

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:
3 ST FAITH'S CLOSE
NEWTON LONGVILLE
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

NGR: SP 8469 3134

on behalf of Mr Chris Armstrong



Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc

November 2011

ASC: 1443/NSF/2



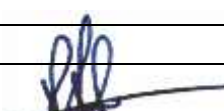
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Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	NSF	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	1443
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	archaeol2-106265	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	AYBCM: 2011.222
<i>County:</i>	Buckinghamshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Newton Longville		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Newton Longville		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 8469 3134		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c.150 sq m		
<i>Present use:</i>	House and garden		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Construction of two storey side extension to existing house		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	08/00133		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Aylesbury Vale District Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	09/08/11, 12/08/11, 27/10/11		
<i>Client:</i>	Mr Chris Armstrong 3 St Faith's Close Newton Longville Buckinghamshire MK17 0BA		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Chris Armstrong		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Carina Summerfield-Hill	<i>Date:</i>	01/11/11
<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	01/11/11

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CONTENTS

Summary.....	4
1. Introduction	4
2. Aims & Methods	7
3. Archaeological & Historical Background	8
4. Results.	10
5. Conclusions	15
6. Acknowledgements	15
7. Archive.....	15
8. References.....	16

Appendices:

1. ASC Watching Brief Monitoring Sheets.....	17
2. Photo List.....	20
3. ASC OASIS Form.....	21

Figures:

1. General location	3
2. Site plan	5
3. Proposed extension.....	6
4. Plan of development works.....	11

Plates:

Cover: Existing house and footing trench, looking NW

1. Footing trench: site stratigraphy, looking SW	12
2. Footing trench, looking NW	12
3. Drainage trenches, south of the extension, looking NW	13
4. Stratigraphy of drainage trench, south of the extension, looking SW	13
5. Soakaway A, looking SE	14



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

Summary

Between August and October 2011 a watching brief was carried out at 3 St Faith's Close, Newton Longville, Buckinghamshire during the construction of a new two storey side extension to the existing house. The works revealed that the site had undergone much disturbance with services and made-ground deposits overlying buried topsoil. No significant archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed.

1. Introduction

1.1 Between August and October 2011 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief at 3 St Faith's Close, Newton Longville, Buckinghamshire. The project was commissioned by Mr Chris Armstrong, and was carried out according to a brief (Radford 2008- updated to a standard *brief* 2011) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *Aylesbury Vale District Council*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), *Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service* (BCAS), and a project design prepared by ASC (Fell 2011). The relevant planning application reference is 08/00133.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This watching brief 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 Newton Longville, in the administrative district of Aylesbury Vale, Buckinghamshire (Fig. 1). It lies in the historic core of the village, on the southwest side of St Faith's Close, adjacent to the church and Manor House and is centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference SP 8469 3134.

1.4.2 *Geology & Topography*

The natural soils of the site comprise the *Hanslope Association*, namely slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils (Soil Survey 1983, 411d). The underlying geology comprises till drift deposits over Oxford Clay (BGS, Sheet 200).

1.4.3 *Proposed Development*

The proposed development entails the construction of a two storey side extension to the existing house (Fig. 3).

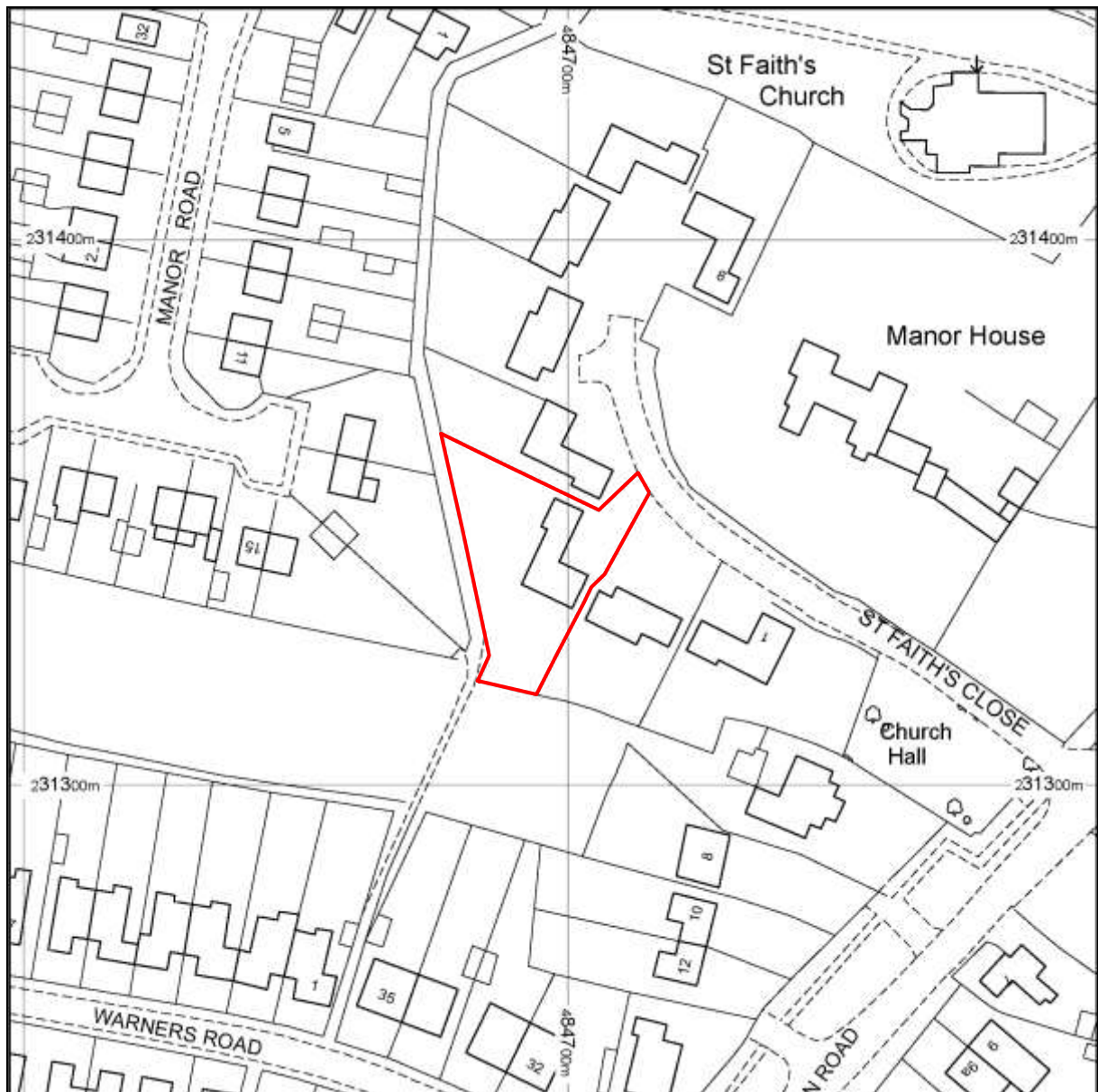


Figure 2: Site plan (*scale 1: 1,250*)

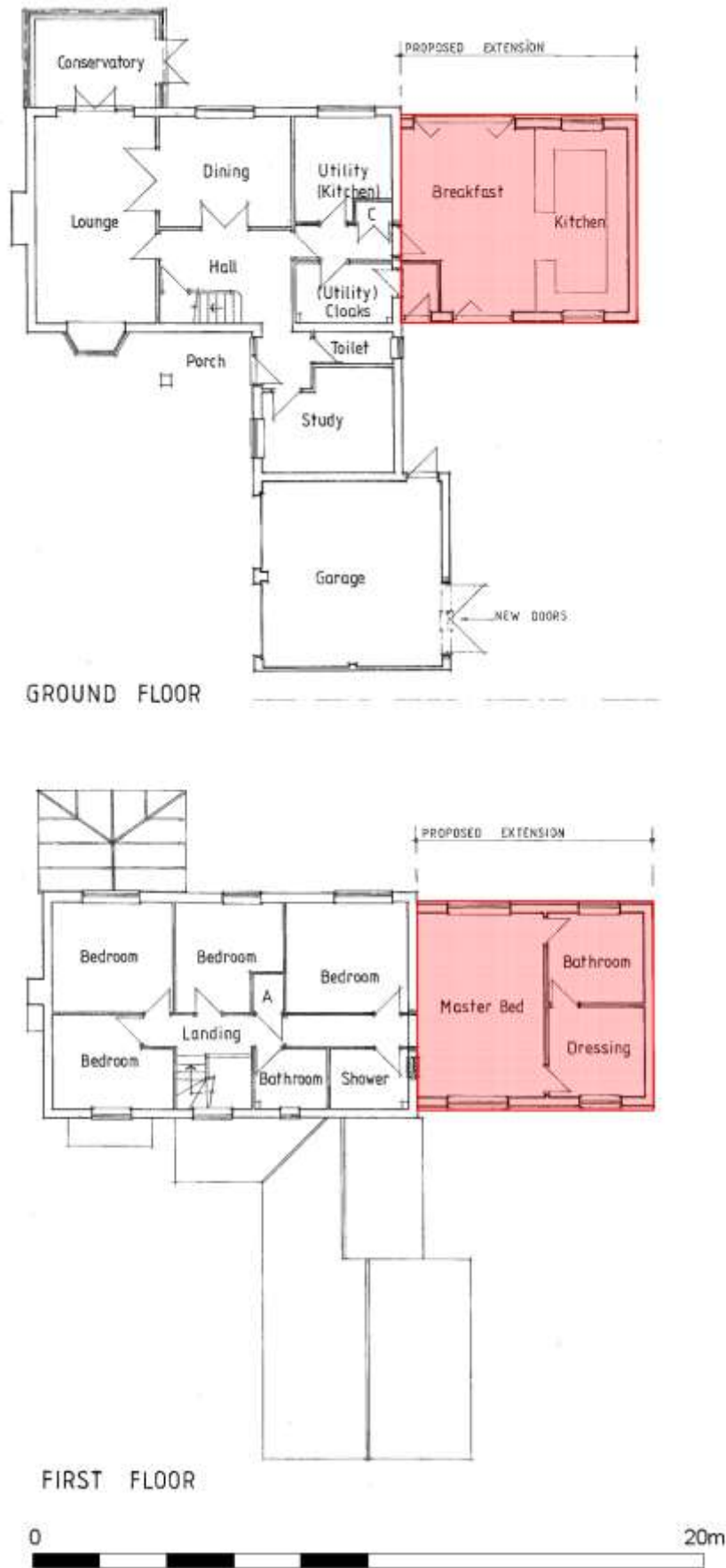


Figure 3: Proposed extension (scale 1:200)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 *Aims*

As described in the project design (Section 3.1), the aims of the watching brief 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 project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), 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:

- 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*

The works were carried out in line with the project design and with full co-operation of the client. As a result no constraints were placed onto the project.

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 (Page 1969; Martin & Bates 1995).

This section has been compiled with information from the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and ASC'S library.

- 3.2 Little archaeological work has taken place in Newton Longville and there is currently only limited evidence for prehistoric and Roman occupation in the area. Fieldwork to the east of the village at Newton Leys revealed an assemblage of late Neolithic to Bronze Age flints (BCAS, nd) and an Iron Age settlement consisting of roundhouses and enclosures was subsequently recorded in the area (Brown 2008) but little prehistoric material has been recorded within the village.
- 3.3 Little is known of the area during the Roman period but the village lay within the *civitas* (tribal territory) of the *Catuvellauni* (Branigan 1987) with its capital at *Verulamium* (St Albans). Transport and communications during this period were dominated by a major road, now known as *Watling Street*, which passed c.5km east of Newton Longville and linked *Magiovinium* (Fenny Stratford) with *Durocobrivis* (Dunstable).
- 3.4 The early history of the village is not understood in detail, but the settlement probably originated during the medieval period. The Domesday Survey (1086) records Newton Longville as being a 10 hide manor worth £12 held by Walter Giffard in the Rowley Hundred. It had previously been held by Edward Cill, under whose stewardship the manor had been worth only £10 (Williams & Martin 2002, 406). The place name suggests that it was a new farm or settlement in the Saxon period, and Saxon pottery has been recovered from sites throughout the village (Taylor n.d: 1).
- 3.5 The manor was granted to St Faith's, a Cluniac Priory in Longueville, near Rouen in Normandy by Walter Giffard's son (another Walter Giffard) around 1080 (Slater 1921: xii). It appears to have been a small establishment, housing no more than two monks from the parent house. As such, no conventual buildings were constructed; the monks made do with the manor house (*ibid*: xvi).
- 3.6 The site is situated within a sub-circular precinct which, together with the church and manor house, probably also contained the cluniac cell. The church is situated c.100m northeast of the site and dates from the 11th century (HER 741; Pevsner and Williamson 2000, 581). The Manor House (HER 742) is situated to the south of the church and the present building has an 'H' shaped plan and dates from the 16th century (Pevsner & Williamson 2000, 581). A range of barns, dating from the 15th or 16th centuries are situated on the east side of the Manor House (Sammelmann & Rouse 2008) and fishponds, which may be medieval in date, have been recorded c.50m north of the site (HER 743).
- 3.7 The manor descended with the Honour of Giffard to William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, with the title of Count of Longville (Slater 1921: xvii). He reconfirmed the grant of the manor in 1200 (Taylor n.d, 17). The title later passed to Richard, Earl of Gloucester and Hertford (Slater 1921, xvii). The manor came under the control of the

Crown during the Hundred Years Wars in the 14th and 15th centuries. Nicholas de Tamworth, the first lay lessee of the manor in 1367 was, however, still obliged to maintain two monks from Longville Priory (*ibid*, xix). A 10 year lease was granted to his widow, Joan, in 1377 and 13 years later she and her second husband, Sir Gilbert Talbot acquired another lease with a rose rent (Taylor n.d. 17; VCH online).

- 3.8 The Crown confiscated the manor in 1414 and it was leased to Sir Ralph Rochefort before being granted to New College Oxford in 1441 (Salter 1921, ix-x; VCH online). The college had the manor house rebuilt inside a moat in the mid 16th century, apparently using some of the original building material (RCHME 1913, 215).
- 3.9 There were 78 houses and 7 alehouses in the three hamlets of London End, Moor End and Westbrook End that made up the village in the 18th century. In 1850 there were 595 people living in Newton Longville, but only 424 in 1910 This appears to have been largely due to the increased competition of agricultural imports from the colonies, resulting in a depressed market and a large number of local families emigrating (Markham 1975, 192-3). The decline was reversed in the 20th century when the local brickworks, originally founded by Read and Andrews in the village, began producing Fletton type bricks. By 1939 the population had risen to almost 1,000 (*ibid*. 294).
- 3.10 The St Faith's Close development is modern and dates to the last quarter of the 20th century. Prior to the construction of the modern houses, the area comprised open land and is shown as an open field on the 1900, 1925 and 1938 edition Ordnance Survey maps.

4. Results

- 4.1 The house extension and associated drainage was excavated within an area of *c.*150 sq m at the western side of the existing house. A total of three site visits were made, details of which are reproduced in Appendix 1.

The site stratigraphy comprised (Plate 1):

*c.*0-300mm max of topsoil;

*c.*300-800mm max of a made-ground that consisted of mid orangey/beige brown, soft clay with moderate small sub-angular stones and chalk inclusions and rooting present;

*c.*800-1100mm max of buried topsoil consisting of dark black/brown friable/firm clay with flecks of charcoal, CBM (ceramic building material and rooting;

*c.*1100mm+ max of natural strata consisting of light orangey brown and mottled yellow and grey firm clay with frequent flecks-small sub-angular/rounded chalk inclusions.

- 4.2 ***Footing Trench*** (Fig. 4; Plates 1-2)

The footing trench was in an area of *c.*42 sq m that was initially reduced *c.*0.35m BGL (below ground level). The trench was *c.*0.6m wide and *c.*1.32m BGL. At each side of the trench it was disturbed by a number of services, resulting in concentrations of backfilled ground.

Along the eastern side of the extension area a strip of made-ground, orientated NW-SE was observed. This consisted of dark grey/black soft clay with flecks of charcoal and CBM. At the south-eastern end a depression that measured *c.*0.15×0.15×0.1m, was present, within which was a modern brick and degraded wood.

No archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed in the footing trench.

- 4.3 ***Drainage Trenches & Soakaway A & B*** (Fig. 4; Plates 3-5)

Drainage trenches were excavated to the north and south of the extension to a maximum depth of *c.*1.25 BGL. The stratigraphy showed clear banding in a sequence of topsoil, made-ground, buried topsoil and the natural strata.

Two soakaways were also excavated to the north and south of the extension. They measured *c.*1.2m² to a depth of *c.*1.5m BGL, and revealed the same stratigraphy as the drainage trenches.

No archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed in the drainage trenches or soakaways.

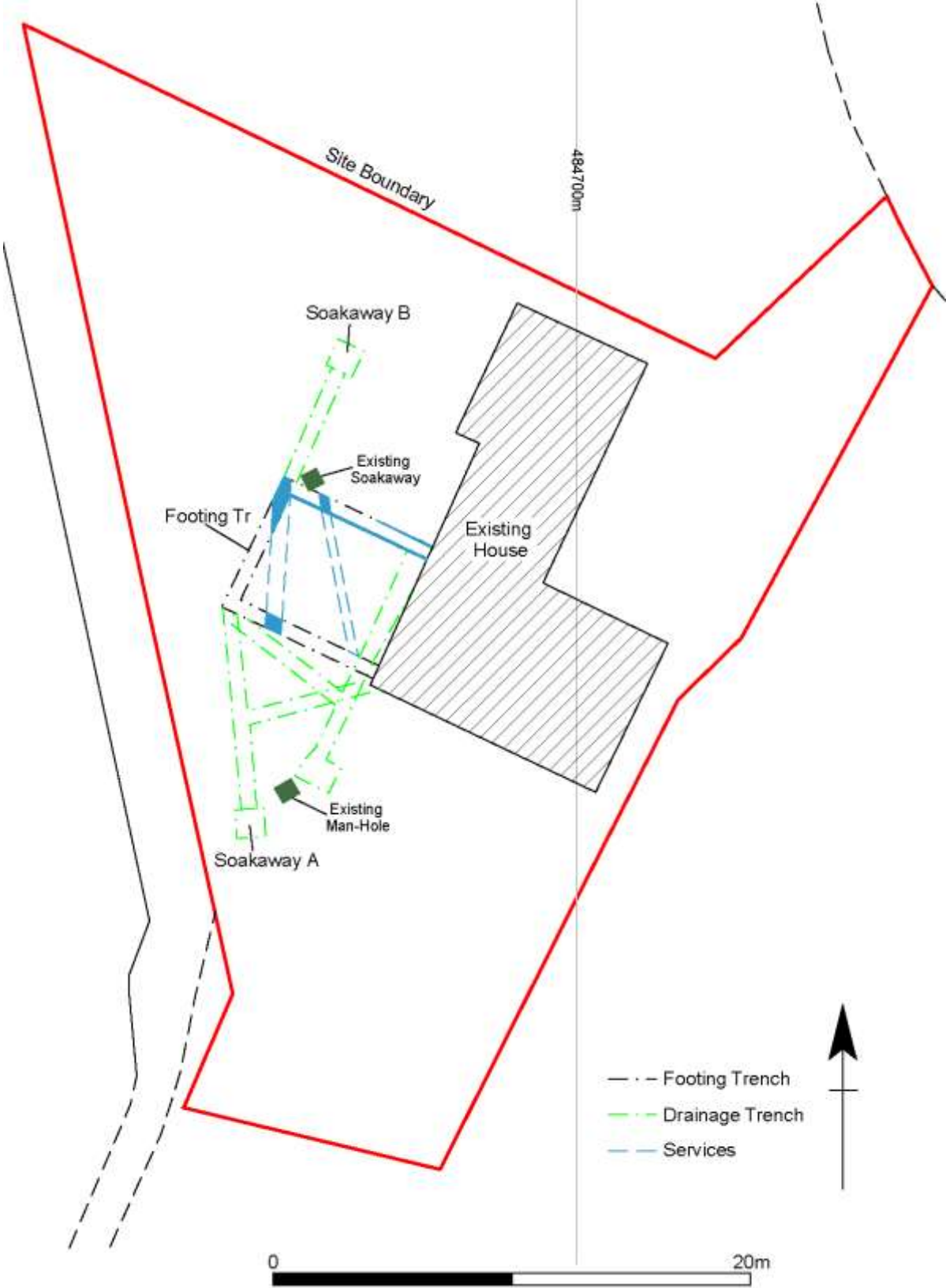


Figure 4: Plan of development works (*scale 1:250*)



Plate 1: Footing trench stratigraphy, looking SW (*scale 2×1m*)



Plate 2: Footing trench, looking NW



Plate 3: Drainage trenches, south of the extension, looking NW (*scale 1m*)



Plate 4: Stratigraphy of drainage trench, south of the extension, looking SW
(*scale 2×1m*)



Figure 5: Soakaway A, looking SE (*scale 1m*)

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 No significant archaeological features were observed. While the existence of individual isolated archaeological features away from the development cannot be specifically excluded, it is unlikely that large numbers of archaeological features were present on the site.
- 5.2 Any activity that may be associated with the Manor House, west of this site, does not seem to extend to the development area.
- 5.3 **Confidence Rating**
- The works were carried out in line with the project design, in good site conditions and with full co-operation of the client. As such the results are given a high confidence rating.

6. Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Mr Chris Armstrong, and the writer is grateful for his assistance. The project was monitored by *Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service* on behalf of the local planning authority. Thanks are also due to contractors BishopAcre Buildings Ltd.

The project was managed for ASC by David Fell MA MIFA. Fieldwork was carried out by Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc and Martin Cuthbert BA PIFA. The report was prepared by Carina Summerfield-Hill and edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA

7. Archive

- 7.1 The project archive will comprise:
1. Brief
 2. Project Design
 3. Initial Report
 4. Clients site plans
 5. Site Monitoring Sheets
 6. Site record drawings
 7. List of photographs
 8. B/W prints & negatives
 9. CDROM with copies of all digital files.
- 7.2 The archive will be deposited with *Buckinghamshire County Museum* (AYBCM: 2011.222).

8. References

Standards & Specifications

- EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition. English Heritage (London).
- IFA 2000a Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.
- IFA 2000b Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*.
- IFA 2001 Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds)*.
- Fell, D 2011 *Project Design: 3 St Faith's Close, Newton Longville, Buckinghamshire*. ASC: 1443/NSF/1.

Secondary Sources

- BCAS, nd *Newton Longville Brickworks, Newton Leys. Archaeological Recording*. Buckinghamshire County Museum Archaeological Service report no. **369**
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- Martin, R. & Bates, J. 1995 *A Pictorial History of Newton Longville* Ashley Graphics (Stoke on Trent)
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- Semmelmann K & Rouse C, 2008 *Historic Building Recording: The Manor Barns, Newton Longville, Buckinghamshire*. Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd report no 802/NLM/1
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- Taylor, J.A. no date *Newton Longville: a glance at times gone by*
- Trench, J.C. 2002 House Carpentry in Buckinghamshire 1200-155- in Stenning, D.F. & Andrews D.D. (eds) *Regional Variation in Timber-Framed building in England and Wales Down to 1550: the proceeding of the 1994 Cressing Conference* Essex County Council
- Williams, A. & Martin, G.H. 2003 *Domesday Book: a complete translation* Penguin (Harmondsworth)

Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets



A.S.C. LTD

WATCHING BRIEF RECORD

Project: 3 ST FAITH CLOSE, NEWTON LONGVILLE, BUCKS		Project No/Code: 1443 / NSF	Sheet: 1 of 3
Client/Developer MR CHRIS ARMSTRONG		Date of visit: 09/08/11	
Contact:		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 7:45	Finish: 18:00	
Completed by: CS			
Development Type:			
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: GOOD, DRY, SUNNY WEATHER			
Observations: DEVELOPMENT AREA MEASURES C.150 SQ.M. TOPSOIL STRIP TO A DEPTH OF C.0.25m WAS CARRIED OUT YESTERDAY. TODAY I OBSERVED THE EXCAVATION OF THE NEW BUILD'S FOOTINGS. FOOTING TR MEASURED C.0.6m WIDE TO A MAXIMUM DEPTH OF C.1.32m BOL STRATIGRAPHY:- TOPSOIL C.0.25m MADE-GROUND: C.0.35m MID BROWN/BROWN, SOFT CLAY, POOR, MODERATE Silt SUB-ANG STONES + CHALK BURIED TOPSOIL:- C.0.2m DARK BLACK/BROWN FRIABLE/FIRM Silt CLAY NATURAL: MID ORANGE/BROWN BROWN AND NOTED LIGHT YELLOW GRAY FIRM CLAY WITH Comments: FREQUENT FLICKS OF CHALK. FURTHER GROUND REDUCTION CARRIED OUT IN THE CENTRAL AREA OF THE EXTENSION A FURTHER 0.1m - TOTAL C.0.35m BOL. SE CORNER OF DEVELOPMENT A DEGRADED WOODEN BEAM OBSERVED AND A 20" BRICK CUT INTO MADE- GROUND.			



A.S.C. LTD

WATCHING BRIEF RECORD

Project: 3 ST FAITH'S CLOSE, NEWTON LONGVILLE, BUCKS		Project No/Code: 1443 / NSF	Sheet: 2 of 3
Client/Developer: MR CHRIS ARMSTRONG		Date of visit: 12/08/11	
Contact:		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (Inc. travel):	Start: 07:45	Finish: 09:15	
Completed by: CS			
Development Type:			
Footings	Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roads	Levelling
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: Good, Dry Site / weather			
Observations: OBSERVED TWO DRAINAGE TRUNKS TOWARDS THE SOUTHERN END OF THE DEVELOPMENT. EXCAVATED TO A MAXIMUM DEPTH OF C. 1-2.5M BOL. STRATIGRAPHY SHOWED CLEAR BANDING OF TOPSOIL, MADE-GROUND, BURIED TOPSOIL AND NATURAL. NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS, FEATURES OR DEPOSITS OBSERVED.			
Comments: ARRANGED TO MAKE A FURTHER SITE VISIT AFTER THE EXTENSION HAS BEEN BUILT AND THE CONTRACTORS ARE READY TO LOCATE A NEW SOAKAWAY AND ASSOCIATED DRAINAGE RUNS TOWARDS THE NORTHERN SIDE OF THE DEVELOPMENT.			



A.S.C. LTD

WATCHING BRIEF RECORD

Project:		Project No/Code:		Sheet:	
3 ST TACTS CLOSE, NEWTON		1443 / NSF		3 of 3	
KINGVILLE, DUCKS		Date of visit:		27/10/11	
Client/Developer					
MR CHRIS ARMSTRONG					
Contact:			Phone:		
Duration of Visit (Inc. travel):		Start:		Finish:	
		12:30		14:30	
Completed by:					
M. C					
Development Type:					
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines
Other (specify):					
Site & weather conditions:					
wet underfoot, overcast					
drainage = rain from guttering.					
Observations:					
drainage runs either side of new extension					
(see reverse)					
South drainage = breaches made-ground seen in					
Footings trenches only just into original buried					
topsoil (0.7m deep).					
Soakaway (A) = (south of extension) = 1.2m ²					
1.5m deep. topsoil (0.3m) over made ground (0.5m)					
buried topsoil (0.3m) next day (0.6m)					
North drainage = only 0.6m deep doesn't breach made					
ground.					
Soakaway (B) = same as soakaway (A)					
No archaeology throughout.					
Comments:					

Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: St Faith's Close, Newton Longville, Buckinghamshire			SITE NO/CODE: 1443/NSF
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1		√	Excavation of footing trench, looking NW
2	√	√	Footing trench stratigraphy (southern side), looking SW (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
3		√	Footing trench stratigraphy (southern side), looking SW (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
4	√	√	Footing trench stratigraphy (western side), looking NW (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
5		√	Footing trench stratigraphy (western side), looking NW (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
6		√	Excavation of footing trench, looking NE
7	√	√	Footing trench (southern side), looking SE (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
8		√	Degraded wood, looking SE (<i>scale 300mm</i>)
9	√	√	Footing trench stratigraphy (northern side), looking SW (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
10		√	Footing trench stratigraphy (northern side), looking SW (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
11		√	Footing trench stratigraphy (northern side), looking NE (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
12	√	√	Footing trench (western side), looking NE (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
13	√	√	Footing trench (northern side), looking SE (<i>scale 1m</i>)
14		√	Footing trench, looking SE
15	√	√	Drainage trench 1, looking SW (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
16	√	√	Drainage trench 1 & man-hole, looking SW (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
17	√	√	Drainage trench 1 stratigraphy, looking SE (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
18	√	√	Drainage trench 1 & man-hole stratigraphy, looking NW (<i>scale 1m</i>)
19	√	√	Drainage trench 1 & man-hole, looking NE (<i>scale 1m</i>)
20	√	√	Drainage trench 2, looking SE (<i>scale 1m</i>)
21	√	√	Drainage trench 2 stratigraphy, looking SW (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
22	√	√	Drainage trench 2, looking NW (<i>scale 1m</i>)
23		√	Existing house & footing trench, looking N
24	√	√	General shot of house extension, looking SW
25	√	√	Soakaway A, looking SE (<i>scale 1m</i>)
26	√	√	Soakaway B, looking NE (<i>scale 1m</i>)
27	√	√	Southern drainage trenches, looking NE (<i>scale 1m</i>)

Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	3 St Faith's Close, Newton Longville, Buckinghamshire	OASIS reference:	archaeol2-106265
Short Description:	In August-October 2011 a watching brief was carried out at 3 St Faith's Close, Newton Longville, Buckinghamshire during the construction of a new two storey side extension to the existing house. The works revealed that the site had undergone much disturbance with services and made-ground deposits overlying buried topsoil. No significant archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed.		
Project Type:	Watching Brief		
Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	n/a	Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	None
Current land use:	House and garden	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 8469 3134
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	3 St Faith's Close, Newston Longville, Buckinghamshire, MK17 0BA		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	c.150 sq m	Height OD: (metres)	c.105m
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	Buckinghamshire County Archaeology Service	Project design originator:	Fell 2011
Project Manager:	David Fell MA MIFA	Supervisor:	Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc
Sponsor / funding body:	Landowner		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	09/08/11	End date:	27/10/11
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Buckinghamshire County Museum (AYBCM: 2011.222)	None	
Paper:		Brief, pd, report, site records, b& w photographs and negatives	
Digital:		CD containing all digital files including digital photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Watching Brief: 3 St Faith's Close, Newton Longville, Buckinghamshire		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1443/NSF/2		
Author(s):	Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc		
Page nos	21	Date:	01/11/11