

# **Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum**

**Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

## **National Trust report**

### **Cliveden**

Restoration of the 17<sup>th</sup> century south terrace at Cliveden has continued throughout 2016 and the recent works have involved major drainage works on the top of the terrace, across the two lawns at the ends of the terrace and on the parterre below the terrace. Oxford Archaeology have continued to maintain a watching brief over these works, leading to the discovery of a number of brick walls at both levels of the terrace. Perhaps most interesting on the parterre is the uncovering of some massive 17<sup>th</sup> century brick foundations extending down at least 2 metres, suggesting a massive built structure extending the length of the terrace. Three sides of this structure have been unearthed and the most likely explanation is that this is a retaining wall in front of the main terrace. Its length corresponds with the existing terrace so a further plausible explanation is that it could represent an earlier siting of the terrace but it was soon rebuilt. Several brick foundations found within the two gardens at the end of the terrace suggest that these were formerly sunken gardens, overlooked from the terrace, but raised to their current level in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Several other current projects at Cliveden currently involve archaeological watching briefs – these include clearance works in and around the 1890s generator house and trenching for a new IT cable along the north front. Clearance works at the generator house have led to the recovery of a number of interesting fittings used for the glass cell batteries in the accumulator house.

### **Stowe**

Current evaluation excavations for Stowe School projects have led to the uncovering of a well preserved Roman pottery kiln surrounded by a number of pits and ditches. A separate site for a new boarding house had led to the uncovering of a pits, ditches and a possible well, also of Roman date. Some high status pottery including Samian Ware has been recovered from the latter site.