

Google Earth map of Thrupp area, showing sites of main discoveries.



Site of Iron Age settlement at Thrupp. The topsoil has been bulldozed off to prepare the area for gravel quarrying. The patches of darker soil are features of archaeological interest.



AAAHS members excavating the Iron Age settlement at Thrupp, 1979, before it was destroyed by gravel quarrying.



Farmhouse at Thrupp, possibly medieval, photographed in the 1970s. The hamlet of Thrupp belonged to Abingdon Abbey.

Thrupp (Radley): living by the river through the ages

Thrupp is an historic hamlet, close to the River Thames between Abingdon and Radley. Today, it consists of just three houses, but it was once larger.

AAAHS spent many years excavating around Thrupp ahead of gravel quarrying there. Remains from many different periods were identified. Close to the river and surrounded by good farmland, Thrupp seems to have been a very favourable place to live.

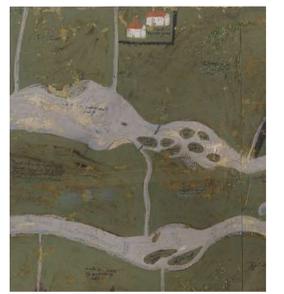
Numerous flint implements from the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Early Bronze Age periods (about 10,000 BC to 1500 BC) were found, especially on islands of higher and drier ground in the Thames floodplain.

There was an Iron Age (about 700 BC to 43 AD) farming settlement along the edge of the floodplain. An Iron Age coin and brooch were found there, as well as the sites of houses, pottery and a loom-weight (showing that cloth was being woven).

Nearby, the Iron Age people also built three stone causeways to get across the soft ground of a former river channel. All the stone had to be brought from elsewhere. The causeways head towards an area which may be quarried in future, so we may find further sites there.

In Saxon and medieval times (950 AD to 1538 AD), the hamlet of Thrupp belonged to Abingdon Abbey. Excavations near one of the existing houses found the simple foundations of two medieval buildings, possibly cottages, and large quantities of medieval pottery and animal bones.

Thrupp shrank in size after the Black Death, but was never completely deserted.



The hamlet of Thrupp is shown on the so-called Monk's Map (actually produced in the mid-16th century, after the dissolution of Abingdon Abbey). The map is on display in the Museum.



Excavating the stone foundations of a medieval building, possibly a cottage, at Thrupp, 2002. The farmhouse is in the background.



Prehistoric flint implements from Thrupp.



Skull of an Iron Age cow, killed by pole-axing. Found on the surface of one of the Iron Age causeways.



Late Iron Age pottery from the settlement at Thrupp.



Iron Age pottery bowl from Thrupp.



Iron Age stone causeway. It later became buried under clay and peat, as the river channel which it crossed silted up.



One of the Iron Age stone causeways found at Thrupp in 2001. The causeway crossed an old river channel. The buildings of Barton Lane Science Park are in the background.