

## Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**7A HIGH STREET  
NORTH CRAWLEY  
MILTON KEYNES**

*on behalf of Mr. John Brandon*



Elizabeth Gill BSc PgDip

**February 2006**

**ASC: 763/CHS**

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## Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	CHS	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	763
<i>Event No:</i>	1042	<i>Accession No:</i>	2006.18
<i>County:</i>	Buckinghamshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	North Crawley		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	North Crawley		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP9258 4475		
<i>Present use:</i>	Part of the garden of 7 High Street		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Construction of a new dwelling and access		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	05/00625/FUL		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Milton Keynes Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	1 <sup>st</sup> February-2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2006		
<i>Client:</i>	Mr John Brandon Devon House 7 High Street North Crawley Buckinghamshire MK16 9LH		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Paolo Bollini, Sansome Hall Architects		
<i>Telephone</i>		<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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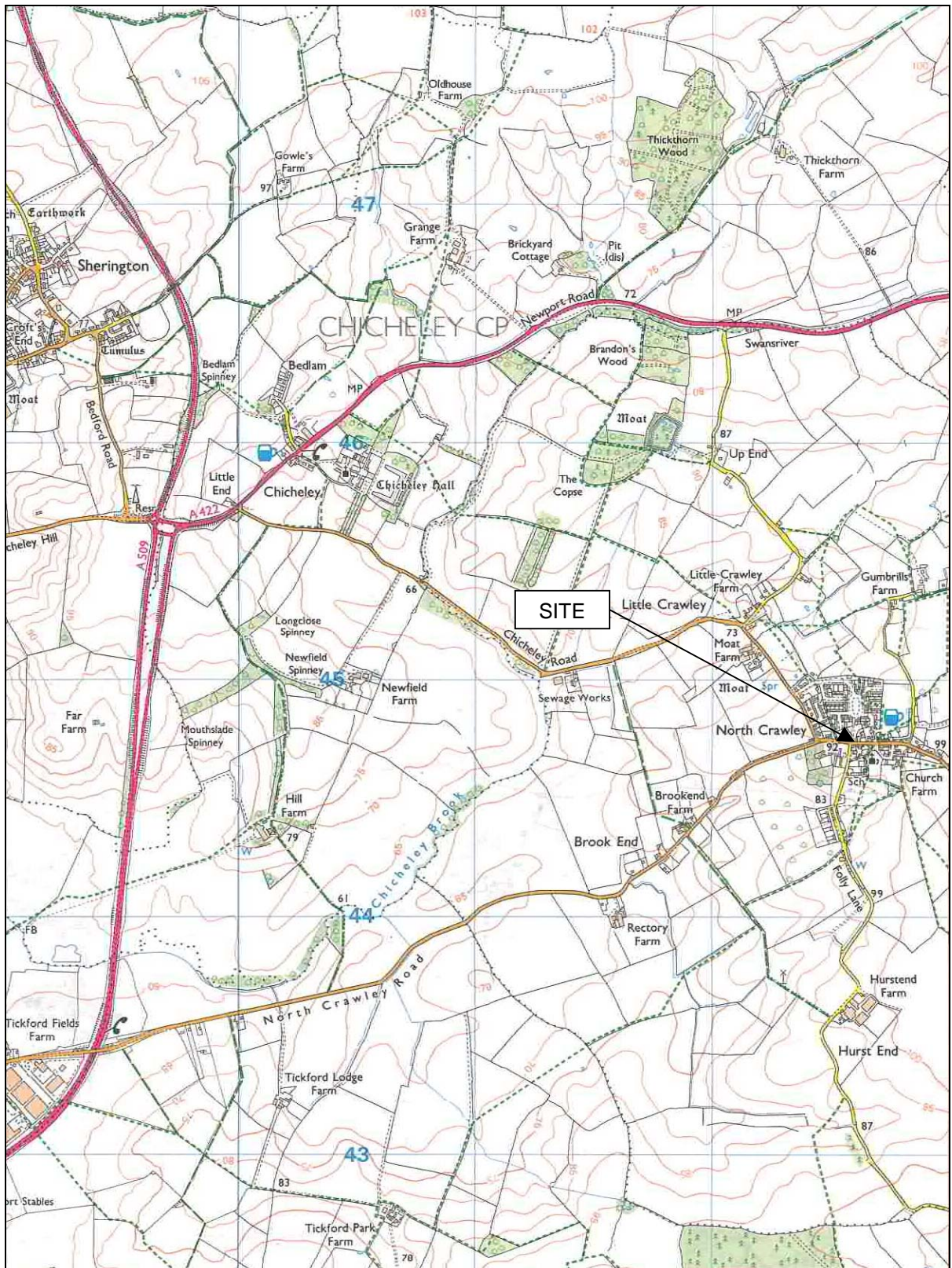
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**Figure 1:** General location (scale 1:25,000)

## Summary

*In February 2006 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd. (ASC) undertook an archaeological evaluation on land at 7a High Street, North Crawley, Milton Keynes. North Crawley is mentioned in the Domesday survey as a small settlement with documented evidence of three large manors and the 1815 Ordnance Survey map of this area shows buildings occupying the area of proposed development, so potential existed for the presence of archaeological deposits. Initially two machine cut trenches were excavated, the first revealing a pit containing a small partially articulated skeleton and a gully containing a single pottery sherd of probable medieval date. The second trench revealed a second gully containing no finds. Two contingency trenches requested by the AA revealed a ditch containing a single sherd of pot, also of probable medieval date.*

## 1 Introduction

1.1 In January 2006 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an evaluation at 7a High Street, North Crawley, Milton Keynes (NGR SP9258 4475: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by John Brandon, and was carried out according to a project design prepared by ASC (763/CHS), and a personal communication on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), Milton Keynes Council, given by their archaeological advisor (AA), Brian Giggins, Archaeological Officer for Milton Keynes Council (MKC). The relevant planning application reference is 05/00625/FUL.

### 1.2 *Planning Background*

This evaluation was required under the terms of *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (PPG16), in response to proposals for the construction of a house..

### 1.3 *Location and Description*

The site is located in North Crawley, Milton Keynes, adjacent to North Crawley High Street. The grid reference is SP9258 4475.

### 1.4 *Geology & Topography*

Soils in the area belong to the Hanslope Association (Soil Survey 1983, 511d), described as slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils, some slowly permeable non-calcareous clay soils with a slight risk of water erosion. The underlying geology is Oxford clay.





Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

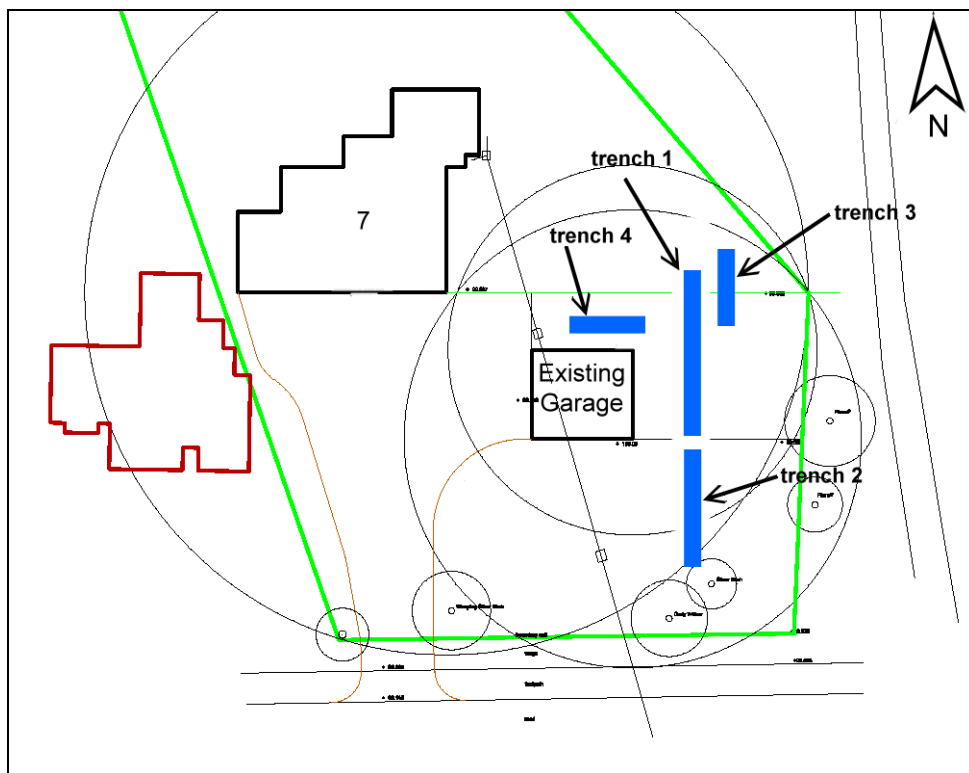


Figure 3: Site plan showing trench locations (scale 1:500)

## 2 Aims & Methods

### 2.1 Aims

As described by the Milton Keynes County Archaeological Officer, the aims of the evaluation were:

- To locate, define and characterise an archaeological remains that exist.
- To undertake an appraisal of the results of the field evaluation leading to the definition of a programme of investigation and recording of archaeological remains that will be unavoidably destroyed by the development.

### 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 requirements of the County Archaeological Officer, which were:

- The excavation by machine of 20m of trench, in alignment with and on the site of, the northern axis of the proposed dwelling.
- Use of the 10m contingency trench, in consultation with the MKC Archaeological Officer.

### 2.4 Constraints

During demolition of the existing garden wall a land drain was uncovered which the client required to be left intact. In order to accommodate this, two trenches were excavated of c.10m length in the proposed location instead of one 20m trench, leaving a c1m wide bund in between to preserve the drain.

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

The parish of North Crawley contains two settlements, North Crawley and Little Crawley, of which Little Crawley is the smaller. North Crawley, which was originally known as Great Crawley, is to the south of Little Crawley.

North Crawley appears in the Domesday Book as a single, relatively small settlement, despite the documented evidence of three large manors or landholdings in the parish. Although the existence of a Minster at North Crawley is suggested, this is presumably related to the parish church as no trace of a separate foundation has been found.

The site of the proposed development is situated along the main street of North Crawley. The 1815 Ordnance Survey map for the area shows buildings, no longer standing, approximately occupying the site (pers. comm.-Brian Giggins). Due to the possible change in width of the High Street through the centuries and the inaccuracies inevitable from using a map of scale 2 inches to 1 mile, it is not possible to ascertain precisely where the buildings were located.



## 4 Results

**4.1** The following section of this report provides a summary of results from the trial trenches. A full, illustrated description of the trenches can be found in Appendix 1 (see also Figure 3 for a trench location plan and Figures 4 and 5 for trench plans and site drawings)

### 4.2 Trench 1

This north-south aligned trench was machine excavated down to the natural geology of mid yellowish brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of chalk lumps, to a maximum depth of *c.*0.4m at the northern end. To the south, the trench was machined to a maximum depth of *c.*0.53m onto an area of mid greyish brown silty loam with frequent inclusions of subrounded cobbles and fragments of brick (104), possibly the remains of a pathway. The dimensions of the trench were *c.*11.10m long by *c.* 1.30m wide. All deposits seen in this trench were subject to a medium to high incidence of root action.

At the northern end of the trench, a small subcircular pit [107] and gully [105] were recorded, with the gully aligned northeast-southwest and terminating approximately halfway across the trench. The half-sectioning of the pit revealed a very shallow 'U' shaped profile filled with mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional inclusions of charcoal fragments (108) and partially articulated bone. The skeleton was recovered from the pit and was subsequently identified as being of small mammalian origin, possibly a cat or dog. A slot was hand excavated through gully [105] revealing a rough 'V' shaped profile filled with mid greyish brown silty clay (106). A sherd of pottery was recovered from this deposit and has been given a probable medieval date (pers.comm. Bob Zeepvat-ASC). The gully was subsequently 100% excavated but no further finds were retrieved.

### 4.3 Trench 2

The trench was machine excavated to an average depth of *c.*0.4m on a north-south alignment and separated from trench 1 by a bund of *c.*1m wide containing a land drain. At the northern end, the trench was excavated to a maximum depth of *c.*0.63m in order to remove the area of loose cobbles and bricks (206) also seen in trench 1 (104) at its southern end. The trench dimensions were *c.*8.10m long by *c.* 1.30m wide.

Archaeological features observed in this trench amounted to a narrow gully [204] curving across the trench from the west facing section to the southern end. A slot dug through this revealed a 'U' shaped profile with gradually sloping sides filled with mid greyish brown silty clay containing occasional fragments of chalk (205). No finds were retrieved from this feature despite being 100% excavated.

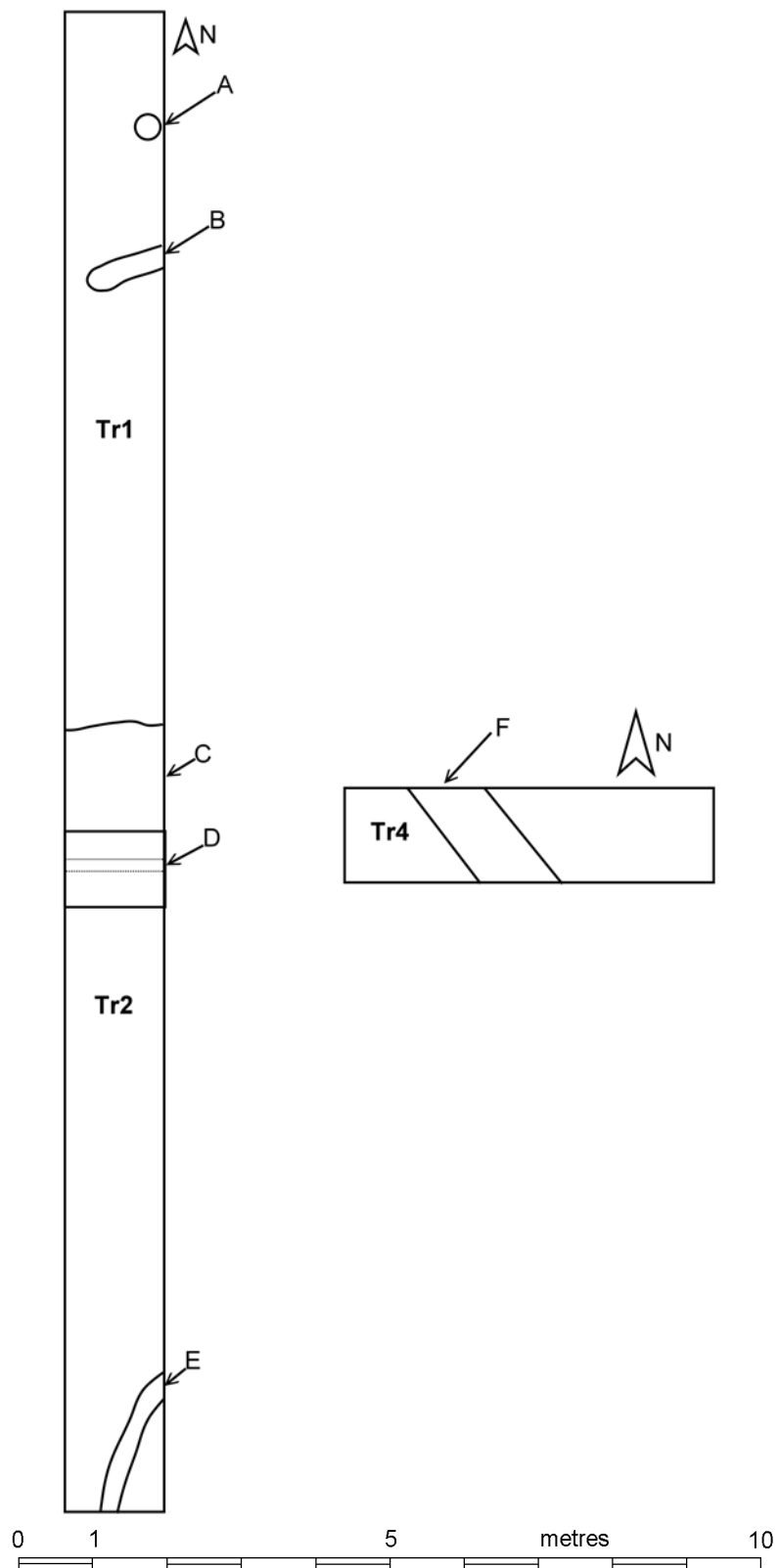
### 4.4 Trench 3

This trench, dug as part of the contingency requirement was machine excavated on a north-south alignment to a maximum depth of *c.*0.3m onto natural yellowish brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of chalk lumps. The trench dimensions were *c.*5m long by *c.*1.30m wide. No archaeological deposits were observed in this trench.

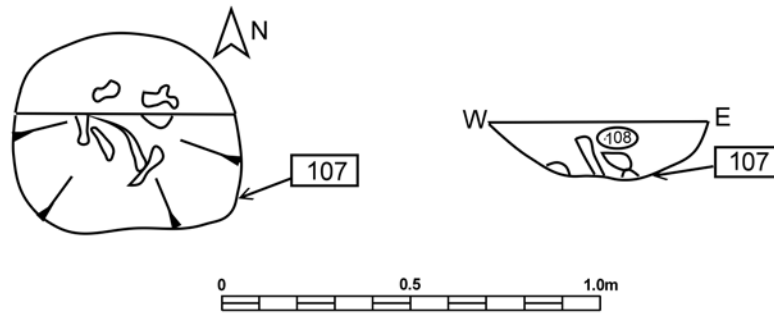
#### 4.5 Trench 4

The trench, also part of the contingency requirement was machine excavated to a maximum depth of *c.*0.54m onto natural yellowish brown silty clay on an east-west alignment. The dimensions of the trench were *c.*5m long by *c.*1.30m wide. Evidence for a high instance of root action was seen in all deposits in this trench.

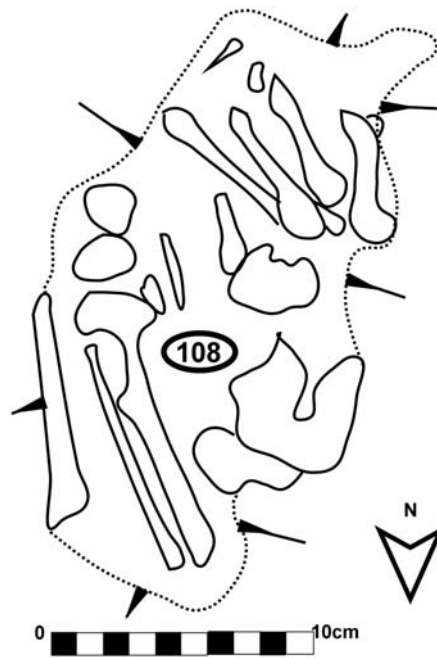
A ditch [404] was observed bisecting the trench at the western end, on a northwest-southeast alignment. A slot excavated through this revealed a 'U' shaped profile, a flat base and gradually sloping sides filled by mid brownish grey silty clay with a medium frequency of subrounded stones, chalk and occasional flecks of charcoal(405). Finds retrieved from this deposit comprised a fragment of animal bone and a small sherd of reasonably abraded pot of probable medieval date (pers.comm. Bob Zeepvat-ASC).



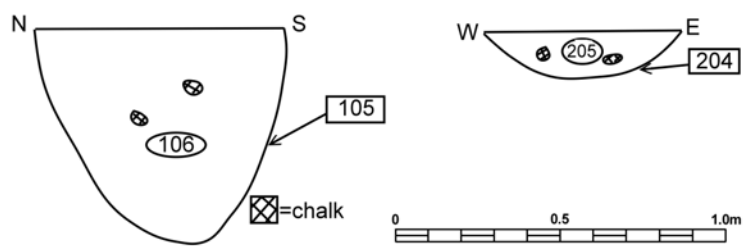
**Figure 4:** Plan of trenches 1, 2 and 4 showing pit (A), gully (B), area of large stones (C), drain (D), gully (E) and ditch (F)



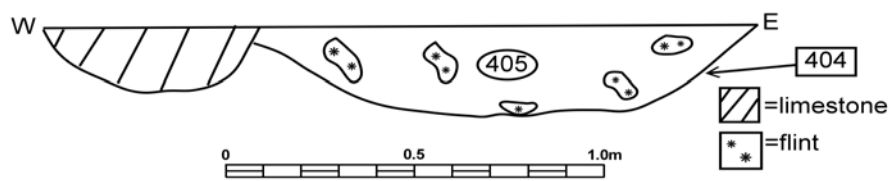
Plan and section of pit [107]



Plan showing bone in pit [107]



Sections through gullies [105] (trench 1) and [204] (trench 2)



Section of ditch [404]

**Figure 5:** Plans and sections of archaeological features



**Plate 1:** West facing section of trench 1



**Plate 2:** West facing section of gully [105]



**Plate 3:** North facing section through pit [107]



**Plate 4:** Bone in pit [107]



**Plate 5:** NE facing section through gully [204]



**Plate 6:** South facing section through ditch [404]



## 5. Conclusions

### 5.1 Confidence Rating

The confidence rating for the recognition of archaeological deposits on this site was good. The weather was cold but dry and the stratigraphy was simple and well defined.

### 5.2 Conclusion

Archaeological deposits were found on this site and it is possible that more exist outside the evaluated area.

5.3 Gully [105] and ditch [404] contained sherds of probable medieval pot, which were found well within their respective deposits of (106) and (405) and makes it unlikely that they have been affected by bioturbation or other ground disturbance. It can therefore be inferred that these features are probably medieval in date. The relatively low incidence of pottery or other finds and the low frequency of charcoal suggest that their function was possibly related to agricultural practice and that the location of these features would have been some distance from the medieval settlement centre.

5.4 Although pit [107] and gully [204] contained no datable finds, it is possible that they are related chronologically to gully [105] and ditch [404], as all these features were cut at the same stratigraphic level, directly underneath the subsoil. However, without any dating evidence, this cannot be confirmed.

5.5 The area of subrounded stones and brick (104) and (206) is likely to be the remains of a path, possibly related to buildings, since demolished, visible on the 1815 ordnance survey map. It is possible that the foundations for these buildings exist outside the area of the evaluation trenches.

## **6. Acknowledgements**

The writer is grateful to Paolo Bollini, of Sansome Hall Architects, who commissioned ASC Ltd. on behalf of Mr. John Brandon.

The input of Brian Giggins and Nick Crank, Archaeological Officers for Milton Keynes Council is also gratefully acknowledged. Elizabeth Gill BSc PgDip and Calli Rouse carried out the fieldwork, Elizabeth Gill wrote the Project design and Bob Zeevat BA MIFA managed the project.

## **7. Archive**

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Project Design
2. Initial Report
3. Clients site plans
4. Site records
5. Finds records
6. Finds
7. Site record drawings
8. List of photographs/slides
9. Colour slides
10. B/W prints & negatives
11. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum. Accession number 2006.18.

## 8. References

### *Standards & Specifications*

EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. English Heritage (London).

Gill, E. 2006 *Project Design for Archaeological Evaluation On Behalf of Mr John Brandon* (ASC 763/CHS)


IFA 2000a Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.


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

### *Secondary Sources*


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


## Appendix 1: Trench Summary Tables

<b>Trench 1</b>						
	<b>Max Dimensions (m)</b>					
	<b>Length</b>	11.10	<b>Width</b>	1.30	<b>Depth</b>	0.40
	<b>Levels</b>					
	<b>Trench base</b>			94.92m OD		
	<b>Trench top</b>			95.27m OD		
	<b>NGR Co-ordinates</b>					
	<b>north</b>	SP92586 44764		<b>south</b>	SP92585 44753	
	<b>Orientation</b>			North-south		
	<b>Reason for Trench</b>			General evaluation		
	<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description and Interpretation</b>	<b>Max Width (mm)</b>	<b>Max Thckn (mm)</b>	<b>Depth BGL (mm)</b>
101	Layer	Dark brown silty loam topsoil	-	250	0-250	
102	Layer	Mid yellowish brown silty clay subsoil	-	150	250-400	
103	Layer	Mid brownish yellow silty clay with frequent inclusions of chalk	-	-	400	
104	Deposit	Loose mid greyish brown loamy clay with frequent inclusions of subrounded cobbles and brick fragments. Same as (206)	-	380	250-630	
105	Cut	Cut of gully with a 'V' shaped profile, steep sides and a slightly concave bottom	330	-	400-720	
106	Deposit	Deposit in [105], mid greyish brown silty clay with medium to frequent inclusions of chalk. Finds from this deposit amount to one rim sherd of pot with a probable medieval date.	380	320	400-720	
107	Cut	Cut of shallow, subcircular pit with gradually sloping sides and a concave bottom.	290	-	400-470	
108	Deposit	Only deposit in pit [107], mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal. Finds from this deposit comprise a partial skeleton, probably that of a small mammal.	290	70	400-470	

<b>Trench 2</b>						
	<b>Max Dimensions (m)</b>					
	<b>Length</b>	8.10	<b>Width</b>	1.30	<b>Depth</b>	0.41
	<b>Levels</b>					
	<b>Trench base</b>			94.24m OD		
	<b>Trench top</b>			95.25m OD		
	<b>NGR Co-ordinates</b>					
	<b>north</b>	SP92584 44747		<b>south</b>	SP92585 44750	
	<b>Orientation</b>			North-south		
	<b>Reason for Trench</b>			General evaluation		
	<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description and Interpretation</b>	<b>Max Width (mm)</b>	<b>Max Thckn (mm)</b>	<b>Depth BGL (mm)</b>
201	Layer	Dark brown silty loam topsoil	-	280	0-280	
202	Layer	Mid yellowish brown silty clay subsoil	-	130	280-410	
203	Layer	Mid brownish yellow silty clay with frequent inclusions of chalk	-	-	410	
204	Cut	Cut of gully with gradual sloping sides and a concave bottom	300		410-480	
205	Deposit	Deposit in [204], mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional inclusions of chalk	300	70	410-480	
206	Layer	Loose mid greyish brown loamy clay with frequent inclusions of subrounded cobbles and brick fragments. Same as (104)	-	350	280-630	



<b>Trench 3</b>						
	<b>Max Dimensions (m)</b>					
	<b>Length</b>	5.00	<b>Width</b>	1.30	<b>Depth</b>	0.30
	<b>NGR Co-ordinates</b>					
	<b>north</b>	SP92589 44768		<b>south</b>	SP92589 44764	
	<b>Orientation</b>			North-south		
	<b>Reason for Trench</b>			General evaluation		
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Max Width (mm)	Max Thckn (mm)	Depth BGL (mm)	
301	Layer	Dark brown silty loam topsoil	-	180	0-180	
302	Layer	Mid yellowish brown silty clay subsoil	-	120	180-300	
303	Layer	Mid brownish yellow silty clay with frequent inclusions of chalk	-	-	300	

<b>Trench 4</b>						
	<b>Max Dimensions (m)</b>					
	<b>Length</b>	5.00	<b>Width</b>	1.30	<b>Depth</b>	0.54
	<b>Levels</b>					
	<b>Trench base</b>			94.79m OD		
	<b>Trench top</b>			95.32m OD		
	<b>NGR Co-ordinates</b>					
	<b>east</b>	SP92582 44764		<b>west</b>	SP92577 44762	
	<b>Orientation</b>			East-west		
	<b>Reason for Trench</b>			General evaluation		
	<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description and Interpretation</b>	<b>Max Width (mm)</b>	<b>Max Thckn (mm)</b>	<b>Depth BGL (mm)</b>
401	Layer	Dark brown silty loam topsoil	-	260	0-260	
402	Layer	Mid yellowish brown silty clay subsoil	-	280	260-540	
403	Layer	Mid brownish yellow silty clay with frequent inclusions of chalk	-	-	540	
404	Cut	Cut of ditch with 'U' shaped profile, sloping sides and a concave bottom	930	-	540-670	
405	Deposit	Deposit in ditch [404], mid brownish grey silty clay with medium to frequent inclusions of subrounded stones and chalk and occasional flecks of charcoal. Finds from this deposit comprised a sherd of pot and a small fragment of bone.	930	130	540-670	



### Appendix 3: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: 7A High Street, North Crawley				SITE NO/CODE: 763/CHS
Shot	B&W	Slide	Digital	Subject
1	✓	✓	✓	Trench 2, looking North
2			✓	As above
3	✓	✓	✓	Trench 2, looking South
4			✓	As above
5	✓	✓	✓	Trench 1, looking South
6			✓	As above
7	✓	✓	✓	Trench 1, looking North
8			✓	As above
9	✓	✓	✓	Trench 1, West facing section
10			✓	As above
11	✓	✓	✓	Trench 1, South West facing section through Gully
12			✓	As above
13			✓	As above
14	✓	✓	✓	Trench 1, North facing section through Pit
15			✓	As above
16	✓	✓	✓	Trench 2, North East facing section through Gully
17			✓	As above
18	✓	✓	✓	Trench 3, looking South
19			✓	Trench 3, looking North
20			✓	Trench 3, West facing section
21			✓	Digger
22	✓	✓	✓	Trench 4, looking East
23			✓	As above
24	✓	✓	✓	Trench 4, South East facing section through Ditch
25	✓	✓	✓	As above

## Appendix 4: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS						
Project Name:	7a High Street, North Crawley, Milton Keynes					
Short Description:	<i>In February 2006 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd. (ASC) undertook an archaeological evaluation on land at 7a High Street, North Crawley, Milton Keynes. North Crawley is mentioned in the Domesday survey as a small settlement with documented evidence of three large manors and the 1815 Ordnance Survey map of this area shows buildings occupying the area of proposed development, so potential existed for the presence of archaeological deposits. Initially two machine cut trenches were excavated, the first revealing a pit containing a small partially articulated skeleton and a gully containing a single pottery sherd of probable medieval date. The second trench revealed a second gully containing no finds. Two contingency trenches requested by the AA revealed a ditch containing a single sherd of pot, also of probable medieval date.</i>					
Project Type: (indicate all that apply)	DBA	FW	Geophys	Survey	Bldg Rec	Post-Exc
	WB	Strip&Rec	Trenching	Test pits	Exc	Other
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	none		Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)		-	
Current land use:	garden		Future work: (yes / no / unknown)		unknown	
Monument type:	-		Monument period:		-	
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	Two sherds of probable medieval pottery					
PROJECT LOCATION						
County:	Buckinghamshire		OS reference: (to at least 8 figures)		SP9258 4475	
Site address: (with postcode if known)	7 High Street, North Crawley, Buckinghamshire MK16 9LH					
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	c.20mx25m		Height OD: (metres)		95m	
PROJECT CREATORS						
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd					
Project brief originator:	Brian Giggins		Project design originator:		Elizabeth Gill BSc PgDip	
Project Manager:	Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA		Director/Supervisor:		Elizabeth Gill BSc PgDip	
Sponsor / funding body:	Mr John Brandon					
PROJECT DATE						
Start date:	1 <sup>st</sup> February 2006		End date:		2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2006	
PROJECT ARCHIVES						
	Location (Accession no.)		Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)			
Physical:	Buckinghamshire County Museum		Pottery and animal bone			
Paper:	Buckinghamshire County Museum		Brief and PD, report, site records, photographs			
Digital:	Buckinghamshire County Museum		PD and report, photographs			
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)						



Title:	Archaeological Evaluation: 7a High Street, North Crawley, Buckinghamshire		
Serial title & volume:	Archaeological Services and Consultancy Report 763/CHS/2		
Author(s):	Elizabeth Gill BSc PgDip		
Page nos		Date:	