

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP & SAMPLE EXCAVATION:
LAND ADJACENT TO 8 CHURCH LANE
DEANSHANGER
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

NGR: SP 76100 39650

on behalf of Jamie Eborall



Gareth Shane BSc (Hons)

July 2011

ASC: 1426/DCL/2



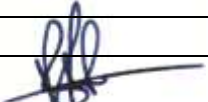
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Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	DCL	<i>ASC project no:</i>	1426
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	archaeol2-102731	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	
<i>County:</i>	Northamptonshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Deanshanger		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Deanshanger		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 76100 39650		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c.700 sq m		
<i>Present use:</i>	Open grassland		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Erection of detached house		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	S/2011/0357/FUL		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	South Northamptonshire District Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	20/06/2011-22/06/2011		
<i>Commissioned by:</i>	Anthony Thompson Architectural Services Furtho South Furtho Manor Farm Northampton Road Milton Keynes MK19 6NR		
<i>Client:</i>	Jamie Eborall 9 Kingshill Drive Deanshanger Milton Keynes MK19 6GH		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Anthony Thompson/Jamie Eborall		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Gareth Shane	<i>Date:</i>	13/07/11
<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	14/07/11

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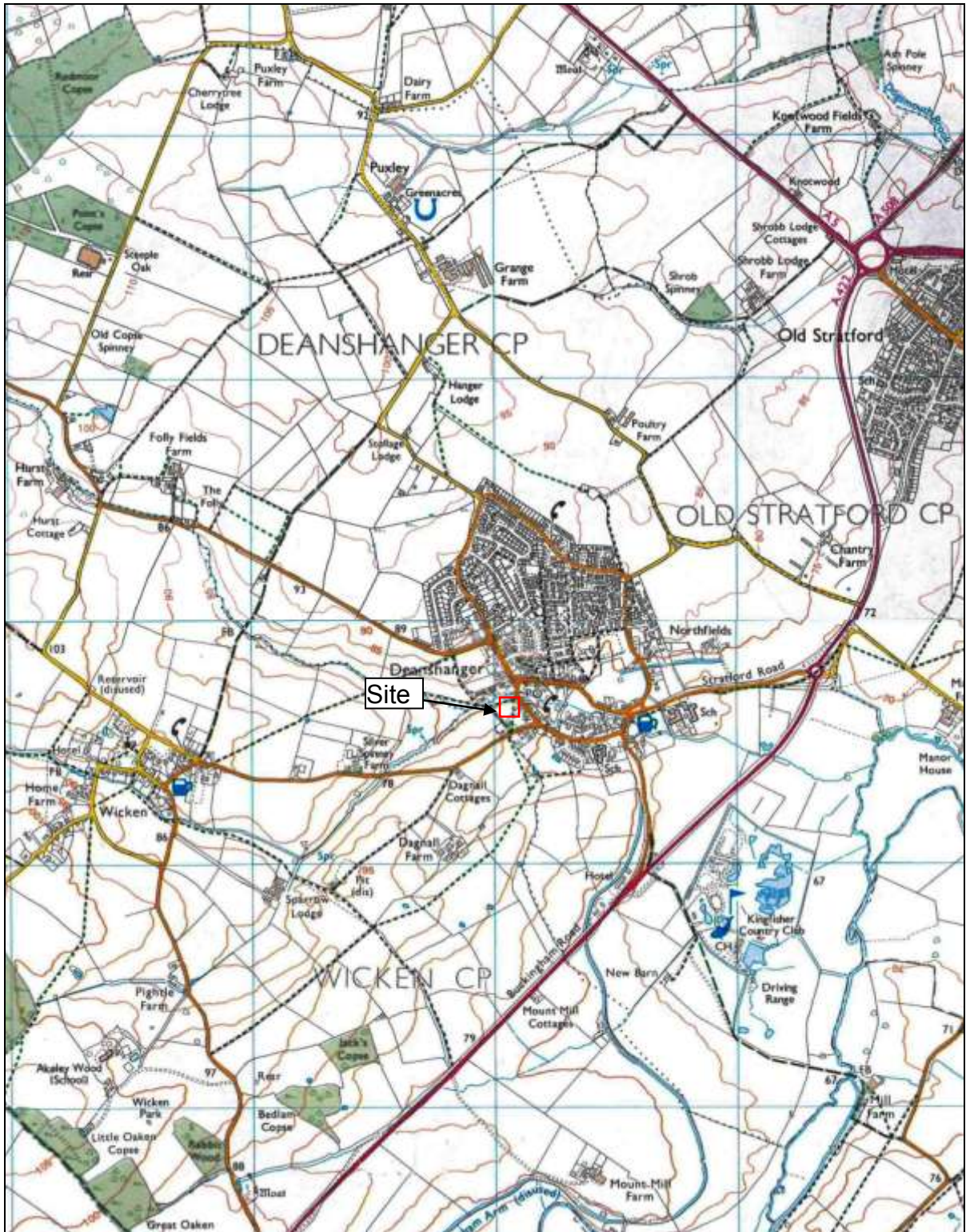


Figure 1: General location (Scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In June 2011 a strip map and sample excavation was undertaken at land adjacent to 8 Church Lane, Deanshanger, Northamptonshire. The work was carried out in advance of construction of a detached house. Constant machine supervision of the site revealed a limestone stone foundation, probably a field boundary that originated from the SE edge of the site, on a north-south alignment. Dating evidence suggested a Post Medieval or Modern date. Further modern finds were found in the topsoil, and no more archaeological features were observed.

1. Introduction

1.1 In June 2011 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a strip, map and sample excavation at land adjacent to 8 Church Lane, Deanshanger, Northamptonshire. The project was commissioned by Anthony Thompson Architectural Services on behalf of Jamie Eborall, and was carried out according to a brief (Mordue 2011) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *South Northamptonshire District Council*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), the Planning Department of *Northamptonshire County Council*, and a project design prepared by ASC (Fell 2011). The relevant planning application reference is S/2011/0357/FUL.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This excavation was required under the terms of *Planning Policy Statement 5* (PPS5), as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site.

1.3 *Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd*

ASC is an independent archaeological practice providing a full range of archaeological services including consultancy, field evaluation, mitigation and post-excavation studies, historic building recording and analysis. ASC is recognised as a *Registered Organisation* by the Institute for Archaeologists and is also accredited ISO 9001, in recognition of its high standards and working practices.

1.4 *The Site*

1.4.1 *Location & Description*

The site is situated in Deanshanger, in the administrative district of South Northamptonshire (Fig. 1). It is situated in the medieval core of the village, a little to the north of Holy Trinity Church and currently comprises part of a larger block of open land, on the west side of Church Lane. It is centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference SP 76100 39650 (Fig. 2). The site is surfaced with turf and access is from the east, from Church Lane.

1.4.2 *Geology & Topography*

The site slopes from south to north and has an average elevation of *c.*75m. The natural soils of the area comprise the *Aberford Association*, namely shallow locally brashy fine loamy soils over Blisworth limestone (Soil Survey 1983, 511a; (BGS, Sheet 202).

1.4.3 Proposed Development

The development proposal comprises the construction of a detached house, with associated parking and services (Fig. 3).

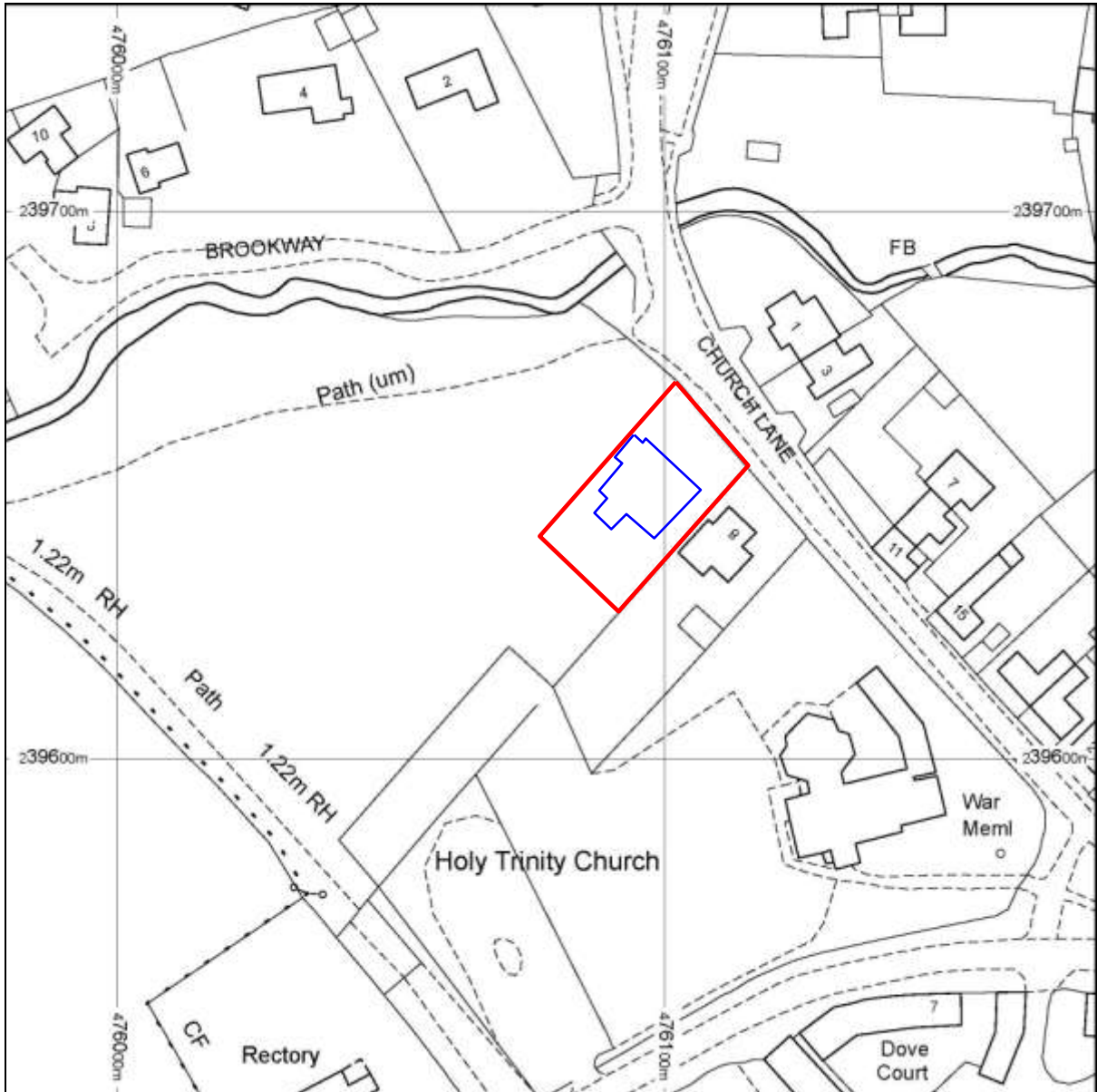


Figure 2: Site plan with approx. footprint of the new building outlined in blue (Scale 1:1250)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 *Aims*

As described in the project design (Section 3.1), the aim of the excavation was:

- To determine and understand the nature, function, and character of any archaeological remains which may be present, within their cultural and environmental setting

2.2 *Standards*

The work conformed to the requirements of the *brief*, to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001) and *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000a), to English Heritage guidelines (EH 1991, EH 2006), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

2.3 *Methods*

The work was carried out according to the project design (Section 3.3), which required that the footprint of the proposed building was stripped with a toothless bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Where archaeological horizons were reached, any archaeology present was cleaned sufficiently by hand to determine its extent and a sample was excavated. Features were recorded using ASC's pro forma record sheets, plans and section drawings were made at an appropriate scale and a photographic record was maintained.

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 lies within an area of archaeological and historical interest, and has the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods.

This section has been compiled with information from Northamptonshire *Historic Environment Record* (HER) and ASC's own in-house library.

3.2 *Prehistoric* (before 600BC)

Little archaeological work has been undertaken in Deanshanger and the pattern of prehistoric settlement is not well understood. A Neolithic axe has been recorded c.200m north of the development site (HER 1175) and a pit alignment has been recorded to the north of the village (HER 1228).

The pattern of prehistoric settlement is not understood in detail but during the later prehistoric periods the landscape probably comprised a dispersed settlement pattern. The sites are usually poorly dated but settlements have been identified c.1km north-east of the development site and c.1km to the south respectively (HER 5330 & 5831).

Deanshanger is situated on slightly elevated ground c.1km north of the valley of the river Great Ouse and there is a growing body of evidence demonstrating that this part of the river valley attracted settlement during the prehistoric periods. A group of ring ditches (ploughed out burial mounds) have been recorded c.2km east of the site (Records of Bucks 48, 290-1). An Iron Age settlement comprising enclosures and circular huts has been excavated c.1km south of the development site (HER 5287) and settlement of the same period has been identified in the neighbouring parish of Old Stratford.

3.3 *Roman* (AD43-c.450)

During the Roman period transport and communications were dominated by a major Roman road, now known as *Watling Street* which passed c.2km east of the development site (OS 1979) and linked *Londinium* (London) and *Viroconium* (Wroxeter). The existence of a road linking Olney with Water Stratford (HER 1166) which may have passed close to the development site has also been suggested but this identification is not now widely accepted.

The river valley continued to be of importance during this period and a number of Roman villas and other stone buildings are known in the area (Farley 2010; Woodfield & Johnson 1989). An example has been recorded c.800m to the east of the development site (HER 1170) and a further example, which included a mosaic was found at Foscoote c. 4km to the west of the development site (RCHM 1913, 115).

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

Deanshanger probably originated during medieval period. The village is not mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 and settlement in the area was focused on the village of Passenham. The village is described as being of 1 hide with land for 12 ploughs with 1 plough, 1 slave and 8 villagers, 6 bordars and 1 free man having 5 ploughs.

There was also a mill and 30 acres of meadow and woodland (Williams and Martin 1992, 592). During the Saxon period the development site probably comprised open land and ridge and furrow cultivation strips have been recorded in the area (HER 5649).

A variety of medieval artefacts and sites have been recorded close to the development site and it is likely that the village developed in this area during the medieval period. The extent and form of the early village are not understood in detail but a group of earthworks, ditches and a hollow way (HER 1176) have been recorded c.300m southeast of the development site. A manor at Deanshanger is mentioned in the perambulation of Whittlewood (1299), and was situated c.160m south-east of the development site. (Riden & Insley 2002). During this period both Passenham and Deanshanger were predominately arable, and by 1397 Deanshanger had 132 a. of arable, 18 a. of meadow and 6 a. of wood (Riden & Insley 2002).

It is not known if the development site was occupied during this period but a possible medieval wall (HER 1176/0/13) considered to be a property boundary has been identified c.100m northeast of the development site (HER 1176). A medieval pit and quarry were recorded nearby and a variety of artefacts of this period have been recorded in the area (eg. HER 1176; RCHM 1982, etc).

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

A number of 17th and 18th century buildings survive in the village (eg Dovehouse Farm (HER 1176) and the parish was enclosed in 1772. The Buckingham arm of the *Grand Union Canal* opened in 1801 and allowed the village to develop as an industrial centre. An iron foundry was established in 1820 and an oxide works in the 20th century (Deanshanger Village Heritage Site). The Holy Trinity chapel which is situated c.100m southeast of the development site was constructed in 1854 (Pevsner & Cherry 2002, 176).

The first large scale Ordnance Survey map of the village was published in 1884. The map shows the development site as part of a larger open field and later editions show that it has remained as open ground.

4. Stratigraphic Report

4.1 Site Stripping

An area of 870 sq m (Fig. 2) was mechanically stripped of topsoil and overburden under close archaeological supervision, as required in the brief. The stratigraphy encountered comprised:

000-150mm (100) Dark grey brown, soft sandy silt with occasional limestone pieces and CBM, plough soil

150-290mm (101) Mid brown grey, friable clay silt with inclusions of moderate small limestone pieces.

The underlying natural strata comprised (107) Mid brown compacted silt, with abundant limestone pieces

4.2 Sampling Strategy

On completion of the site strip, archaeological features comprising [102] a limestone foundation and [105] a pit was revealed. Following consultation with the AA, it was agreed that subsequent excavation would follow the sampling strategy outlined in the brief.

4.3 Results

Upon completion of site stripping the site was visually inspected and archaeological features were investigated. In the southeast corner of site a linear feature [102], orientated NW-SE (Plate.2) was uncovered. A modern intrusion [105] apparent in the topsoil whilst machining was found to truncate [102]. A small slot 1.8m in width was machined through [105] to partially expose undisturbed sections of [102] (Plate 3). The area was then hand cleaned to reveal the foundations of a stone wall. Further hand excavation fully exposed the foundations (Plate 4). And the following observations were made:

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Width (mm)</i>	<i>Length (mm)</i>	<i>Depth/Thickness (mm)</i>
102	Cut	Linear feature se-nw orientated, sharp at top, steep sides with sudden break at base. Flat base	600	1800	730
103	Fill	Lower fill of linear feature. [102] Mid grey brown clay-silt, soft with abundant small and medium limestone fragments.	450	1800	230
104	Fill	2 nd fill of linear feature [102], light yellowish white, compact, possibly lime mortar	430		460
109	Fill	Limestone rubble maximum size of pieces	160x	100	
110	Fill	Upper fill of linear feature. Light grey white, firm clay silt with occasional limestone fragments	400		370



Plate 1: Soil Stratigraphy, SE limit of site



Plate 2: [102] prior to excavation



Plate 3: Pit [105]



Plate 4: Foundation [102]

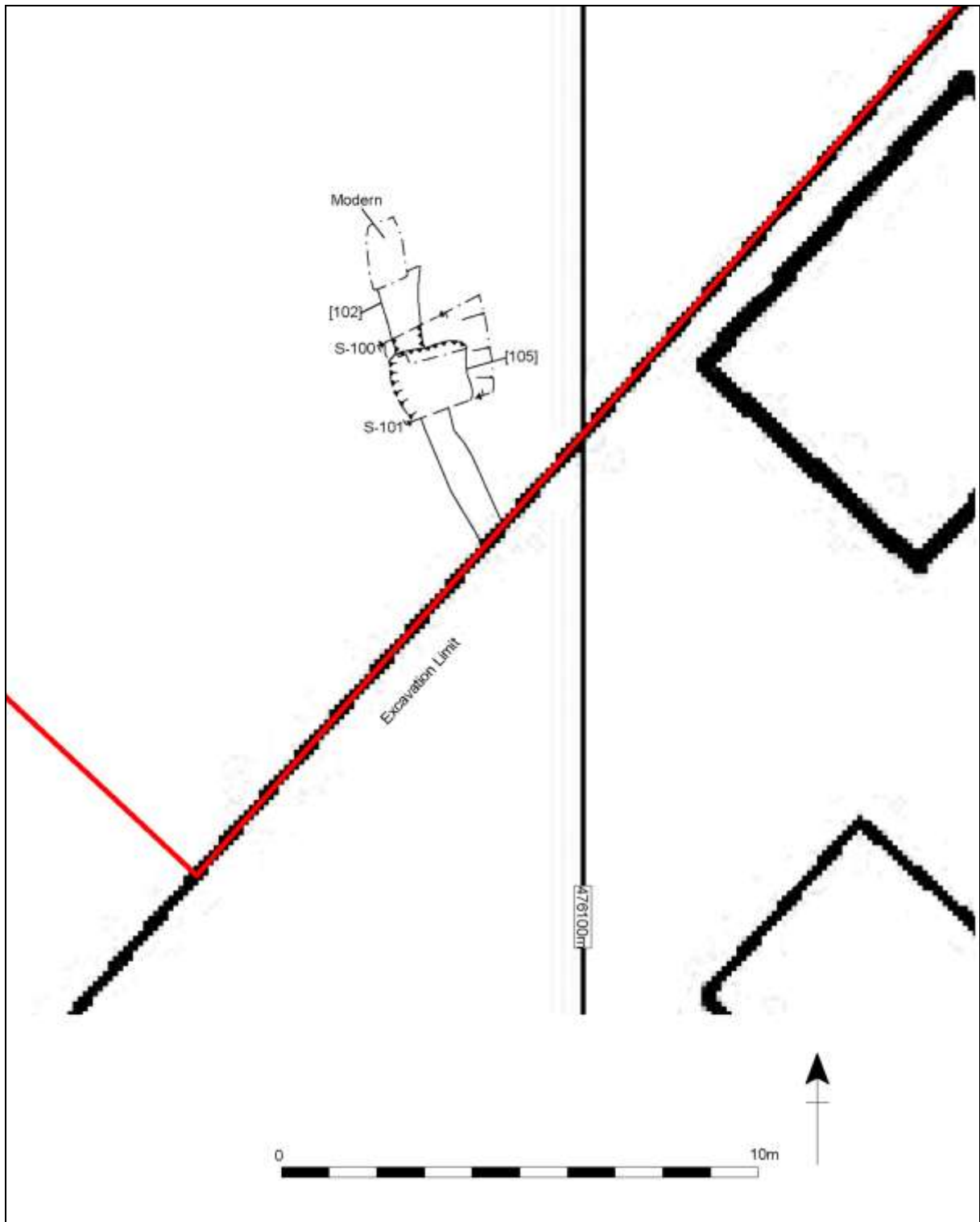
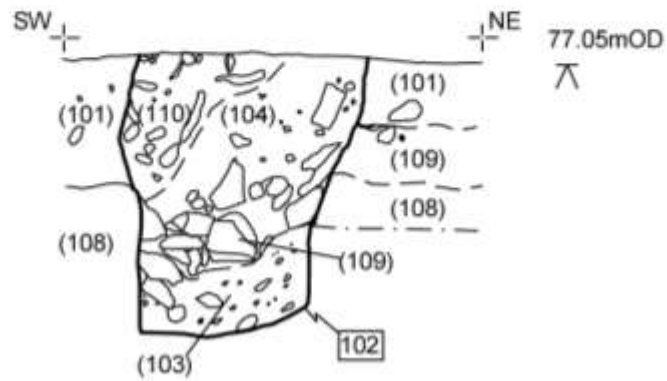
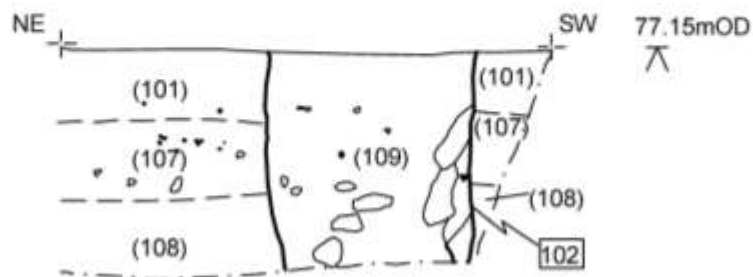


Figure 3: Site plan (scale 1:100)

Section 100 SE facing foundation 102



Section 101 NW facing foundation 102



Section 102 NW facing soil profile

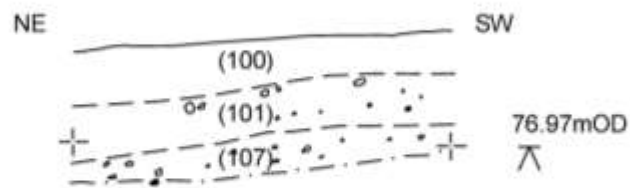


Figure 4: Sections (scale 1:20)

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 The site was machine stripped under constant archaeological supervision until the archaeological horizons were reached. Once stripping was completed potential archaeological features were excavated.
- 7.2 A group of archaeological features was identified near the south corner of the site. Feature [102] was a limestone wall footing, dated by a single pottery sherd to the Post Medieval period, and was probably part of a boundary wall. A similar wall, 100m northeast of the development site, has been identified as possibly of Medieval date (HER1176/0/13)
- 7.3 A rectangular pit [105] cut wall [102]. The presence of a fragment of lino-type flooring material indicated that the pit was modern.
- 7.4 No further archaeological features were observed during the excavation of the site. A George V penny dated 1914 was found alongside a modern copper alloy button in the topsoil during machining, but no further artefacts were recovered.

Confidence Rating

The work was undertaken in hot weather, with fair light conditions and full cooperation was received from the client. Accordingly a good confidence rating is attached to the results of the strip, map and sample excavation.

8. Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Anthony Thompson Architectural Services on behalf of Jamie Eborall. The writer is grateful to Jamie Eborall for his assistance. The project was monitored by Liz Mordue of *Northamptonshire County Council* on behalf of the local planning authority.

The project was managed for ASC by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA. Fieldwork was carried out by Gareth Shane BSc (Hons). The report was prepared by Gareth Shane and edited by Bob Zeepvat.

9. Archive

9.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans
5. Site records
6. Finds records
7. Finds
8. Site record drawings
9. List of photographs
10. B/W prints & negatives
11. Original specialist reports and supporting information
12. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

9.2 The archive will be retained by ASC until a suitable depository is available in Northamptonshire.

10 References

Standards & Specifications

- EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition. English Heritage (London).
- EH 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*. English Heritage (London).
- Fell D, 2011 *Project Design for Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation at land adjacent to 8 Church Lane, Deanshanger, Northamptonshire*.ASC/1426/1
- IFA 2000a Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.
- IFA 2001 Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds)*.
- Mordue E, 2011 *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Investigation and Publication on Land adjacent to 8 Church Lane, Deanshanger, Northamptonshire*. Planning Department, Northamptonshire County Council

Secondary Sources

- Cooper N J (ed), 2006 *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: an archaeological resource assessment and research agenda*. University of Leicester/English Heritage
- OS, 1979 *Ordnance Survey map of Roman Britain*. Ordnance Survey
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).
- RCHM, 1913 *Royal Commission on Historical Monuments: Buckinghamshire (North)*. RCHM
- RCHM, 1982 *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the County of Northampton. Archaeological Sites in South-West Northamptonshire*. Royal Commission on Historical Monuments,
- Ryland, W, Adkins, D and Serjeanston, R (eds) 1902 *The Victoria History of the County of Northamptonshire* **1**. pp. 307-308, 374.
- Riden, P & Insley, C (eds) 2002 *The Victoria History of the County of Northamptonshire* **5** pp.198-207.
- Williams, A and Martin, G.H (eds), 1992 *Domesday Book A Complete Translation*. Penguin
- Woodfield C & Johnson C, 1979 'A Roman Site at Stanton Low, on the Great Ouse, Buckinghamshire Excavated by Margaret Jones, 1957-58' in *Archaeological Journal* **146**, 135-278

Internet Sources

- Deanshanger Village Heritage Site – <http://clutch.open.ac.uk/schools/deanshanger99/pages/intro.html>

Appendix 1: Excavation Summary Tables

Context Register

Context	Type	Description
100	Layer	Dark grey brown, sandy silt, soft with occasional limestone pieces and CBM. Topsoil.
101	Layer	Mid dark brown grey, clay silt, friable with moderate chalk pieces. Subsoil.
102	Cut	Cut of limestone wall
103	Fill	Lower fill of wall cut.
104	Fill	Limestone backfill of wall foundation
105	Cut	Cut of pit, Modern
106	Cut	Sole fill of modern pit [105]
107	Layer	Natural substrata
108	Layer	Lower natural limestone geology
109	Layer	Limestone rubble wall
110	Fill	Upper fill of limestone foundation backfill.

Plan Register

Sheet No	Drawing No	Scale	Details
1	103	1:20	Plan of wall 102 and pit 105.

Section Register

Sheet No	Drawing No	Scale	Contexts
01	100	1:10	101,102, 104, 107, 108, 109
01	101	1:10	101, 102, 103, 104, 107, 108, 109, 110.
01	102	1:10	100, 101, 107

Bulk Finds Register

Context	Pottery		Bone		Flint	Shell	Stone	Other	
	No.	Wt (g)	No.	Wt (g)	No.	Wt(g)	No.	type	No/Wt(g)
100			4	145				Coin	1/8g
100								Button	1/7g
100	1	1							
103	1	56							
106								Lino	1/20g
109							3		

Appendix 3: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: Land Adjacent to 8 Church Lane, Deanshanger			SITE NO/CODE: 1426/DCL
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1-4		√	Site machining and general shots
5	√	√	NW view general site shot
6	√	√	NE view general site shot
7		√	General site shot stripping of topsoil
8		√	General; site shot stripping of topsoil
9	√	√	NW view Site stripped to subsoil
10	√	√	N view site stripping
11	√	√	ESE Foundation [102] pre excavation
9	√	√	WNW Foundation [102] pre excavation
10	√	√	N wall [102] and pit [105]
11	√	√	SE view wall [102]
12	√	√	NW view wall [102]
13		√	NW view wall [102]
14			NW view wall [102]
15	√	√	NW baulk section soil profile
16		√	NW baulk section soil profile
17		√	SE view stratigraphy
18		√	SW view stratigraphy
19		√	NW view site
20		√	NE view site

Appendix 4: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	Land Adjacent to 8 Church Lane	OASIS reference:	102731
Short Description:	<i>In June 2011 a strip map and sample excavation was undertaken at land adjacent to 8 Church Lane, Deanshanger, Northamptonshire. The work was carried out in advance of construction of a detached house. Constant machine supervision of the site revealed a limestone stone foundation, probably a field boundary that originated from the SE edge of the site, on a north-south alignment. Dating evidence suggested a Post Medieval or Modern date. Further modern finds were found in the topsoil, and no more archaeological features were observed.</i>		
Project Type:	Strip, map and sample		
Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	None	Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	None
Current land use:	Open grassland	Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	Unknown
Monument type:	N/a	Monument period:	N/a
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Northamptonshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	SP 76100 39650
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	Land Adjacent to 8 Church Lane, Deanshanger, Northamptonshire		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	700sq m	Height OD: (metres)	77.38
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	Liz Mordue	Project design originator:	David Fell
Project Manager:	Bob Zeepvat	Director/Supervisor:	Gareth Shane
Sponsor / funding body:	Jamie Eborall		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	20/06/2011	End date:	22/06/2011
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Retained by ASC	B&W photographs and negatives	
Paper:		Brief, Project Design, Strip, Map and Sample report, on site paper work, finds.	
Digital:		All digital files	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Land Adjacent to 8 Church Lane, Deanshanger, Northamptonshire.		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1426/DCL/2		
Author(s):	Gareth Shane		
Page nos	19	Date:	13/07/11