey is alluvium over Kimmeridge Clay.

Quarrendon Leas is the site of deserted medieval settlements and a Tudor designed landscape surveyed and interpreted by the Royal Commission for Historical Monuments (England) (Everson, 2001). Subsequent historical research has emphasised the importance of the medieval manor as the administrative centre of the 'Honour of Quarrendon' (Marshall, 2020, 2021 & 2022; Gem, 2022 & 2023)

According to Everson's interpretation, the new fence was expected to pass through the former churchyard between the medieval chapel and a possible Tudor almshouse and then along a road causeway between two Tudor water garden features. However, the suggested extent of the churchyard is conjectural and the Tudor designed landscape may well have been built over medieval occupation. Early 20th century Ordnance Survey mapping shows that the extant path was then an agricultural track leading to Church Farm which stood within the moated island to the east. The by then ruined chapel is depicted but the churchyard is not. The earliest known detailed map, the 1847 tithe map of Quarrendon, shows the chapel within an L-shaped enclosure (Gem, 2022, Figure 1) which might well demarcate the extent of the churchyard on its north, east and west sides but its long south-eastern 'leg' seems far too large for that purpose.

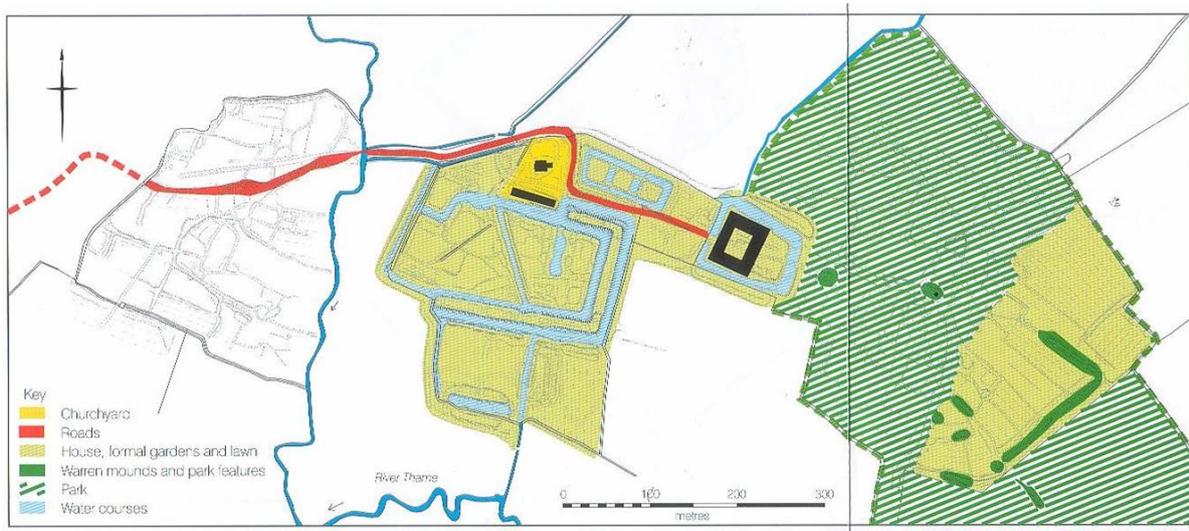


Fig 2: Interpretation plan of Tudor Quarrendon (Everson, 2001, fig 19c)



Fig 3: National Library of Scotland Ordnance Survey 25 inch 1902-1914 layer

In 2009 an archaeological watching brief was maintained during resurfacing of the farm track to create the existing surfaced path (Burke & Wolfram-Murray, 2009). The watching brief noted that the track had been built up with rubble which "... largely consisted of brick, probably from demolished buildings, roofing materials (including corrugated asbestos) and stone hardcore. It is not clear if the trackway was laid at one time or over a period of years, though the latter is more likely with various areas being added to as and when wet, boggy or rutted patches occurred. As the footpath was only excavated to a depth of 200mm, the construction of the footpath did not affect the underlying undisturbed ground significantly."

On the few occasions where the construction of the footpath went below the build-up of the farm track a firm, dark greyish brown silty clay soil was noted, which had occasional small- to medium-sized rounded pebbles with moderate amounts of debris and rubble pushed into it. No significant archaeological remains were uncovered, although 19th century finds and a possible earlier phase of the farm track was encountered, comprising a compact layer, between 30mm and 50mm thick, of small- to medium-sized pebbles, beneath a hard, dark greyish brown silty clay layer of soil.

Research Aims

The research aims of such a small-scale intervention were necessarily limited - the following were specified in the project design:

1. To record the sequence of deposits alongside the path, especially those a greater depth than observed by the 2009 watching brief.
2. To identify evidence possibly associated with the adjacent Tudor water features.
3. To identify evidence for the extent of the burial ground around St. Peter's Church.
4. To collect, identify and retain any finds of interest.

Methodology

The project was managed by Sandy Kidd MCIfA and carried out by members of the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society Active Archaeology Group.

Use of a screw auger precluded stratigraphic excavation so a representative sample of holes was recorded in section using a borehole log sheet. Holes were numbered from 1 (point A on fig 1) to 184 (point B) from west to east following the contractor's working method. Additional holes 185-186 were located just south of the chapel ruin.

The team planned to record every fifth auger hole plus any additional hole which revealed an unusual/interesting sequence or finds. In practice this had to be varied because some holes collapsed where excavated through loose made ground or flooded or were contaminated by concrete asbestos sheet fragments or had smeared sections. Despite these constraints, over 41 holes were recorded which gave a good overall picture of the deposits encountered (Appendix A). A representative photographic record was made (Appendix E).

The arisings from each auger hole were spread and scanned on site, except where asbestos sheet was present. Finds were collected and bagged by auger hole. A Ministry of Justice licence was obtained although in the event no human remains were encountered. Specialist advice was on ceramics was kindly provided by Mike Farley (BAS) and for bone identification by Sylvia Warman and Greer Dewdney (Historic England).

Results

Each hole reached a depth of 50-60cm below modern ground level (bgl), the lowest deposits encountered extended to an unknown depth. Many of the holes revealed similar sequences so for ease of reference they are discussed as a series of 'segments' from west to east (fig 4):

Segment A (Holes 1-13): for 13m from the field gate these holes revealed 50cm of modern made ground comprising loam mixed with redeposited modern demolition rubble including brick, reinforced glass and occasional metalwork.

Segment B (Holes 14-23): encountered pale clay at 20-40cm bgl above which was 5-10cm of dark loam then (20-40cm) modern made ground similar to that seen in segment A. The pale clay could be the natural alluvium and the dark loam buried topsoil.

Segment C (Holes 24-45): deep loose modern made ground contaminated with concrete asbestos sheeting caused the holes to collapse and precluded further recording.

Segment D (Holes 46-55): encountered dark clay at c 30cm bgl beneath modern made ground.

Segment E (Holes 56-67): mid-brown loam to full depth (c 60cm). The few medieval/post-medieval sherds and a horse buckle came from segment E and that along with depth and absence of modern material suggest this is topsoil merging imperceptibly into an archaeological layer.

Segment F (Holes 68-100): Yellow clay beneath 20cm of brown loam topsoil.

Segment G (Holes 101–145): Beige/brown clay beneath 15-20cm of dark loam topsoil.

Segment H (Holes 146-162): As above but with handmade brick in topsoil.

Segment I: (Holes 163 – 175): Beige/grey clay beneath 20cm dark loam topsoil.

Segment J (Holes 176-184): Grey clay beneath 10cm dark loam topsoil.

Church gate (Holes 185-186, 11m north of segment F): Three layers of which the lowest might be natural and the middle layer with chalk and brick fragments possibly related to demolition of the church.

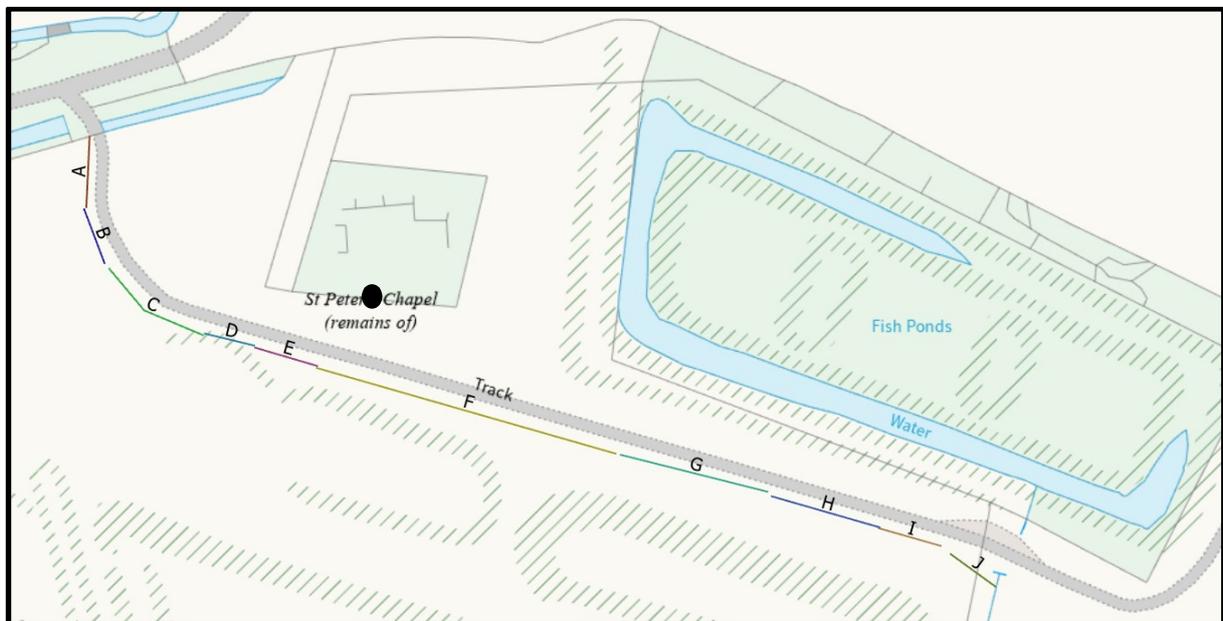


Fig 4: Locations of auger hole segments (dot marks church gate holes)

The earliest deposits were the variously coloured clays which are probably natural deposits, although whether they are Holocene alluvium or the Kimmeridge Clay solid geology was not established in the limited exposures. Segments G to J run along the northern lip of a broad ditch interpreted as a Tudor garden water channel so the beige/brown/grey clays could alternatively be channel infill or lining.

No structures were encountered and the only probable archaeological layer was the deep loam encountered in segment E. This could be either a cultivation or occupation soil or the upper fill of a large cut feature such as holloway. During fieldwork proximity to the church ruin raised the possibility this was a cemetery/churchyard soil but the absence of human bone does not support that interpretation.

Patches of modern dumping were encountered mainly at the western end of the fence (segments A to D) and would be consistent with the unauthorised dumping of 'urban demolition rubble' reported

in the late 1980s (Everson, 2001, 6 & 26). The most intense dumping (segment C) lies next to former farm buildings which were still visible as foundations in 1989-90. Further east dumping along the track reported in 2009 (Burke and Wolfram-Murray, 2009) appears to be closely contained barely reaching the fence only 1-2m further south. Although of later than Tudor date, the handmade bricks found in segment H might have come from the demolition of Church Farm that lay within the moated enclosure to the east,.

Finds

Due to use of a screw auger all recovered finds were effectively unstratified. All are in abraded/fragmentary condition.

Medieval ceramics from the auger holes comprised one oxidised sherd with green/orange mottled glaze from a ?jug of later medieval date and one tiny ?RB/medieval sherd. Only two sherds of post-medieval ceramic were found, including one from a slipware dish or platter. Two calcareous tempered courseware sherds (?C12th) and a post-medieval sherd were also found in a badger spoil heap dug from the inner south-eastern corner of the Tudor garden embankment.

Redeposited fragmentary handmade bricks were noted in auger hole segment H. The best (but still incomplete) example measured 60mm thick by 100mm wide and is probably of late C17th to early C19th date. Five fragments of medieval/post-medieval clay roof tile were also found.

The only significant metal find was a horse harness buckle from auger hole 60.

No human bone was found but 179 fragments of domestic animal bone were recovered from segments E, F and G (Appendix D).

Modern material (not retained) comprised window glass, iron nails and fittings, fragments of white-glazed tile, slate and clinker.

A finds schedule is provided as Appendix B.

Conclusions

Conclusions from such a limited investigation must necessarily be extremely tentative but the results suggest that St Peter's burial ground was probably smaller than suggested by the Royal Commission (Everson, 2001, fig 19c). Comparison with the fully excavated church burial ground at Stoke Mandeville (British Archaeology, 2022) suggests that the likely smaller burial population at Quarrendon could easily be more tightly focussed around the church building.

The near absence of medieval ceramics or other evidence for domestic settlement around the church was surprising. One explanation could be that earthmoving to create the adjacent Tudor garden has removed earlier evidence, another that the houses of Quarrendon village were not tightly clustered around the church. Further investigation will be needed to clarify this point.

Acknowledgments

The author would like to thank Doug Stuckey, Pauline Hey, Phil Clarke, Birgitta Thwaites and Rhian Morgan of the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society and Mike Woods of the Buckinghamshire Conservation Trust for helping to organise and carry out the watching brief.

Honor Lewington kindly provided the transcription of Quarrendon burials from the Bierton parish register made by Fred Hinxman. Sylvia Warman assessed the animal bone and Greer Dewdney helped confirm the absence of human remains. Mike Farley gave advice on finds identification.

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Appendix A: Auger Hole Log – Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society

Site name	Quarrendon Leas: new fence
Date	20 th February 2024
Inspected by:	Rhian Morgan, Birgitta Thwaites, Phil Clarke, Doug Stuckey
Recorded by	Rhian Morgan
Auger hole	All Auger holes 30cm in Diameter

Auger Hole ID: 1 (next to the gate by the main track)				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Dark Loam	Topsoil with Brick fragments	20	0 - 20
2	Sandy Clay	Subsoil, some brick	30	20 - 50
Finds: None				

Auger Hole ID: 5				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Loam and brick dust	Topsoil modern made ground	50	0 - 50
2				
Finds: Bone, Reinforced glass, White glazed (both sides) pot. Brick fragments				

Auger Hole ID: 9 (just before bend in the path)				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Medium Loam and brick	Topsoil with Brick fragments	26	0 - 26
2	Brown Clay	Subsoil, full of brick	14	26 - 40
Finds: Reinforced glass, 2 x White glazed pot, floor tile, 2 x broken slate, Nail Layer 2 full of water				

Auger Hole ID: 13				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Grey brown Loam mixed with Clay	Modern made ground	30	0 - 30
2		Water table		
Finds: Reinforced glass, White glazed tile, floor tile, Brick, Nail				

Auger Hole ID: 14				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Medium Loam	Modern made ground	30	0 - 30
2	Brown organic layer	Original ground level (?)	8	30 - 38
3	Brown Clay with Brick	Brick (inserted by Augur)	5	38 - 43
Finds: Reinforced glass, Window glass, Nail				

Auger Hole ID: 17				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Grey brown Loam	Modern made ground	40	0 - 40
2	Pale sandy Clay	Consistent clay brick streaks	20	40 - 60
Finds: None				

Auger Hole ID: 21				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Brown Loam	Modern made ground	20	0 - 20
2	Dark Loam	Thin organic layer	9	20 - 29
3	Pale Clay	Heavy clay	33	29 - 62
Finds: Reinforced glass, Charcoal, 2 x Nail (end of the first brick patch)				

Auger Hole ID: 23				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Brown Loam	Modern made ground	15	0 - 15
2	Dark Loam	Thin organic layer	5	15 - 20
3	Pale Clay	Clay with dark bands	33	20 - 52
Finds: Reinforced glass, Bone, 2 x Metal objects				

Auger Hole ID: 27 to 30				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1				
2				
3				
Finds: Asbestos, holes ignored, Brick rubble.				

Auger Hole ID: 32 to 41				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	See hole 33 below			
2				
3				
Finds: All heavy with Brick rubble				

Auger Hole ID: 33				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Brown Loam with Brick	Brick debris	37	0 - 37
2	Water filled		15	37 - 52
Finds: Window glass, square nail, Piece curved pot (may be from adjacent hole)				

Finds: Washroom ceramics (x 2) from hole 37

Auger Hole ID: 46				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Brown Loam	Modern made ground	25	0 - 25
2	Chalky Clay	Clay	5	25 - 30
3	Darker Clay	Heavy clay	10	30 - 40
Finds: Reinforced glass, white glazed tile				

Auger Hole ID: 49				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Dark Loam with brick	Modern made ground	34	0 - 34
2	Dark Clay	Dense clay	20	34 - 54
Finds: Roof tile, poorly fired brick (old?)				

Auger Hole ID: 52				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Dark Loam with brick	Modern made ground	27	0 - 27
2	Brown Clay	Plastic clay	30	27 - 57
Finds: Bone x 4, flint pieces, roof tile, slate				

Auger Hole ID: 55				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Dark Loam with brick	Modern made ground with brick flakes	33	0 - 33
2	Brown Clay	Heavy clay	25	33 - 58
Finds: Oyster Shell, glass, chalky stones				

Auger Hole ID: 58				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Mid brown Loam	Modern made ground	60	0 - 60
2		More clay in the loam at the bottom		
Finds: Terracotta pot				

Auger Hole ID: 60				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Mid brown Loam merging into clay.	Natural soil sequence	62	0 - 62
2				
Finds: Harness buckle with pin, roof tile, glazed (slip) pot				

Auger Hole ID: 62				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Mid brown Loam merging into clay.	Natural soil	58	0 - 58
2				
Finds: Bone, Earthenware pot rim with sandy inclusions.				

Auger Hole ID: 64				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Mid brown Loam merging into clay.	Natural Loam	60	0 - 60
2				
Finds: Bone x 3, 2 x pot (one with sandy inclusions).				

Auger Hole ID: 68				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Mid brown Loam	Natural Loam	20	0 - 20
2	Pale sandy Clay	Some small chalk pieces in the clay	50	20 - 70
Finds: Shell				

Auger Hole ID: 69				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Brown Loam	Topsoil, with chalk pieces	20	0 - 20
2	Sandy Clay	Some small chalk pieces in the clay	44	20 - 64
Finds: Bone, Pot (chunky rim)				

Auger Hole ID: 74				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Brown Loam	Topsoil	20	0 - 20
2	Chalky Layer	Small chalk pieces in thin clay	4	20 - 24
3	Clay	Sandy clay	30	24 - 54
Finds: 2 x Bone				

Auger Hole ID: 80				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Brown Loam	Topsoil	20	0 - 20
2	Chalky Layer	Small chalk pieces in thin clay	4	20 - 24
3	Clay	Sandy clay	28	24 - 52
Finds: None				

Auger Hole ID: 84				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Brown Loam	Topsoil	20	0 - 20
2	Yellow Clay	Sandy clay filling with water	30	20 - 50
Finds: 1 x Bone and 1 bone fragment				

Auger Hole ID: 90				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Brown Loam	Topsoil	15	0 - 15
2	Yellow sandy Clay	Sandy clay	44	15 - 59
Finds: 1 x glazed toilet ware (discarded) small chalk pieces				

Finds: Roof Tile with peg hole found at Hole 93

Auger Hole ID: 95				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Brown Loam	Topsoil	28	0 - 28
2	Yellow Clay spread by the augur	Pale yellow clay	28	28 - 56
Finds: Fragment of modern roof tile (discarded) Clay brought up the hole on one north side to depth of 13cm				

Auger Hole ID: 97				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Brown Loam	Topsoil	23	0 - 23
2	Yellow Clay	Sandy clay filling with water	30	23 - 50
Finds: small fragment of abraded pot				

Finds: Bent Nail found at Hole 99

Auger Hole ID: 105				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Dark Loam	Topsoil	24	0 - 24
2	Pale beige Clay	Sandy clay	34	24 - 58
Finds: 2 x bone fragments				

Auger Hole ID: 106				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Brown Loam	Topsoil	24	0 - 24
2	Beige Clay	Sandy clay filling with water	31	24 - 55
Finds: Flint flakes, Tile, ½ Brick, Large flint nodule (15x20cm)				

Auger Hole ID: 111				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Brown Loam	Topsoil	23	0 - 23
2	Buff/Beige Clay	Mixed clay	25	23 - 48
Finds: Modern Roof tile (Orange/yellow) discarded				

Auger Hole ID: 116				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Dark wet Loam	Topsoil	17	0 - 17
2	Beige Clay	Sandy clay filling with water	34	17 - 51
Finds: Brocken Breezeblock				

Auger Hole ID: 117				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Dark Loam	Topsoil	17	0 - 17
2	Beige Clay	Sandy clay, water in bottom 15cm	33	17 - 50
Finds: Bone				

Auger Hole ID: 122				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Dark Loam	Topsoil, wet	17	0 - 17
2	Beige Clay	Sandy clay, filling with water	34	17 - 51
Finds: Glass (run out of bags so in back 117)				

Auger Hole ID: 128				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Dark Loam	Topsoil	22	0 - 22
2	Brown Clay	Heavy clay,	44	22 - 66
Finds: Oval black stone (in bag 117), roof tile (discarded)				

Auger Hole ID: 135				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Dark Loam	Topsoil	24	0 - 24
2	Dark Brown Clay	Smooth clay	34	24 - 58
Finds: Masonry (discarded) 16x9x10 (Brick with cement)				

Auger Hole ID: 140				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Dark Loam	Topsoil	24	0 - 24
2	Brown Clay	Single clay layer, very sticky	40	24 - 64
Finds: Brocken Breezeblock (discarded)				

Auger Hole ID: 146				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Dark Loam (wet)	Topsoil	20	0 - 20
2	Brown Clay	Sticky clay	47	20 - 67
Finds: Handmade brick (no frog) red clay with a few inclusions				

Holes 148 to 162 same layers as 146 with fragments of older brick.

Auger Hole ID: 165				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Dark Loam	Topsoil	20	0 - 20
2	Beige/Grey Clay	Heavy clay	30	20 - 50
Finds: Modern brick (discarded)				

Auger Hole ID: 168				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Dark Loam	Topsoil	20	0 - 20
2	Beige/Grey Clay	Heavy clay	32	20 - 52
Finds: Black floor tile				

Auger Hole ID: 173				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Dark Loam	Topsoil	20	0 - 20
2	Beige/Grey Clay	Heavy clay	30	20 - 50
Finds: none				

Auger Hole ID: 178 to 181 (consistent composition)				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Dark Loam	Topsoil	10	0 - 10
2	Grey Clay	Heavy clay	30	10 - 40
Finds: None				

Auger Hole ID: 185 (church gate)				
Layer from top	Description (colour, texture, inclusions e.g. silty grey clay with chalk flecks)	Layer Type (e.g. Topsoil, Subsoil, Modern made ground, Feature, Surface, Layer ...)	Thickness (cm)	Depth From/to (cm)
1	Dark Loam	Topsoil	25	0 - 25
2	Grey loam with chalk and brick fragments	Layer (demolition?)	15	25 - 40
3	Grey/brown clay and pebbles	Layer	20+	40 - 60
Finds: None				

Appendix B:

Segment/ Hole	Pottery	Animal Bone (appendix D)	CBM	Other	Comment
A/5		1			
A/9			2 x whiteglazed tile	1x long iron nail 4x reinforced glass 2 x window glass 1 x ?plastic	Modern – do not retain
A/13			2 x white glazed tile	1 x ?steel nail	Modern – do not retain
B/21				2 x ironnails 1 x window glass 1 x clinker	Modern – do not retain
B/23				1 x iron bolt 1 x misc iron	Modern – do not retain
C/33	-	-	1 x ceramic pipe frag	2 x iron nails 1 x window glass	Modern – do not retain
C/40?			1 x white glazed tile	4 x reinforced glass 1 x indet. cbm	Possibly 40 but first number illegible
D/46	-	-	5 x white glazed tile 2 x brown tile	2x reinforced glass	Modern – do not retain
D/52		4		1 x window glass 2 x slate	
D/55				1 x oyster shell frag	
E/60	1 sherd slipware dish/platter (C18th/early C19th ?Brill or Staffordshire)			1x large iron horse harness buckle	
E/62	1 x sherd red earthenware everted dish rim (C18th)	1			
E/64	1 x ?jug sherd unknown oxidised ware with green/orange mottled glaze (C14th)	3	1 x tile frag.		?Late med/early post—med
F/69		1	1 x tile frag	1 x shell frag (oyster?)	

F/74		3			
F/84		2			
F/93			1 x peg tile frag with hole		Post-med
F/97	1 x tiny sherd (?R-B or medieval)				
F/99				1 x iron nail	Modern – do not retain
G/105		2			
G/117		2		1 x window glass 1 x black stone	
H/158			1 x curved ridge tile frag		Post-med
I/168			1 x reduced (dark grey) tile frag		
Badger spoil	1 x p-med sherd. 2 x calcareous tempered sherds (C12th)				?medieval cookpot

Appendix C: Bierton Parish Burial entries for Quarrendon Chapel

As Transcribed by Fred Hinxman

Note that unless the entry actually states 'buried at Quarrendon', there is no way of telling whether the deceased was actually buried there or not. Pauper may refer to inmates from the union workhouse in Aylesbury.

4 th April 1611	Sir Henry Le, knight of the most noble order of the garter was buried at Quarrendon
1615	The following entry was found in the marriage register for 1615 Received of Nicholas Tripper at Quarrendon for a mortuarie vjs vjjjd
28 th July 1629	Robert Hunt of Querendon
15 th August 1631	John Homan of Querendon
3 rd February 1637	Robert Edwards was with me this morning and desired to have his son Lawrence to be buried in Quaringdon Chappell to whose request I assented.
30 th April 1651	Mrs Frances Abraham of Quaringdon
23 rd November 1653	Robert s.o. Robert Edwards was buried at Quarringdon
10 th May 1655	Jane d.o. widow Edwards being drowned by accident
18 Jan 1655	Alice d.o. Thomas Hever of Quarringdon
14 March 1655	Thomas Hevers wife of Quarrendon was buried at Wodsdon
22 nd August 1657	Thomas Smith of Quarrendon buried at Hardwick. His son William died about 3 weeks before him
12 th October 1657	Katheren Linnet of Quarrendon
27 th December 1657	Thomas Heather of Quarrendon his son was buried
11 th August 1659	William White of Quarrendon
17 th August 1663	Lawrence Edwards of Quarrendon was buried in that Chappell
23 rd October 1666	Rose Heather of Quarrendon infant
11 th July 1667	Thomas Mayne infant was buried at Quarrendon
26 th March 1668	William White late of Quarrendon
27 th August 1670	Thomas Heather of Quarrendon
25 th November 1673	Thomas Brasill was buried at Quarrendon by my consent
18 th October 1675	Joane Perkins was buried at Quarrendon
2 nd June 1700 Quarrendon	Mr Thomas Mayne of Quarrendon Grazier buried in the chappill of Quarrendon
4 th July 1701	Aaron Rolf of Quarrendon shepherd

1 st July 1716	William Stanbridge of Quarrendon Shepherd
13 th December 1741	Ann Atkins, child, buried at Quarrendon
31 st August 1757	Eliz Atkins spinster buried at Quarrendon
16 th April 1761	Ann Atkins Quarenton wife pauper.
5 th June 1782	Richard Westley pauper, Quarrendon
5 th February 1587	May d.o, Richard and Elizabeth Adkin, pauper Quarrendon
2 nd October 1789	Mary wife of Samuel Howse pauper Quarrendon
20 th May 1792	Ann d.o. Samuel and Mary Howse, infant pauper from Quarrendon
17 th January 1810	Elizabeth of William Funge, Quarrendon
7 th November 1811	Lucy French from Quarrendon
11 th July 1813	Ann Westley of Quarrendon 33 years
16 th October 1814	Ann French of Quarrendon infant
11 th April 1820	William Wesley of Quarrendon infant
21 st August 1834	Emma Herridge of Quarrendon infant
18 th August 1825	John Lay of Quarrendon infant
23 rd August 1827	Samuel How of Quarrendon 71 years
6 th September 1846	Richard Westley of Quarrendon 68 years
9 th February 1852	Elizabeth Lee of Quarrendon 70 years
7 th October 1752	George Woolley of Quarrendon 2 years
29 th December 1855	Joseph Southam of Quarrendon 3 years
13 th January 1857	Mary Ann Howes of Quarrendon 26 years
17 th August 1858	John Westley of Quarrendon 47 years
3 rd July 1859	Hannah Hows of Quarrendon 68 years
1 st November 1861	James Westley of Aylesbury (formerly of Quarrendon 2 years
17 th August 1862	William Lee of Quarrendon 79 years
22 nd November 1862	Ann Southam of Quarrendon 6 years
22 nd November 1863	Elizabeth of Quarrendon 83 years
27 th April 1866	Robert Hinton of Quarrendon 21 years
21 st June 1867	Lucy Hinton of Quarrendon 59 years
12 th November 1867	Elizabeth Southam of Quarrendon 8 years 6 months
17 th February 1868	Henry Hinton of Quarrendon 25 years

19th March 1869 Robert How of Quarrendon 84 years

20th June 1869 Sarah Southam of Quarrendon 50 years

Fred Hinxman's transcription ends here. The next burial register for Bierton and Quarrendon burials is still in use by Bierton Church of St James the Great.

Appendix D: Quarrendon Animal Bones (Sylvia Warman)

Introduction

Following a watching brief in 2024 maintained during installation of a new fence at Quarrendon Leas scheduled monument, a small quantity of animal bone was recovered during the work.

Methods

This report forms a quantification and brief assessment of the assemblage. Recording included counts and weights, the NISP (number of bones identified to species) and a brief description of the species and parts present within a comments field. The reference collection held at the Institute of Archaeology (UCL) was used for identification to species.

Results

The results are presented in Table 1

Table 1

Deposit description	Auger hole number	No of fragments	No of bones	Weight in g	NISP	Brief description
modern made ground	5	1	1	9.6	1	Ulna Dog/Wolf proximal end with articulation for radius partially present.
shallow rubble/topsoil	52	4	2	46.5	0	Cow-sized long bone fragments with modern break – refits, also chopped. Sheep-sized long bone fragment with signs of dog gnawing.
clean deep loam (nb. Roughly due south of church ruin – on site we thought this might be cemetery soil but could be fill of a ‘Holloway’ running to the porch	62	1	1	12	0	cow-sized mandible fragment
	64	3	2	64.8	2	Juvenile cattle metapodial shaft, horse distal metapodial including part of distal articular surface
loam topsoil over brown silty clay(?alluvium)	69	1	1	1.5	0	Sheep-sized long bone fragment
	74	3	1	31.7	0	Cow-sized long bone fragments don't refit but colour thickness and weight suggest they are part of a single bone
	84	2	2	21.1	1	Sheep/Goat pelvis fragment. Ilium and part of the acetabulum, sacral attachment area visible iliac crest missing. Second fragment cow-sized rib or mandible
	105	2	2	4.5	0	Cow-sized and Sheep-sized long bone fragments
loam topsoil over	117	2	2	25	0	Cow-sized vertebra vertebral body,

grey silty clay (?alluvium) - (nb. possibly fill of or upcast from adjacent Tudor garden water channel)						also flat fragment cow-sized rib
totals		19	14	216.7	4	

Discussion

The small assemblage of animal bone included horse, cattle, sheep/goat, and dog/wolf. Most fragments could not be fully identified and have been classified by size; sheep-sized this covers sheep/ goat and roe deer, and cow-sized which covers horse, cattle and red deer.

The animal bones from the modern made ground are of minimal interest to the archaeology of the site, the canid bone more likely to be from a larger dog breed than a wolf. The material from the topsoil deposits may have derived from the bioturbation of earlier deposits but the provenance is not secure. The topsoil deposits produced material identified as cattle and sheep/goat which have been ever present in the UK archaeological record from Neolithic to modern day. The size of the specimens suggests they are more likely to be post medieval than earlier. Of greater interest are the animal bones from the possible holloway deposit. These included a horse metapodial, this had modern breakage but was otherwise well preserved and when compared to reference specimens on size grounds is likely to have come from a horse rather than a pony or donkey.

This of course subject to the context descriptions/ phasing supplied at the time and further work on other finds (pottery and CBM) may yet refine the chronology for this intervention at the site.

Recommendations

The animal bone from the modern made ground may be discarded. Once dating phasing is confirmed that from the topsoil should be reviewed for discard. That from the holloway should be retained.

Appendix E: Photographs of Watching Brief at Quarrendon Leas, February 2024

Screw auger at work



Fence being erected



Watching Brief at Quarrendon Leas 2024

Auger Hole 17 (Segment B)



Auger Hole 21 (Segment B)



Watching Brief at Quarrendon Leas 2024

Segment F (looking east)



Segment E (looking west)



Watching Brief at Quarrendon Leas 2024

Auger Hole 54 (Segment D)



Auger Hole 64? (Segment E)



Watching Brief at Quarrendon Leas 2024

Auger Hole 30 (Segment C)



Auger Hole 40 (Segment C)



Watching Brief at Quarrendon Leas 2024

Auger Hole 79 (Segment F)



Auger Hole 90 (Segment F)



Watching Brief at Quarrendon Leas 2024

Auger Hole 110 (Segment G)



Auger Hole 135 (Segment G)



Watching Brief at Quarrendon Leas 2024

Auger Hole 170 (Segment I)



Auger Hole 181 (Segment J)



Watching Brief at Quarrendon Leas 2024

Segment I (looking west)



Segment J (looking east)



Watching Brief at Quarrendon Leas 2024

Church gate auger hole



Select finds

