

**National Trust Report for the
Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum meeting –
17 March 2004**

The King's Head, Aylesbury

Samples have recently been taken for dendrochronology dating from the rear stable range but unfortunately these have failed to provide a date. The building was assessed overall for its suitability for dendro dating but unfortunately the timbers are too fat grown or do not have enough rings. The sampling programme was made possible by a legacy left to the Bucks Archaeological Society.

Pitstone Windmill, Ivinghoe

Better news from Pitstone windmill where sampling for dendro dating has provided a 1590s date for the 'buck' or body of the mill, 1670s for the cross tree at the head of the main post and 1820s for the quarter bars supporting the base of the mill. So we have a dilemma – is it a 16th c. mill, 17th c. or 19th c.! The analogy of the restored car/steam engine/motorcycle springs to mind!

Stowe Gardens

New Inn Farm

Negotiations for the acquisition of the farm continue. Once the acquisition is completed the Bucks Historic Buildings Trust have agreed to fund archaeological recording of the complex. The brief for this work therefore needs to be prepared in anticipation of completion of acquisition.

Corinthian Arch

Likewise, we've had more luck with dendro sampling, providing dates of 1765 and 1766 for the roof rafters and cornice of the arch. This ties in precisely with documentary dates for the construction of the arch, which is currently undergoing a major phase of restoration. A sword – thought to have been used by the Bucks Yeomanry during the 19th c. – was discovered overlying the construction of the arch during the works. The restoration project is the subject of an archaeological watching brief.

Project archaeologist post

The Trust are currently advertising for the post of Stowe Project Archaeologist as the existing member of staff will be leaving at the end of March.

BAR publication

Discussions have been held with Archaeotype Press over the possibility of an academic publication describing the results of archaeological and historical investigations

undertaken at Stowe over the past 30 years. Both parties have expressed a strong interest and we hope that this can be achieved within 18-24 months.

Bradenham Manor

Brick footings and flagstone paving have been unearthed and recorded in 2003 in the Forecourt whilst restoring grass steps to the upper lawn. The footings are almost certainly part of the 'lost' west range of Bradenham Manor which we think dates from the 1650s.

A survey of the woodland earthworks on Naphill Common is about to commence with Northamptonshire Archaeology as the contractor. The former common is about to be cleared of 1970s larch planting, thus opening up the historic vista from the gardens. Extraction routes for vehicles need to be defined which will minimise the impact on the woodland archaeology.

Hughenden Manor

Brick footings for the Victorian pergola on the south front were excavated and recorded during January of 2004.

West Wycombe Park

The Trust's archaeological survey of West Wycombe Park will be completed by the end of March 2004. A copy of the survey will be deposited with the Bucks. SMR