

FIRST KNOWN RUISLIP IRON AGE SITE

by Colin Bowlt

In May 2007 an archaeological evaluation by the AOL Archaeology Group on the site of the extension to the Bishop Ramsey School, Warrender Way, near the High Grove Swimming Pool (Grid reference: TQ 1033 8787) discovered a ditch containing six sherds of Middle/Late Iron Age (4th to 1st centuries BC) pottery (five of these were from the same vessel). It was suggested that the ditch could have been part of a field boundary.

This was followed by a watching brief during June and July when a further fifty-one pieces of pottery were found. The total weight of pottery found was 44g. Also recovered were three ox teeth and four pieces of burnt daub. The ditch was aligned north-south and was 1.15m wide and 0.85m deep. The fill was soft light-grey silt-clay and was cut into the natural brown-orange silty Reading clay.

This is the first time Iron Age presence has been found in the Ruislip area. Indeed rather little Iron Age archaeology has been turned up on the clays away from the Thames. Most discoveries have been in the Thames Valley on the lighter, terrace gravels/brickearth particularly in the Heathrow area. London, of course, did not exist at that time and it is probable that the whole area was peripheral to the main occupation at that time.

Museum of London site code: BRX07.



View of the site under the building of the Bishop Ramsey School extension.
Viewed from the entrance to Warrender Park, Eastcote.