

Milton Keynes

# Summer of Culture

Archaeology



Bancroft Roman Villa



Roman and Mediaeval Coins



15th Century pavement found at Great Linford Church



17th Century Delft Jug



Alastair, Nick and Fred with two magnetometers at Bury Field Common, Newport Pagnell



Excavation of Roman mosaic pavement, Bancroft



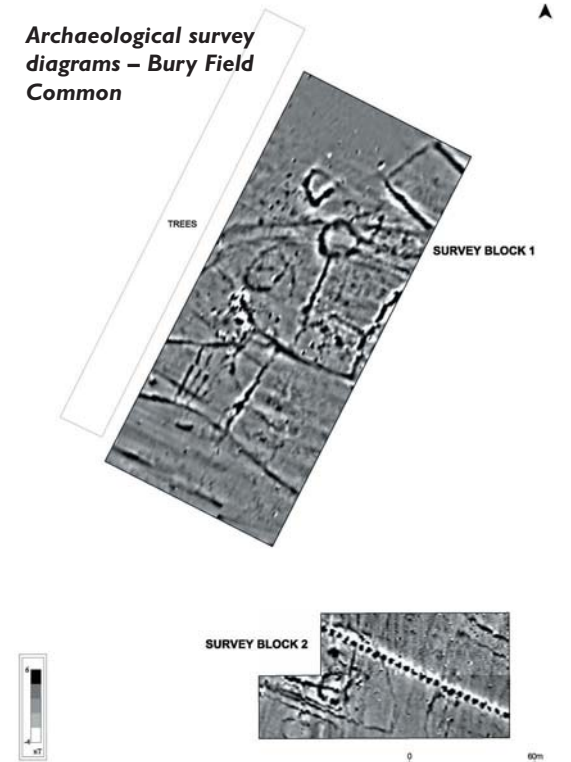
Mediaeval Corbel



Mediaeval Pilgrims Bottle



Milton Keynes Gold Torcs



Archaeological survey diagrams - Bury Field Common



Saxon bone combs and pins

It is a mixture of native farmsteads and villas. Within two kilometres of villa sites (Stantonbury and two native farmsteads (one on if Coursell, and one between Bradwell Common) have also been the inhabitants of the "Roman" villas / natives copying the Roman new settlers.

ites were engaged in mixed Cattle and sheep were the most animals kept, and wheat and oats reared crops.

I was the first clue to the existence of a Roman site at Bancroft. Four years later its position was pinpointed under an extensive scatter of Roman tile, pottery and other material on the ploughed surface of the adjacent field. Extensive excavation during the period 1973-1985 revealed the site to be a 4th century Roman villa with an earlier Roman house beneath it.

A Roman mausoleum (burial monument) and cemetery overlying earlier Bronze Age and Iron Age farming settlements were also discovered, 300 metres to the north of the house on the hilltop in Blue Bridge.

The markets for this produce were the nearest towns, LACTODORUM (Worcester) and MAGDONNUM (Stratford), both located on the (now the A5). These had grown of forts established by the XIV the Roman conquest in AD 43. It was that the inhabitants of their rural sites would have been uries, such as imported foods, ical of life in Roman Britain.

The first house built at Bancroft, in about AD 100, was a substantial structure, with limestone foundations supporting timber-framed walls. The weight of its thatched roof was carried by ten large timber posts. The interior was very basic, with floors of beaten earth and walls. There were a bath suite, and a corridor on the north side, opening to a bath suite decorated with mosaic.

Afterwards, the remains were levelled, and a new house was constructed at right angles to the original house, on the same site. It was built entirely of stone, with a tiled roof, and faced onto a cobbled trackway leading to the farm buildings. Inside there were three principal rooms, one with underfloor heating, and a bath suite at the south end of the house. Floors were of mortar, painted red or black, and the walls were also brightly painted. There may also have been an upper floor.

The people who lived at Bancroft, and farmed the lands around it, were almost certainly native Britons who had adopted Roman customs and dress. They may have been direct descendants of the Iron Age farmers who lived on the nearby hilltop. It is possible that they sold the farm in the fourth century (AD 340) to a wealthy new owner, perhaps a merchant.

Second house after it was refurbished and extended in AD 340.

Artists impression of Bancroft Roman Villa



Roman pot