

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION:
POUND COTTAGE
106 HIGH STREET,
LONG CRENDON,
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

on behalf of K. Pringle Esq



Jonathan R. Hunn BA, PhD, MIFA

January 2005

ASC: 634/LCH/02

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Site Data

<i>ASC site code:</i>	LCH	<i>Project no:</i>	634
<i>County:</i>	Buckinghamshire		
<i>District:</i>	Aylesbury Vale		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Long Crendon		
<i>Parish:</i>	Long Crendon CP		
<i>NGR:</i>	SP6981 0902		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c.500 sq m		
<i>Present land use:</i>	Residential		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Single storey extension		
<i>Extent of development:</i>	c.10m x c.15m		
<i>Planning application ref:</i>	04/2414		
<i>Client:</i>	Mr Ken Pringle Pound Cottage 106 High Street Long Crendon Buckinghamshire HP18 9AN		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Mr Ken Pringle		
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Internal Quality Check

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<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	

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

Summary

In mid January 2005 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken within the grounds of 106 High Street, Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire to determine whether there were any significant deposits which would be effected by a proposed addition to the existing dwelling. Two trenches were excavated; one by machine and one by hand. These revealed late post-medieval activity in the form of a post-hole and linear feature. Finds included red earthenware, glass, iron and a range of china ware consistent with a 19th century date.

1 Introduction

1.1 During January 2005 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an evaluation on a site at 106 High Street, Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire (NGR SP6981 0902: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Ken Pringle, and was carried out according to a brief (issued on 12/10/04) prepared by David Radford of the County Archaeological Service (BCAS), and a written scheme of investigation prepared by ASC (634LCH/01).

1.2 *Reason for Work*

The work is a ‘pre-determination’ project relating to planning application 04/2414 which concerns a substantial extension to the existing footprint of the building. The work is required as the development lies within the historic core of Long Crendon and therefore there is a potential for archaeological deposits to be present on the site. In accordance with PPG16 (policy guidance for local authorities) the work was undertaken to establish whether such deposits existed and, if so, to help inform the curatorial authority as to what methods could be adopted to manage the surviving archaeological resource.

1.3 *Setting*

1.3.1 The site is located at Church End on the north eastern edge of the village of Long Crendon c.3km northwest of Thame at NGR SP 6981 0902. The site comprises a roughly triangular plot consisting of the house and gardens of 106 High Street and occupies an area of c.500 sq m. The site is bounded by Church Green to the southwest, the High Street to the northwest and a cul-de-sac to the northeast. The gardens of Cop Close house form the southeast boundary of the site. Access is gained from Church Green via the High Street.

1.3.2 The site occupies level ground on a southeast-facing spur at c.104m AOD, overlooking the valley of the river Thame which flows in a southwesterly direction c.1km to the southeast. Soils in the area of the site are assigned to the Aberford association, described as ‘shallow, locally brashy, well drained calcareous fine loamy soils over limestone. Some deeper calcareous soils in colluvium’. The underlying solid geology is limestone (Soil Survey 1983, 512e). According to the British Geological Survey the drift geology of the site is river terrace formation overlying the Portland Formation consisting of sands and limestones (BGS 1994).

1.3.3 Vehicular access is gained from the north eastern side of the site while there is pedestrian access through a small gate on the western side of the property.

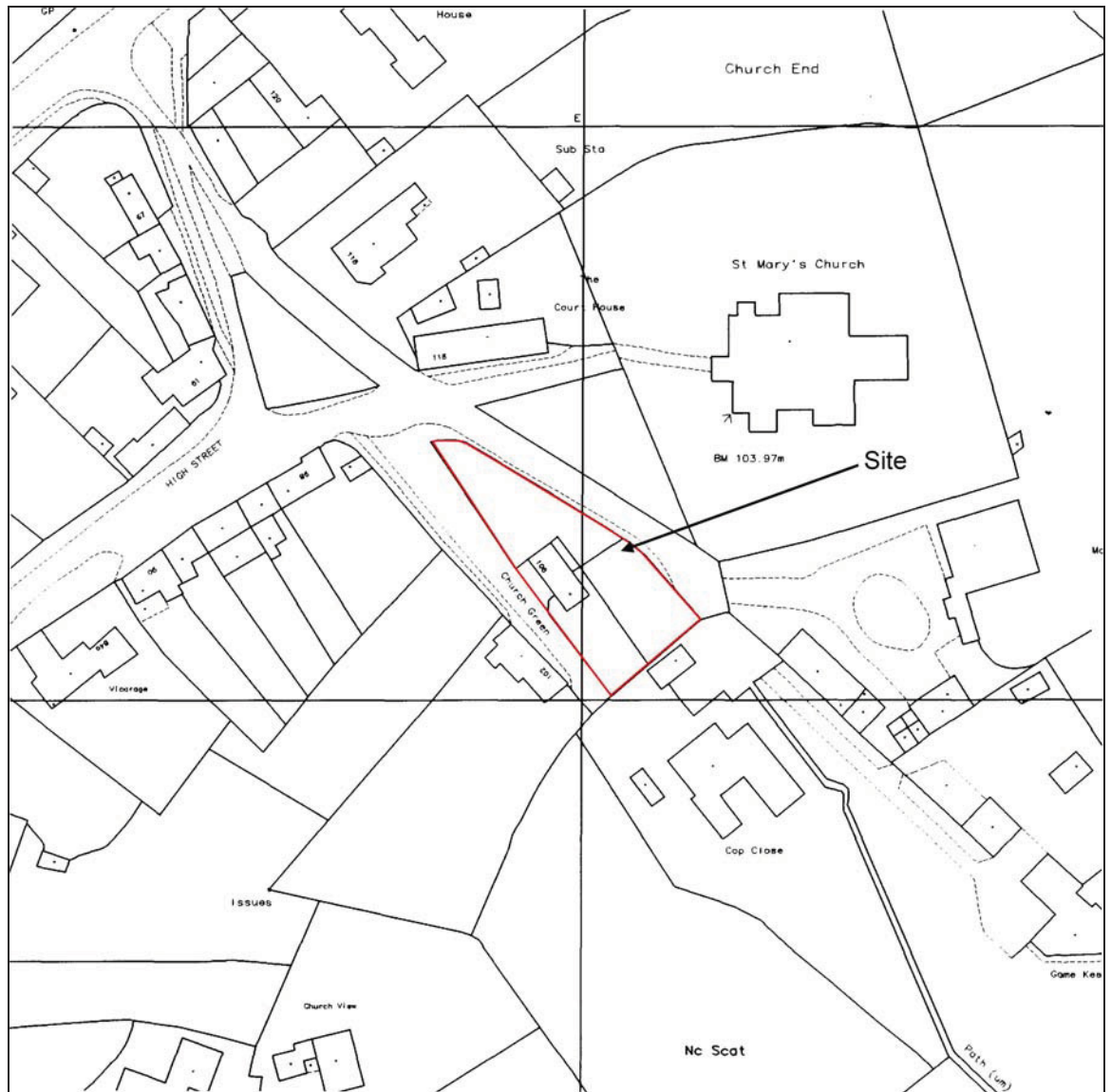


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

2 Aims & Methods

2.1 *Aims*

As described in the brief, the aims of the evaluation were:

- To obtain information on the extent and character of any archaeological remains that may be present
- To obtain information on the state of preservation and relative quality of any archaeological remains present
- To establish whether late Saxon, Medieval or post-Medieval occupation or boundary features are present and, if so, their likely relationship to the village plan.

2.2 *Methods*

The work was carried out according to the brief , which required:

Trial trenching 10m of the site, subject to constraints. Due to site constraints two trenches were excavated: Trench 1 (5m x 1.5m) by machine and Trench 2 (4m x 1m) by hand ; the trench locations are shown on Figure 3.

2.3 *Standards*

The work conforms to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

3 Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 Prehistoric (before 600BC)

There is no known evidence for the immediate vicinity of Long Crendon.

3.2 Iron Age and Roman (600BC-AD 450)

Iron Age and Roman remains are present to the north and east of the 12th century parish church. These remains comprised hearths, pits, ditches (CAS5404) and both cremations and inhumations, including a sarcophagus (CAS564), found during the construction of a new water main between 1978 and 1984.

3.3 Saxon (c.450-1066)

The name of the village is derived from 'Creodan-dun' or 'Creoda's hill' (Mawer & Stenton 1925, 122). According to the English Place Name Society, 'It was borne by a son of Cerdic the first king of the West Saxons, who is ignored by the annals which form the basis of the OE Chronicle, but appears in the most trustworthy texts of the West Saxon royal genealogy as the father of King Cynric, and thus the ancestor of the later West Saxon king' (*ibid.*). Despite the undoubted Saxon origins the village has no archaeological sites or artefacts recorded for this period. In 1066 it was in the possession of Seric the son of Aelfeva (Morris 1978, section 14.5). At the time of the Domesday Survey (1086) it was assessed at 20 hides and valued at £20 which was a 25% increase from 1066 (£15). It had a taxable population of 92 comprising 52 villagers, 10 smallholders and 10 slaves (*ibid.*). There was land for 25 ploughs, meadow for 10 ploughs and woodland for 100 swine; in addition there was a park for woodland beasts and a mill worth 18 shillings (*ibid.*).

3.4 Medieval (1066-1500)

Long Crendon village lies within a sizeable parish of some 1360ha in the ancient hundred of Ashendon (Page 1927). The village is notable for the survival of a large number of medieval buildings of cruck construction (20 in total), a number not equalled in the lowland zone of England (Pevsner & Williamson 2000).

The village layout is a familiar one in the region, consisting of 'ends' of cottages off a long High Street and along the main Bicester to Thame road. The village was once a centre of the medieval wool trade.

As noted above a number of medieval timber-framed buildings survive in the village and around the evaluation site. Perhaps the most imposing is The Courthouse (CAS158), a substantial two storey church house, originally a venue for the annual manor court (Pevsner & Williamson 2000). Also of note is The Cottage at 102 High Street (CAS10907) a late medieval single storey cottage that was originally two dwellings, and is directly opposite the evaluation site.

In addition to these upstanding medieval remains, work at 'Game Keep' (100m southeast of the site) in 1975 revealed a wall, 14th to 15th century pottery and some ironworking debris (CAS209). A possible motte is also noted on the same site.

3.5 Post-Medieval (1500-1900)

The village was noted for its needle-making industry from the 16th to 19th centuries. (Pevsner & Williamson 2000).

The evaluation site itself is occupied by a Grade II listed two storey 18th century cottage which was originally two dwellings (CAS10908). The earliest map of Long Crendon dates to 1593 and belongs to All Souls College (BRO: Mar/1/8-11.T). The area of Pound cottage (106, High Street) is not shown though the church is shown in elevation together with some adjacent properties. The present cottage is first shown on a map of 1827 and was reproduced by the Long Crendon Preservation Society (Donald 1983). The present dwelling is of 18th century date and was most probably built on what was originally a larger Church Green.

4 Results

- 4.1 Two trenches were dug, one by hand (T2) the other mechanically (T1). Each will be described and their significance discussed in Section 5. The datum figure (TBM) was taken from the south west base of the church as the original bench mark (103.97m) was no longer visible

3.2 Trench 1

Grid Ref (centre): SP 69090-09130

Datum: Eastern end of the surface of the trench was 2.3m below the base of the church.

Dimensions: 5m x 1.5m

Depth: between 0.3 and 0.6m deep

Orientation: WNW-ESE

Location: The trench lay at 90° to the stone wall that divides the upper terrace from the lower terrace; it was 1.2m east of the wall.

Description: The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.6m for the first 2m and remainder at a depth of just over 0.3m. There was a layer of darker soil about 0.25m thick which at a depth of 0.3m revealed a pale brown sandy clay (MUN 10 YR 6/3) containing occasional fragments for limestone. At a depth of 0.6m there was a mix of light yellowish brown sandy clay (Mun 2.5Y 6/3) with a light olive brown (Mun 2.5Y 5/6) which was derived from the decomposed fragments of local stone.

Photographic no 's: 1 and 2

Finds: None

Trench 2

Grid Ref (centre): SP 69050-09090

Datum: At the north end the surface of the trench was 4.82m below the base of the church (TBM) and the lowest point of the trench, in the centre was 5.71m below TBM.

Dimensions: 4m x 1m

Depth: 0.32m at south end and 0.95m in the centre.

Orientation: N-S (approx).

Location: The trench lay 2.8m to the west of the main sub-dividing stone wall

Description: The upper layer [1] consisted of a black, light peaty horizon between 0.3 and 0.4m deep containing a variety of 19th and 20th century pottery and small animal bone. This overlay a pale brown sandy clay (Mun 10YR 6/3) containing much charcoal and red glazed earthenware pottery. It was 0.4m deep though there was no sharp division between it [4] and the upper horizon [1]. It overlay [5] a natural, light yellowish sandy clay (Mun 2.5Y 6/3). Two features were identified. The first was a post-hole some 0.3m in diameter and 0.5m deep (Plate 6). It was filled with a dark grey sandy clay and stones. Within the fill were fragments of china, green bottle glass and iron. The second feature [3] was about 0.5m wide and orientated approximately E-W (Plate 4). It contained a light yellowish sandy clay with stones and had an absence of finds.

Photographic no 's: 3 - 6

Finds: fragments of ceramics dating from the late 18th/19th century to 20th century.

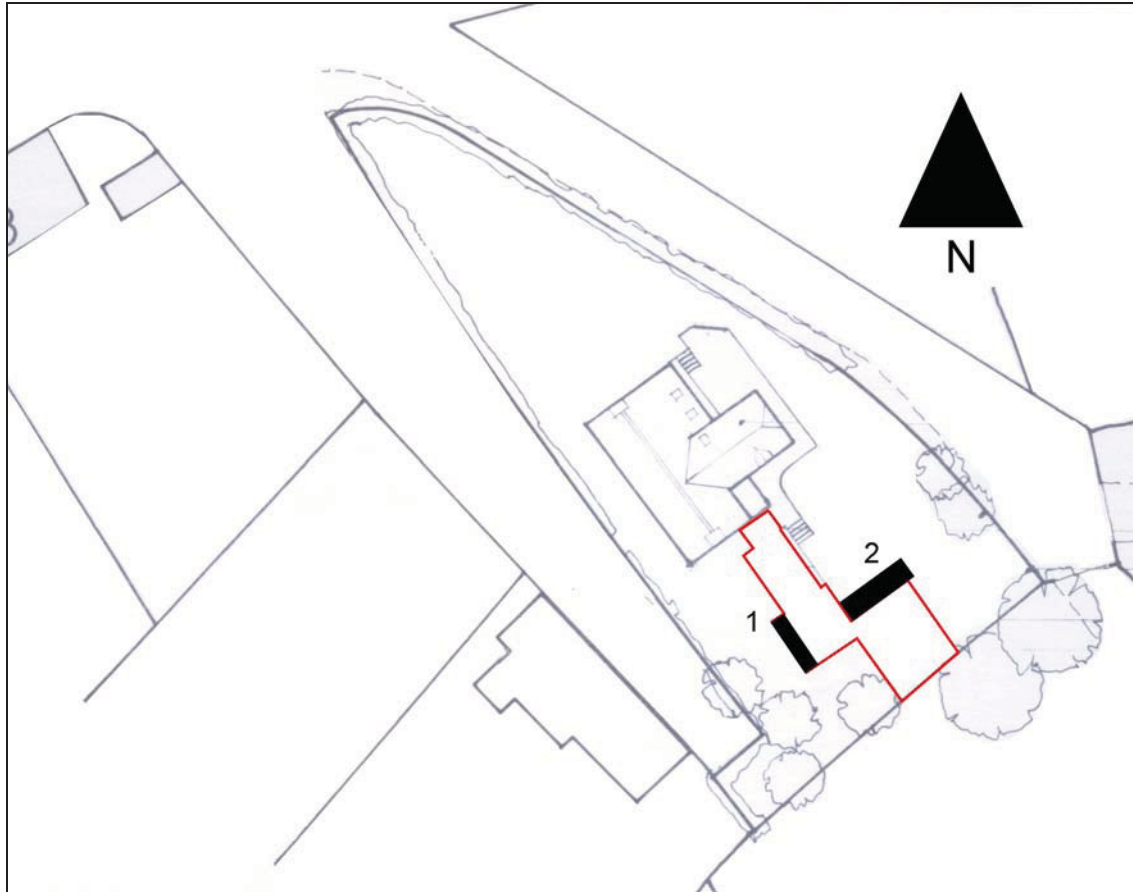


Figure 3: Trench Layout (*scale 1:500*)



Plate 1: General view of trench 1 looking WNW



Plate 2: Detail south section of trench 1



Plate 3: General view of trench 2 looking south



Plate 4: Detail of feature 3



Plate 5: Detail of section of T2 view east



Plate 6: Post-hole feature 2

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The evidence of the evaluation trenches confirms that the site has been severely truncated at some time in the past. Trench 1 demonstrated that the ground was all natural and devoid of archaeological deposits. Trench 2 lay 4m to the west and its upper surface was 1.64m below the upper ground level. The two upper horizons [1 and 4] in Trench 2 were quite different from those found in trench 1 and were almost certainly formed by human agency. The natural horizon [5] was a stoneless, light yellowish brown, sandy clay. It would seem that the lower area of the site was created by terracing into the natural slope of the terrain. This was then subsequently cultivated as a kitchen garden from the 19th century onwards.
- 5.2 The topographical and cartographic evidence suggests that the area to the south of the Court House was originally a larger open area. This is reflected in the name 'Church Green'. This would make sense in that the village 'pound' was once situated there in close proximity to the church and court house. It is probable that the present dwelling represents the infilling of the 'village waste' in the 18th century. When the remainder of the garden area was finally enclosed is not certain but this may be contemporary with the building of the dwellings which are now known as 106 High Street.

6. Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to Ken Pringle for commissioning this project and to David Radford for his advice. Thanks are also due to the architect Bryan Davies for the initial discussion of the project and to Bob Zeepvat for editing the report.

7. Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans
5. List of photographs/slides
6. Colour slides
7. B/W prints & negatives
8. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum, accession number 2005.6.

8. Bibliography

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- Reed M. 1979: *The Making of the English Landscape. The Buckinghamshire Landscape*. Hodder & Stoughton (London).
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpندن).

Appendix 1: Trench Record Sheets



A.S.C. LTD

TRENCH RECORD SHEET

Project: 106 High St, Long Crendon		Project code: LCH 634	
Trench number: 1		Co-ordinates: SP 69090-09130	
Length (m): 5m		Width (m): 1.5m	
Depth (m): 0.31 to 0.60m		Area (sq. m.): 7.5m	
Orientation: WNW - ESE			
Plan Nos		Photographic Nos	
Contexts None			
Description: About 0.25 of dark organic soil and then a grey, stony layer. At a depth of 0.6m the grey had become more yellow and stony. In both cases the ground is wet. No artefacts noted.			
Sketch Plan/Section: 			
Recorded By: SNA		Date: 17/1/05	

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TRENCH RECORD SHEET

Project: 106 High St, Long Crendon		Project code: LCH 634	
Trench number: 2		Co-ordinates: SP 69050 - 09090	
Length (m): 4m		Width (m): 1m	
Depth (m): 0.32 - 0.95m		Area (sq. m.): 4sqm.	
Orientation: N-S			
Plan Nos		Photographic Nos	
Contexts			
<p>Description:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Black garden type compact top soil ca 20°C pottery 2 pit - lvs 0.3m x 0.5m diam. cont. dark grey soil + stones, chime, glass, green bottle glass. 3 light pale brown sandy clay with one stone - no finds. cuts 4 4 pale brown (10yr 6/3) sandy clay with chert + one 48 red glazed pottery vessel. 5 Natural sandy clay (2.5y 6/3) light yellowish brown. 			
<p>Sketch Plan/Section:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1:50</p>			
Recorded By: JWA		Date: 17/1/05	

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