

Archaeological Investigations  
at Castle Hill and the  
surrounding landscape,  
Little Wittenham,  
Oxfordshire,  
2002-2006



November 2006

**Client: Lesley Best, Northmoor Trust**

Issue N<sup>o</sup>: 1  
NGR: SU 5576 9248

**Archaeological Investigations at Castle Hill and the  
surrounding landscape, Little Wittenham, Oxfordshire, 2002-  
2006**

**by**

**Tim Allen, Kate Cramp, Hugo Lamdin-Whymark and Leo Webley**

**Oxford Archaeology**

**November 2006**

# Castle Hill and the surrounding landscape, Little Wittenham, Oxfordshire

## Contents

List of figures	vi
List of plates	x
List of tables	xi
Summary	xvii
Acknowledgements	xix
<b>CHAPTER 1: Introduction and Background by <i>Tim Allen</i></b>	<b>1</b>
Introduction	1
The scope of the project	1
Structure of the report	3
The project background	4
Research aims and objectives	12
Detailed excavation methodology	14
Conventions used in this report	15
<b>CHAPTER 2: Castle Hill Archaeological Sequence by <i>Leo Webley</i></b>	<b>17</b>
Geophysical survey by <i>Andy Payne</i>	17
Introduction to the excavations	18
Summary of excavation results	19
Stratigraphic narrative	20
<b>CHAPTER 3: Castle Hill Artefacts</b>	<b>36</b>
Flint by <i>Kate Cramp and Hugo-Lamdin Whymark</i>	36
Prehistoric pottery by <i>Emily Edwards</i>	39
Late Iron Age and Roman pottery by <i>Paul Booth</i>	47
Post-Roman pottery by <i>Paul Blinkhorn</i>	56
Prehistoric fired clay by <i>Emily Edwards</i>	57
Roman and post-Roman fired clay and ceramic building material by <i>Paul Booth</i>	58
Metalwork by <i>Ian Scott</i>	60
Roman coins by <i>Paul Booth</i>	64
Roman glass by <i>Hilary Cool</i>	64
Worked bone by <i>Leigh Allen</i>	64
Worked stone by <i>Fiona Roe</i>	65

<b>CHAPTER 4: Castle Hill Environmental Evidence</b>	<b>67</b>
Human bone <i>by Peter Hacking, Annsofie Witkin and Ceridwen Boston</i>	67
Animal bone <i>by Fay Worley and Jennifer Kitch, with fish bone by Rebecca Nicholson</i>	73
Oyster shell <i>by Leo Webley</i>	90
Land snails <i>by Amy Reynolds</i>	90
Charred plant remains <i>by Wendy Smith, Mark Robinson and Ben Harrold</i>	93
Pollen and phytoliths <i>by Adrian G Parker</i>	94
Radiocarbon dating <i>by Leo Webley</i>	96
<b>CHAPTER 5: Castle Hill Environs Archaeological Sequence</b>	<b>98</b>
Introduction	98
Time Team geophysical survey	98
Oxford Archaeology geophysical survey <i>by A. D. H. Bartlett</i>	100
Summary of results	102
Phasing methodology	102
Stratigraphic narrative	103
<b>CHAPTER 6: Artefacts from Castle Hill Environs</b>	<b>124</b>
Prehistoric pottery <i>by Emily Edwards</i>	124
Late Iron Age and Roman pottery <i>by Paul Booth</i>	129
Prehistoric fired clay <i>by Cynthia Poole (see Chapter 9)</i>	131
Flint <i>by Kate Cramp and Hugo Lamdin-Whymark</i>	131
Worked stone <i>by Fiona Roe</i>	134
Worked bone <i>by Rosemary Grant</i>	136
Metalwork <i>by Ian Scott</i>	138
Roman coins <i>by Paul Booth</i>	140
Glass <i>by Adam Partington</i>	140
<b>CHAPTER 7: Environmental Evidence from Castle Hill Environs</b>	<b>141</b>
Human remains <i>by Peter Hacking and Ceridwen Boston</i>	141
Animal bone <i>by Fay Worley</i>	146
Oyster shell <i>by Adam Partington</i>	175
Charred plant remains <i>by Wendy Smith, Mark Robinson and Ben Harrold</i>	176
Pollen and phytoliths from Trench 14 <i>by Adrian Parker</i>	180
Soil micromorphology <i>by Marta Perez</i>	181
Radiocarbon dating <i>by Tim Allen</i>	183
<b>CHAPTER 8: Hill Farm Archaeological Sequence</b>	<b>184</b>
Introduction	184
Summary of results	184
Phasing methodology	185
Stratigraphic narrative	185

<b>CHAPTER 9: Hill Farm Artefacts</b>	<b>212</b>
Prehistoric pottery <i>by Emily Edwards</i>	212
Late Iron Age and Roman pottery <i>by Paul Booth</i>	216
Prehistoric fired clay <i>by Cynthia Poole</i>	216
Flint <i>by Kate Cramp and Hugo Lamdin-Whymark</i>	220
Worked stone <i>by Fiona Roe</i>	223
Worked bone <i>by Rosemary Grant</i>	226
Metalwork <i>by Ian Scott</i>	226
Iron slag and other debris <i>by Lynne Keys</i>	228
<b>CHAPTER 10: Hill Farm Environmental Evidence</b>	<b>229</b>
Human remains <i>by Peter Hacking and Ceridwen Boston</i>	229
Animal bone <i>by Fay Worley</i>	233
Charred plant remains <i>by Wendy Smith</i>	243
Charcoal <i>by Wendy Smith</i>	247
Radiocarbon dating <i>by Tim Allen</i>	249
<b>CHAPTER 11: Discussion of Castle Hill and the adjacent settlement</b>	<b>250</b>
<b>CHAPTER 12: Neptune Wood</b>	
Introduction	
Summary of results	
Stratigraphic narrative	
Flint <i>by Hugo Lamdin-Whymark</i>	
Prehistoric pottery <i>by Emily Edwards</i>	
Roman pottery <i>by Paul Booth</i>	
Post-Roman pottery <i>by Paul Blinkhorn</i>	
Metalwork <i>by Ian Scott</i>	
Roman coins <i>by Paul Booth</i>	
Animal bone <i>by Fay Worley</i>	
Palaeo-environmental remains <i>by Seren Griffiths</i>	
Land and freshwater snails <i>by E C Stafford</i>	
Charred plant remains <i>by Ruth Pelling</i>	
Radiocarbon dating	
Discussion	
<b>CHAPTER 13: Excavations at Little Wittenham Manor</b>	
Introduction	
Aims of the excavation	
Method of excavation	
Summary of results	
Geophysical survey	
Stratigraphic narrative	
Post-Roman pottery <i>by John Cotter</i>	
Struck flint <i>by Kate Cramp</i>	

Discussion *by Tim Allen*

## **CHAPTER 14: Clifton Meadow and the Thames Floodplain**

Introduction

Aims

Geophysical survey at Clifton Meadow *by A D H Bartlett*

Stratigraphic narrative

Waterlogged plant remains *by Gareth Tye*

Pollen from Trench 20 *by Adrian Parker*

Radiocarbon dating

Geophysical survey in the Wider Study Area *by Alister Bartlett*

Fieldwalking in the wider Study Area

Pollen from a core taken from a peat flush in Little Wittenham Wood  
*by Adrian Parker*

Radiocarbon Dating of the peat flush

## **CHAPTER 15: Aspects of the wider landscape: a discussion *by Tim***

*Allen and Julian Munby*

Palaeolithic activity

Mesolithic activity

Neolithic to early Bronze Age activity

Middle and Late Bronze Age activity

Early and middle Iron Age activity

Late Iron Age and Roman activity

Saxon activity

Medieval fieldwalking results

Post-medieval fieldwalking results

Aspects of the Historic Landscape

Landscape and Land-use

Landholding

House and Home

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**