

BANCROFT HERITAGE SERVICES

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING:
LAND AT THE OLD FORGE
HIGH STREET
HAVERSHAM
MILTON KEYNES
MK19 7DT**

NGR: SP 8288 4285

on behalf of Mr Harvey Gilbert



March 2015

Ref: BHS/0011/HHS/2

Site Data

<i>Project no / code:</i>	0011 / HHS		
<i>Project name:</i>	Land at The Old Forge, High Street, Haversham		
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	207345	<i>Event/Accession nos:</i>	EMK 1253 AYCBM:2014.10
<i>County (historic):</i>	Buckinghamshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Haversham		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Haversham & Little Linford		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 8288 4285		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c.1530 sq m		
<i>Present use:</i>	Grass paddock		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Erection of dwelling		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Milton Keynes Council		
<i>Planning application ref:</i>	14/00384/FUL		
<i>Date of investigation:</i>	February – March 2015		
<i>Client:</i>	Harvey Gilbert The Old Forge High Street Haversham MK19 7DT		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Paolo Bollini (Architect)		

Prepared by Bob Zeepvat BA FSA MIFA

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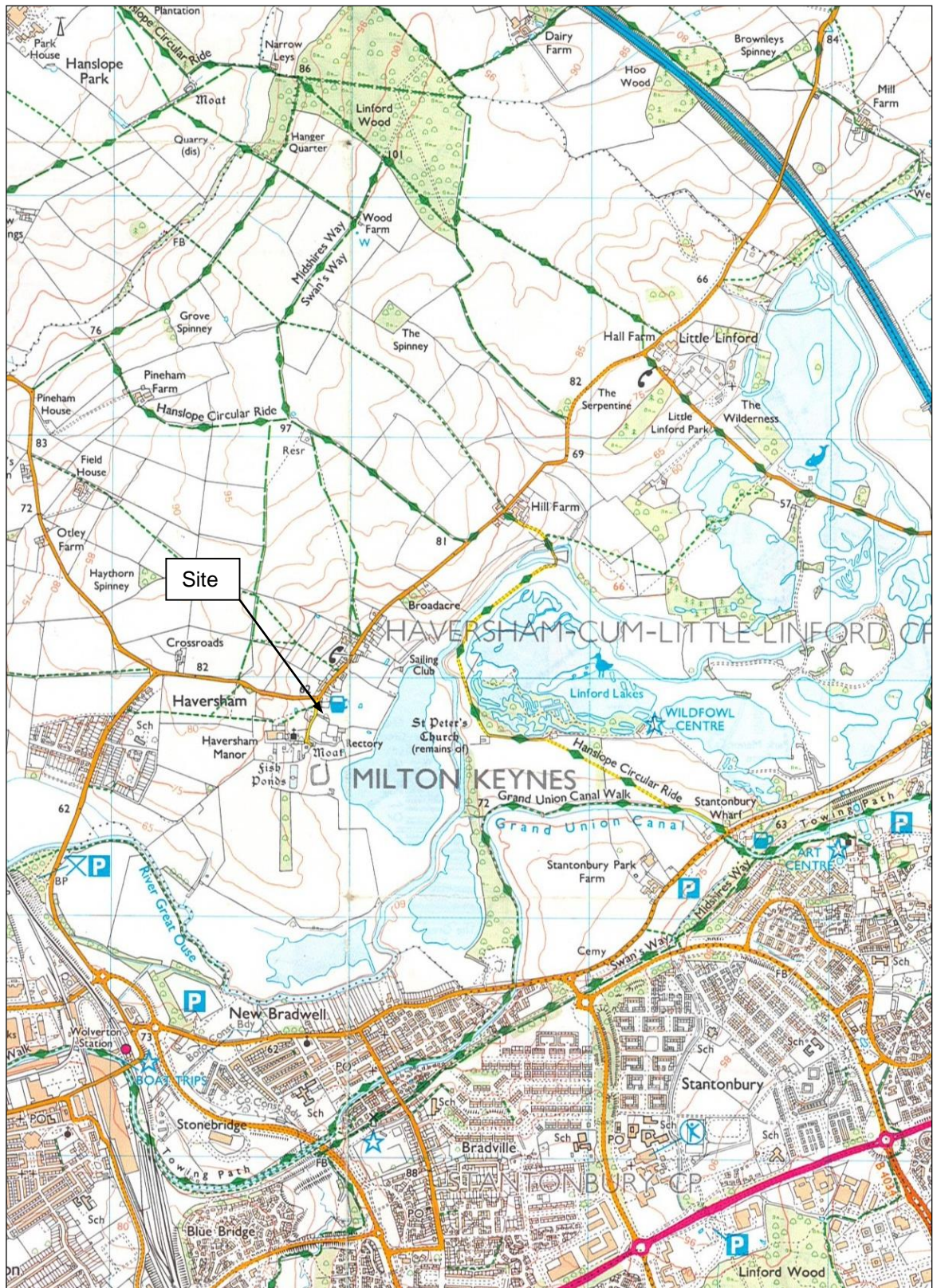


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In February and March 2015 the excavation of footings for a new house on land next to the Old Forge, High Street, Haversham was archaeologically monitored. The development site lies within the historic core of the village, and had the potential to contain buried heritage assets of Saxon or later date. Observation of the excavation of footing trenches did not reveal any buried heritage assets. Only a few undated depressions in the natural were noted, possibly connected with clearance of trees and scrub from the site, prior to cultivation. It is unlikely that significant buried heritage assets are present on the site, or that the development has had a significant impact on buried heritage assets.

1. Introduction

1.1 In February 2015 *Bancroft Heritage Services* (BHS) undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring at The Old Forge, High Street, Haversham, Milton Keynes MK19 7DT. The project was commissioned on behalf of the client, *Mr Harvey Gilbert*, and was carried out under the terms of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF), as a condition of planning permission for development of the site. The methodology for the project was described in a written scheme of investigation (WSI: Zeepvat 2014), approved on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *Milton Keynes Council*, by their Senior Archaeological Officer (SAO). The relevant planning application reference is 14/00384/FUL.

1.2 *The Author*

Bob Zeepvat BA FSA MCIFA is an established archaeologist with extensive experience in managing archaeological projects, of preparing initial assessments and undertaking a wide range of fieldwork for sites in both rural and urban environments, of post-excavation, publication and presentation projects, and of work on a wide range of historic buildings and structures. He holds a first degree from the University of Leicester, and has been a validated Member of the Institute for Archaeologists since 1986. Bob has been involved in the management of archaeological projects since the late 1970s, notably as Senior Field Archaeologist for the *Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit* (1986-94), as Project Manager for *Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust* (1994-97), and as Manager and Historic Buildings Consultant for *Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd* (1998-2014).

1.3 *The Site*

1.3.1 *Location & Description*

The site is located in the village of Haversham, in the administrative district of Milton Keynes, and is centred on NGR SP 8288 4285 (Fig. 1). It lies on the east side of the High Street, c.50m south of the junction with the road to Wolverton. The site is roughly rectangular, covering an area of c.1530 sq m, and comprises a paddock to the immediate south of The Old Forge (Fig. 2). Access to the site is from the High Street.

1.3.2 *Topography & Geology*

The site lies at a height of c.65m OD, and is more or less level. Soils of the area comprise the *Bishampton 2 Association*, described as “*Deep fine loamy and fine loamy over clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging associated with similar slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged soils.*” (Soil Survey 1983; 572d). The underlying geology comprises *Great Oolite clay and limestone* (BGS 203).

1.3.3 *Proposed Development*

The proposed development comprises construction of a house on the west side of the plot, with associated access, services and landscaping (Fig. 3)

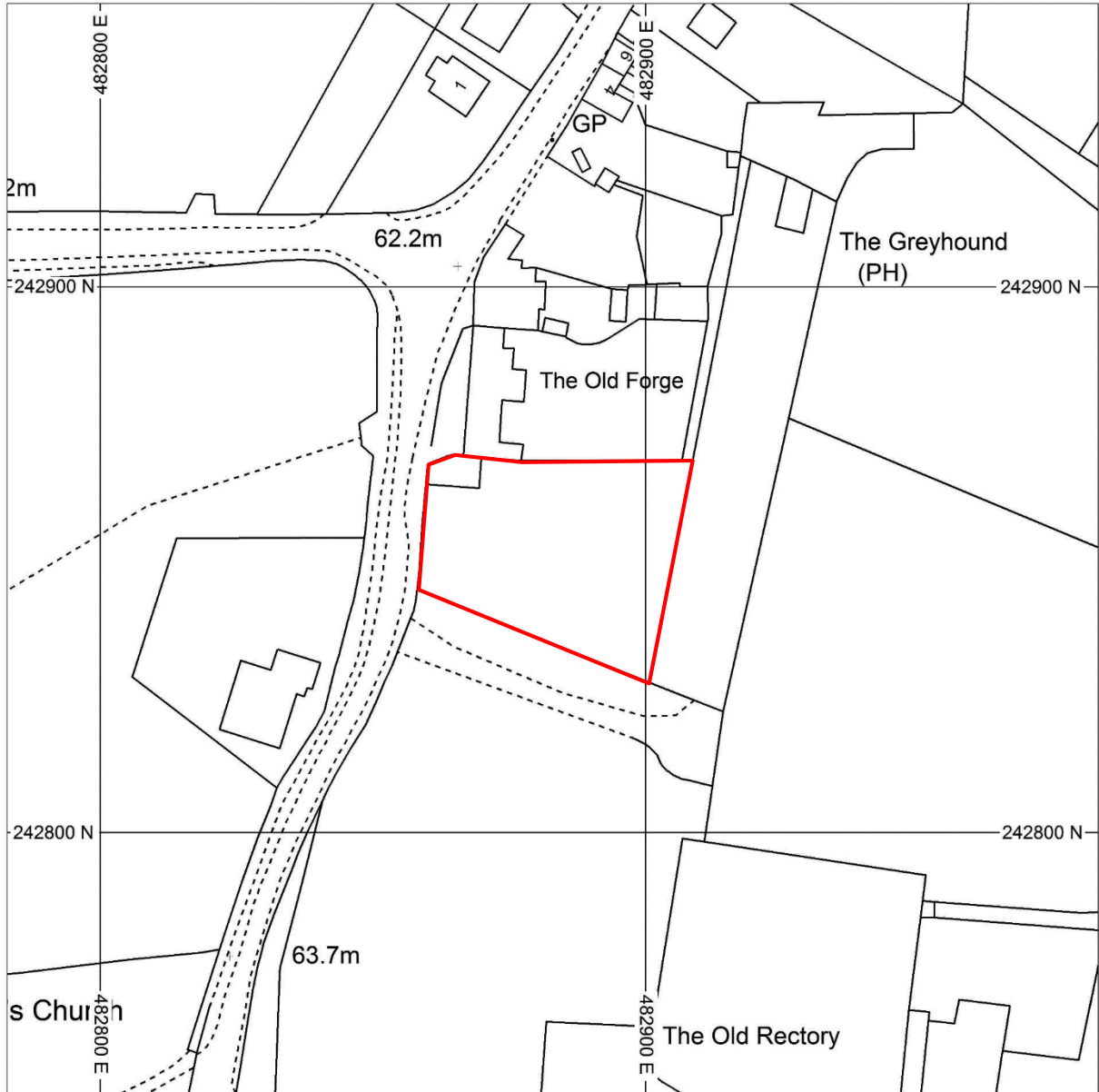


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

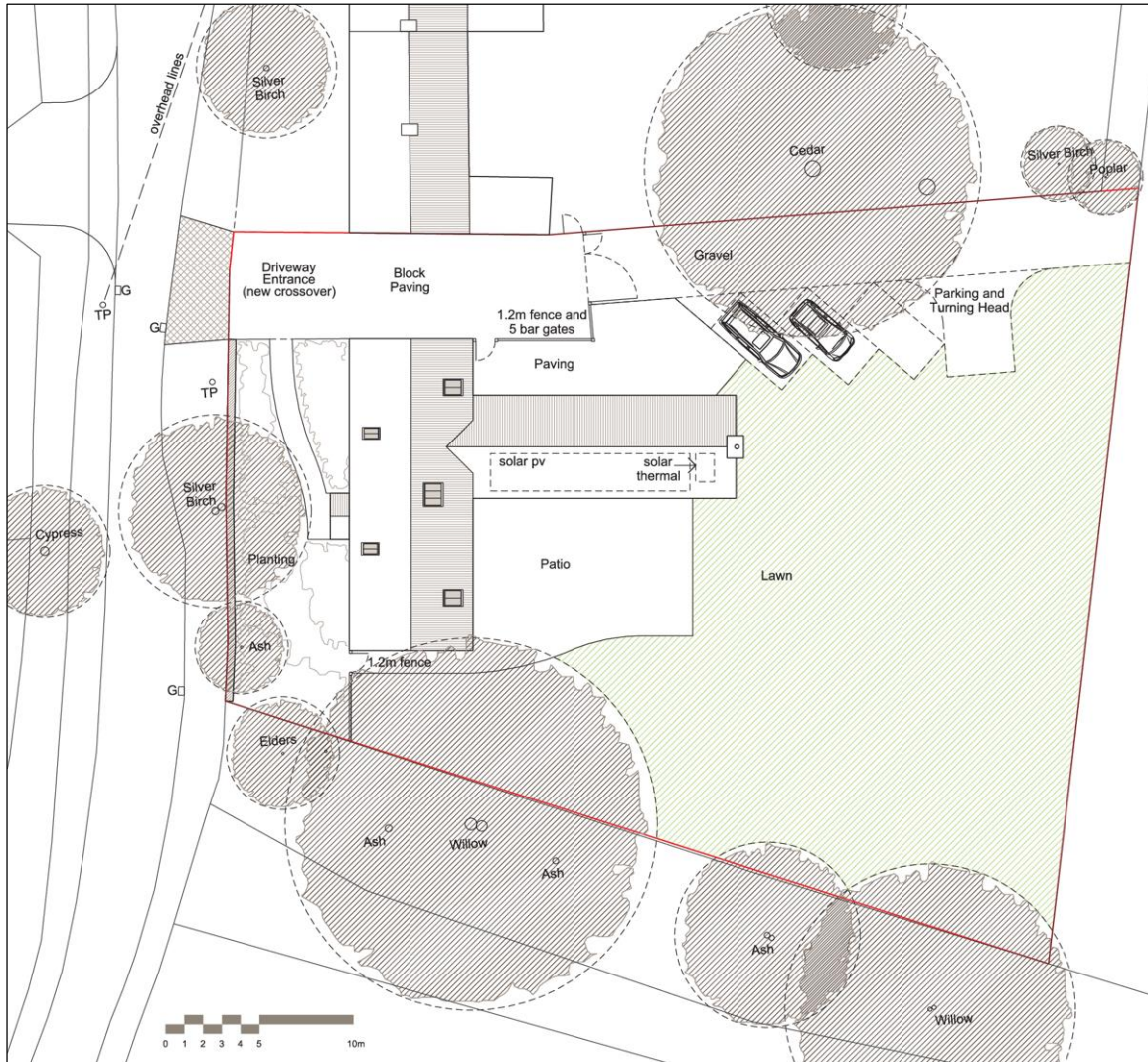


Figure 3: Proposed development (scale 1:400)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

As described in the WSI, the aims of the project were:

- To ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect archaeological remains
- To secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme
- To secure the analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site

2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the WSI, to the relevant sections of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2010) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2009), and to current English Heritage guidelines (EH 2006).

2.3 Methods

The project was carried out according to the WSI, which described:

- The archaeological monitoring of footing trenches and associated services
- The rapid investigation and recording of any archaeological features/deposits
- Examination of spoil-heaps for archaeological material

2.4 Constraints

No constraints were encountered during the watching brief.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 The following section provides a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the development site and its environs. The site is located in an area of archaeological and historical interest, and has the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods, the focus being on Iron Age, Roman and medieval heritage assets.

This section has been compiled with information from readily available sources.

3.2 **Prehistoric & Iron Age** (before AD 43)

During the early prehistoric period the Ouse valley was an area of considerable significance and a large number of ring ditches (ploughed-out burial mounds) have been identified in the river valley (Woodward 1978). A later Iron Age earthwork has been identified in Haversham (Woodfield & Johnson 1989, 257). In the Iron Age, the valleys of the Ouse and its tributary the Ouzel were densely populated. Many of these settlements continued into the Roman period.

3.3 **Roman** (AD43-c.450)

The development site lies c.4km north-east of the major Roman road now known as *Watling Street* (OS 1979). During the Roman period the Ouse valley was densely settled, with Roman villas at intervals of two to three kilometres along the valley. On the north bank villas have been found at Hill Farm, Haversham (Cockerill & Harris 1962; Mudd 2006), Deanshanger (*J Roman Studies* **48**, 140-41) and Cosgrove (Quinnell 1991), while to the south of the river similar establishments have been examined at Bancroft and Stantonbury (Williams & Zeepvat 1994: Zeepvat 1987), and a major site was excavated opposite Hill Farm at Stanton Low (Woodfield & Johnson 1989).

3.4 **Saxon & Medieval** (c.450-1500)

It is not known when the village first developed, but it was in existence by the Saxon period, as the village is mentioned in the Domesday survey (1086), where it is referred to as *Havreha*. At this time the land was held by *William Peverel* and was valued at £6 (Morris 1978). Medieval settlement developed around the parish church and manor house, south of the development site, gradually extending northwards along what is now the High Street during the later medieval and subsequent periods.

3.5 **Post-Medieval & Modern** (1500-present)

Being off the main transport routes, Haversham appears to have been little affected by developments in the surrounding area from the 16th century onwards. In contrast to Stony Stratford and Bradwell, the village avoided the large-scale development brought about by the establishment of the railway works and associated industries at Wolverton during the 19th century, and the Grand Junction Canal and the London to Birmingham Railway passed at some distance. The only 20th-century housing development was to the south-west of the village, on the Wolverton road. Large-scale extraction of gravel along the Ouse valley to the east of the village has had a more pronounced impact on the landscape of the parish. The First Edition Ordnance Survey sheet of 1881 (Fig. 4) shows the development site as part of a much larger field extending eastwards from the High Street to the river.

Prior to development, the development site was a disused grass paddock (Plate 1).

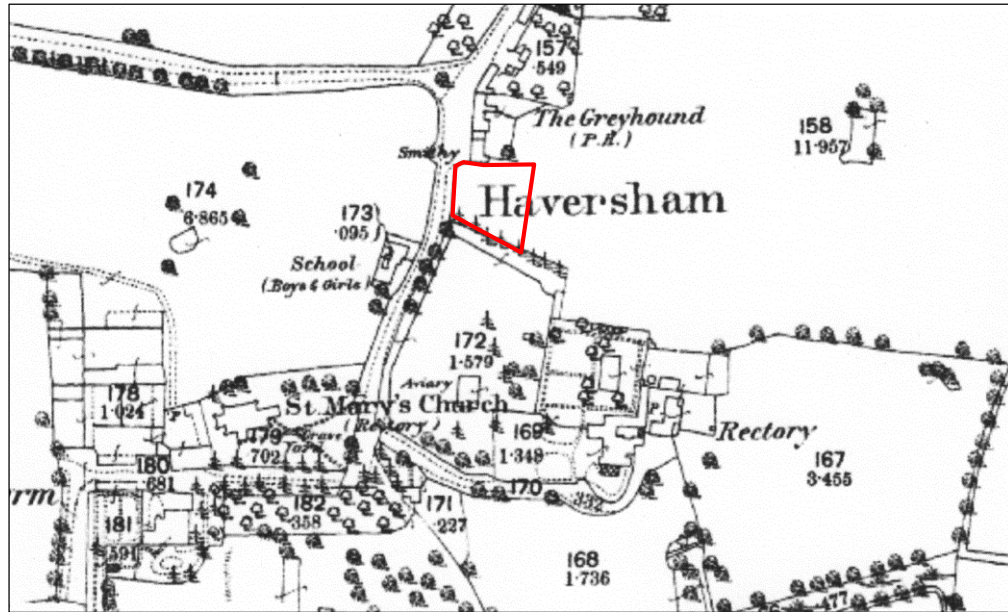


Figure 4: Extract from Ordnance Survey First Edition 25" sheet, 1881



Plate 1: The site prior to the start of development, from west

4 Results & Conclusions

4.1 Results

Excavation of the footings for the new building (Plate 2) took place over a period of about ten working days. Six monitoring visits were made to site during this time, and all the footing trenches were observed (Appendix 1).

All vegetation had been stripped from the site prior to excavation of the footings. The site stratigraphy observed in all trenches (e.g. Plate 3) comprised about 200mm depth of remaining topsoil, overlying a similar depth of lighter coloured soil, probably a former ploughsoil. Below this was the natural, khaki silty clay, containing frequent limestone brash. A number of random, shallow depressions were noted in the natural clay, filled with the former ploughsoil. None contained finds, and it seems likely that these depressions relate to past clearance of trees and scrub from the site. No finds were noted from any of the trenches, or on the spoil tip.

4.2 Conclusions

Significant buried heritage assets (*i.e.* archaeological deposits, features or artefacts) were not observed during the monitoring programme. The only possible evidence of past human activity may relate to clearance of trees and scrub from the site at some unknown date. While the existence of buried heritage assets away from the observed area cannot be specifically excluded, it is unlikely that significant buried heritage assets are present on the site. It is also unlikely that the development has had a significant impact on buried heritage assets.

4.3 Confidence Rating

The weather was good throughout the watching brief, and the contractor's full co-operation was received. A high confidence rating is therefore assigned to the results.



Plate 2: Overall view of site during final visit, from east



Plate 3: Typical stratigraphy seen in all the footing trenches

5. Archive

5.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Project Design
2. Initial Report
3. Clients site plans
4. Site Monitoring Sheets
5. List of photographs
6. B/W prints & negatives
7. Original specialist reports and supporting information
8. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

5.2 The archive will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum. The accession number is AYCBM:2014.10.

6. References


Standards & Specifications

- EH 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*. English Heritage (London).
- IFA 2010 Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.
- IFA 2008 Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*.
- IFA (various dates) Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments 2011, Watching Briefs 2008, Evaluations 2009, Excavations 2008, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings 2008, Finds 2008, Archiving 2009)*.
- Zeepvat B 2014 *Land at the Old Forge, High Street, Haversham, Milton Keynes MK19 7DT*. Bancroft Heritage Services, doc. ref. BHS/0011/HHS/1

Secondary Sources

- BGS *British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology*
- Cockerill E G & Harris R S 1962 'Excavation at Hill Farm, Haversham, May-June 1962' *Wolverton & District Archaeol Soc Newsletter* **7**, 7
- Hey G & Hind J 2014 *Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment: Resource Assessments and Research Agendas*. Oxford Wessex Monograph **6** (Oxford)
- Morris C 1978 *The Domesday Book. Buckinghamshire*. History from the Sources. Phillimore
- Mudd A 2006 'The Roman Site at Hill Farm, Haversham: Excavations and Watching Brief 2002-2004', *Recs Bucks* **46**, 1-18
- Quinnell H 1991 'Cosgrove Roman Villa: Excavations 1969', *Northants Archaeol* **23**, 4-66
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpندن)
- Woodfield C & Johnson C 1989 'A Roman Site at Stanton Low, on the Great Ouse, Buckinghamshire'. *Archaeol J* **146**, 135-378
- Woodward P J 1978 'Flint Distribution, Ring Ditches and Bronze Age Settlement Patterns in the Great Ouse Valley', *Archaeol J* **135**, 32-56
- Zeepvat R J 1987 'Romano-British Settlement in the Upper Ouse and Ouzel Valleys' in D C Mynard (ed.) 1987, *Roman Milton Keynes*. Bucks Archaeol Soc Monograph Series **1**, 6-18 (Aylesbury)
- Zeepvat R J & Williams R J 1994 *Bancroft: a late Bronze Age/Iron Age Settlement, Roman Villa & Temple-Mausoleum*. Bucks Archaeol Soc Monograph Series **7** (Aylesbury)

Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

BANCROFT HERITAGE SERVICES						WATCHING BRIEF RECORD	
Project No/Code/Name: 0011/HHS OLD FORGE HAVERSHAM					Sheet: 1 of 6		
Client/Developer KIM CONSTRUCTION.							
Contact: DES				Phone: 07827 842166.			
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 10.40			Finish: 11.20.		
Development Type:							
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):	
Site & weather conditions: COOL, WINDY.							
Observations: INITIAL VISIT PART OF WEST FOOTING TRENCH EXCAVATED - COVERED WITH HERBS, SO DETAILLED OBSERVATION NOT POSSIBLE. ^{WORK} NO EXCAVATION TILL NEXT WEEK.							
Comments:							
Completed by: 				Date of visit: 26/02/15			



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WATCHING BRIEF RECORD

Project No/Code/Name: 0011/HHS OLD FORGE, HAVERSHAM						Sheet: 2 of 6.	
Client/Developer							
Contact:				Phone:			
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 11.00		Finish: 11.40			
Development Type:							
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):	
Site & weather conditions: <p style="text-align:center;">SUNNY, DRY.</p>							
Observations: <p style="text-align:center;">NO EXCAVATION TILL TOMORROW!</p>							
Comments:							
Completed by:				Date of visit: 2/03/15			



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WATCHING BRIEF RECORD

Project No/Code/Name: 0011/HHS OLD FORGE, HAVERSHAM.		Sheet: 3 of 6	
Client/Developer			
Contact:		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 10.30	Finish: 11.50	
Development Type:			
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: DRY + SUNNY.			
Observations:			
EXCAVATION WEST AND SOUTH FOOTING.			
TRENCHES - ALSO INTERVAL FITS.			
NO FINDS/DEPOSITS.			
STRAT: ① 0 - 0.2 TOPSOIL (REMAINING)			
(APPROX). ② 0.2 - 0.4 LIGHTER SOIL			
(POORER SOIL?)			
③ 0.4 + NAT. SILTY CLAY +			
LST BRUSH.			
SOME SHALLOW DEPRESSIONS IN NAT, FILLED WITH			
②. NO FINDS. TREE BOWLS?			
Comments:			
Completed by:		Date of visit: 3/03/15	



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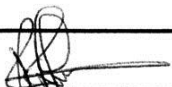
WATCHING BRIEF RECORD

Project No/Code/Name: 0011/HHS OLD FORGE, HAVERSHAM		Sheet: 4 of 6.	
Client/Developer			
Contact:		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 10.45	Finish: 11.30.	
Development Type:			
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: DRY + SUNNY.			
Observations: EXCAVATION OF TRENCHES TO EAST + INTERIOR OBSERVATIONS AS BEFORE HIGH FINISH TODAY - VISIT THIS PM.			
Comments:			
Completed by:		Date of visit: 04/03/15	



BANCROFT HERITAGE SERVICES

WATCHING BRIEF RECORD

Project No/Code/Name: 0011/HHS OLD FORGE, HAVESHAM.		Sheet: 5 of 6.	
Client/Developer			
Contact:		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 15.20	Finish: 16.00.	
Development Type:			
Footings ✓	Services	Roads	Levelling
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: SUNNY + DRY.			
Observations: SECOND VISIT - SAW REMAINING TRAILERS OF MAIN PART OF HOUSE - CONTRACTORS STARTED REAR WING FOOTINGS. NO ARCH. FINDS/DEPOSITS.			
Comments: ONE MORE VISIT TOMORROW?			
Completed by: 		Date of visit: 04/03/15.	



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WATCHING BRIEF RECORD

Project No/Code/Name: 0011/HHS OLD FORGE, HAVERSHAM.				Sheet: 6 of 6		
Client/Developer						
Contact:				Phone:		
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 10.45		Finish: 11.30.		
Development Type:						
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: SUNNY + DRY.						
Observations: SAW FOOTINGS FOR REAR WING - NO ARCH. CONCRETE BOOKED!						
Comments: REGISTER PIT + SERVICES TO REC. - AT REAR OF PLOT. CHECK WITH NC RE FUTURE VISITS.						
Completed by:				Date of visit: 5/03/15.		

Appendix 2: List of Photographs

Site Name: The Old Forge, High Street, Haversham			Proj. no/Code: BHS/0011/HHS
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	✓	5294	General view of site from lane
2	✓	5295	Western footing trench, looking south-west
3	✓	5296	Footing trenches at south-west corner, looking south
4	✓	5297	Internal footing trench
5	✓	5298	Overall view of site during final visit, from east
6	✓	5299	Overall view of site during final visit, from east
7	✓	5300	Footing trenches at north end of building

Appendix 3: OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	Land adj The Old Forge, Haversham	OASIS reference:	tbc
Short Description:	<i>In February and March 2015 the excavation of footings for a new house on land next to the Old Forge, High Street, Haversham was archaeologically monitored. The development site lies within the historic core of the village, and had the potential to contain buried heritage assets of Saxon or later date. Observation of the excavation of footing trenches did not reveal any buried heritage assets. Only a few undated depressions in the natural were noted, possibly connected with clearance of trees and scrub from the site, prior to cultivation. It is unlikely that significant buried heritage assets are present on the site, or that the development has had a significant impact on buried heritage assets.</i>		
Project Type:	Watching brief		
Previous work: (eg. HER refs)	none	Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	none
Current land use:	Grass paddock	Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	no
Monument type:	n/a	Monument period:	n/a
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	none		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Buckinghamshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	SP 8288 4285
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	Land adj The Old Forge, High Street, Haversham, Milton Keynes MK19 7DT		
Study area: (sq. m)	1530	Height OD: (metres)	65
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Bancroft Heritage Services		
Project brief originator:	Nick Crank, MKC	Project design originator:	Bob Zeepvat BA FSA MCIFA
Project Manager:	Bob Zeepvat BA FSA MCIFA	Director/Supervisor:	Bob Zeepvat BA FSA MCIFA
Sponsor / funding body:	Mr Harvey Gilbert		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	February 2015	End date:	March 2015
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Buckinghamshire County Museum	none	
Paper:		WSI, monitoring sheets, plans, photos, report	
Digital:		CD with all digital files	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Archaeological Monitoring: Land adj The Old Forge, High Street, Haversham, Milton Keynes MK19 7DT		
Serial title & volume:	Report ref. 0011/HHS/2		
Author(s):	Bob Zeepvat		
Page nos	21	Date:	10 th March 2015