



## Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:  
SPORTS FIELD  
STATION ROAD  
LONG MARSTON  
HERTFORDSHIRE**

*on behalf of Tring Rural Parish Council*



**Calli Rouse BA PIFA**

**September 2006**

**ASC: 751/LMS/2**

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## Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	LMS	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	751
<i>County:</i>	Hertfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Long Marston		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Tring Rural		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 8970 1580		
<i>Present use:</i>	Playing field		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Works to level playing field		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	-		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Hertfordshire County Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	2 <sup>nd</sup> August 2006 – 21 <sup>st</sup> August 2006		
<i>Client:</i>	Tring Rural Parish Council C/o Dawn Slade Miswell Farm Icknield Way Tring Herts HP23 4JT		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Dawn Slade		
<i>Telephone</i>	01442 824138	<i>Fax:</i>	-

## Internal Quality Check

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

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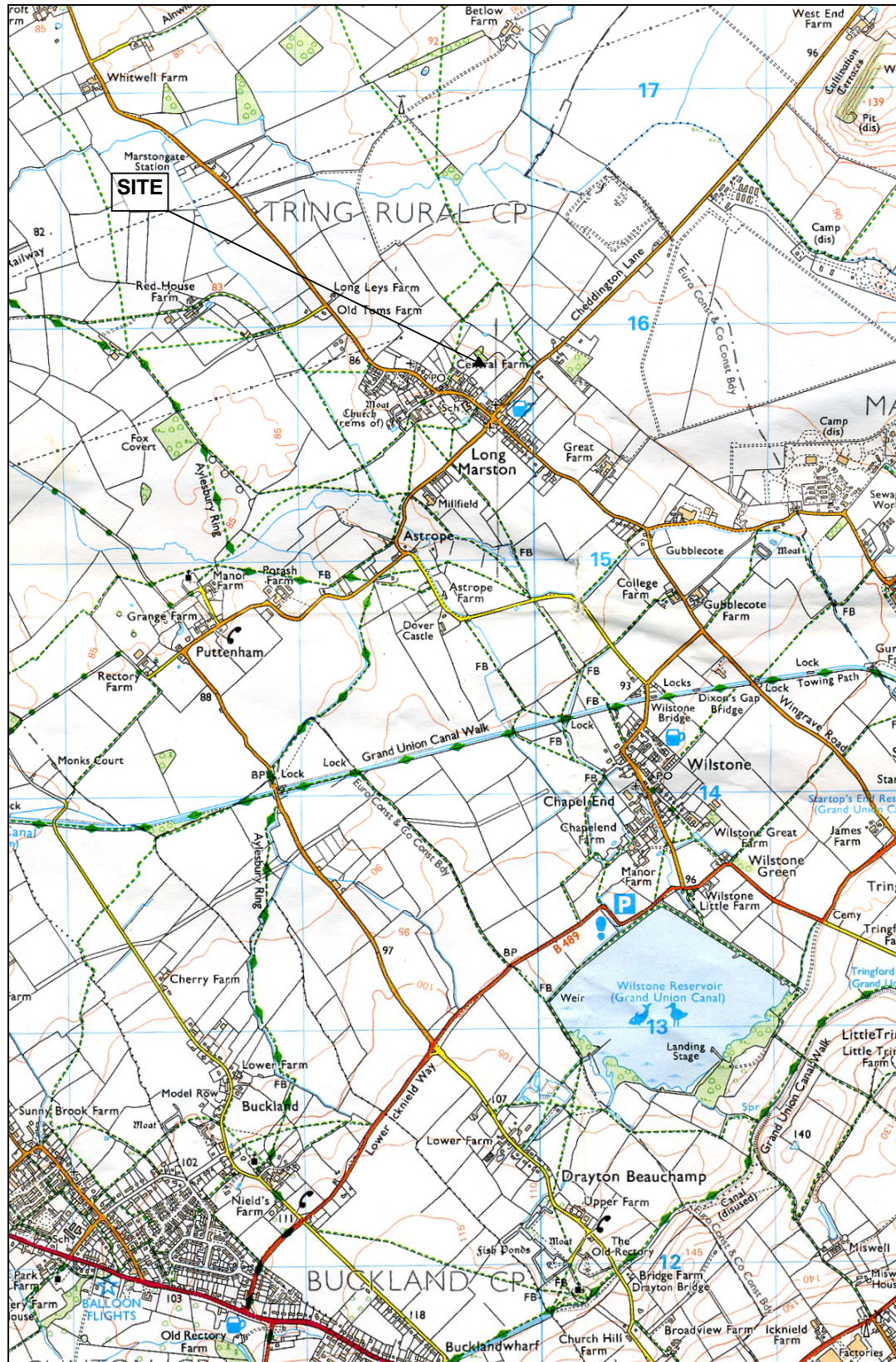


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

## Summary

*During August 2006, an earthwork survey and archaeological watching brief were carried out at the Sports Field, Station Road, Long Marston, Hertfordshire, in advance of and during works to level the playing field. The survey recorded the presence of seven degraded ridges and their associated furrows, on a north east/south west alignment within the boundaries of the site. The watching brief noted the presence of post medieval debris, such as tile fragments, oyster shells, slate and willow pattern pottery, within the subsoil and spoil heaps. This was taken as evidence that the site had been ploughed up until the 19<sup>th</sup> century, possibly until the time of the Inclosure of Long Marston. No other significant archaeological finds or features were observed.*

## 1 Introduction

1.1 In August 2006 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC)* carried out a watching brief at Sports Field, Station Road, Long Marston, Hertfordshire (NGR SP 8970 1580: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Tring Rural Parish Council, and was carried out according to a project design prepared by ASC (Rouse 2006), and a brief (Batt 2005) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *Hertfordshire County Council*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), *Hertfordshire County Council County Archaeology Office*. The relevant planning application reference is unknown.

### 1.2 Planning Background

This watching brief has been required as a planning condition under the terms of *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16)*, in response to proposals for works to level playing field.

### 1.3 Location

The site comprises a field, c.40m x c.85m, which is located on the north eastern side of Long Marston (Fig. 1) at NGR SP 8970 1580.

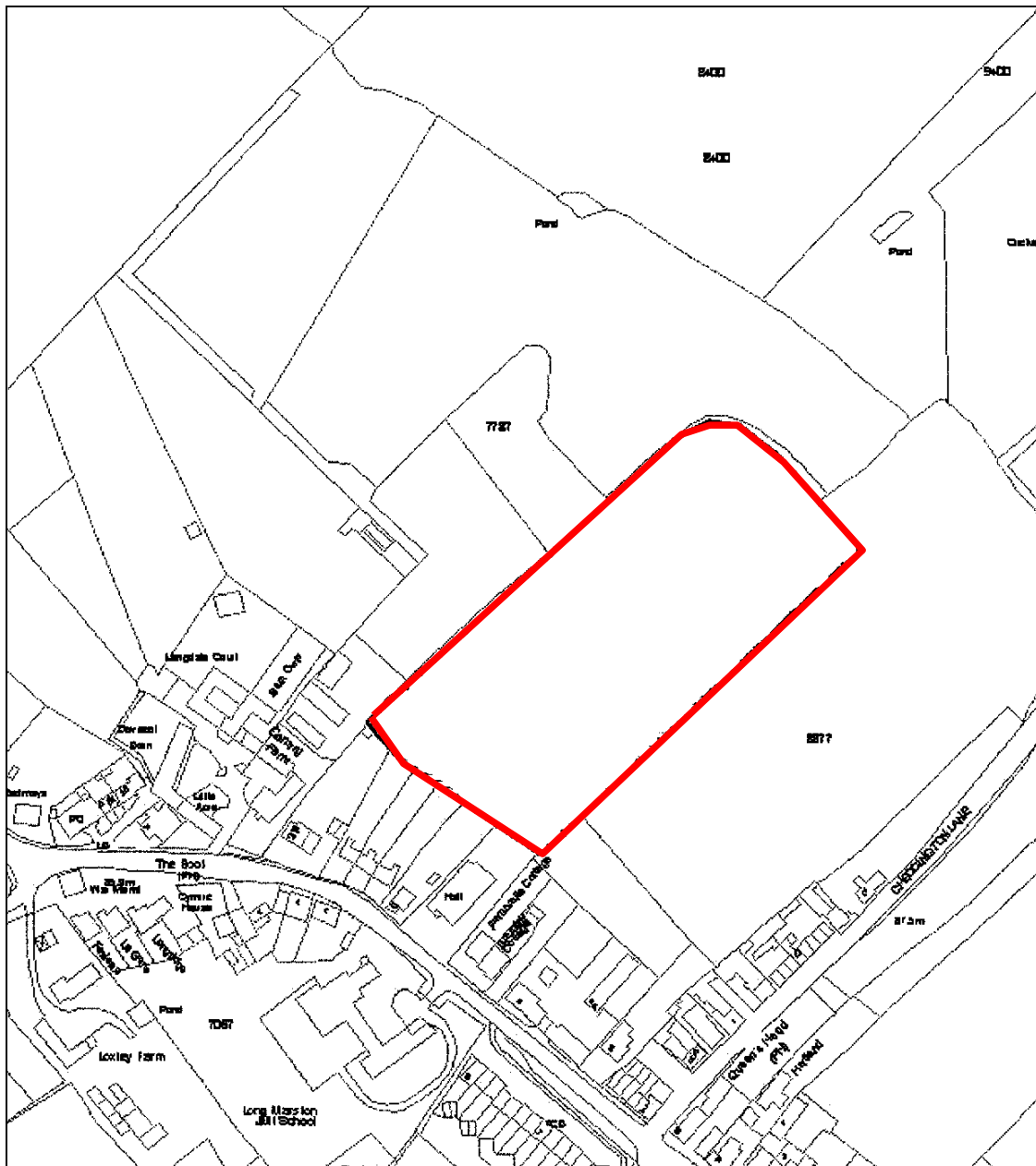
### 1.4 Description

The site consists of a playing field with no buildings within its boundaries.

### 1.5 Geology & Topography

The soils of the area are of the *Evesham 2 Association*, which comprise *slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils. Some slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged non-calcareous clayey and fine loamy or fine silty overt clayey soils. Landslips and associated irregular terrain locally.* The underlying geology is characterised as Jurassic and Cretaceous clay. The site lies at an elevation of c.90 AOD.





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

## **2 Aims & Methods**

### **2.1 Aims**

As described in the brief (Section 1), the aims of the watching brief were:

- To undertake a measured survey of all earthworks on the site
- To ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the proposed groundworks likely to affect the archaeological remains, i.e. soil stripping, levelling and cutting drainage channels
- 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 materials recovered from the site.

### **2.2 Standards**

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), to the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

### **2.3 Methods**

The work was carried out according to the brief (Section 3), which required:

- A measured survey of all 'archaeological' earthworks
- Soil and overburden stripping under archaeological supervision
- Inspection of sub-soil deposits for archaeological features
- The rapid investigation and recording of any archaeological features/deposits
- Sub-soil stripping under archaeological supervision
- Examination of any drainage trenches and the subsequent recording of any exposed archaeological deposits
- Rapid examination of spoil heaps for archaeological material
- A programme of post-fieldwork analysis, archiving and publication.

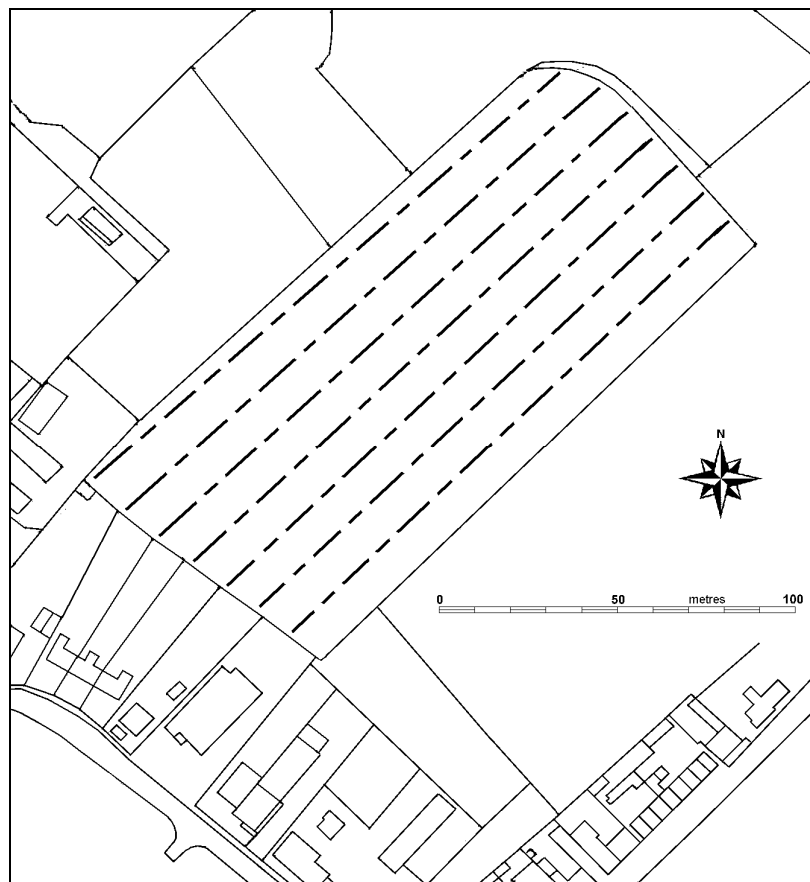
### **3 Archaeological & Historical Background**

- 3.1 The origins of Long Marston, from *mersc tun* (marsh farm), (Gover *et al* 1970, 52) are difficult to discern, since it formed part of the manor of Tring, and was classified as a 'hamlet of Tring' along with Wilstone, Tiscot, Aldwick, Gubblecote, Miswell and Bledlow (Page 1908, 287-8).
- 3.2 The site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance (No. 12) which covers the historic core of Long Marston. *c.*50m to the south lies a medieval moated site which was listed by the Royal Commission (RCHM 1910) but was not described. Adjacent to the moat lies the now partly demolished church of All Saints (Page 1908, 291), which was the predecessor of the present day church in Station Road. There are several instances of ridge and furrow in the fields surrounding the site, and it is thought that the 'lumps and bumps' on the site itself are the remains of degraded ridge and furrow.
- 3.3 The manor of Long Marston was held of the honour of Berkhamsted and was valued at half a knight's fee (VCH II, 287). There is a moated site which lies adjacent to the old church. The present church was built in 1882 to serve the new parish of Long Marston which was created in 1867.
- 3.4 The original lay out of 'Marston' was almost certainly linear, hence the prefix 'Long' which stretched out towards Tring. It was probably a typical small scale agrarian settlement which served the needs of the local manor and its demesne lands. We do not know when this area was first settled in the medieval period as little artefactual evidence has been recovered.



## 4 Results

- 4.1 Five visits were made to the site between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> August 2006. During these visits, the ridge and furrow on the playing field was surveyed, and a watching brief was then carried out during the levelling of the ridge and furrow.
- 4.2 The survey recorded seven ridges and associated furrows within the playing field, on a north east/south west alignment (Fig. 3). These became progressively more degraded towards the centre of the field.
- 4.3 The playing field was stripped to a depth of c.0.2m across the site. The subsoil was revealed to be a stoneless gault clay. Fragments of oyster shell, tile, slate and willow pattern pottery were observed in both the subsoil and the spoil heaps. No archaeologically significant finds or features were observed.



**Figure 3:** Survey drawing (scale 1:2000)



Plate 1: General view north east, pre-excavation



Plate 2: Working shot



Plate 3: Test Pit



Plate 4: Topsoil stripped, view south east

## **5. Conclusions**

- 5.1 During the watching brief it was noted that a relatively large amount of post medieval debris was present. This suggests that ploughing may have continued in the field up until the Inclosure of Long Marston in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A prolonged period of ploughing would also explain the degradation of the ridge and furrow within the field boundaries.
- 5.2 No significant archaeological features were observed during the watching brief. This suggests that there was no significant human activity on the site until the introduction of ridge and furrow in the medieval period.

## **6. Acknowledgements**

The writer is grateful to *Tring Rural Parish Council* for commissioning the earthwork survey and watching brief, and to Mrs Kate Batt of the *Hertfordshire County Council Archaeology Office* for acting as curatorial monitor.

The fieldwork was undertaken for ASC Ltd by Jonathan Hunn BA PhD MIFA. This report was prepared by Calli Rouse BA PIFA 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. Site Monitoring Sheets
5. Site record drawings
6. List of photographs/slides
7. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Dacorum Heritage Trust.

## 8. References

### *Standards & Specifications*

ALGAO 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14.

Batt, K 2005 *Design Brief for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at Long Marston Recreation Ground* (Hertfordshire County Council County Archaeology Office)

EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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)*.

Rouse, C 2006 *Project Design for Watching Brief at the Sports Field, Station Road, Long Marston, Hertfordshire* ASC/751/LMS/1

### *Secondary Sources*

Gover, J.E.B., Mawer, A. and Stenton, F. M. 1970: *The Place-Names of Hertfordshire*. English Place-Name Society vol XV. Cambridge University Press (Cambridge).

Page, W. 1908: *The Victoria County History of Hertfordshire*. Dawsons of Pall Mall. (Folkestone & London).

Page, W. 1912: *The Victoria County History of the County of Hertfordshire*. Dawsons of Pall Mall. Folkestone & London.

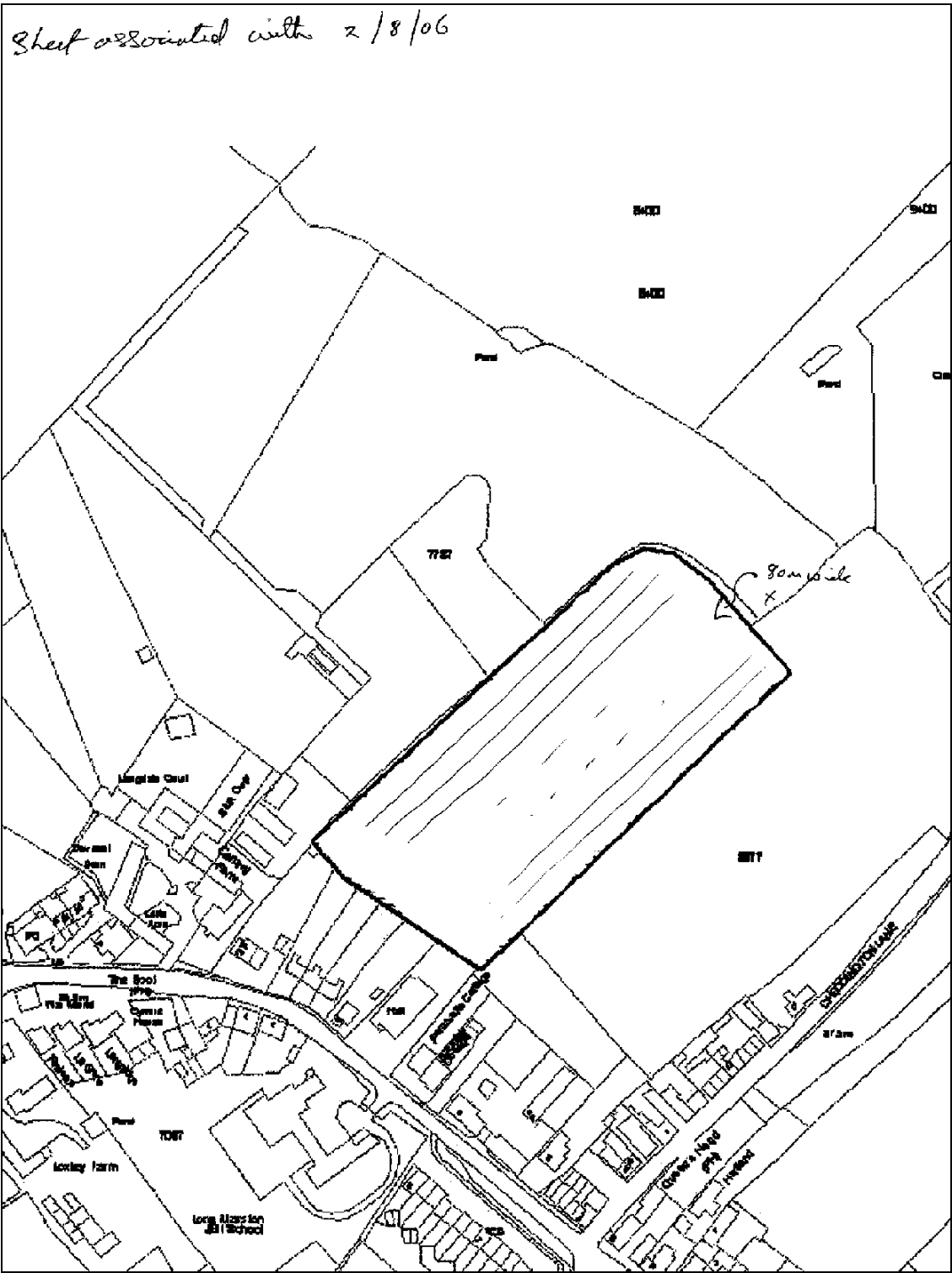
RCHM 1910: *Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England): an Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Hertfordshire*. HMSO. (London).

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

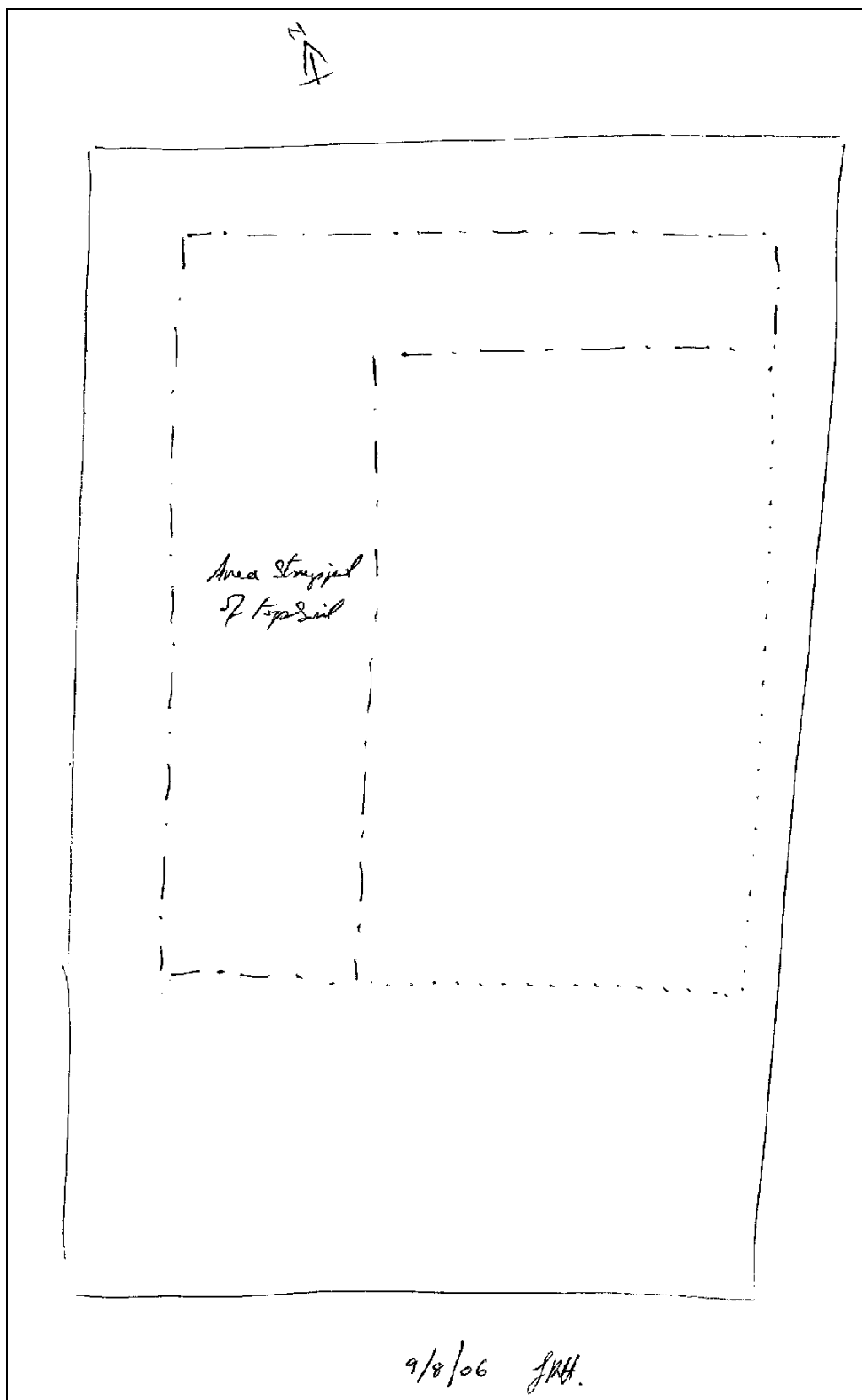
## Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD			
Project: Sports Field, Station Rd Long Marston		Project No/Code: 751 LMS		Sheet: 1 of 5	
Client/Developer: Tring Rural Parish Council		Date of visit: 2/8/03			
Contact: Dawn Slade		Phone: 01442-824138			
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 5pm	Finish: 7pm			
Completed by: JRM					
Development Type:					
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines
					Other (specify): Irrigation
Site & weather conditions: Dry, windy & dull.					
Observations:					
<p>The ridge and furrow runs north-south, NE-SW and is exactly parallel to the enclosure ditch/hedge. A descriptive transect is as follows (from the NW side):</p> <p>0m - 5m furrow; 11.5m crest of ridge; 17m bottom edge of ridge; 22m furrow; 32m to v. diagonal edge of ridge; 32m - 37m first slope → 3rd ridge to 44m then at c. 49m edge of 4th ridge (?). 55m edge of ridge; ditch 58m. 62m; 66m to 72m (ridge) at 79m edge of enclosure ditch.</p> <p>The furrow to the NE has a v. fine R &amp; F sowing which is a continuation. At the northern end of the furrow there is a v. fine suggestion of a hedged ditch this is probably due to poor landscaping as it doesn't appear in the adjoining field. The length of the field from edge of ditch to north is 178m approx. (transect distance is 82m from south). The undulation rarely exceed 0.2m though possibly slightly more at southern end.</p> <p>The contour of the football pitch probably is more than 0.05m.</p>					
Comments:					
<p>The enclosure hedges consist mostly of Blackthorn, hawthorn &amp; Ash, Poplar &amp; Field Maple. Some are also the very overgrown on western side rising to 5-6m. On eastern side the hedge is trained but has spread horizontally.</p>					
See attached Sketch Sheet					





A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD			
Project: <i>Sports Field, Station Rd</i>		Project No/Code: <i>751 LMS</i>		Sheet: <i>2 of 5</i>	
<i>Long Marston</i>		Date of visit: <i>9/8/06</i>			
Client/Developer: <i>Tring Rural Parish Council</i>					
Contact: <i>Dawn Slade</i>				Phone: <i>01442-824138</i>	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: <i>4.15</i>		Finish: <i>6.30pm</i>	
Completed by: <i>SRH</i>					
Development Type:					
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Quarrying	Pipelines
Other (specify):					
Site & weather conditions: <i>Dry and sunny, temperate</i>					
Observations: <i>About 1/3 of the site, mostly on the western side has been stripped of its topsoil and a 20m strip on the north side. The depth is fairly shallow not more than 0.2m. This area was walked over and examined for artefacts. Fairly sparse and containing few surprises. The sub-soil is a stoneware gravel. Fragments of tile, oyster shells, one slate and various pattern pottery. The artefacts look like what suggests, though does not prove that activity may have continued up until Iron Age at the beginning of the 19th century.</i>					
Comments: <i>Many late post-medieval finds.</i>					



A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD			
Project: <i>Sports Field, Station Rd Long Marston</i>		Project No/Code: <i>751 1 LMS</i>		Sheet: <i>3 of 5</i>	
Client/Developer: <i>Tring Rural Parish Council</i>		Date of visit:			
Contact: <i>Down Slade</i>		Phone: <i>01442-824138</i>			
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: <i>4.40pm</i>	Finish: <i>6.35pm.</i>			
Completed by: <i>JRH</i>					
Development Type:					
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Quarrying	Pipelines
Other (specify):					
Site & weather conditions: <i>Dry, cool &amp; cloudy</i>					
Observations: <i>Only the area on the west side of the site has been substantially altered since yesterday. The east side has yet to be levelled.</i>					
Comments: <i>Work likely to continue for two more weeks.</i>					

A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD			
Project: SPORTS FIELD, STATION ROAD		Project No/Code: 751 / LMS		Sheet: 4 of 5	
LONG MARSTON		Date of visit: 16/03/06			
Client/Developer: TRING RURAL PARISH COUNCIL					
Contact:			Phone:		
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 11:00		Finish: 13:00		
Completed by: D Fell					
Development Type:					
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Quarrying	Pipelines
Other (specify):					
Site & weather conditions: Dull, overcast. No shadow.					
Observations:					
Topsoil stripping almost complete. A couple of 'islands' of topsoil remaining at S. end.					
Subsoil retention taking place - today concentrating at N. end. Soil is being deposited at S. end					
No archaeological features observed in subsoil.					
Spit heaps scanned by eye for artefacts, but apart from obviously modern debris (not retained) no artefacts present.					
Comments:					
One or two further visits required next week					

A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD			
Project: <i>Sports Field, Station Rd</i> <i>Long Marston</i>		Project No/Code: <i>751 1 LMS</i>		Sheet: <i>5</i> of <i>5</i>	
Client/Developer: <i>Tring Rural District Council</i>		Date of visit: <i>21/8/06</i>			
Contact: <i>Dawn Slade</i>		Phone: <i>01442-824138</i>			
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: <i>4.55 pm</i>	Finish: <i>6.45 pm</i>			
Completed by: <i>JRM</i>					
Development Type:					
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Quarrying	Pipelines
Other (specify):					
Site & weather conditions: <i>Day &amp; Sunny, damp &amp; overcast.</i>					
Observations: <i>Walked across the eastern area of the Site which had been half trenched. The main purpose of the visit was to examine the flathead woods and the Spill Range. The most common items were oyster shells and also were found very occasional bit of Stone fragments. One or two pieces of slag pipe stem were noted but otherwise quite devoid of flint artefacts and an absence of Medieval or Roman Shards.</i>					
Comments: <i>No further visits proposed.</i>					

## Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: Sports Field, Station Road, Long Marston, Herts				SITE NO/CODE: 751/LMS
Shot	B&W	Slide	Digital	Subject
1				General view north east, pre-excavation 02/08/06
2				General view north east, pre-excavation 02/08/06
3				General view south east, pre-excavation 02/08/06
4				Topsoil stripping, west south west, 09/08/06
5				Topsoil stripping, west south west, 09/08/06
6				Topsoil stripping, west south west, 09/08/06
7				Topsoil stripping, north west corner, 09/08/06
8				Working shot, 09/08/06
9				Topsoil stripping in south west corner, west north west, 09/08/06
10				Topsoil stripping, east north east, 10/08/06
11				Topsoil stripping, east south east, 10/08/06
12				Topsoil stripping detail, north west, 10/08/06
13				Test pit, 10/08/06
14				General view of site, north east, 16/08/06
15				General view of site, west north west, 16/08/06
16				General view of site, east, 16/08/06
17				General view of site, north north east, 16/08/06
18				General view of site, south, 16/08/06
19				General view of site, north west, 16/08/06
20				General view of site, east south east, 16/08/06
21				Topsoil stripping, north east, 21/08/06
22				Topsoil stripping, south east, 21/08/06
23				Topsoil stripping, east south east, 21/08/06
24				Topsoil stripping, north west, 21/08/06
25				General view after stripping, north north east, 21/08/06



## Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS						
Project Name:	Sports Field, Station Road, Long Marston, Hertfordshire					
Short Description:	<i>During August 2006, an earthwork survey and archaeological watching brief were carried out at the Sports Field, Station Road, Long Marston, Hertfordshire, in advance of and during works to level the playing field. The survey recorded the presence of seven degraded ridges and their associated furrows, on a north east/south west alignment within the boundaries of the site. The watching brief noted the presence of post medieval debris, such as tile fragments, oyster shells, slate and willow pattern pottery, within the subsoil and spoil heaps. This was taken as evidence that the site had been ploughed up until the 19<sup>th</sup> century, possibly until the time of the Inclosure of Long Marston. No other significant archaeological finds or features were observed.</i>					
Project Type: (indicate all that apply)	DBA WB	FW Strip&Rec	Geophys Trenching	Survey Test pits	Bldg Rec Exc	Post-Exc Other
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	Within Area of Archaeological Significance (No.12)		Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)		-	
Current land use:	Playing field		Future work: (yes / no / unknown)		No	
Monument type:	-		Monument period:		-	
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	-					
PROJECT LOCATION						
County:	Hertfordshire		OS reference: (to at least 8 figures)	SP 8970 1580		
District:	Dacorum		Parish:	Tring Rural		
Site address: (with postcode if known)	Sports Field, Station Road, Long Marston, Hertfordshire					
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	-		Height OD: (metres)	c.90		
PROJECT CREATORS						
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd					
Project brief originator:	Kate Batt		Project design originator:	Calli Rouse		
Project Manager:	Jonathan Hunn		Director/Supervisor:	Jonathan Hunn		
Sponsor / funding body:	Tring Rural Parish Council					
PROJECT DATE						
Start date:	02/08/2006		End date:	21/08/2006		
PROJECT ARCHIVES						
	Location (Accession no.)		Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)			
Physical:	Dacorum Heritage Trust		No finds			
Paper:			Brief/Project Design/Report			
Digital:			CD			
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)						
Title:	An Archaeological Watching Brief at the Sports Field, Station Road, Long Marston, Hertfordshire					
Serial title & volume:	ASC/751/LMS/2					
Author(s):	Calli Rouse BA PIFA					
Page nos	22		Date:	24/08/06		

## Appendix 4: SMR Summary Sheet

Site name and address: <b>Sports Field, Station Road, Long Marston, Hertfordshire</b>		
County: Hertfordshire	District: Dacorum	
Village/Town: Long Marston	Parish: Tring Rural	
Planning application reference:		
Client name, address, & tel. no: Tring Rural Parish Council C/o Dawn Slade Miswell Farm Icknield Way Tring Herts HP23 4JT		
Nature of application: Levelling of playing field		
Present land use: Playing field		
Size of application area: n/a	Size of area investigated: n/a	
NGR (to 8 figures): SP 8970 1580	Site code: 751/LMS	
Site director/Organization: Jonathan Hunn / ASC Ltd		
Type of work: Earthwork survey and watching brief		
Date of work:	Start: 02/08/2006	Finish: 21/08/2006
Curating museum: Dacorum Heritage Trust		
Related SMR nos: -	Periods represented: -	
Relevant previous summaries/reports -		
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p>During August 2006, an earthwork survey and archaeological watching brief were carried out at the Sports Field, Station Road, Long Marston, Hertfordshire, in advance of and during works to level the playing field. The survey recorded the presence of seven degraded ridges and their associated furrows, on a north east/south west alignment within the boundaries of the site. The watching brief noted the presence of post medieval debris, such as tile fragments, oyster shells, slate and willow pattern pottery, within the subsoil and spoil heaps. This was taken as evidence that the site had been ploughed up until the 19<sup>th</sup> century, possibly until the time of the Inclosure of Long Marston. No other significant archaeological finds or features were observed.</p>		
Author: Calli Rouse BA PIFA		Date: 24/08/06