

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE EXCAVATION AND WATCHING BRIEF: SALDEN MANOR, COOKS LANE, MURSLEY, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

NGR: SP 82509 29708

on behalf of Mrs E Gill



Mo Muldowney BA PIfA

March 2012

ASC: 1459/MSM/2

ISO 9001:2008
REGISTERED FIRM

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Site Data

ASC project code:	MSM		ASC Project No:	1459	
OASIS ref:	Archaeol2_	111242	Event/Accession no:	TBC	
County:		Buckinghamshire			
Village/Town:		Mursley			
Civil Parish:		Mursley			
NGR (to 8 figs):		SP 82509 29708			
Extent of site:		c.1550 sq m			
Present use:		Grass garden area			
Planning proposal:		Construction of new drive and 'cartshed'			
Local Planning Authority:		Aylesbury Vale District Council			
Planning application ref/date:		11/00852/APP			
Date of fieldwork:		08/01/12 to 03/02/2012			
Client:		Mrs Emma Gill			
		Salden M	Ianor		
		Cooks La	nne		
		Mursley			
		Milton Keynes			
		MK17 0HX			
Contact name:		Mrs Emn	na Gill		

Internal Quality Check

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CONTENTS

Su	mmary5
1.	Introduction5
2.	Aims & Methods
3.	Archaeological & Historical Background
4.	Results
5.	Conclusions
6.	Acknowledgements
7.	Archive
8.	References
Ap	opendices:
1.	ASC Watching Brief Monitoring Sheets
2.	Finds Concordance
3.	Photo List
4.	ASC OASIS Form
Fig	gures:
1.	General location
2.	Site plan6
3.	Proposed development with Strip and Record area (blue) and Watching Brief area (red)7
4.	Extract of 1819 Enclosure map with Salden Manor indicated
5.	Walls (grey) in the Strip and Record area (blue) and Watching Brief area (red)17
6.	Walls and Footings (A-F) plan with section locations
7.	Location of 19 th century structure on extract of 1880 Ordnance Survey map18
8.	Wall (006) and (007) and footing (003) elevations
9.	Sections 1, 5 and 6
10	. Section 7
Pla	ates:
Co	ver: Salden Manor House with new driveway in preparation
1.	Made-ground (002) in 'cartshed' area, facing north

2.	Post-medieval to modern overburden (001) in 'cartshed' area, facing west	22
3.	Footing B 'cartshed' area, facing north	23
4.	Footing B, pit 047 , facing east	23
5.	Footing C, facing north	24
6.	Footing C, pit 008 , facing west	24
7.	Footing D, facing west	25
8.	Footing E, pit 041 and layers (038) and (039), facing west	25
9.	Footing F, facing south-west	26
10.	. Wall 006, facing north-east	26
11.	Clunch facing (007) on east elevation, structure 006, facing north	27
12.	. Rounded, brick-faced bay on north elevation, structure 006, facing west	27
13.	. Footing A, foundations (003) of structure 006, facing east	28
14.	External footings of structure 006 on the east elevation, facing west	28
15.	. Detail of internal floor surface in north-west corner, structure 006, facing west	29
16.	. General view of north elevation, structure 006, facing west	29
17.	Detail of external clunch facing (007) on east elevation, structure 006, facing west	30
18.	Short section of truncated wall beyond development area, facing west	30

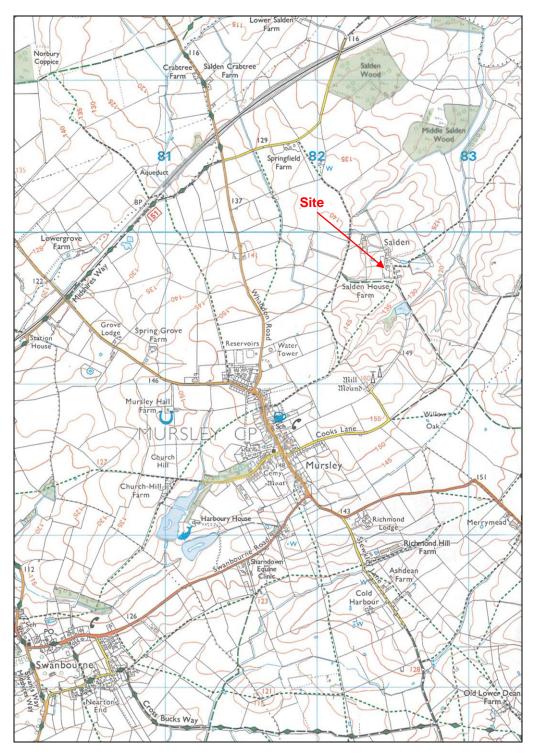


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

During January and February 2012 a strip, map and record and watching brief were undertaken at Salden Manor, Mursley, Buckinghamshire during groundworks associated with the construction of a 'cartshed' and driveway. The work identified the remains of a substantial c.18th century (or earlier) brick structure partially faced with clunch. Small portions of both internal and external floor surfaces were also identified. The excavation of footings identified a series of poorly defined intercutting pits and layers that both pre- and post-dated the building. Foundations and floor surfaces relating to late 19th century buildings were also identified in both the driveway area and in the 'cartshed' area.

1. Introduction

1.1 In January and February 2012 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief and excavation at Salden Manor, Mursley, Buckinghamshire. The project was commissioned by the owner, Mrs Emma Gill, and was carried out according to a project design prepared by ASC (Rouse 2011), and approved by *Buckinghamshire County Council Archaeological Service*, archaeological advisors (AA) to the local planning authority (LPA), *Aylesbury Vale District Council*. The relevant planning application reference is 11/00852/APP.

1.2 Planning Background

This work 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 development site is located in the district of Aylesbury Vale, in the parish of and to the north west of the village of Mursley, at NGR SP 82509 29708 (Fig. 1).

The site comprises an irregular piece of land, accessed from Cooks Lane, which forms the easternmost boundary of the site. The site is surrounded by both gardens and farmland (Fig. 2).

1.4.2 Topography & Geology

The soils of the area belong to the Sutton 1 Association, which are characterised as well drained fine and coarse loamy soils locally calcareous and in places shallow over limestone gravel, over river terrace gravel (Soil

Survey 1983, 571u). The underlying geology comprises Quaternary till (BGS, Sheet 220). The site lies at an elevation of c.135mAOD.

1.4.3 Proposed Development

The proposed development comprises the construction of a new drive and cartshed (Fig. 3).

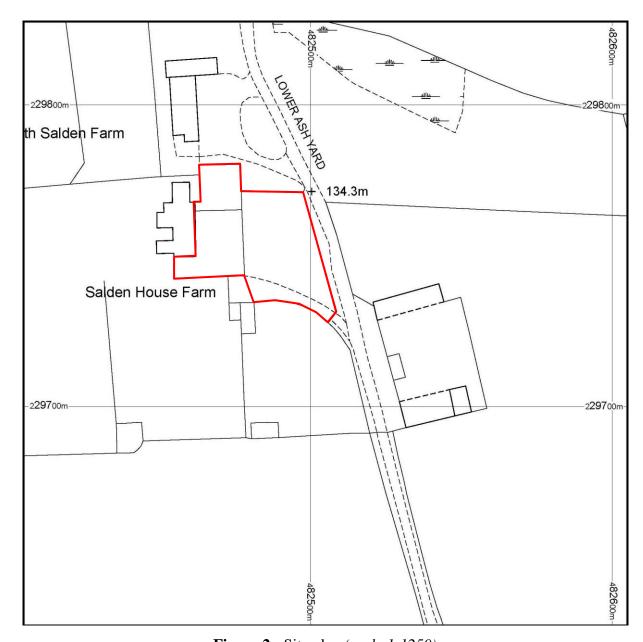


Figure 2: Site plan (*scale 1:1250*)

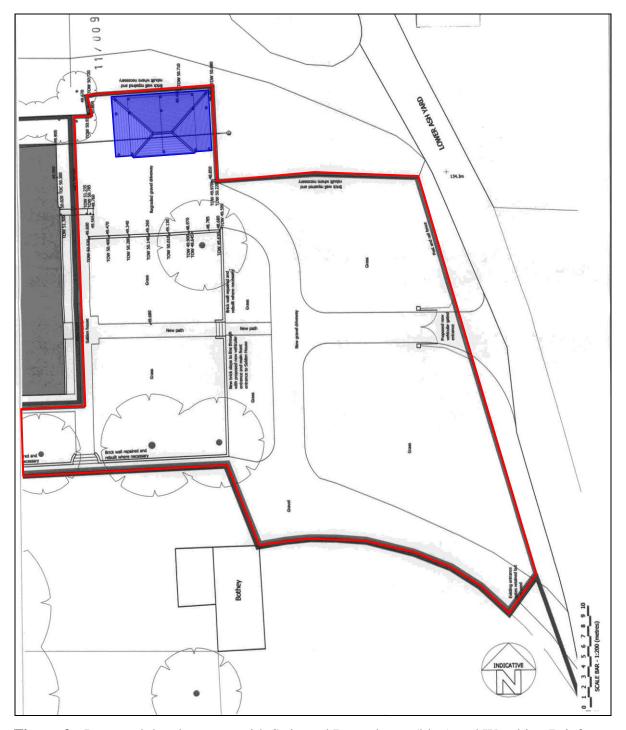


Figure 3: Proposed development, with Strip and Record area (blue) and Watching Brief area (red) (*Scale as shown*)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 *Aims*

As described in the project design, the aims of the watching brief were:

- To ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to have an impact upon archaeological deposits.
- 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.
- To provide an adequately detailed project report that will place the findings of the monitoring and recording of the development programme in their local and regional context, having made reference to the relevant regional research agendas, and through cartographic, documentary and other research.

2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the project design, to the requirements of the AA, 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), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

2.3 Methods (Strip, Map and Record)

The work was carried out according to the project design (section 3.4) but varied in the strip, map and record area in the following respects:

- 2.3.1 *Monitoring:* After the exposure and initial cleaning of the exposed deposits and structure, a site monitoring meeting was arranged between ASC, the AA and the groundworkers to determine a detailed strategy for recording the structure.
- 2.3.2 *Excavation & Sampling:* Additional mechanical excavation of the post-medieval overburden sufficient to expose the depth of the surviving wall to the level of the surviving internal floor surface was undertaken.
- 2.3.3 *Survey & Planning:* A plan of the structure and all sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20.

2.4 Methods (Watching Brief)

The work was carried out according to the project design (section 3.5) and involved:

- Monitoring by an experienced archaeologist of ground reduction and the mechanical excavation of footings.
- the observation and recording of archaeological features and deposits revealed as a consequence of the groundworks associated with the proposed new structure

2.5 *Constraints*

No constraints were encountered.

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 Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and other readily available sources.

3.2 **Prehistoric** (before 600BC-AD43)

No systematic large scale archaeological work has taken place in Mursley and evidence for the prehistoric periods is largely confined to chance discoveries of isolated artefacts. A Neolithic flint axe was found c.500m east of the site (HER 4125) with a second example found to the south of Mursley village. Further evidence for prehistoric activity comprises a group of ditches which contained prehistoric pottery sherds c.1.5km west of the site (King 2002, 10). The area to the northwest of Mursley is of considerable importance for the study of the Iron Age as an enclosure and coin hoard from this period of national importance was discovered to the west of Stearthill Farm (Fell 2002; Markham 1973, 1).

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

Evidence for the Roman period in Mursley and Salden is limited, but comprises a scatter of pottery sherds recovered from the ploughed surface of the fields immediately to the south of the development (HER 5700), scatters of Roman debris at a several locations close to the site, indicating the probable presence of Roman buildings ($e \ g$ HER 5700, 1650) and sherds of 2^{nd} to 3^{rd} -century pottery, as well as roof and floor tile, brought to the surface as a result of deep ploughing c.0.4km east of the development site (HER 1730). A Roman villa is situated c.500m north of the site (HER 1651) and quantities of 2^{nd} -century box flue tiles have recently been found to the south of the site, in addition to several sherds of pottery, including one fragment of Samian ware (HER 6584, 1071).

3.4 **Saxon** (c.450-1066)

A small settlement probably developed at the site during the late Saxon and early medieval periods. The village was included in the Domesday Survey (1086), where it is referred to as *Sceldene*. The land was held by *Leofwin of Nuneham* and the *Count of Mortain* and was valued at £3 (Morris 1978). The settlement subsequently contracted, and a census of 1563 lists only a single household (Markham 1973, 175).

The settlement at Salden developed independently from Mursley during the medieval period and, administratively, was a separate manor. The manor house is thought to have been situated at the site of North Salden Farm, immediately north of the development site. A chantry chapel dedicated to St Nicholas was founded in 1253 (HER 1532), but had gone out of use by 1350. A number of house platforms and earthworks, which may be of medieval date (HER1653 & 1654) are present in the area.

3.5 *Medieval* (1066-1500)

An area of possible settlement has been identified c.0.1km southeast of the development site, where areas of cobbling, building material and moulded stone were identified in a ploughed field, along with sherds of 13^{th} to 15^{th} -century pottery (HER 1072). A possible windmill mound has also been identified c.0.75km to the south of the site, and is shown on OS mapping (HER 1075: fig. 1). A piece of millstone was found when the mound was excavated in the mid 20^{th} century. Another windmill is known to have existed c.0.75km to the southeast of the development site, although no mill mound survives (HER5256).

An area of possible house platforms has been identified c.0.2km to the east of the development site (HER1653), and a similar distance away to the west, along with 12^{th} to 13^{th} -century pottery (HER1654).

The medieval village and manor of Hyde has now disappeared, but it is thought to have been located c.0.5km to the north of the development site, in a field known as Hyde Meadow (HER1879).

3.6 *Post-Medieval* (1500-1900)

The manor of Salden was purchased by Sir John Fortescue in c.1565. John Fortescue was a favourite of Elizabeth I and MP for Buckinghamshire and built a large house on or adjacent to the manor house in 1566 (HER 1532; Markham 1973, 175). The house was a large and ornate building and parts of the east wing of the house survive, incorporated into Salden House (Pevsner & Williamson 1994, 573). The house had formal gardens and parts of these may survive as earthwork terraces to the rear of the present buildings at North Salden Farm. An enclosure map of Mursley shows that by the early 19th century, Salden Manor had shrunk to comprise the east wing only, plus a small 'wing' at the north-east end (Fig. 4). Small-scale excavations were undertaken at the site and revealed part of a winged brick building, a garderobe and a row of brick clamps, which may have produced the bricks for the house (HER 1533).

An archaeological watching brief carried out in 2003 during groundworks for an extension at North Salden Farm, immediately north of the development site, recovered an assemblage of architectural fragments. The assemblage comprised fragments of window/door frames, which may have formed part of the Tudor mansion or an associated building. A single fragment from a possible earlier building was also found (Fell 2003).

A small gravel or sand pit is shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map, less than 0.1 km to the north of the development site (HER 06944). A further old gravel pit is shown c.0.2 km to the south of the site (HER 6946).

3.7 *Modern* (1900-present)

Located c.0.75km to the southwest of the development site is the Mursley water tower, built in 1938. It was the site of an aircraft crash during a training exercise in 1943 at Little Horwood airfield (HER 9451).

4. Results

4.1 Driveway

Monitoring of the groundworks for the new c.4m wide, diverging driveway identified the remains of two brick walls (Fig. 5) and post-medieval made-ground variously overlain by topsoil and turf in the south-east section and an existing fine gravel surface to the front of the house.

4.2 'Cartshed'

Monitoring in the strip, map and record area in front of the house identified a series of pits and layers, a substantial brick-built structure (Figs 5 and 6) and a late 19th century structure (Fig. 7) with mortar and brick floor surfaces all overlain by a considerable depth of post-medieval and modern overburden. In two additional slots at the northeast and south-east external corners of the substantial brick-built structure, a further three layers were identified (Fig. 8).

As ground reduction ceased in the middle of deposit (002) (the level required for construction) it was not possible to identify and record any deposits in plan other than the wall itself, where specific consent was given by the AA to observe its full extent and character. No finds were recovered unless where stated below and no environmental samples were taken. All footings were 0.70m wide by 1m deep unless stated otherwise.

4.2 General Stratification

Natural (021) was observed in the base of the footings only and was mid brownish orange sand with a slightly mottled appearance. It was encountered at a depth of 1.72m below the present ground surface at a height of 136.26m OD and was truncated by at least thirteen pits. Although no subsoil was observed, there was an approximately 1m thick deposit of post-medieval overburden (002), which overlay all the pits and the brick structure and comprised mid orange brown sandy silt with frequent demolition rubble (mortar, brick and tile), pottery sherds and clay tobacco pipe fragments (Plate 1). Overlying this was layer (001) consisting of up to six different deposits, all post-medieval and later. Together they formed a deposit just over 1m thick consisting of ash and hearth waste-rich soil, sand, demolition rubble, crushed brick and a layer of fine gravel that formed the latest driveway surface (Plate 2). It also included the layers relating to the 19th century structure.

Within the driveway area the natural was very similar to (021) and overlain by dark brown silt topsoil only, which was up to 0.20m thick.

4.3 Footings A-F

Thirteen intercutting pits were observed in the footings, spread across the strip, map and record area. In some instances, the pits were poorly defined where they intercut, with only the base of the cut clear against the natural (021). Five layers were also identified, all of which lay directly below (002) and overlay all the cut features and the wall.

Footing A (Fig. 6 and Fig. 9, Section 1)

Footing A was located in the bay of the north section of the wall and was 2.7m long by up to 0.90m wide. Three pits were identified.

Pit **045** was located at the east end of Footing A and was severely truncated by pits **011** and **008**. No part of the cut was visible and only a small area of the fill was observed at the base of the footing. Fill (009) was dark greenish orange silty clay with rare charcoal flecks and small angular flints. It had an observed depth of 0.18m and its width and profile were unknown.

Pit **011** was located at the east end of Footing A. Its upper edges were poorly defined but appeared to be truncated by pit **008**. It was approximately 0.50m wide by at least 0.22m deep with a V-shaped profile and filled by dark brownish orange silty clay (010).

Pit **008** extended beyond the limits of the footing and was also recorded at the north end of Footing C (Fig. 9, Section 5). It had an indistinct east edge where it truncated pit **011** and was more than 2.6m long by at least 1.8m wide and over 0.75m deep with an uneven, wide V-shaped profile. Three fills were observed, the lower of which was 0.42m thick dark brown silty clay (005) with occasional small angular flints, small to medium clunch fragments, and rare charcoal flecks. Overlying this was 0.24m thick mixed dark orange grey silty sand (004) with rare charcoal flecks and angular flint. The uppermost fill was 0.32m thick dark greenish brown silty clay (027).

Footing B (Fig. 6, Plates 3 and 4)

Footing B was the westernmost footing and aligned north to south. It linked to the west end of Footing C at its south end and was 5.5m long. A pit and a layer were observed.

Layer 022 was mottled mid greenish grey clay with occasional chalk flecks and extended along the length of the footing and was on average 0.30m thick. It overlay pit **047** and was also visible in Footing C (see below).

Pit **047** was located at the inside corner of Footing B and Footing F and was a minimum of 1.2m long by 0.40m deep. The single fill was dark brownish grey clay (046) with occasional flecks of chalk and charcoal.

Footing C (Figs 6 and 9, Section 5, Plates 5 and 6)

Footing C linked Footing A to Footing F and was 5.2m long. It was located 0.70m to the east of Footing B and revealed three pits and a layer, one of which was the southern 'corner' of pit **008**, described above.

Pit **025** was the earliest in the sequence identified in this footing and was truncated by pit **026** to the south, and pit **008** to the north. It had an uneven, V-shaped profile and was approximately 1.40m wide by 0.40m deep. Single fill (023) was mottled mid greyish brown clay with occasional small flints.

Pit **026** was located towards the south end of the footing and was almost identical to pit **025** in both size and shape. The single fill however was mid brownish grey clay with chalk and charcoal flecks and occasional small flints.

All three pits were overlain by (022) described above.

Footing D (Fig. 6, Plate 7)

Footing D was 4.9m long and was parallel with Footings B, C and E. No additional features were observed in Footing D.

Footing E (Figs 6 and 9, Section 6, Plate 8)

Footing E was located in the bay of the east wall and was 2.7m long. A probable fill, a pit, the wall and its construction cut and two layers were observed as well as deposit (002), described above.

The probable fill was 0.32m deep mid brownish orange sand (042), truncated by pit **041**. The interpretation of this deposit remains uncertain as no part of any cut was visible in the section and as it was very similar in colour to the natural (021) seen elsewhere in the footings.

Pit **041** extended beyond the limits of the footing and was truncated by construction cut **044** at the south side. It had an apparent u-shaped profile with a stepped ledge to the north side and was over 2.12m long by at least 0.64m deep. It was filled with dark brown clay (040), which had no inclusions.

Construction cut **044** was just visible at the extreme south end of the footing. It had a vertical edge and was a minimum of 0.63m deep. It contained wall foundation 003 and was filled by mixed light whitish grey silt (043) with abundant mortar and small fragments of brick. Wall foundation 003 is described in section 4.4 below.

Layer (039) consisted of light yellow sand and overlay wall foundation 003, construction cut **044** and pit **041** and was 0.27m thick. It was overlain by light yellowish grey clay (038), which was 0.18m thick and located centrally within the footing. Both (039) and (038) were probably isolated dumps of material within wider post-medieval demolition layer (002).

Footing F (Figs 6 and 10, Section 7, Plate 9)

Footing F ran parallel with and approximately 0.70m north of the south section of wall. It was 7.8m long and linked with the south ends of Footing B, C and D. Five pits and one layer were observed in the north-facing section.

Pit **037** was located approximately 4.5m from the east end of the footing and had a probable V-shaped profile with a step on the west side. The east side of the cut was unclear and the base extended below depth of the footings. It was approximately 2.4m wide by more than 0.80m deep and contained a single fill of mid brownish grey silty clay (036).

Pit **035** was located to the immediate west of pit **037** with which its relationship was unclear and was truncated by pit **033**. It was 2.1m wide by 0.80m deep and had an asymmetrical profile and was filled by dark brownish grey silty clay (034).

Pit **033** was located at the east end of the footing and extended beyond both its east limit and its base. It was over 2.2m wide by more than 0.80m deep and was filled by mid brownish grey clay (020) with charcoal and brick flecks. A small sherd of orange-glazed pottery was recovered.

Pit **032** truncated pit **037** on its west and had a flat-based U-shaped profile. It was itself truncated by pit **030** (to the west) and was over 1m wide by 0.24m deep and filled by mottled yellow grey clay (031).

Pit **030** was located at the west end of the footing and was at least 1.6m wide by 0.56m deep. It had an uneven, U-shaped profile and was filled by dark brownish grey silty clay (029).

Layer (028) was light brownish white silty clay and located at the east end of the footings, overlying pit **033**. It was more than 1.8m long by 0.10m thick and overlain by (002).

4.4 *Layers*

Two additional trenches were hand- and machine-excavated on each side of the rectangular bay on the east elevation, in which three layers were identified. The lowest exposed layer in the sequence recorded in Section 2 (Fig. 8) was mid brown silty clay (015), which was more than 0.30m thick and contained occasional chalk flecks. It was overlain by white chalk (016), which was up to 0.21m thick. The third layer was identified on the south side of the bay only and was very similar to (015) but contained rare flecks of flint, charcoal, CBM (Ceramic Building Material), chalk and clunch.

The uppermost deposit (017) (Fig. 8, Section 2) was equivalent to (002) and spread over the entire area.

4.5 Structures

The remains of two brick walls c.3m apart and orientated east to west were exposed at the centre of the newly excavated driveway where it diverged, approximately 16m from the east end. The south section of wall had a return to the south and extended beyond the reduced area, whilst the north wall had been truncated at both ends. Both walls were a single course in width and only one course deep. A hardcore deposit of crushed clunch and brick was identified between the two brick walls.

During ground reduction in front of the house a north to south oriented brick wall was revealed 0.5m below a layer of modern made ground on the western limit of the excavated area. It was constructed from 9" handmade and frogged red bricks of 19th century date and was associated with up to three brick surfaces, one of which retained a layer of mortar. The wall may also be related to a parallel wall of similar style that was observed protruding from the current ground level, just beyond the east limit of the proposed 'cartshed' area.

The most significant of the three structures identified was wall 006 (Figs 5 and 6, Plate 10), a large rectangular building with at least one rectangular and one rounded bay. It was of solid brick construction, with dressed clunch (007) on the east elevation (Plate 11) and brick facing on the north elevation (Plate 12). The structure as a whole extended beyond the west limit of excavation and slightly beyond the north limit so its full extent was not visible, but is estimated to have been more than 10.6m long (east to west) by 9.7m wide (north to south).

Foundations (003) (Fig. 8, Sections 2, 3 and 4, Plates 13 and 14) were constructed from broken orange-red un-frogged bricks of varying sizes set in and roughly rendered with lime mortar, as observed in a test pit and in Footings A and E (Plates 13 and 8),

extended to a minimum depth of 135.54m OD. The bricks are coursed but are not laid in a particular bond.

The remains of a rough brick floor surface survived around the outside edge of the internal space at the top of the foundations and had been severely truncated to a maximum of 0.95m wide. It lay at a height of approximately 136.50m OD and comprised orange-red bricks of various sizes and shapes with the occasional blue grey brick (Plate 15).

Above floor and foundation level wall (006) comprised alternate courses of header and stretcher bricks (English bond) that do not appear to have been rendered (Plate 10). Each brick measured approximately 0.22m long by 0.05m high and 0.15m wide. The walls were approximately 1.25m thick and survived above foundation (003) and floor level to a maximum height of fourteen courses at 137.39m OD.

The north elevation (Fig. 8, Sections 2 and 3, Plate 16) of the structure was visible in the north-east corner of the strip, map and record area and was faced with a single row of orange-red bricks also laid in English Bond. The facing bricks survived to only five courses high but showed that the bay of this elevation was rounded. In contrast, the east elevation (Plates 11 and 17) was faced with dressed clunch blocks of various sizes, up to 0.25m high by 0.52m wide. The clunch was laid to a lower depth (135.82m OD) than the brick facing (c.136.60m OD) on the north elevation and showed no apparent bond, although it was coursed. In contrast, the bay of the east elevation was rectangular, not rounded.

A truncated external brick surface was located at the front of the north elevation, near the north-east corner of the structure and to the east of the rounded bay (Plate 16). It was the only surviving external surface and was made from the same style bricks that faced the north elevation. They were laid side to side and comprised both full and header bricks. At the east end of the surface, covering an area of approximately 0.60m by 0.90m, a series of bricks laid at right-angles to the external surface and retaining a layer of mortar formed a short stub of north to south aligned wall continuous with the east elevation. The external brick surface abutted this wall but did not extend beyond it. Both the floor surface and the wall stub were truncated on the north side by large-scale earth removal to the immediate north, where the land drops sharply away today, which caused the slippage of the latter (Plate 16).

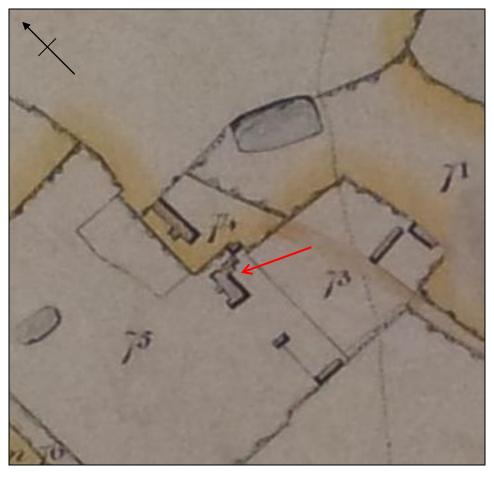


Figure 4: Extract of 1819 Enclosure map with Salden Manor indicated (not to scale)

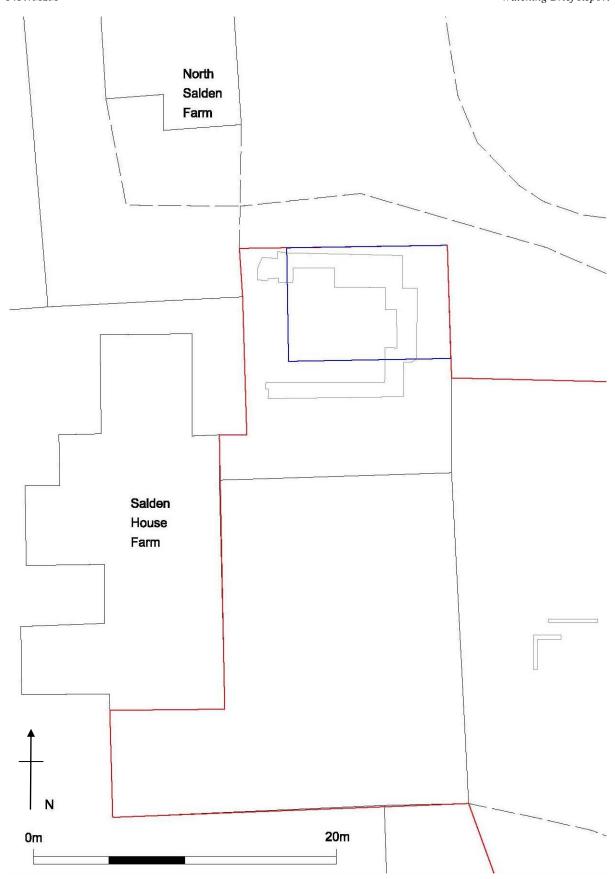


Figure 5: Walls (grey) in the Strip and Record area (blue) and Watching Brief area (red) (scale 1:250)

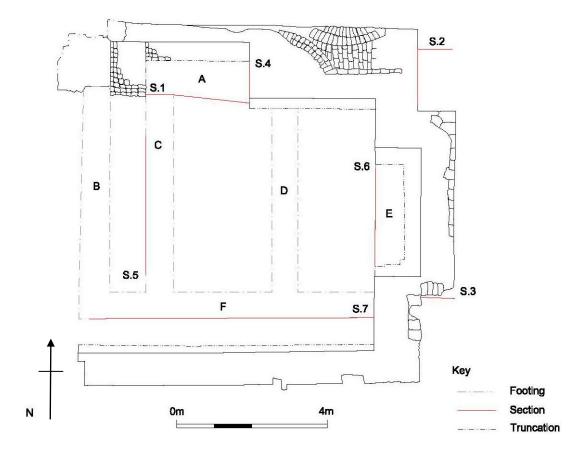


Figure 6: Wall and footings (A-F) plan with section locations (scale 1:100)

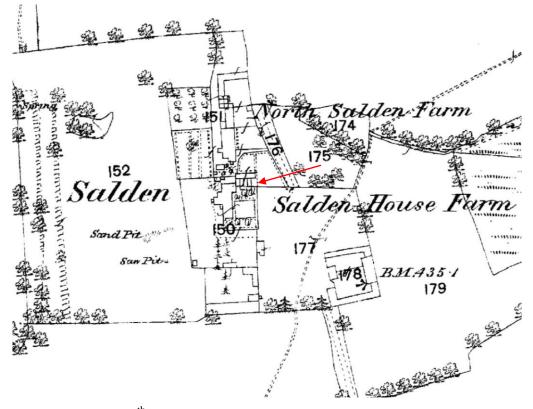


Figure 7: Location of 19th structure on extract of 1880 Ordnance Survey map (*not to scale*)

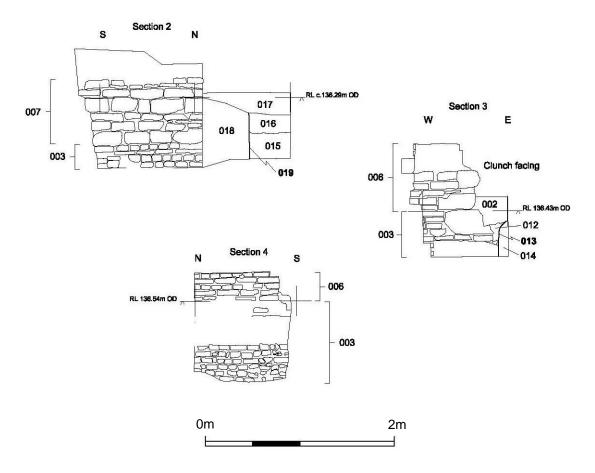
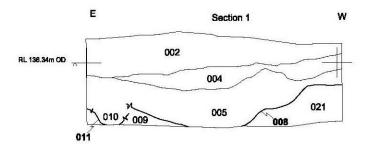
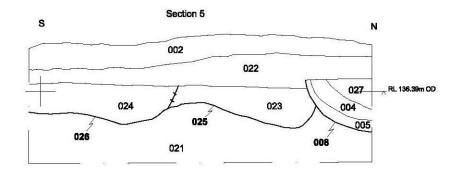


Figure 8: Wall and footing elevations (scale 1:40)





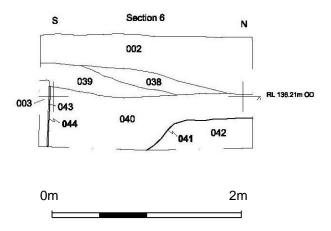


Figure 9: Sections 1, 5 & 6 (*scale 1:40*)

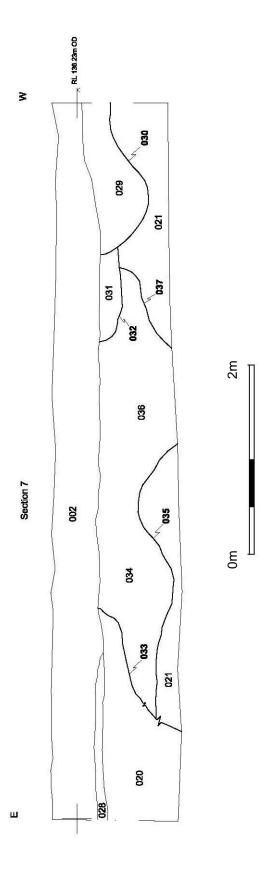


Figure 10: Section 7 (*Scale 1:40 @ A4*)



Plate 1: Made-ground (002) in 'cartshed' area, facing north



Plate 2: Post-medieval to modern overburden (001) in 'cartshed' area, facing west



Plate 3: Footing B 'cartshed' area, facing north



Plate 4: Footing B, pit 047, facing east



Plate 5: Footing C, facing north



Plate 6: Footing C, pit 008, facing west



Plate 7: Footing D, facing west



Plate 8: Footing E, pit 041 and layers (038) and (039), facing west



Plate 9: Footing F, facing south-west



Plate 10: Wall 006, facing north-east



Plate 11: Clunch facing (007) on east elevation, structure 006, facing north



Plate 12: Rounded, brick-faced bay on north elevation, structure 006, facing west



Plate 13: Footing A, foundations (003) of structure 006, facing east



Plate 14: External footings of structure 006 on the east elevation, facing west



Plate 15: Detail of internal floor surface in north-west corner, structure 006, facing west



Plate 16: General view of north elevation, structure 006, facing west



Plate 17: Detail of external clunch facing (007) on east elevation, structure 006, facing west

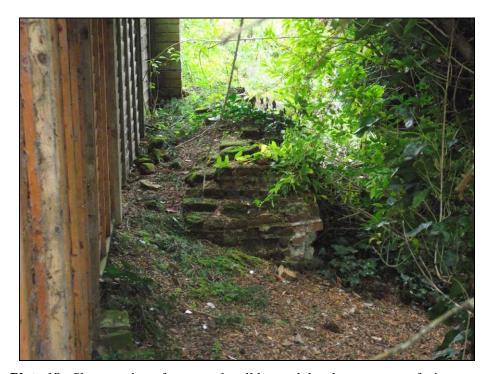


Plate 18: Short section of truncated wall beyond development area, facing west

5. Conclusions

5.1 Work carried out at Salden Manor identified a series of pits, layers and structures associated with the post-medieval use of the land to the east of the house itself. The earliest activity on the site was located under the footprint of the proposed 'cartshed' and observed in Footings A-F, and consisted of a series of thirteen intercutting pits of differing sizes and depths, truncated by construction cut **013=019** (structure 006). Their fills gave little indication of function, but the lack of clarity between individual pits, where for example, upper edges were not visible and the fills were of similar colour and consistency (Fig. 10, Section 7, pits 035 and 037) may indicate rapid re-use of the area or the disposal or relocation of similar material from elsewhere. The pits were also almost entirely devoid of finds with only one small sherd of post-medieval pottery recovered from pit 033 in the south-east corner of the area. Given the proximity of these features to what remains of Salden Manor, this is a very small quantity of material; typically an assemblage from a domestic setting such as this would contain high quantities of pottery, animal bone, shell and charcoal, etc. The almost complete absence of these types of finds therefore indicates that although the pits were located close to the manor house they were not used for waste disposal.

Layers 014 (Fig. 8, Section 3), 015 and 016 (Fig. 8, Section 2) were also early deposits, again truncated by construction cut **013=019**, but located to the immediate east of structure 006. They contained small quantities of crushed building material such as CBM and clunch and layer (015) in particular was composed wholly of roughly crushed chalk, which may represent debris from either building construction or demolition which took place prior to the construction of structure 006. Interestingly, no pits were observed outside structure 006, only layers of made-ground, which could indicate that the two areas were previously separate or distinct in terms of function and use.

5.2 Structure 006 post-dated both the pits and the made-ground to the east and was a substantial rectangular building over 100sq m in area. The walls of the north and east elevations were faced, respectively, with brick and dressed clunch and had at least one rounded bay and one square bay. The considerable width of the walls (1.25m) and depth of the foundations (more than 0.90m) strongly suggest that the structure had at least two storeys, although no additional evidence for this was obtained during the groundworks, and was of probable domestic function, i.e. a house. Although the full extent of the building is unknown as it extended beyond the west edge of the development area, it possible that it abutted or joined part of the original manor house at its north end. A short section of upstanding wall (Plate 18) very similar in composition to, and aligned with structure 006, but located to the north of Salden Manor (outside the development area) is at present the only evidence to suggest a possible west extent to the building.

In the north-east corner of the building a short section of brickwork with adhering mortar adjacent to the external brick surface indicates the northward continuation of the east wall. It is unknown how far north it would have run because both the wall and part of the north elevation of the building were truncated by severe ground reduction to the north of the existing garden wall, but the remaining evidence suggests that it was from this point a boundary wall, dividing the area in front of the north elevation from

that in front of the east elevation. The east side of this wall was also faced with clunch, just as the rest of the east elevation, therefore forming a continuous stretch of wall, which, when approached from the east down what is now Cook's Lane, was no doubt intended to give the impression of a high status residence, and was almost certainly the façade that would have greeted visitors. In contrast then, the area in front of the north elevation was more likely to have been private or accessible only to invited guests.

Internally, structure 006 was one large room with a floor laid with broken, rough bricks with no apparent fireplaces, doorways or internal divisions. It is possible that this room was a cellar and used for storage, with the main reception or public rooms of the house above this at a level that no longer survives.

Brick samples taken from both the upper surviving courses of the wall and the foundations suggest an 18th century date (Semmelmann, *pers comm*) for the structure, indicating that it was later than the surviving part of Salden Manor built in 1566 by Sir John Fortescue, chancellor of the Exchequer in the reign of Elizabeth, but interestingly, this makes it broadly contemporary with accounts of its partial demolition in 1738 and 1743 shortly after the division of the Fortescue property (Page 1925). Some flexibility must be assigned to the date suggested by the bricks however as they are difficult to date closely and vary considerably depending on the source of the clay and manufacturer. They may even have been manufactured on site as there is evidence for a row of brick clamps identified during small-scale excavations (HER 1533) near Salden Manor. In addition, the records contain no reference to the construction of a new wing, for example so it is possible that structure 006 pre-dates the 18th century.

With the exception of a single small sherd of medieval pottery, all the finds recovered from layer (002) date from the latter half of the 18th century and into the 19th century, and thus suggest that the building was demolished during the beginning of the represented period. This supports the documentary accounts mentioned above adding further weight to the possibility that structure 006 was a post-1600 extension to Fortescue's manor house complex. The latest date for its demolition must be during the first half of the 1800's as the remains of the 19th century structure were identified overlying it and as it is clearly marked on the 1819 Enclosure map of the parish (Fig. 4).

- 5.3 Up to three floor surfaces and part of a wall for a late 19th century building were also identified in the 'cartshed' area and were also observed in the west edge. Although no evidence was found to indicate the function of this structure, the client has said that it was a piggery. The remains overlay made-ground (002) and were part of the uppermost deposit (001), the bricks within which may have derived from the demolition of structure 006. The frogged bricks used in the construction of the building and the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 7) together indicate that it was built sometime after 1860 but before 1880, and was perhaps re-modelled or rebuilt a further two times. Its construction date suggests that the demolition of structure 006 took place prior to 1860.
- 5.4 A set of wall footings identified within the area of the new driveway were the remains of probable garden walls, owing to their single-brick width, although severe truncation and extension beyond the limits of the reduced area restrict interpretation. The deposit of crushed clunch and brick located between the walls may be part of a driveway

surface or could have derived from the construction/demolition of the walls themselves.

5.5 The remains identified within the development areas are initially thought relate to the post-medieval occupation of Salden Manor, and reveal a pattern of changing land-use following the near-total demolition of the original manor house in the early- to mid-18th century. Due to a lack of finds, functions and uses of the land at each stage are difficult to characterise in anything more than general terms, but this could be rectified with a specific and detailed research of surviving historic documents and accounts that is currently not in the scope of this project. In summary, the area closest to the remaining part of Salden Manor was initially subject to fairly intense pitting as well as landscaping or re-shaping with the deposition of made-ground layers. At a later, possible 17th century date a large, two-storey building with cellar/basement was erected with both substantial footings and walls, and was designed and presented as a high status residential structure. After a relatively short period of time – possibly around 150 years – this structure was demolished and a late 19th century ?piggery was constructed.

It is however the two-storey building that is of greatest significance to the development of Salden Manor during the post-medieval period, both in terms of its construction date - which could be refined by further study and scientific analysis - and function.

It is worth noting that no remains were identified in the development area as a whole that pre-date the post-medieval period, despite the results of the background research (Section 3), which suggested that remains from the Roman to medieval period could be present. The work might have expected to reveal remains of medieval date in particular as there was a medieval manor house here before John Fortescue built his in c.1565, and possible house platforms and 12th/13th pottery have been identified approximately 0.2km distant. In all probability, earlier remains (than post-medieval) were not revealed due to the limitations of the development, the depth of which did not reach the level of the medieval or earlier deposits; because the post-medieval activity, from building the Fortescue manor house to its near total demolition, has destroyed/truncated any medieval or earlier deposits or because they were located elsewhere, such as to the west of the existing Manor House.

5.7 *Confidence Rating*

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken with the full cooperation of both the owners and developers, the latter of which provided assistance with some hand-excavation.

Overall conditions for the works were good, and the archaeological remains were on the whole well-defined, with the exception of some of the pits, whose edges were unclear. Perhaps the main limitation to the project was the general paucity of finds, which enabled only a very vague timeframe to be established for the different phases of activity on the site. Nonetheless a high confidence rating can be applied to the results of the strip, map and record and watching brief.

6. Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by the client Mrs E Gill. The project was monitored by Buckinghamshire County Council Archaeological Service on behalf of the local planning authority.

The project was managed for ASC by Bob Zeepvat BA MIfA. Fieldwork was carried out by Martin Cuthbert BA PIfA, David Kaye BA AIfA, Mo Muldowney BA PIfA and Carina Summerfield Hill BA MA. The report was prepared by Mo Muldowney and edited by Bob Zeepvat.

7. Archive

- 7.1 The project archive will comprise:
 - 1. Project Design
 - 2. Initial Report
 - 3. Clients site plans
 - 4. Site Monitoring Sheets
 - 5. Finds records
 - 6. Finds
 - 7. Site record drawings
 - 8. List of photographs
 - 9. B/W prints & negatives
 - 10. Original specialist reports and supporting information
 - 11. CDROM with copies of all digital files.
- 7.2 The archive will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum.

8. References

Standards & Specifications

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IFA 2001 Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds)

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Morris, J 1973 Domesday Book: A Survey of the Counties of England Chichester

Soil Survey 1983 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend (Harpenden)

Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

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	A.S.C.	LTD

WATCHING BRIEF RECORD

Project:	Project No/Code: Sheet:
SALDEN MANOR, MURSLEY	
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Appendix 2: Finds Concordance

Context	Pot	tery	Brick (no)		Glass (g)		Clay pipe (no)	
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003			2	3071				
006			1	2636				
020	1	2						
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Appendix 3: List of Photographs

SITE NA	ME: Salde	n Manor,	Cooks Lane, Mursley SITE NO/CODE: 1459/MSM			
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject			
1		1	Driveway after reduction, facing north			
2		1	Driveway after reduction with Salden Manor House in background, facing west			
3		1	Driveway after reduction with Salden Manor House in background, facing west			
4		1	Spur of wall protruding from existing house, facing north-west			
5		1	Spur of wall and north-east corner of Salden Manor House and extension, facing north-w	est		
6		1	Short section of wall beyond north boundary of Manor House, facing west			
7		1	Short section of wall beyond north boundary of Manor House, facing west			
8		1	Short section of wall beyond north boundary of Manor House, facing west			
9		/	Ground reduction in front of house, facing west			
10		1	Ground reduction in front of house with brick surface at right, facing north-west			
11		1	As Shot 8			
12	/	/	Post-med stratification (002) near north-west corner, facing west			
13	•	1	ID tile for Shot 14			
14	/	1	Wall 006 in north-west corner, facing south			
15	•	/	Deposit (002) overlying wall 006, facing west			
16		/	Wall (006) in north-west corner of Strip and Map area, facing north			
17		1	Wall (006) in north-west corner of Strip and Map area, facing west			
18	1	✓	North edge of Strip and Map area immediately after wall (006) was exposed, facing west			
19	1	✓	North-east corner of the Strip and Map area with wall (006), facing north-east			
20	✓	✓	General shot of post-medieval made-ground (002), facing north			
21	✓	✓	Upper surviving surface of the south return of wall (006)			
22	✓	✓	Detail of upper surviving courses of wall (006) in north-east corner, facing east			
23	✓	1	Detail of south wall and overlying deposit (002) where it runs west out of the Strip and Map area, facing south			
24	1	1	South run of wall (006) and ground-reduction for driveway area in front of house, facing south			
25	1	1	Ground reduction for driveway in front of house, facing east-south-east			
26	1	/	ID board for Shot 27			
27	1	/	Stratification in driveway area in front of house, facing south			
28	1	1	General shot of reduced area for driveway in front of house, facing south-west			
29	/	1	ID board for Shot 30			
30	1	1	Detail of deposits in area of Footing E in test hole, facing south			
31		1	Internal floor within north-east corner of wall (006), facing east			
32		1	South-facing return of inside of north-east corner of wall (006), facing north			
33	/	/	Internal west side of bay in north wall, with floor surface, facing west			
34	<u> </u>	/	Internal west side of bay in north wall, with floor surface, facing north			
35		1	Internal west side of bay in north wall showing relationship with present wall, facing north			
36	1	1	Detail wall (006) and wall behind, facing north			
37		1	Detail wall (000) and wall behind, facing north			
38		1	Detail wall (006) in north-west corner, facing north			
39		✓	As above, facing north-west			
40	1	✓	East end of north bay of wall (006), facing north			
41	_	✓	As above with more of present wall, facing north			
42	/	✓ ✓	Detail of floor surface at west end of north bay, facing west			
43	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	External surface and rounded external bay of north elevation wall (006), facing west			
44	_		Detail clunch facing (007) of east corner elevation, facing west			
45	/	√	Detail round bay brick-facing on north elevation wall (006), facing west-south-west			
40	✓	✓	Detail round day brick-racing on north elevation wall (006), facing west-south-west			

SITE NAM	/IE: Salde	n Manor,	Cooks Lane, Mursley	SITE NO/CODE: 1459/MSM		
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject			
46	✓	1	As Shot 43			
47		1	Internal south-facing wall (006) in north-east corner of structure, facing north			
48		1	View along internal south-facing segment of (006), facing east			
49		1	Detail of upper wall (006) near north-east int	ernal corner, facing east		
50		1	Detail of upper external wall (006) in north-ea	ast corner, facing south-west		
51		1	Working shot: cleaning the east wall (006), facing south			
52		1	Detail of upper wall of south-facing end of rectangular bay, structure (006), facing north			
53		1	Remains of rough floor surface at south end of rectangular bay, structure (006), facing south			
54		1	As Shot 53, facing east			
55		1	General shot of rectangular bay (internal), structure (006), facing east-north-east			
56		1	As Shot 55, facing north-east			
57		1	External face of east wall, structure (006), facing north			
58		1	Wall foundation (003) in Footing A, facing east			
59		✓	General view of footings trenches with structure (006) in background, facing north-east			
60		1	As Shot 58			
61		1	South-facing external elevation of rectangula	r bay, east wall of structure (006), facing north		
62		✓	As Shot 61			
63		1	Detail of foundations below clunch facing of	east elevation, facing west		
64	1	1	Clunch facing and foundations at north-east of east elevation, facing north-west			
65		1	As Shot 64			
66		1	As Shot 64, facing west			
67	✓	1	As Shot 66			
68	✓	1	Footing A, pit 047, facing east			
69		1	Stratigraphy of north-east corner of site, facing north			
70	✓	1	Footing B, facing north			
71	1	1	Footing B, south-end with pit 047, facing north-east			
72	✓	1	Footing C, facing north			
73	✓	1	Footing C, pit 008 at north end, facing west			
74	✓	1	Footing D, stratification at north end, facing west			
75	✓	1	Footing E, general shot, facing west			
76	✓	1	As Shot 75, facing north			
77		1	Footing D, general shot, facing north			
78		1	Footing F, general shot, facing south-west			
79	✓	1	Footing F, general shot, facing west			
80		1	Footing F, example of stratification at east er	nd, facing south		
81	✓	1	Footing F, west end, looking south-west			
82		1	Footing F, east end, looking south			
83		1	General view of footings trenches with structure (006) in background, facing north-east			
84		1	Footing F, general shot, facing east			

Appendix 4: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS									
Project Name:	Salden Manor, Mursley		OASIS reference:	111242					
Short Description:	hort Description: During January and February 2012 a strip, map and record and watching brief were undertaken at Salden Manor, Mursley, Buckinghamshire during groundworks associated with the construction of a 'cartshed' and driveway. The work identified the remains of a substantial c.18th century (or earlier) brick structure partially faced with clunch. Small portions of both internal and external floor surfaces were also identified. The excavation of footings identified a series of poorly defined intercutting pits and layers that both pre- and post-dated the building. Foundations and floor surfaces relating to late 19th century buildings were also identified in both the driveway area and in the 'cartshed' area.								
Project Type:	Strip and Record; Watching Brief								
Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	None		Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	None					
Current land use:	Garden		Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	No					
Monument type:	Wall, pits, surfaces, layers		Monument period:	Post-medieval					
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)									
	PROJECT	LOCATIO	ON						
County:	Buckinghamshire	OS refe	rence: (8 figs min)	SP 82509 29708					
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,								
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	1550sq m Height OD: (m		OD: (metres)	136m OD					
	PROJECT	CREATO	RS						
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consu	Itancy Ltd							
Project brief originator:	Eliza Alqassar	Project design originator:		Calli Rouse					
Project Manager:	Bob Zeepvat	Director/Supervisor:		Mo Muldowney					
Sponsor / funding body:	Mrs E Gill								
		CT DATE							
Start date:	08/11/2011	End dat	e:	03/02/2012					
	PROJECT	-							
	Location (Accession no.)	Location (Accession no.) Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)		<u> </u>					
Physical:	Buckinghamshire County	Pottery, clay tobacco pipe, brick, glass							
Paper:	Museum	Report,	Report, site archive, brief, project design						
Digital:	Repor		t, photographs						
BIBLIOGRA	APHY (Journal/monograph, publish	hed or for	thcoming, or unpublish	ned client report)					
Title:	Strip, Map and Sample Excavation: Salden Manor, Cooks Lane, Mursley, Buckinghamshire								
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1459/MSM/2								
Author(s):	Mo Muldowney								
Page nos	49	Date:		February 2012					