

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

WATCHING BRIEF: TOMPSONS FARM LONG CRENDON BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

on behalf of

RPS Planning, Transport and Environment



Alastair J Hancock BSc PgDip

May 2006

ASC: 797/LCT/2

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Site Data

ASC project code:	LCT		ASC Projec	ct No:	797		
Event No:			Accession 1	Vo:	2007.6		
County:		Buckingl	Buckinghamshire				
Village/Town:		Long Cre	endon				
Civil Parish:		Long Cre	endon				
NGR (to 8 figs):		SP 6985	0883				
Present use:		Garden					
Planning proposal:		Formation of an ornamental lake					
Planning application	n ref/date:	06/0342					
Local Planning Auth	ority:	Aylesbury Vale District Council					
Date of fieldwork:		26 th , 27 th , 28 th April and 8 th May					
Client:	RPS Planning, Transport and Environment Mallams Court 18 Milton Park Abingdon Oxon OX14 4RP						
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Internal Quality Check

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Edited/Checked By:		Date:	

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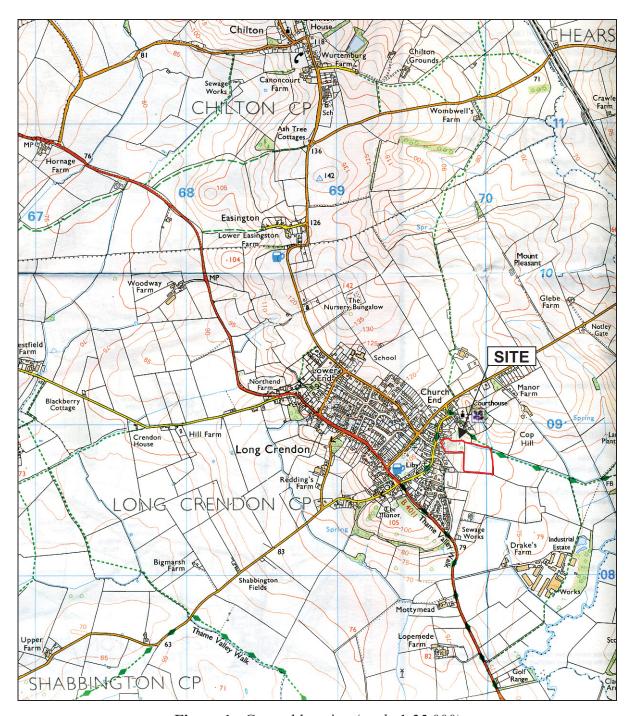


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In April and May 2006, Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd. carried out a watching brief during groundwork to construct an ornamental lake at Tompsons Farm, Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire. Two superimposed north-south aligned ditches, a gully and post hole were revealed in the footprint of the lake. A flint end scraper was recovered from the fill of the earliest ditch. Other artefacts were not recovered from the fills of the ditches, gully or posthole.

The ditch containing the end scraper could be prehistoric, although the revealed ditches were aligned with extant sections of a field boundary. It is suggested that both ditches date to the post medieval period and that the end scraper is a residual artefact incorporated into the fill of a later ditch. The gully runs parallel with the ditches and may date to the same period as one of these features.

1. Introduction

1.1 In April and May 2006 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out a watching brief at Tompsons Farm, Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire (NGR SP 6938 0849: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by RPS Planning, Transport and Environment (RPS), and was carried out according to a project design prepared by ASC (Rouse 2006), and a brief (Radford, 2006) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), Aylesbury Vale District Council, by their archaeological advisor (AA), Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service (BCAS).

1.2 Planning Background

The watching brief was required as a planning condition under the terms of *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (PPG16), in response to proposed construction of an ornamental lake in the garden of Tompsons Farm. The relevant planning application reference is 06/0342.

1.3 Location and Description

The site is located at the eastern periphery of Long Crendon on the southern side of a lane called Wapping (Fig 1). A 16th/17th century house and its outbuildings occupy the westernmost part of the site. The garden of the house lies east of it and contains an active natural spring feeding three ornamental ponds. The house and the northern part of its garden lie within the village Conservation Area. The remainder of the garden, including the 0.17 hectare area affected by the proposed lake (Fig 2), are beyond the limit of the conservation area.

1.4 Access

Access to the site was via a metalled driveway that ran off the southern side of Wapping past the western side of the house.

1.5 Geology & Topography

The soils of the area are of the Wickham 2 Association, (Soil Survey, 1983, 711f) which are characterised as "slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loamy over clayey, fine silty over clayey and clayey soils. Small areas of slowly permeable calcareous soils on steeper slopes". The underlying geology is described as drift over Jurassic and Cretaceous clay or mudstone. The area of the proposed lake lies at an elevation of c.85m AOD and is located at the base of a west-east trending natural slope.

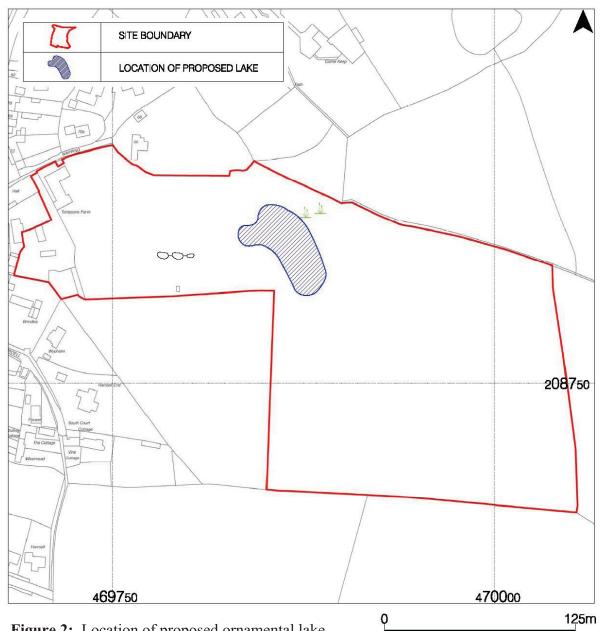


Figure 2: Location of proposed ornamental lake

Page 6 © ASC Ltd 2006

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 *Aims*

As described in the brief (Section 5), the aims of the watching brief were:

• To identify and record any significant archaeological remains revealed by the groundworks, paying particular regard to the potential for Iron Age/Roman activity.

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), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

2.3 Methods

The work was carried out according to the brief (Section 7a), which required:

• A detailed watching brief with an archaeologist present during all works that may affect archaeological remains.

2.4 Constraints

A bulldozer was used to strip top / subsoil and excavate underlying deposits to the required base level of the ornamental lake. The flat rear of the bulldozers bucket was periodically used to clean the surface of the site during this operation and major cut features were easily discerned. A post hole was noted but other small features may have been missed.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 Prehistoric (before 600BC)

There is little evidence of prehistoric activity within the immediate vicinity of the development.

3.2 Iron Age and Romano-British (600BC-AD43-c.AD450)

Late Iron Age and Romano-British remains have been discovered c.200m north of the site in the area of the 12^{th} century parish church and at Cop Hill, c.250m east of the site. These remains comprised hearths, pits, ditches (CAS5404), plus cremations and inhumations including a sarcophagus (CAS564), all found during the construction of a new water main between 1978 and 1984. A Roman road, identified by the Viatores (CAS2035), runs c.250 metres north-west of the site.

3.3 Saxon (c.450-1066)

Remains of Saxon date have not been recovered within the immediate vicinity of the site. However, the village appears to have been well established by the time of the Domesday Survey and the origin of the village may lie in this period.

3.4 Medieval (1066-1500)

The Domesday Survey of 1086 values the village of Long Crendon at £20 and records the presence of a mill. The village is notable for the survival of a large number of medieval buildings of cruck construction (20 in total); a number not equalled elsewhere in the lowland zone of England (Pevsner & Williamson 2000).

Located *c*.40 metres north-northwest of Tompsons Farm is the site of a Medieval Cross (CAS2189). The land surrounding the cross was once the site of a weekly market granted to William Marshall in 1218. The market did not survive partition of the Manor.

Archaeological work in 1975, c.120m north-northeast of Tompsons Farm, during construction of a house called Game Keep revealed a wall, 14th to 15th century pottery and some ironworking debris (CAS209). A possible motte was also noted on the same site.

3.5 Post-Medieval (1500-1900)

The large house occupying the northwest of the site dates to the 16th / 17th centuries. Long Crendon was known for its needle-making industry during the 16th to 19th centuries. (Pevsner & Williamson 2000). The Inclosure Map of 1827 shows that the proposed ornamental lake is located over a boundary dividing two fields which were called *Cadbrook Way* and *Shrimptons Piece*.

3.6 Modern (1900-present)

A swimming pool and tennis court were constructed in the gardens of the house although OS mapping illustrates that the layout of the site altered little from that shown on the 19th century Inclosure Map.

4. Results

- 4.1 A dark greyish brown organic topsoil and mid yellowish brown silty subsoil were removed under archaeological supervision to a maximum depth of c.0.4m. A natural deposit of mid brownish orange clayey silt lay beneath the subsoil.
- 4.2 A levelled platform was present at the western part of the proposed lake. Removal of topsoil revealed a deposit of dark grey cinder/clinker overlying subsoil and mid greenish grey made ground. The cinder and made ground locate the position of a former tennis court.
- 4.3 A c.2.7m wide ditch, a c.0.5m wide gully and a posthole of c.0.2m diameter (Fig 3), were observed cut into the natural deposit. A boundary is recorded on 20th century Ordnance Survey mapping at the position of the revealed ditch.
- 4.4 Two sections were hand excavated / machined through the ditch (Plates 4 and 5). The sections revealed that a later ditch [119, 129] had partially truncated the eastern side of an earlier ditch [123, 131] that ran along a similar alignment.
- 4.5 The later ditch [129] diverged slightly east of the alignment of the earlier ditch [131] near the northern limit of the lake. This may suggest that the earlier ditch had infilled and was not visible when the later ditch was cut. The later, c.0.6m deep ditch may have been recut [116] and the sections excavated through it [119, 129] showed an irregular profile (Fig 4). Fragments of modern brick and glass were noted in the brownish silty fills of the ditch. Archaeological finds were not recovered.
- 4.6 Investigation of sub-circular features [113, 125] located west of the later ditch [119, 129] indicated that they were hollows, which infilled after removal of the root masses of trees/shrubs. Fragments of modern brick and glass were noted in the brownish silty fills. Archaeological finds were not recovered.
- 4.6 The most complete profile of the earlier ditch [131] showed that it was broad, concave and c.0.7m deep (Fig 4). The ditch was filled with mid grey silt (Plate 4), and a flint end scraper was recovered from this deposit.
- 4.7 Hand excavation failed to demonstrate whether the base of ditch [123, 131] had been defined. Further machine excavation showed that the base of the ditch was cut into a chalky silt colluvium and had been successfully defined. Underlying the colluvium at a depth of *c*.1.3m below the surface of the topsoil was a deposit of eroded chalk gravel.
- 4.8 A gully lay c.3.7m east of and ran parallel with the ditches and three slots were excavated through it [104, 108, 110]. The profile of the gully was irregular (Fig 4), shallow (c.0.2m max) and it was filled with mid yellowish brown silt (Plate 2). Finds were not recovered from this feature.
- 4.9 A post hole [106] lay, c.0.2m east of the gully toward its southern end. The post hole was c.0.2m deep, possessed steep sides and a slightly concave base (Fig 4). It was filled with mid yellowish brown silt (105) similar to the deposit present in the gully (Plate 3). Finds were not recovered from this feature.

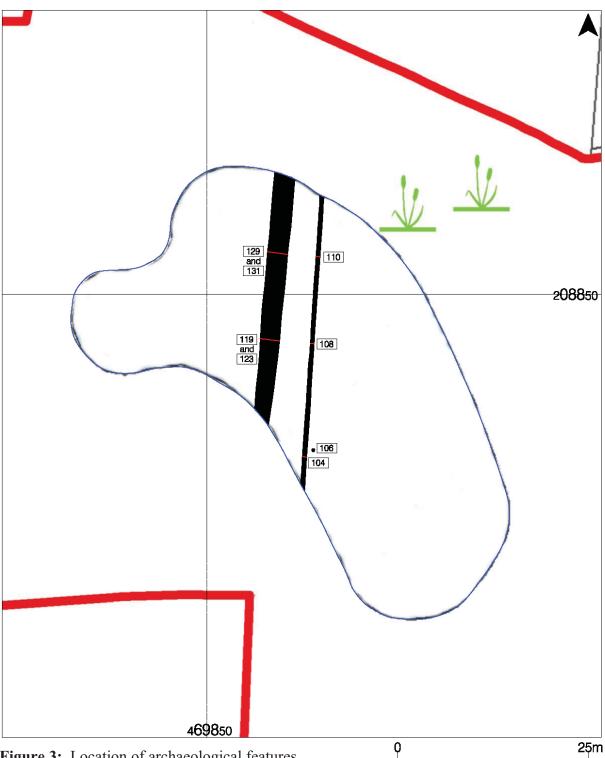
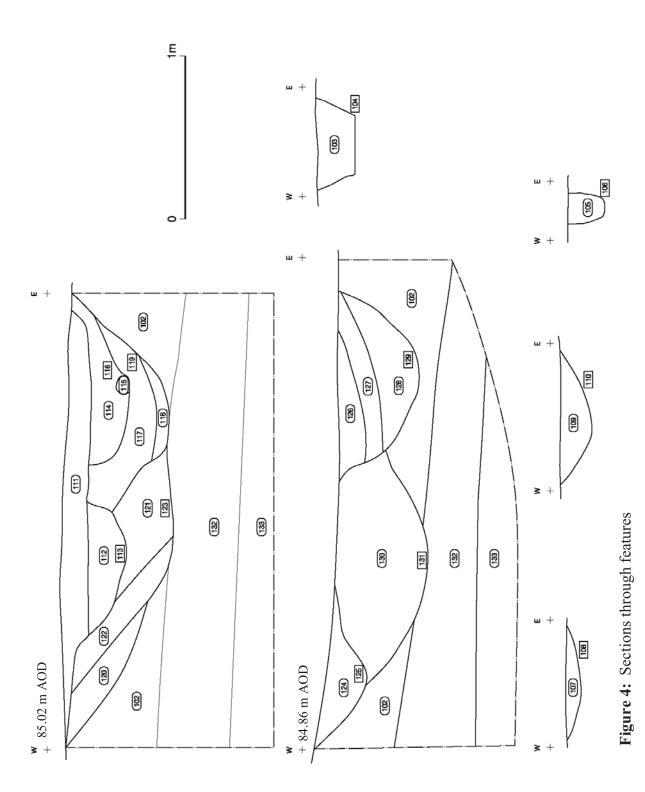


Figure 3: Location of archaeological features and recorded sections



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Plate 1: The ditches aligned with extant field boundary, facing south-southwest



Plate 2: Gully [110], facing north-northeast



Plate 3: Post hole [106], facing north



Plate 4: Ditches [119] and [123], facing north-northeast



Plate 5: Ditches [129] and [131], facing north-northeast



Plate 6: Excavation of lake completed, facing west-northwest

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 Two superimposed ditches were revealed running along an alignment that bridged a gap between extant parts of a field boundary at a position where 20th century Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping shows an unbroken boundary line. Trees were observed lining the western side of the extant parts of the field boundary, shallow, sub circular features located immediately west of the most recent ditch [119, 129] suggest the position of uprooted trees. A possible recut [116] of the most recent ditch [119] suggests maintenance of this feature.
- 5.2 The representation of a boundary on 20th century OS mapping and the presence of modern brick and glass in the fills of the most recent ditch and its recut suggest that it formed part of a continuous boundary that was removed and deliberately backfilled during the 20th century.
- 5.3 Recovery of a flint end scraper from fill (121) of the earlier ditch [123, 131] could suggest that the most recent (inclosure?) ditch fortuitously followed the route of a prehistoric ditch. However, definitive attribution of a prehistoric date to this ditch is impossible as other archaeological artefacts were not recovered.
- A more probable explanation for the presence of a single prehistoric artefact could be its incorporation into the fill of a later ditch as residual material.
- 5.5 Tompsons Farm dates to the 16th/17th centuries and it is suggested that the ditch containing the end scraper may have a similar date. The ditch runs along a natural boundary dividing higher land to the west and lower lying land to the east and is thus ideally located to drain the higher land and to channel away water issuing from a spring located within the gardens of the house.
- 5.6 The fill of the suggested 16th/17th century ditch indicates that it may have infilled and fallen out of use fairly rapidly. Re-establishment of a ditch at this favourable location or refurbishment of a dilapidated boundary during the early 19th century inclosure of Long Crendon seems the likely explanation of the presence of the later ditch [119, 129].
- 5.7 The age and function of the gully [104, 108, 109] and posthole [106] are uncertain although the proximity of these features and the similarity of their fills suggest that they may date to the same period. The gully is *c*.3.8m east of, and runs parallel with the excavated ditches, which may suggest that it associated with one of the ditches and therefore dates to the post medieval period.

6. Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to Charles Lequesne of RPS Planning, Transport and Environment for commissioning this project. The cooperation of White Horse Contractors Ltd who operated the plant is noted. Thanks are also due to David Radford of BCAS for monitoring the fieldwork and Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA who edited this report. Site watching brief visits were made by the author and Johnathan Hunn PhD MIFA.

7. Archive

- 7.1 The project archive will comprise:
 - 1. Brief
 - 2. Project Design
 - 3. Initial Report
 - 4. Clients site plans
 - 5. Site Monitoring Sheets
 - 6. Finds records
 - 7. Finds
 - 8. Site record drawings
 - 9. List of photographs/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

8. References

Standards & Specifications

- EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition.* English Heritage (London).
- Radford D 2006 Brief for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Tompsons Farm, Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire. Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service.
- Rouse C 2006 Tompsons Farm, Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire: Project Design for Watching Brief. ASC Ltd. Ref: 797/LCT/1
- 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).

Secondary Sources

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

Pevsner, N & Williamson, E 2000 The Buildings of England: Buckinghamshire (London).

Appendix 1: Context Summary Table

Context Register

Context	Туре	Description
100	Layer	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown organic.
101	Layer	Subsoil. Mid yellowish brown clayey silt.
102	Layer	Natural . Mid brownish orange clayey silt.
103	Fill	Fill of [104]. Mid brown silt.
104	Cut	Gully. Steep sides with sharp break to flat base.
105	Fill	Fill of [106]. Mid brown silt.
106	Cut	Post hole. Steep sides with moderate break to slightly concave base.
107	Fill	Fill of [108]. Mid brown silt.
108	Cut	Gully. Gradual sides without discernible break to concave base.
109	Fill	Fill of [110]. Mid brown silt.
110	Cut	Gully. Gradual sides without discernible break to concave base.
111	Fill	Fill of [113, 119]. Mid greyish brown friable organic silt.
112	Fill	Fill of [113]. Mid brown friable silt with evidence of rooting.
113	Cut	Former area of tree/shrub root. U shaped.
114	Fill	Fill of [116]. Mid brownish yellow silt
115	Lens	Fill of [116]. Light grey plastic clay
116	Cut	Recut of ditch [119]. Steeply sloping western side, moderately sloping eastern side breaking sharply two
		thirds of the way down and sharply to slightly concave base.
117	Fill	Fill of [119]. Mid brownish silt containing some evidence of recent rooting.
118	Fill	Fill of [119]. Mid brownish silt, slightly damp with no inclusions,
119	Cut	Ditch. Steep eastern side and moderately sloping western side breaking steeply two thirds of the way down
	ļ	with moderate break to slightly concave base. Cuts [123].
120	Fill?	Fill of [123]? Mid reddish brown silt with grey mottles. Probably bioturbated natural.
121	Fill	Fill of [123]. Mid grey silt. No inclusions. Flint end scraper recovered.
122	Fill	Fill of [123]. Mid brown silt, mottled orange grey.
123	Cut	Ditch. Moderately sloping western side with moderate break to slightly concave base. Eastern side truncated
		by ditch [119].
124	Fill	Fill of [125]. Mid brown silt.
125	Cut	Former area of tree/shrub root. U shaped.
126	Fill	Fill of [129]. Mid brown silt.
127	Fill	Fill of [129]. Mid yellowish brown silt.
128	Fill	Fill of [129]. Mid greyish brown silt.
129	Cut	Ditch. Steep sides without discernible break to concave base. Cuts [131].
130	Fill	Fill of [123]. Mid grey silt. No inclusions.
131	Cut	Ditch. Moderately sloping sides without break to concave base. Eastern side truncated by [129].
132	Layer	Natural colluvium. Light greyish brown clayey silt. Moderate small chalk inclusions
133	Layer	Natural colluvium. Mid whitish grey chalk gravel. Waterlogged.

Appendix 2: Monitoring Sheets

A.S.C. LTD ARCHAE	OLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD						
Project:	Project No/Code: Sheet:						
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Appendix 3: List of Photographs

SITE NAI	ME: Tomp	sons Fai	m, Long	Crendon, Buckinghamshire SITE NO/CODE: 797/LTF					
Shot	B&W	Slide	Digital	Subject					
1	√		√	General site					
2	✓		✓	General site					
3	✓		✓	General site					
4	✓		✓	General site					
5	✓		✓	General site					
6	✓		✓	General site					
7	✓		✓	General site					
8	✓		✓	General site					
9	✓		✓	General site					
10	✓		✓	General site					
11	✓		✓	General site					
12	✓		✓	General site					
13	✓		✓	General site					
14	✓		✓	General site					
15	✓		✓	General site					
16	✓		✓	Clinker deposit in area of former tennis court					
17	✓		✓	Plan shot of ditch [118, 128], facing south-southwest					
18	✓		✓	Gully [104], facing north-northeast					
19	✓		✓	Gully [108], facing north-northeast					
20	✓		✓	Gully [110], facing north-northeast					
21	✓		✓	Post hole [106], facing north					
22	✓		✓	Ditches [118, 122], facing north-northeast					
23	✓		✓	Ditches [128, 130], facing north-northeast					
24	✓		✓	General site					
25	✓		✓	General site					
26	✓		✓	General site					
27	✓		✓	Front door Tompsons Farm					
28	✓		✓	Detail shot of front door Tompsons Farm					
29	✓		✓	General site at completion of groundwork					
30	✓		✓	General site at completion of groundwork					
31	✓		✓	General site at completion of groundwork					
32	✓		✓	General site at completion of groundwork					
33	✓		✓	General site at completion of groundwork					

Appendix 4: ASC OASIS Form

		PROJEC	T DETAILS						
Project Name:	Project Name: Archaeological watching brief at Tompsons Farm, Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire								
Short Description:	A watching brief during construction of a proposed ornamental lake at Tompsons Farm revealed a ditch, parallel gully and one post hole. Excavated sections revealed that the ditch had recut an earlier ditch running at the same alignment. A probably residual flint end scraper was recovered from the fill of the earlier ditch. No other finds were recovered								
Project Type: (indicate all that apply)	DBA	FW	Geophys	Survey	Bldg Rec	Post-Exc			
	<u>WB</u>	Strip&Rec	Trenching	Test pits	Exc	Other			
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	None		Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)		None				
Current land use:	Garden		Future work: (yes / no / unkno		No				
Monument type:	-		Monument perio	od:	-				
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	Flint end scraper	•							
		PROJECT	LOCATION						
County:	Buckinghamshire	е	OS reference: (to at least 8 figu	ıres)	SP 6938 0849				
District:	Aylesbury Vale		Parish:	·	Long Crendon				
Site address: (with postcode if known)	Tompsons Farm	, Long Crendon, E	Buckinghamshire						
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	0.17 ha Height OD: c.85m (metres)								
	•	PROJECT	CREATORS		•				
Organisation:	Archaeologica	al Services & C	Consultancy Ltd						
Project brief originator:	David Radford		Project design o		Calli Rouse				
Project Manager:	Bob Zeepvat		Director/Supervi	isor:	Alastair Hancock	6			
Sponsor / funding body:	RPS Planning, T	ransport and Env							
		PROJE	CT DATE						
Start date:	26/05/06		End date:		08/05/2006				
	_		ARCHIVES						
	,	ssion no.)	Content (eg. po	ottery, animal boi	ne, files/sheets)				
Physical:	Buckinghamshire Museum	e County							
Paper:				/Record Sheets/F	Plans				
Digital:			CD with all digita	al files					
BIBLIO	GRAPHY (Journal/r	monograph, publis	shed or forthcoming	j, or unpublished	client report)				
Title:	Archaeological v	vatching brief at T	ompsons Farm, Loi	ng Crendon, Buc	kinghamshire				
Serial title & volume:	ASC/797/LCT/2. Unpublished client report								
Author(s):	Alastair Hancock	<							
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