

Excavations at Butts Piece, Stanton Harcourt

Background and Planning

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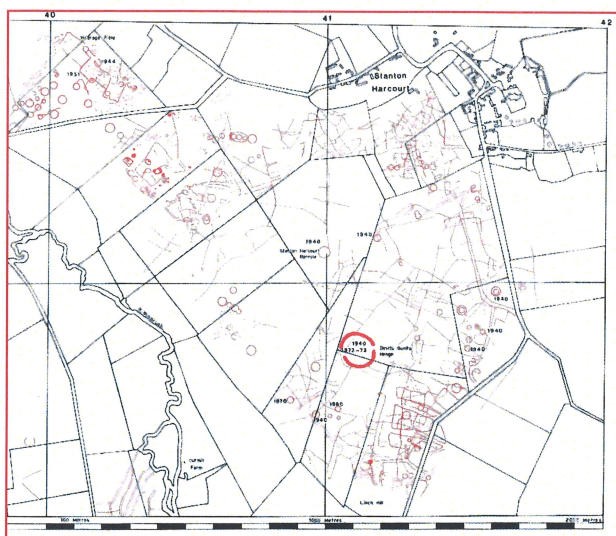
The name Stanton comes from the Anglo-Saxon Stan-tun meaning 'Farmstead by the stones' - A reference to the near-by stone circle (Devil's Quoits). The 'Harcourt' suffix was added in 1191 AD after Robert de Harcourt of Bosworth, Leicestershire inherited the land from his father-in-law. The Harcourt Manor has remained in the Harcourt family to the present day and is Grade II listed.

Archaeology and Planning

As a part of the process of receiving planning permission a developer has to consider what effect the development may have on a range of topics for the site, including archaeology, and minimise these effects. Planning applications are monitored by archaeologists working for the Council (in this case Oxfordshire) who flag up sites of potential interest.

Prior to excavation, research is carried out to discover the site's historical and archaeological potential. This can be done through desk-based research (old maps, records and aerial photography), followed by fieldwork including geo-physical survey and trial trenches.

An evaluation (trial trenching) was carried out in late 2016 which confirmed the presence of archaeology shown by the cropmarks, and revealed a predominantly Iron Age settlement. Once these results were assessed follow-up excavation was required.



Cropmarks from the surrounding area



Aerial photograph taken in 1962



Fieldwork on the site



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