

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:
10 HIGH STREET
STOKE GOLDINGTON
MILTON KEYNES**

NGR: SP 8381 4862

on behalf of Ms Stacey Rawlings



Martin Cuthbert BA (Hons) AIfA

October 2013

ASC: 1637/SGH/2



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Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	SGH	<i>Project no:</i>	1637
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	Archaeol2-160115	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	EMK 1191/TBC
<i>County:</i>	Buckinghamshire (historic county)		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Stoke Goldington		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Stoke Goldington		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 8381 4862		
<i>Extent of watching brief:</i>	46.5 sq. m		
<i>Present use:</i>	Domestic house and garden		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Rear extension to existing building		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Milton Keynes Council		
<i>Planning application ref:</i>	12/01516/FUL & 12/01517/LBC.		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	September 2013		
<i>Client:</i>	Ms Stacey Rawlings 55 High Street Stoke Goldington Newport Pagnell MK16 8NP		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Stacey Rawlings		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Martin Cuthbert	<i>Date:</i>	2 nd October 2013
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<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
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<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
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Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In September 2013 a watching brief was carried out at 10 High Street, Stoke Goldington, Milton Keynes, during the excavation of a footing trench, for a single storey extension. A post medieval wall and adjacent disturbed deposits were revealed in a small area at the southeast corner of the footings trench. No other archaeological features were observed during the watching brief.

1. Introduction

1.1 In September 2013 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief at 10 High Street, Stoke Goldington, Milton Keynes. The project was commissioned by *Ms Stacey Rawlings*, and was carried out according to a project design prepared by ASC (Fell 2013), and approved by the *Milton Keynes Council Archaeological Officer*, archaeological advisor (AA) to the local planning authority (LPA), *Milton Keynes Council*.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This watching brief was required under the terms of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF), as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site. The relevant planning application references are 12/01516/FUL & 12/01517/LBC.

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 Stoke Goldington, in the unitary authority of Milton Keynes and the historic county of Buckinghamshire (Fig.1). It lies in the centre of the village on the east side of the High Street, and is centred on Ordnance Survey national grid reference SP 8381 4862.

The site comprises a sub-rectangular plot fronting onto the High Street. The existing building occupies the west side of the plot, with a garden to the rear (Fig.2).

1.4.2 *Topography & Geology*

The natural soils of the site comprise the *Hanslope Association*, namely slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils over chalk till (Soil Survey 1983, 411d). The underlying geology comprises Oolitic clay and limestone over boulder clay (BGS, Sheet 203). The site is flat and lies at an elevation of c.65m AOD.

1.4.3 *Proposed Development*

The development proposal comprises the demolition of an existing rear extension and garage, construction of a part single/part two-storey rear extension and a replacement garage (Fig.3)

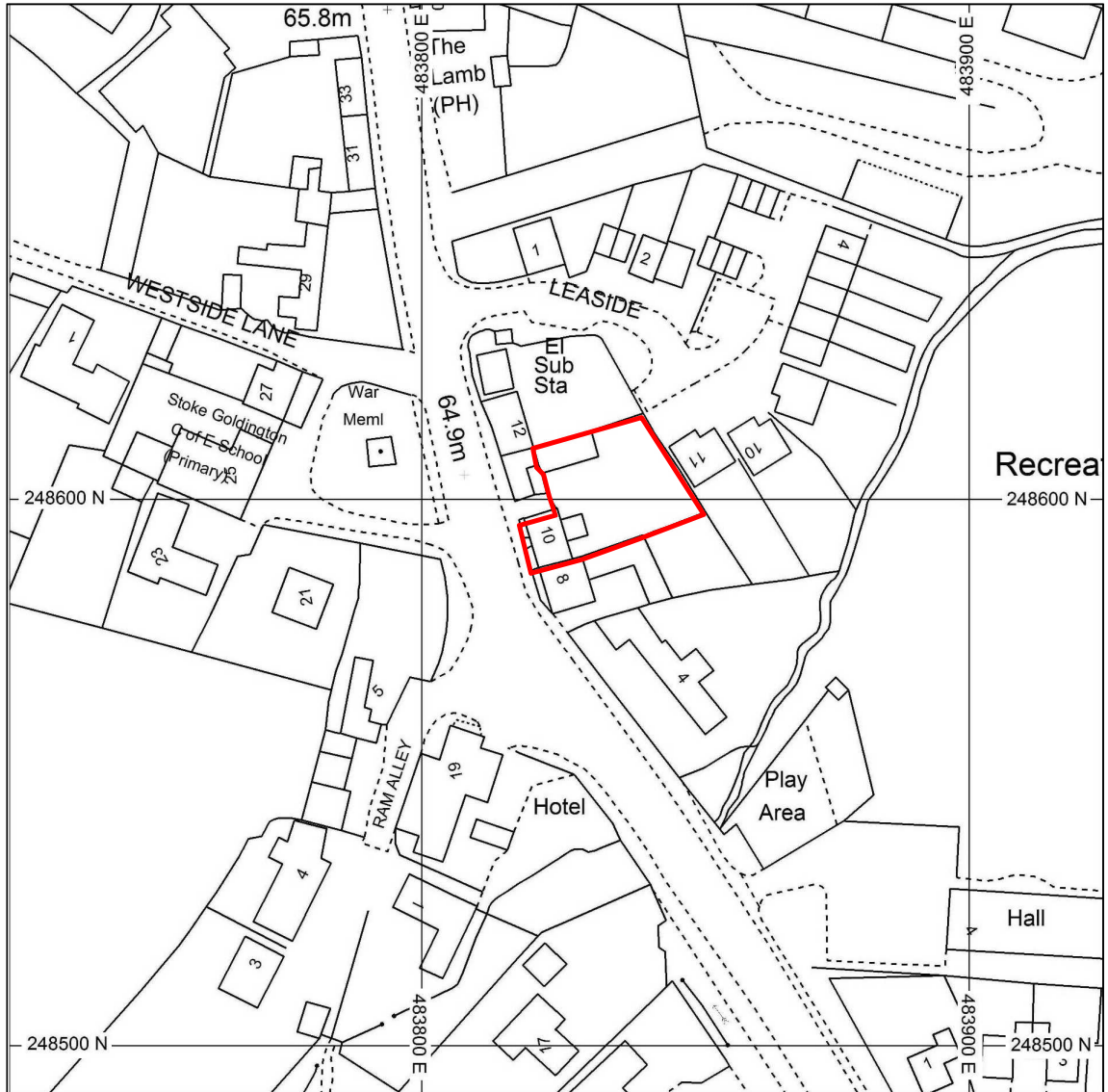


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

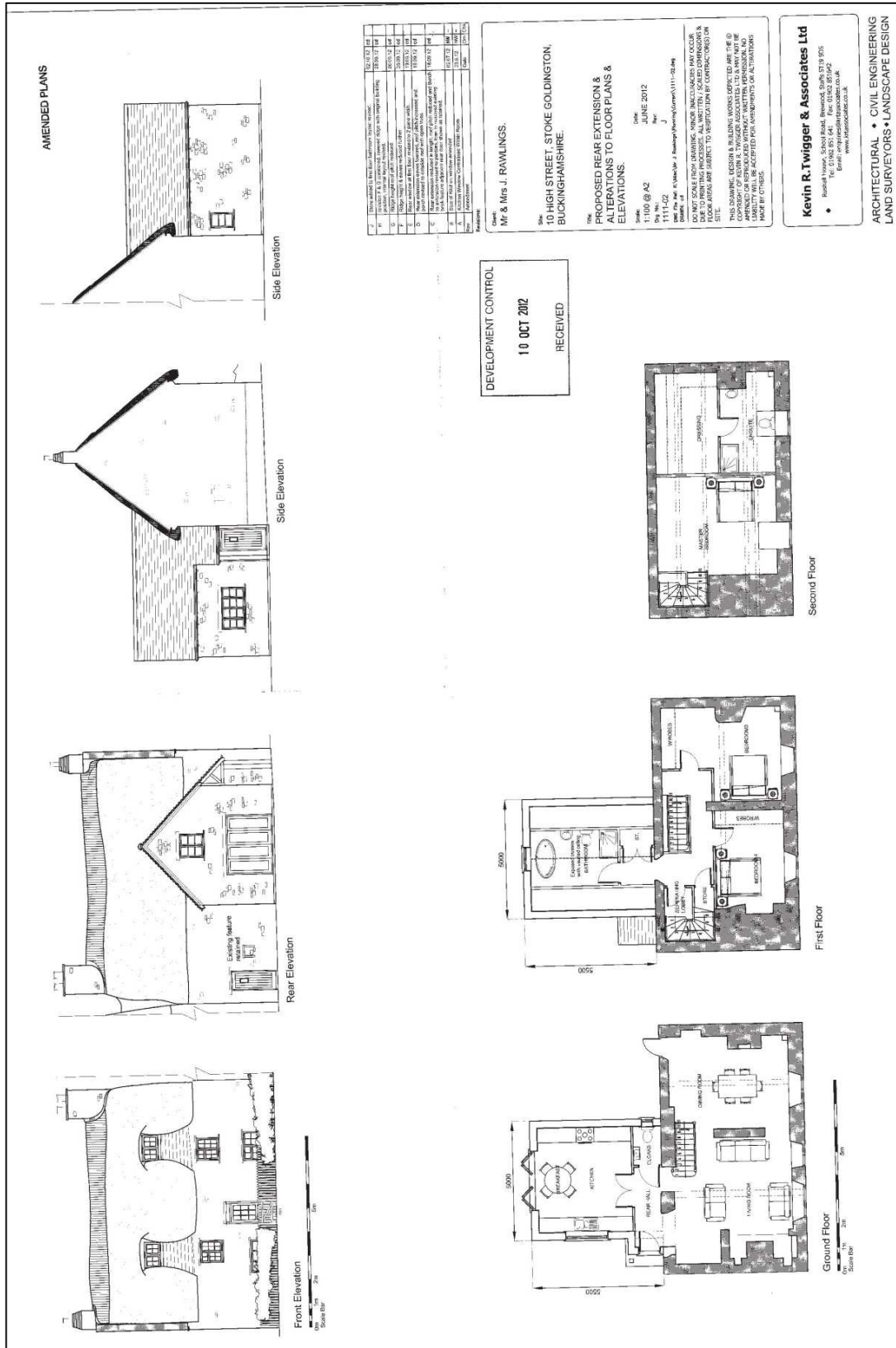


Figure 3: Proposed development (not to scale)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

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

- To monitor all aspects of the development programme likely to affect archaeological remains
- To record any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme.
- To secure the analysis, conservation and long-term storage of 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' *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IfA 2008a & b) and *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010), to current English Heritage guidelines (EH 2006), and to the relevant sections of ASC's *Operations Manual*.

2.3 Methods

The work was carried out according to the project design, 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

No Constraints were encountered prior to, or during the watching brief.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 The following section provides a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the development site and its environs. The site lies within an area of archaeological and historical interest, and the focus of interest is considered to lie in the medieval period

This section has been compiled with information from published sources in ASC's in-house library and relevant internet sources. HER = Historic Environment Record.

3.2 *Prehistoric* (before 600BC-AD43)

The early history of the Stoke Goldington area is not well understood. The HER records a find of Neolithic flints south of Stoke Park Wood (HER276700009), c.1km to the west of the development site, but little else is from this period is known. However, there is evidence of activity in the area dating to the Bronze Age, with a crouched Beaker burial having been discovered at Chitmore Hill, c.1km east of the development site. This is also the site of an Iron Age sub-rectangular enclosure, identified through cropmarks, which was in use from the late 2nd to early 1st centuries BC (HER18700000). Excavations within the enclosure identified a hearth and storage pits, but could not determine the enclosure's function.

Iron Age settlement has been identified at Stoke Goldington Old Gravel Pit, c.1km east of the development site (HER139700000). Two phases of occupation were identified, which may have been continuous. The first comprised ditches and storage pits, described as pre-Belgic, whereas the second phase is represented by a large defensive ditch, which dates to the 1st century AD. An Iron Age skeleton has also been recovered from the gravel pit, and local legend records that several other skeletons, along with complete pots, were previously removed from the pit, presumably during quarrying. Iron Age settlement may also have existed at Church Farm, at the northern end of Stoke Goldington, where the hilltop was once surrounded by a ditch, suggesting an enclosed settlement (HER35903000).

3.3 *Roman* (AD43-c.450)

Although no specific settlement site has been identified in the vicinity of Stoke Goldington, it is clear from the HER entries that there was a settlement in the area, probably to the east of the village, in the area of Stoke Park Wood. Here there have been several instances of finds of Romano-British roof tile, heavy stone and pottery (HER5500002, 6600000). In addition, a gilt bronze leaf object from a Romano-British ceremonial headdress has been found to the south of the wood (HER6900000) and pottery has been recovered from within the churchyard at the northern end of the village (HER276700013). A large Roman ditch has also been identified at Stoke Goldington Old Gravel Pit.

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

The present settlement at Stoke Goldington probably originated during the Saxon period. The village was included in the Domesday survey (1086), where it is referred to as *Stoches* (Morris 1978). There are a number of records within the HER that highlight the development of the site throughout the medieval period. Medieval pottery sherds have been found in gardens throughout the village (HER5000000,

276700015), and a watching brief carried out at 68 High Street recorded the presence of a medieval cess pit. The lowest fill of this pit contained 11th-13th century pottery sherds, while the uppermost fill was found to contain 16th-17th century pottery sherds, suggesting a continuation of occupation throughout the medieval period (HER779000000).

The parish church is dedicated to St Peter, and is located c.0.7km to the northwest of the development site. It has its origins in the 13th century (Pevsner & Williamson, 2000) and it is possible that the core of the village developed around it. A series of amorphous earthworks have been identified fronting onto Dag Lane, c.0.4km south east of the church. These earthworks possibly represent mutilated house platforms (HER6200000), and a large amount of building rubble was recorded on the surface, and medieval pottery was also recovered from the site.

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

Stoke Goldington is a linear settlement which continued to develop from the medieval period into the post medieval period. There are a large number of listed buildings within the village, including 10 High Street, which is a Grade II listed 17th-century thatched house (HER778200000). Post-medieval industry in the area is hinted at by the record of a brickworks to the east of the village (HER5200000), which included a scotch kiln (a rectangular, open topped kiln), a kiln type that has been in use since the 17th century. Stoke Goldington was also a scheduled stopping point for mail coaches between Newport Pagnell and Northampton, with twenty-six coaches in each direction travelling through the village each day (mkheritage.co.uk).

Early Ordnance Survey (OS) maps show that by the end of the 19th century, Stoke Goldington had developed to much the same extent as today.

4. Results

4.1 The watching brief consisted of a single full day visit to monitor a footings trench for the proposed development. The trench was excavated by a mini digger prior to the construction of a single storey extension (Fig. 3).

4.2 Prior to the excavation of the footing trenches un-monitored works comprising the demolition of an existing single storey extension and ground reduction of approximately 0.4m of modern demolition material across an area measuring 6.4m x 7.2m took place. A single footing trench was then excavated under archaeological supervision within the area of ground reduction (Fig. 4).

4.3 The footing trench was 0.60m wide and was excavated to a depth of 1.2m. The undisturbed stratigraphy comprised 0.15m of demolition rubble, overlying the natural deposit, of mid yellowish orange clay with bands of sand and gravel (Plate 1 & 2).

Possible structural remains as well as an area of disturbed ground and a deposit of mortar were revealed in section and in plan within the area of ground reduction and within the footing trench.

4.4. **Wall 005** (Figure 4: Plates 3 & 4)

An L-shape wall footing was observed in plan at the southeast corner of the proposed development. The wall footing measured 0.6m wide and 0.4m deep and cut the natural deposit at its base.

The wall entered the area of ground reduction at its southeast corner, aligned northwest-southeast. After 1.8m, and upon entering the footing trench, the wall turned 90° northeast, extending beyond the area of ground reduction.

The wall was constructed of un-bonded limestone fragments from which two sherds of c.18th-19th century post-medieval red earthen ware pottery with a brown glaze were retrieved (not retained).

4.5 **Disturbed deposits** (Figure 4: Plate 4)

Located directly to the north and west, abutting wall footing 005 and overlying the natural deposit was an area of c.18th-19th century disturbed ground.

The stratigraphy within the disturbed area consisted of 0.15m of mortar (003) or what could have been a dump of wall plaster, overlying 0.03m of buried soil (004) consisting of a dark brown silty clay, which in turn overlay 0.3m of rubble (006) consisting of grey-brown silty clay with frequent small limestone fragments. Two sherds of c.18th-19th century post-medieval red earthen ware pottery with a black glaze were retrieved from deposit (006) (not retained).

The full extent of the disturbed deposits and mortar deposit could not be ascertained as it extended beyond the area of ground reduction.

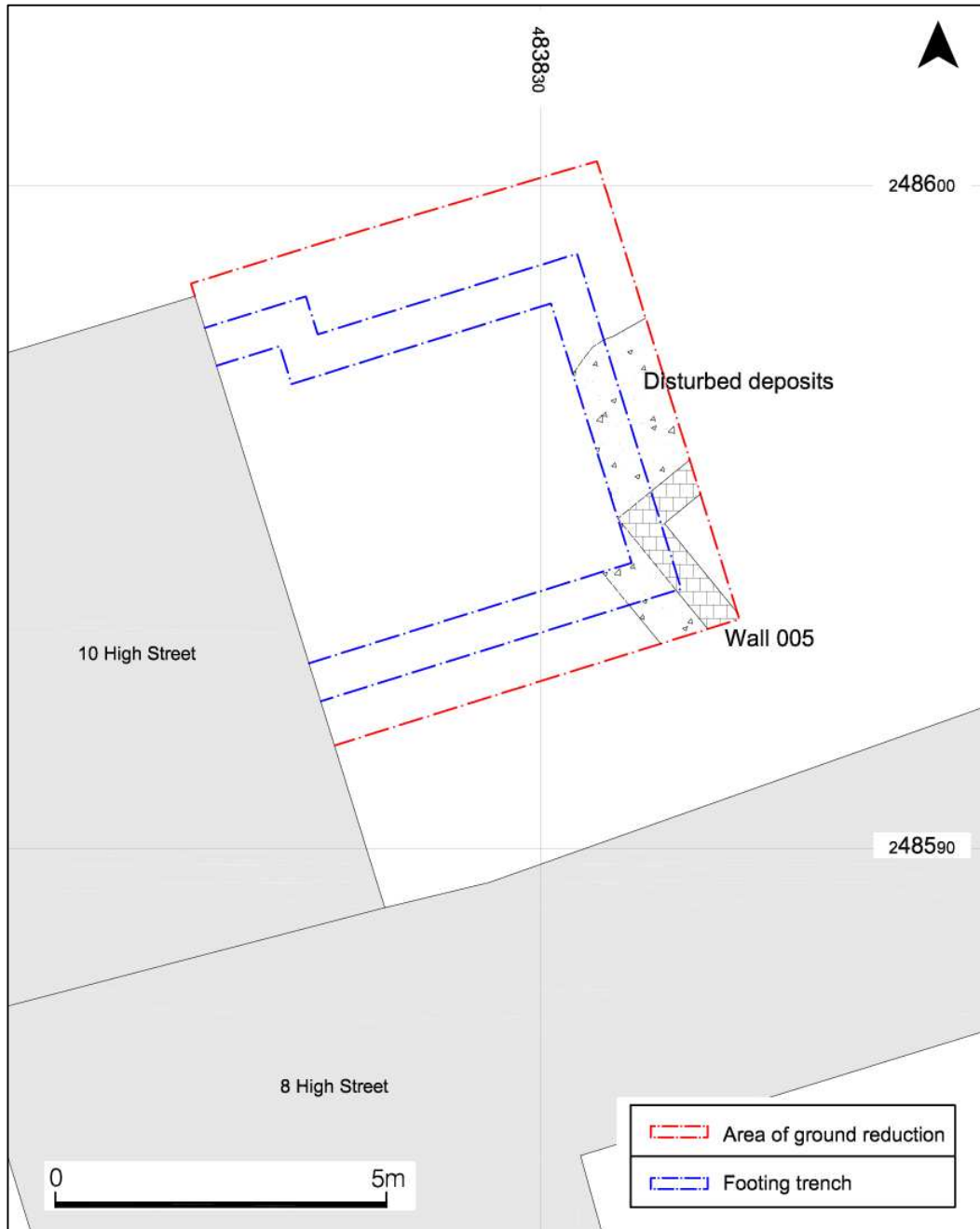


Figure 4: Archaeological remains (1:100)



Plate 1: Southwest corner-footing trench, looking northwest. (undisturbed deposits)



Plate 2: Northern arm of footing trench, looking southwest



Plate 3: Wall footing 005 in plan, looking northwest



Plate 4: Wall footing 005 (centre); disturbed deposits (far right & left), looking southeast

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The conditions for the watching brief were good and the work took place in overcast but fair weather conditions. Full co-operation was received from the contractors and a high degree of confidence is attached to the results of the watching brief.
- 5.2 The discoveries within the area of ground reduction and footings trench were located within close proximity to 10 High Street itself. The portion of wall footing 005 did not align with the walls of either 10 High Street or the rear extension of 8 High Street located to the south of the development area. The un-bonded stonework and narrow width suggests the wall may have formed part of a garden feature or outhouse.
- 5.3 The mortar layer was discovered within close proximity to wall 005 and could be a demolition layer associated with the removal of the upper courses of the wall itself. Its full dimensions and significance could not be determined due to the constraints of the footings trench and area of ground reduction.
- 5.4 Archaeological finds or features were not observed within the internal area of the proposed development as a layer of modern demolition material obscured the natural soil horizon. This however does not imply that there are no archaeological deposits within this area.

6. Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Stacey Rawlings. The writer is grateful to Stacey for her assistance. The project was monitored by the *Milton Keynes Council Archaeological Officer*, on behalf of the local planning authority. Thanks are also due to the on site contractor.

The project was managed, and the report edited by David Fell MA MI(f)A. Fieldwork was carried out, and the report written by Martin Cuthbert BA AI(f)A.

7. Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

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

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum.

8. References

Standards & Specifications

- EH 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*. English Heritage (London).
- Fell D 2013 *Project Design for Archaeological Watching Brief at 10 High Street, Stoke Goldington, Milton Keynes*, ASC ref: 1637/SGH/1.
- IFA 2010 Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.
- IFA 2008 Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*.
- IFA (various dates) Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance* documents (*Desk-Based Assessments 2011, Watching Briefs 2008, Evaluations 2009, Excavations 2008, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings 2008, Finds 2008, Archiving 2009*).

Secondary Sources

- BGS *British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology*.
- Morris J, 1978 *The Domesday Book. Buckinghamshire*. History from the Sources. Phillimore
- Pevsner N & Williamson E 2000 *The Buildings of England: Buckinghamshire* (Penguin)
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpندن).

<http://www.mkheritage.co.uk/sga/docs/frame-history.html>

Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

Project: 10 High St.		Project No/Code: 1637 SGH		Sheet: 1 of		
Stoke Goldington		Date of visit: 17/9/13				
Client/Developer						
Contact: Stacey-client			Phone:			
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 09:30		Finish: 16:00		
Completed by: M.C						
Development Type:						
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: dry, cold!!						
Observations: 1970's extension demolished. New footings trenches cut through 0.15m of made ground + brick rubble ^{+ kerbside rubble} straight onto sandy clay and gravel ^(0.25m) over blue grey clay. No natural soil profile survives. Trench = 60cm wide 1.2m deep. asked driver if we could remove just the 0.15m of made ground over whole footing trench footprint to speed things up, but he stated the machine couldn't straddle the 0.15m deep open trench. wall and layer of demolition rubble overlain by a mortar surface observed. - See plan P.T.O. Contexts - (001-006)						
Comments: No more visits required - service trenches located in position of established services. So don't need to monitor these.						

Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: 10 High Street, Bovingdon		SITE NO/CODE: 1637/SGH
Shot	Subject	
1	General working shot, looking SSE	
2	General working shot, looking South	
3	General working shot, looking South	
4	General working shot, looking South	
5	Southwest corner-footing trench, looking southwest (note: undisturbed deposits)	
6	Southwest corner-footing trench, looking northwest. (note: undisturbed deposits)	
7	Southwest footing trench, looking northwest. (note: undisturbed deposits)	
8	Wall footing 005 in plan, looking northwest	
9	Wall footing 005 in plan, looking northwest	
10	Wall footing 005 (centre);disturbed deposits-(far right & left), looking southeast	
11	Wall footing 005-(right) disturbed deposits-(left), looking ENE	
12	Wall footing 005 (centre);disturbed deposits-(far right & left), looking southeast	
13	Northern arm of footing trench, looking southwest	
14	Disturbed deposits-(right), looking north	
15	Disturbed deposits-(right), looking north	

Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	Watching Brief: 10 High Street, Stoke Goldington	OASIS reference:	Archaeol2-160115
Short Description:	<i>In September 2013 a watching brief was carried out at 10 High Street, Stoke Goldington, Milton Keynes, during the excavation of a footing trench, for a single storey extension. A post medieval wall and adjacent disturbed deposits were revealed in a small area at the southeast corner of the footings trench. No other archaeological features were observed during the watching brief.</i>		
Project Type:	Watching Brief		
Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	None	Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	None
Current land use:	Domestic house and rear garden	Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	No
Monument type:	Wall footing	Monument period:	Post-medieval
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	4 sherds of post-medieval red earthen ware pottery (not retained)		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Buckinghamshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	SP 8381 4862
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	10 High Street, Stoke Goldington, Newport Pagnell, MK16 8NR		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	46.5 sq. m	Height OD: (metres)	c.65m
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	n/a	Project design originator:	ASC Ltd
Project Manager:	David Fell	Director/Supervisor:	Martin Cuthbert
Sponsor / funding body:	Ms Stacey Rawlings		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	17-09-13	End date:	17-09-13
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Buckinghamshire County Museum	None	
Paper:		Site records, report, photographs	
Digital:		CD with all digital files	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Watching Brief: 10 High Street, Stoke Goldington, Milton Keynes		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1637/SGH		
Author(s):	Martin Cuthbert BA (Hons) AlFA		
Page nos	20	Date:	2 nd October 2013