

**AGENDA ITEM: 13**

**Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum**  
– **March 2006**

**Report from the National Trust on major projects**

**Stowe Gardens** New Inn. Northamptonshire Archaeology are continuing their assessment and analysis of the farm buildings forming this complex and are maintaining a watching brief over current temporary works to the roof over the east range containing the kitchen, dairy and brewhouse. Close examination suggests that the timber-framed east and west ranges predate the high quality 18<sup>th</sup> c. brick frontage which contained the inn. Samples for dendrochronology dating will be taken in due course. Several interesting tiles have been recovered from the roof with inscriptions trailed into the original clay. One is a poem, which reads ‘ ‘. Another carries an unmentionable expletive!

**Bradenham**

The Trust is currently carrying out a detailed survey of woodland earthworks at Park Wood, Bradenham, with the assistance of volunteers. The project is supported by a grant from the Sustainable Development Fund administered by the Chilterns AONB and the money has been used for paying Oxford Archaeology to create a traverse grid tied into the Ordnance Survey. The survey has recorded numerous sawpits, ploughing lynchets, boundary banks and ditches, and quarries, pits and hollows. Many of these features probably predate the establishment of woodland cover dating from the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

A watching brief has recently been maintained over repairs to Smalldean Farm Cottage at Bradenham. Observations arising from this project suggest the building is mostly of one build, dating from the late 16<sup>th</sup> or early 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**Cliveden**

The Trust is about to commence a survey of the early 19<sup>th</sup> c. orchard garden using volunteers. An archaeological survey of the Hanging Gardens i.e. the landscaped woods above the cliffs is also to be commissioned to provide evidence for garden restoration. A watching brief has been maintained by the Museum of London Archaeology Service over the demolition of the WWII hospital buildings at Cliveden but nothing of note has been recorded.

**West Wycombe Park**

The chalk streams and lakes feeding the River Wye have dried up, exposing a series of brick and timber-lined structures in the lake beds which may be mill leats, eel traps or water management feature dating from the late 17<sup>th</sup> c. These structures were first exposed and recorded in 1991. Timber samples have been taken for dendro dating. A controlled metal detecting survey of the lakes and streams was undertaken by members of South Bucks. Metal Detecting Group.