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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**ASTON CLINTON MAJOR DEVELOPMENT AREA  
AYLESBURY  
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING  
OF GEOTECHNICAL PITS**

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NGR: SP 8490 1340	Report No. 2919
District: Aylesbury Vale	Site Code: AS1071
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. P1948
Signed:	Date: July 2007

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<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	<i>Buckinghamshire: Archaeological Monitoring and Recording of Geotechnical Pits</i>		
<i>During July 2007 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording of geotechnical test pits at Aston Clinton Major Development Area, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire (NGR SP 8490 1340).</i>			
<i>In June/July 2003, Archaeological Solutions Limited (formerly Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust) carried out an archaeological desk-based assessment (Cameron et al 2004). The study area is located at Broughton Farm, south east of Aylesbury, adjacent to the course of Roman Akeman Street, now the A41. The western part of the study area contains a Scheduled moated site. The eastern portion of the site is thought to potentially contain Roman structural remains.</i>			
<i>Roman pottery has been found in the vicinity and tesserae (fragments of mosaic floors) have apparently been found within the eastern part of the study area, suggesting the possibility of a Roman villa with a mosaic.</i>			
<i>The western part of the study area contains the remains of a scheduled medieval double moated site (SAM 29411) and associated ridge and furrow earthworks. Aylesbury Vale contains a wealth of medieval earthwork remains, including the remains of ridge and furrow, moats and deserted medieval villages. Documentary research into this moated site suggest that it was probably the site of the manor of Broughton Parva and a chapel appendant to Weston Turville. It was probably constructed during the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> century, and may have been abandoned in the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century during changes in landholding and agriculture.</i>			
<i>The monitoring and recording and recording observed the cutting of 34 geotechnical pits. The profile of a shallow feature, a ?ditch, F1005 L1006, was evident in Test Pit 14. The feature was unclear. It may represent a wide shallow ditch, orientated SE/NW. No finds were present. The topsoil from Test Pit 5 produced a single abraded sherd weighing 4g. It is a Brill product in pink fabric with mottled green and yellow glaze dating c.1250-1500. No other archaeological features or finds were present. The lack of finds is not however an indicator of the presence or absence of significant archaeological remains because the test pits were small (2.5m x 0.5m) and widely dispersed.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>July 2007</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>
P. number	<i>1948</i>	Site code	<i>AS1071</i>
Type of project	<i>Watching Brief</i>		
Site status			
Current land use	<i>Grass</i>		
Planned development	<i>Business and residential</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Undated ditch</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Sparse residual medieval pottery</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Bucks</i>	<i>Aylesbury Vale</i>	
HER/ SMR for area	<i>SAM 29411</i>		
Post code (if known)			
Area of site			
NGR	<i>SP 8490 1340</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)			
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>n/a</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Paul Harris</i>		
Funded by			
<b>Bibliography</b>			
Full title	<i>Aston Clinton Major Development Area, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire: Archaeological Monitoring and Recording of Geotechnical Test Pits</i>		
Authors	<i>Harris, P</i>		
Report no.	<i>2919</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>July 2007</i>		

# ASTON CLINTON MAJOR DEVELOPMENT AREA, AYLESBURY, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

## Archaeological Monitoring and Recording Of Geotechnical Test Pits

### **SUMMARY**

*During July 2007 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording of geotechnical test pits at Aston Clinton Major Development Area, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire (NGR SP 8490 1340).*

*In June/July 2003, Archaeological Solutions Limited (formerly Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust) carried out an archaeological desk-based assessment (Cameron et al 2004). The study area is located at Broughton Farm, south east of Aylesbury, adjacent to the course of Roman Akeman Street, now the A41. The western part of the study area contains a Scheduled moated site. The eastern portion of the site is thought to potentially contain Roman structural remains.*

*Roman pottery has been found in the vicinity and tesserae (fragments of mosaic floors) have apparently been found within the eastern part of the study area, suggesting the possibility of a Roman villa with a mosaic.*

*The western part of the study area contains the remains of a scheduled medieval double moated site (SAM 29411) and associated ridge and furrow earthworks. Aylesbury Vale contains a wealth of medieval earthwork remains, including the remains of ridge and furrow, moats and deserted medieval villages. Documentary research into this moated site suggest that it was probably the site of the manor of Broughton Parva and a chapel appendant to Weston Turville. It was probably constructed during the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> century, and may have been abandoned in the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century during changes in landholding and agriculture.*

*The monitoring and recording and recording observed the cutting of 34 geotechnical pits*

*The profile of a shallow feature, a ?ditch, F1005 L1006, was evident in Test Pit 14. The feature was unclear. It may represent a wide shallow ditch, orientated SE/NW. No finds were present. The topsoil from Test Pit 5 produced a single abraded sherd weighing 4g. It is a Brill product in pink fabric with mottled green and yellow glaze dating c.1250-1500. No other archaeological features or finds were present. The lack of finds is not however an indicator of the presence or absence of significant archaeological remains because the test pits were small (2.5m x 0.5m) and widely dispersed.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 During July 2007, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording of geotechnical test pits at Aston Clinton Major

Development Area, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire (NGR SP 8490 1340; Figs. 1-2). The monitoring was commissioned by Phillips Planning Services Ltd. It was undertaken in response to advice from Sandy Kidd of Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service

1.2 The monitoring and recording also complied with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

1.3 The monitoring was undertaken during the excavation of geotechnical test pits

1.4 The objectives 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 full analysis and interpretation of the site archive and the publication of the project results, if appropriate;
- To secure the conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site.

## **2 SITE DESCRIPTION**

2.1 The development area is located c.2.8km east south east of the modern town centre of Aylesbury, in the Aylesbury Vale District. It is located c.3.5km west of Aston Clinton village, c.2km south of the village of Bierton and c.200m south of the hamlet of Broughton, a hamlet of Bierton. It lies south of the Aylesbury arm of the Grand Union Canal. The site occupies four fields lying north of the Aston Clinton Road (A41). The area is bounded to the south by the A41 and to the west by Broughton Lane, beyond which lies the residential development of Bedgrove and Oakfield

2.2 The study area occupies fairly level ground at a height of c.85m AOD. The solid geology of the area comprises the Jurassic Kimmeridge Clay formations. The study area principally comprises soils of the Grove association. Aylesbury is situated on an outcrop of soft Portland limestone. Gault clays lie to the north and west and to the south east is a band of clay upland followed by the belt of clay-with-flint of the Chilterns (SSEW 1983).

## **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

3.1 In June/July 2003, Archaeological Solutions Limited (formerly Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust) carried out an archaeological desk-based assessment (Cameron et al 2004). The study area is located at Broughton Farm, south east of Aylesbury, adjacent to the course of Roman Akeman Street, now the A41. The western part of the study area contains a Scheduled moated site. The eastern portion of the site is thought to potentially contain Roman structural remains.

3.2 Roman pottery has been found in the vicinity and tesserae (fragments of mosaic floors) have apparently been found within the eastern part of the study area, suggesting the possibility of a Roman villa with a mosaic.

3.3 The western part of the study area contains the remains of a scheduled medieval

double moated site (SAM 29411) and associated ridge and furrow earthworks. Aylesbury Vale contains a wealth of medieval earthwork remains, including the remains of ridge and furrow, moats and deserted medieval villages. Documentary research into this moated site suggest that it was probably the site of the manor of Broughton Parva and a chapel appendant to Weston Turville. It was probably constructed during the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> century, and may have been abandoned in the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century during changes in landholding and agriculture.

## 4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The monitoring and recording encompassed the groundworks associated with the excavation of 34 geotechnical test pits. The test pits were each 2.5m long by 0.50m wide, and were excavated using a JCB excavator (Fig. 2).

4.2 The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all test pits, inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Deposits were recorded by means of *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for archaeological finds.

## 5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

### Test Pit 1

<i>E facing section</i>		
0.00 – 0.17m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid orange brown clayey silt
0.17 – 0.30m	L1003	Subsoil. Mid grey / brown silty clay with occasional pebbles
0.30 – 1.08m	L1004	Natural Clay. Mid grey / orange brown silty clay with frequent rounded pebbles
1.08 - 1.30m	L1002	Natural Sand. Mid orange / brown sandy clay with frequent pebbles
1.30m+	L1001	Natural Clay. Mid – light brown / grey clay

*Description* No archaeological features or finds were present

### Test Pit 2

<i>E facing section</i>		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil.
0.33 – 0.78m	L1004	Natural Clay.
0.78m+	L1002	Natural Clayey Sand

*Description* No archaeological features or finds were present

**Test Pit 3**

<i>W facing section</i>		
0.00 – 0.37m	L1000	Topsoil.
0.37 – 0.54m	L1003	Subsoil.
0.54 - 1.50m	L1002	Natural Sand.
1.50m+	L1001	Natural Clay

*Description* No archaeological features or finds were present

**Test Pit 4**

<i>W facing section</i>		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil.
0.35m+	L1001	Natural Clay

*Description* No archaeological features or finds were present

**Test Pit 5**

<i>E facing section</i>		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil.
0.30 – 1.08m	L1004	Natural Clay.
1.08m+	L1001	Natural Clay

*Description* The topsoil from Test Pit 5 produced a single abraded sherd weighing 4g. It is a Brill product in pink fabric with mottled green and yellow glaze dating c.1250-1500. No archaeological features were present

**Test Pit 6**

<i>S facing section</i>		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil.
0.33 – 1.10m	L1004	Natural Clay.
1.10m+	L1001	Natural Clay

*Description* No archaeological features or finds were present

**Test Pit 7**

<i>W facing section</i>		
0.00 – 0.40m	L1000	Topsoil.
0.40 – 0.75m	L1004	Natural Clay.
0.75 – 1.40m	L1002	Natural Sand.
1.40m+	L1001	Natural Clay

*Description* No archaeological features or finds were present



**Test Pit 8**

<i>N facing section</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil.
0.25 – 0.58m	L1003	Subsoil.
0.58 – 1.40m	L1004	Natural Clay.
1.40 - 1.80m	L1002	Natural Sand.
1.80m+	L1001	Natural Clay

*Description* No archaeological features or finds were present

**Test Pit 9**

<i>N facing section</i>		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil.
0.28 – 0.90m	L1004	Natural Clay.
0.90 - 1.60m	L1002	Natural Sand.
1.60m+	L1001	Natural Clay

*Description* No archaeological features or finds were present

**Test Pit 10**

<i>E facing section</i>		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000	Topsoil.
0.22 – 0.40m	L1003	Subsoil.
0.40 – 1.60m	L1004	Natural Clay.
1.60m+	L1001	Natural Clay

*Description* No archaeological features or finds were present

**Test Pit 11**

<i>NE facing section</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil.
0.25 – 0.46m	L1003	Subsoil.
0.46 – 1.50m	L1004	Natural Clay.
1.50m+	L1001	Natural Clay

*Description* No archaeological features or finds were present

**Test Pit 12**

<i>W facing section</i>		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil.
0.31 – 1.10m	L1004	Natural Clay.
1.10m+	L1001	Natural Clay

*Description* No archaeological features or finds were present

**Test Pit 13**

<i>S facing section</i>		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1000	Topsoil.
0.15 – 0.40m	L1003	Subsoil.
0.40 – 0.58m	L1004	Natural Clay.
0.58 - 1.10m	L1002	Natural Sand.
1.10m+	L1001	Natural Clay

*Description* No archaeological features or finds were present

**Test Pit 14**

<i>W facing section</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil.
0.20 – 0.50m	L1006	Fill of Ditch F1005. Mid grey silty clay
0.50 - 1.30m	L1002	Natural Sand.
1.30m+	L1001	Natural Clay

*Description* The profile of a shallow feature, a ?ditch, F1005 L1006, was evident in section. The feature was unclear. It may represent a wide shallow ditch, orientated SE/NW. The fill, L1006, was a mid grey silty clay.

**Test Pit 15**

<i>NW facing section</i>		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil.
0.24 – 0.50m	L1007	Subsoil. Mid grey, clayey silt with occasional pebbles
0.50 - 1.20m	L1002	Natural Sand.
1.20m+	L1001	Natural Clay

*Description* No archaeological features or finds were present

**Test Pit 16**

<i>NW facing section</i>		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil.
0.26 – 0.66m	L1004	Natural Clay.
0.66 - 1.10m	L1002	Natural Sand.
1.10m+	L1001	Natural Clay

*Description* No archaeological features or finds were present

**Test Pit 17**

<i>SW facing section</i>		
0.00 – 0.50m	L1000	Topsoil.
0.50 – 1.00m	L1004	Natural Clay.
1.00 - 2.00m	L1002	Natural Sand.
2.00m+	L1001	Natural Clay

*Description* No archaeological features or finds were present

**Test Pit 18**

<i>NW facing section</i>		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil.
0.30 – 0.47m	L1004	Natural Clay.
0.47 – 0.90m	L1002	Natural Sand.
0.90m+	L1001	Natural Clay

*Description* No archaeological features or finds were present

**Test Pit 19**

<i>NW facing section</i>		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil.
0.26 – 0.50m	L1003	Subsoil.
0.50 – 1.20m	L1004	Natural Clay.
1.20 – 2.00m	L1002	Natural Sand.
2.00m+	L1001	Natural Clay

*Description* No archaeological features or finds were present

**Test Pit 20**

<i>SE facing section</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil.
0.20– 0.69m	L1004	Natural Clay.
0.69 – 0.81m	L1002	Natural Sand.
0.81m+	L1001	Natural Clay

*Description* No archaeological features or finds were present

**Test Pit 21**

<i>NW facing section</i>		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1000	Topsoil.
0.21 – 0.41m	L1003	Subsoil.
0.41 – 0.76m	L1002	Natural Sand.
0.76m+	L1001	Natural Clay

*Description* No archaeological features or finds were present

**Test Pit 22**

<i>NE facing section</i>		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil.
0.33 – 1.60m	L1004	Natural Clay.
1.60m+	L1001	Natural Clay

*Description* No archaeological features or finds were present

**Test Pit 23**

<i>W facing section</i>		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil.
0.30 – 0.70m	L1003	Subsoil.
0.70 – 1.38m	L1004	Natural Clay.
1.38m+	L1001	Natural Clay

*Description* No archaeological features or finds were present

**Test Pit 24**

<i>W facing section</i>		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000	Topsoil.
0.22 – 0.50m	L1003	Subsoil.
0.50 – 0.90m	L1004	Natural Clay.
0.90m+	L1001	Natural Clay

*Description* No archaeological features or finds were present

**Test Pit 25**

<i>N facing section</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil.
0.25 – 1.20m	L1004	Natural Clay.
1.20m+	L1001	Natural Clay

*Description* No archaeological features or finds were present

**Test Pit 26**

<i>N facing section</i>		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1000	Topsoil.
0.15 – 0.50m	L1003	Subsoil.
0.50 – 1.10m	L1004	Natural Clay.
1.10m+	L1001	Natural Clay

*Description* No archaeological features or finds were present

**Test Pit 27**

<i>W facing section</i>		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil.
0.27 – 1.10m	L1004	Natural Clay.
1.10m+	L1001	Natural Clay

*Description* No archaeological features or finds were present

**Test Pit 28**

<i>W facing section</i>		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1000	Topsoil.
0.15 – 0.52m	L1003	Subsoil.
0.52 – 1.20m	L1004	Natural Clay.
1.20m+	L1001	Natural Clay

*Description* No archaeological features or finds were present

**Test Pit 29**

<i>W facing section</i>		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000	Topsoil.
0.22 – 0.45m	L1003	Subsoil.
0.45 – 1.05m	L1004	Natural Clay.
1.05m+	L1001	Natural Clay

*Description* No archaeological features or finds were present

**Test Pit 30**

<i>W facing section</i>		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil.
0.34 – 0.97m	L1004	Natural Clay.
0.97m+	L1001	Natural Clay

*Description* No archaeological features or finds were present

**Test Pit 31**

<i>N facing section</i>		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil.
0.24 – 0.65m	L1003	Subsoil.
0.65 – 1.05m	L1004	Natural Clay.
1.05m+	L1001	Natural Clay

*Description* No archaeological features or finds were present

### Test Pit 32

<i>N facing section</i>		
0.00 – 2.10m	L1008	Made Ground.
2.10 – 2.80m	L1003	Subsoil.
2.80m	L1002	Natural Sand.

*Description* A substantial (2m+ deep) deposit of made ground, L1008, was present.

No archaeological features or finds were present

### Test Pit 33

<i>E facing section</i>		
0.00 – 0.70m	L1008	Made Ground.
0.70 – 2.10m	L1004	Natural Clay.
2.10 – 2.80m	L1002	Natural Sand.
2.80m+	L1001	Natural Clay

*Description* Made ground, L1008, was present; as opposed to the topsoil. No archaeological features or finds were present

### Test Pit 34

<i>N facing section</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil.
0.20 – 0.55m	L1003	Subsoil.
0.55 – 1.20m	L1004	Natural Clay.
1.20m+	L1001	Natural Clay

*Description* No archaeological features or finds were present

## 6 CONFIDENCE RATING

6.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features and finds.

## 7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 The Topsoil, L1000, was a mid orange brown clayey silt. It was between 0.15m (e.g. Tr. 13 & 26) and 0.34m thick (TPs.3 & 30)

7.2 Below the Topsoil, Subsoil L1003, was a mid grey / brown silty clay with occasional pebbles. It was not always present, but it did occur throughout the site (Test Pits 1, 3, 8, 10 - 11, 13, 15, 21, 23, 26, 28 - 29, 31, 34). It was 0.13 – 0.41m thick.

7.3 The natural clay, L1004 was a mid grey / orange brown silty clay with frequent rounded pebbles. It was between 0.30 and 0.70m below the present ground surface

7.4 The test pitting indicated that the ground has suffered very little disturbance. Test Pits 32 and 33 on the edge of the site contained deep (2.10m & 0.70m) deposits of made ground (L1008) which occurred below the level of the natural.

## **8 DISCUSSION**

8.1 The profile of a shallow feature, a ?ditch, F1005 L1006, was evident in Test Pit 14. The feature was unclear. It may represent a wide shallow ditch, orientated SE/NW. No finds were present.

8.2 The topsoil from Test Pit 5 produced a single abraded sherd weighing 4g. It is a Brill product in pink fabric with mottled green and yellow glaze dating c.1250-1500.

8.3 No other archaeological features or finds were present. The lack of finds is not however an indicator of the presence or absence of significant archaeological remains because the test pits were small (2.5m x 0.5m) and widely dispersed.

## **9 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

9.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with the finds from the site, at the county museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank Phillips Planning Services Ltd for commissioning the archaeological desk-based assessment, in particular Mr. Al Morrow for his assistance. AS is pleased to thank Gladman for funding the monitoring

AS would also like to acknowledge the advice of Sandy Kidd, Archaeological Officer, Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service

## **REFERENCES**

Institute of Field Archaeologists (revised 1999) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

Cameron et al, 2004 *Business/Science Park, Aston Clinton Major Development Area, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment & Earthwork Survey*. AS report No. 1349.

## **The Pottery**

by Peter Thompson

The topsoil from Test Pit 5 produced a single abraded sherd weighing 4g. It is a Brill product in pink fabric with mottled green and yellow glaze dating c.1250-1500.