



Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING AT  
THE JENNIE LEE LIBRARY SITE  
THE OPEN UNIVERSITY  
WALTON HALL  
MILTON KEYNES**

*on behalf of  
The Open University*



**A. J. Hancock BSc PgDip**

**August 2006**

**ASC: 833/OUL/1**

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## Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	OUL	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	833
<i>SMR Event No:</i>	1078	<i>Accession No:</i>	
<i>County:</i>	Milton Keynes (Unitary Authority)		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Milton Keynes / Walton Hall		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Walton CP		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 8853 3698		
<i>Present use:</i>	Under development		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	NA		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	NA		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Milton Keynes		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	9 <sup>th</sup> August 2006		
<i>Client:</i>	Estates Division The Open University Walton Hall Milton Keynes MK7 6AA		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Clive Millar		
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### Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	A. J. Hancock	<i>Date:</i>	30 <sup>th</sup> August 2006
<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	

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*Cover: Culvert with tower of St Michaels Church in the background*

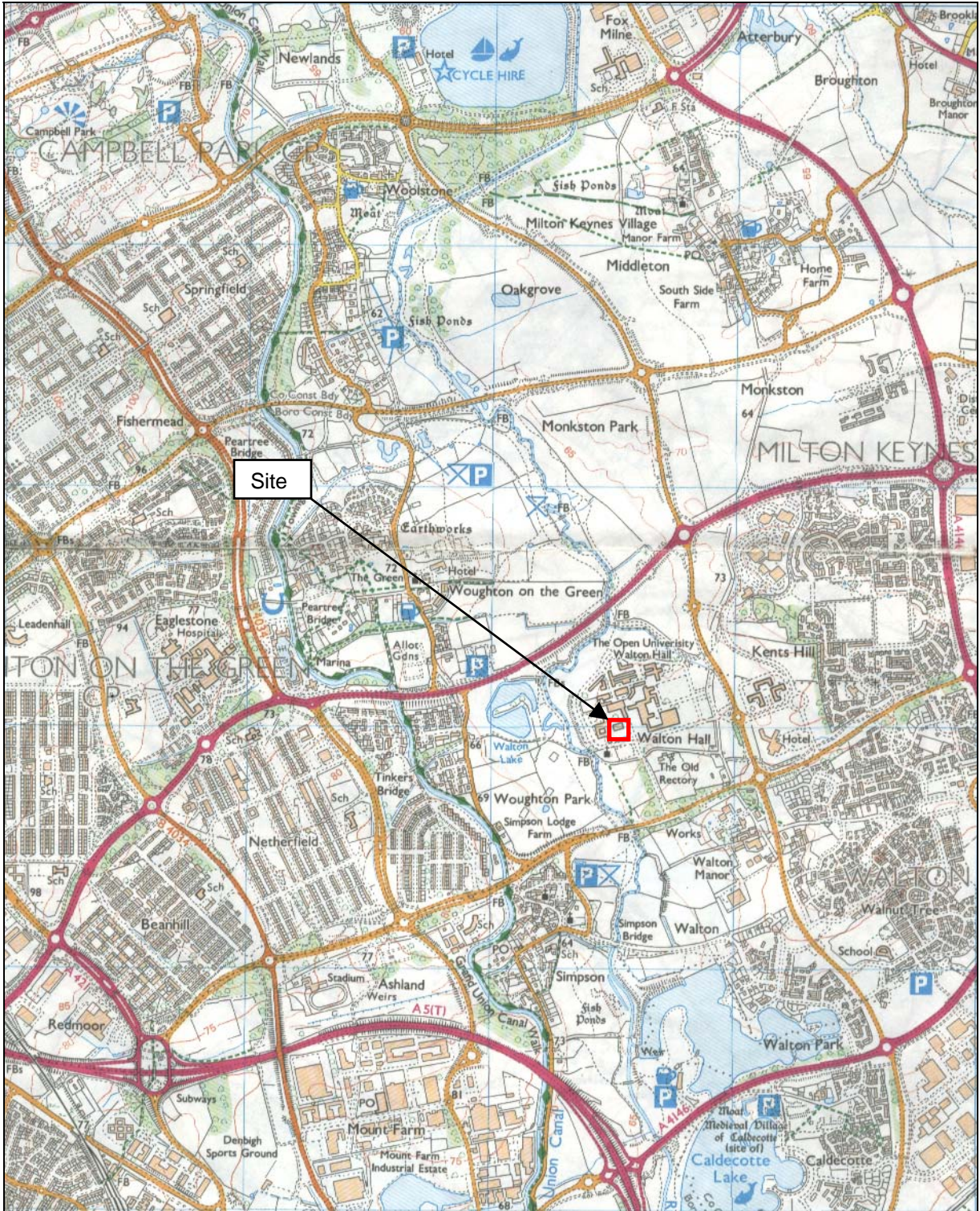
1. Culvert in foreground with Geoffrey Crowther building at rear, facing SW ..... 9

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

## Summary

*In August 2006 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd carried out archaeological recording of a brick built culvert uncovered by demolition and ground reduction work prior to the construction of the Jennie Lee Library at the Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes. The form of the culvert, dimensions of the machine made bricks and presence of concrete mortar indicate that it was built during the late Victorian period.*

### 1. Introduction

1.1 In August 2006 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out archaeological recording at the site of the Jennie Lee Library, Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes (NGR SP 8853 3698: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Clive Millar of Estates, The Open University, after discovery of a subsurface brick built culvert during demolition work in advance of construction of the new library building and followed advice from the Planning Archaeologist of Milton Keynes Council. The work was carried out according to ASC's proforma watching brief method statement.

#### 1.3 *Location*

The site, centred at OS NGR SP 8853 3698, is located within the main campus of the Open University and lies immediately east of the Geoffrey Crowther building and c.120m southwest of Walton Hall.

#### 1.4 *Description*

Contractors were clearing the site prior to construction of a new library building at the time of archaeological fieldwork.

#### 1.5 *Geology & Topography*

The site lies at c.66m AOD. Soils in the vicinity are those of the Denchworth association (Soil Survey 1983), characterised as 'slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey soils with similar fine loamy over clayey soils. Some fine loamy over clayey soils with only slight seasonal waterlogging, and some slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils'. The underlying drift geology is predominantly till.



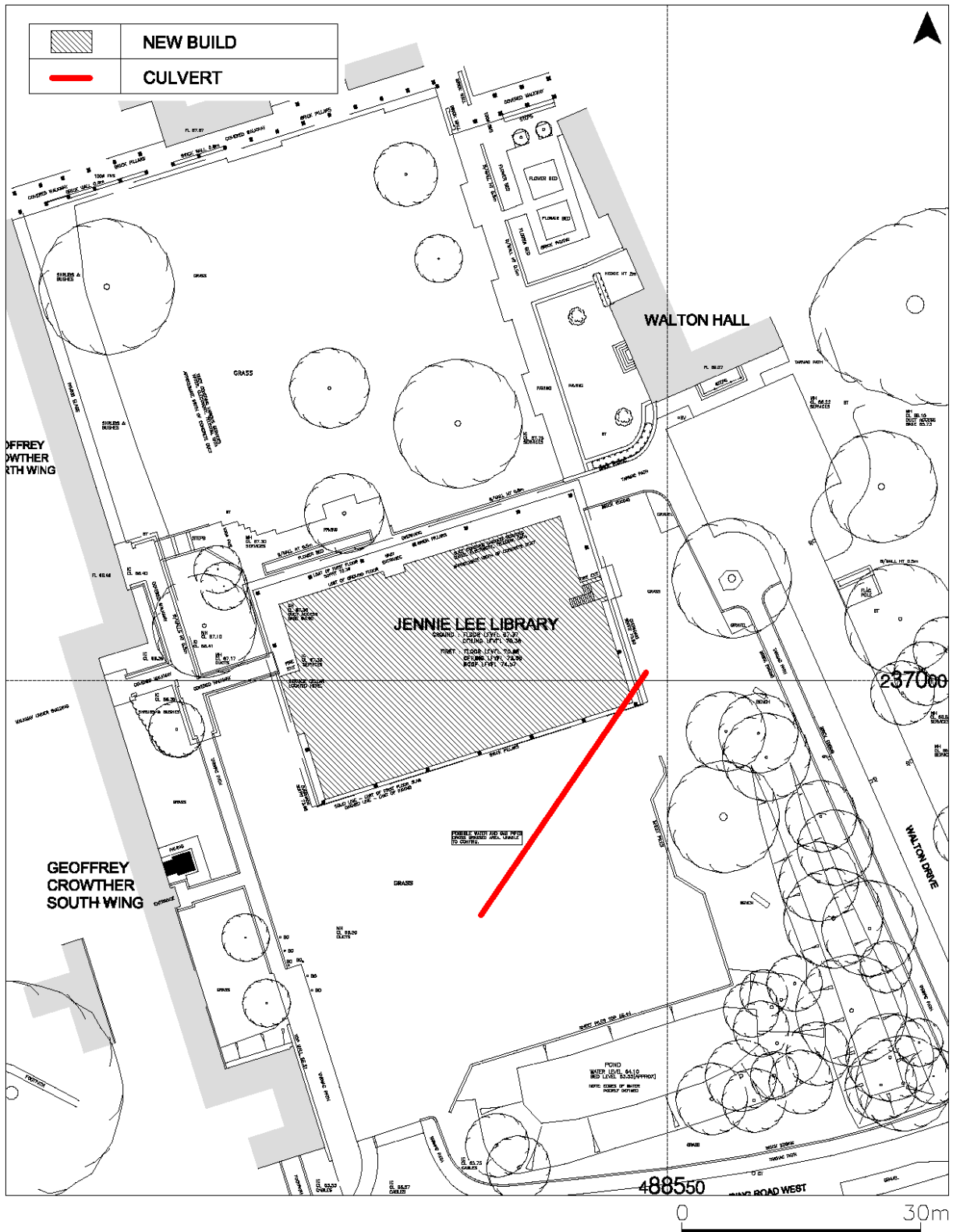


Figure 2: Site plan showing alignment of culvert (scale 1:750)

## **2. Aims & Methods**

### **2.1 *Aims***

The aims of the archaeological recording were:

- To record and characterise the revealed culvert

### **2.2 *Standards***

The work conformed 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 ASC and IFA standards.

### 3. Archaeological & Historical Background

- 3.1 The following sections summarise information known about the site and its surrounds.
- 3.2 The presence of a possible Romano-British site *c.*500m southeast of the current development in fields south of the Rectory was first noted in 1954 and was confirmed by small-scale excavations conducted by Buckinghamshire County Council (Evans 1970) and as part of the Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit's (MKAU) Walton medieval village excavation (Mynard & Woodfield 1972). The results of the excavations are published in 'Roman Milton Keynes' (Mynard 1987, 37). The site is numbered MK90 in the MKAU archive, and CAS 3090 in the Buckinghamshire County Sites & Monuments Record.
- 3.3 Following compulsory purchase of this area of land in 1990, a request from MKAU to carry out an archaeological evaluation of the site was approved by the Milton Keynes Development Corporation (MKDC) Executive Management Committee. The 6.25 hectare evaluation area included fields lying south and south-east of the Rectory and an area further east, on the opposite side of Walton Road. The evaluation revealed extensive remains of a Romano-British settlement and determined that the focus of Roman occupation was within the southern part of the site close to the area excavated in 1972 (Zeepvat 1990).
- 3.4 ASC undertook archaeological evaluation of the field south of the Rectory in 1999 in response to development proposals (Zeepvat 1999). A geophysical survey followed by targeted trenching confirmed that areas of high and low archaeological priority lay at the southern and northern ends of the field respectively, and results informed a strategy for mitigating the effects of proposed development on the buried archaeology. Development plans were modified and construction was limited to the northern low priority area of the site on which a negative watching brief was conducted (Zeepvat 2000).
- 3.5 Development of the southern part of this site was again proposed in 2005 and ASC produced a project design (Crank 2005) for archaeological evaluation of this area. To date the development proposals have not progressed and ASC has consequently undertaken no further work.
- 3.6 Earthworks of the medieval village of Walton are located *c.*0.5km southeast around the later 16<sup>th</sup> century buildings of Walton Manor Farm.
- 3.7 Walton Hall is located *c.*100m north of the development and was built in the early nineteenth century. The 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century parish church of Walton (St Michaels) lies *c.*150m to the southwest of the development and the 16<sup>th</sup> century Rectory lies *c.*150m southeast.
- 3.8 The surface of the field to the south of the rectory is marked by pronounced ridge-and-furrow (late Saxon/early medieval strip fields), running downslope.



## 4. Results

- 4.1 Two parts of a NE-SW aligned brick built culvert were exposed at the Jennie Lee Library site by demolition and ground reduction work. The northeastern section was located at SP 488547 237001 and the southwestern section at SP 488526 236970. The culvert had been constructed in a trench dug into the underlying till.
- 4.2 The culvert was oval in section, possessing vertical sides five courses of brick high with a rounded top and base. The dimensions of the culvert were 1.2m high and 0.8m wide. Dark staining on the basal 0.3m of brickwork possibly indicates the mean level of its contents. A *c.*0.02m deep deposit of dark grey silt overlay *c.*0.01m of light brown calcareous silt at its base suggesting that relatively clean water may have run through it..
- 4.3 The bricks of the culvert were machine made with dimensions of 0.22m long by 0.11m wide and 0.075m high. The bricks were set in a stretcher bond fixed with cement mortar and the described characteristics indicate a late 19<sup>th</sup> century date.



**Plate 1:** Culvert in foreground with Geoffrey Crowther building at rear, facing SW

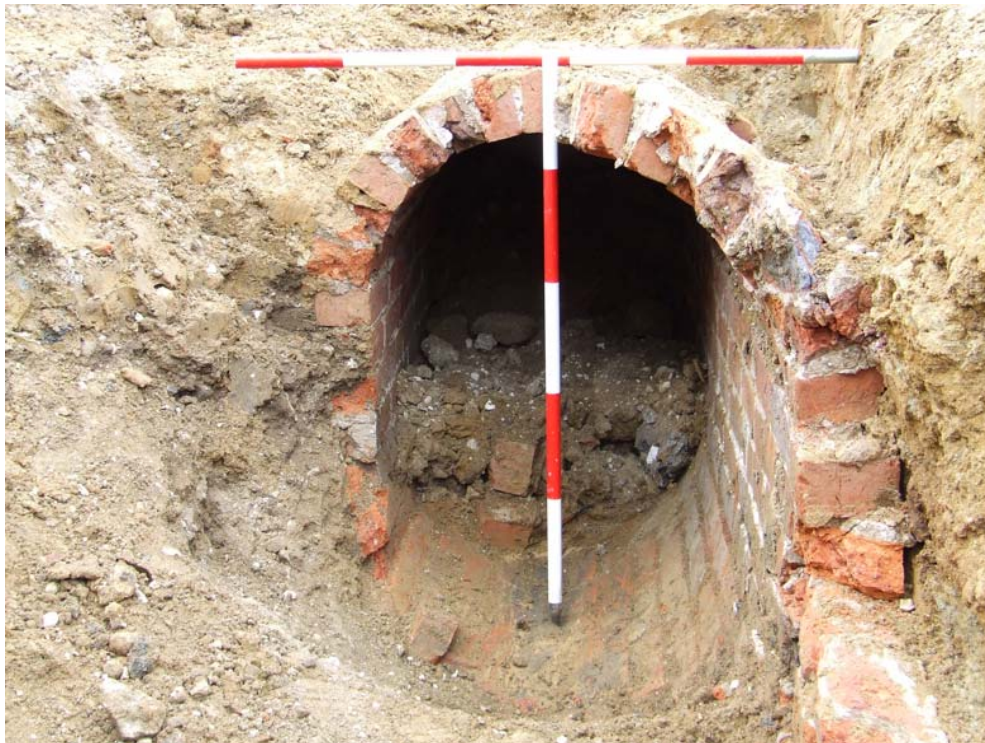


**Plate 2:** Culvert in foreground with Walton Hall at rear, facing NE





**Plate 3:** Southwestern part of culvert, facing NW



**Plate 4:** Northeastern part of culvert, facing SW

## **5. Conclusions**

- 5.1 The form of the culvert and the bricks plus the fact that they have been laid in a stretcher bond with concrete mortar indicate that the culvert was constructed during the late Victorian period.
- 5.2 The small accumulation of silting at the base of the culvert suggests that relatively clean water ran through it.
- 5.3 The function of the culvert remains unclear although it may have been constructed to channel water to or from Walton Hall.

## **6. Acknowledgements**

The writer is grateful to Clive Millar of the Open University for commissioning this project, to Norman McKenzie of Galliford Try Construction for his assistance and Nick Crank, Planning Archaeologist of Milton Keynes Council for guidance.

Fieldwork was carried out by the A Hancock and the report was edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

## **7. Archive**

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Initial Report
2. Clients site plans
3. Site Monitoring Sheet
4. List of photographs/slides
5. B/W prints & negatives
6. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum.



## 8. References

### *Standards & Specifications*

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*

Crank N. 2005 *Project Design for Archaeological Evaluation, Offices VIII, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes*. Unpublished client report. ASC Ltd. Ref: 646/WOU/01.

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

Mynard, D.C. (ed.), 1987 *Roman Milton Keynes*. Buckinghamshire Archaeology Society Monograph Series **1** (Aylesbury).

Mynard, D.C. 1994 *Excavations on medieval and later sites in Milton Keynes*. Buckinghamshire Archaeology Society Monograph Series **6** (Aylesbury).


Mynard, D.C. and Woodfield, C. 1977 'A Roman site at Walton, Milton Keynes', *Records of Buckinghamshire* **20**, 351-83.

Zeepvat, R.J. 1990 *Walton Hall*. site evaluation report, Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit archive.

Zeepvat, R.J. 1999 *An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at the Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes*. Unpublished client report. ASC Ltd. Ref: ASC/M/WOU99/2.

Zeepvat, R.J. 2000 *Archaeological Watching Brief, Offices VIII, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes*. Unpublished client report. ASC Ltd. Ref: ASC/M/WOU00/3.

# Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheet

 <b>A.S.C. LTD</b>		<b>ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD</b>				
Project: <b>JENNIE LEE LIBRARY</b> <b>OPEN UNIVERSITY</b>		Project No/Code: <b>8331 OUL</b>	Sheet: <b>1</b> of <b>1</b>			
Client/Developer: <b>OU</b>		Date of visit: <b>9/8/04</b>				
Contact: <b>CLIVE MILLAR (ESTATES)</b>		Phone:				
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: <b>9.00</b>	Finish: <b>11.30</b>				
Completed by: <b>AH</b>						
<b>Development Type:</b>						
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify): <b>DEMOLITION</b>
Site & weather conditions: <p style="text-align: center;"><b>HOT AND HUMID</b></p>						
Observations: <p style="text-align: center;">                     TWO SECTIONS OF OVAL BRICK BUILT                      CULVERT UNCOVERED BY 360s DURING DEMOLITION.                      SECTIONS ARE c. 30m APART AND DRAIN                      RUNS IN STRAIGHT LINE BETWEEN THE TWO.                      BRICKS ARE WELL FIRED AND 'IMPERIAL' SIZE                      ∴ VICTORIAN.                      GROUND WORK CONTRACTORS HAVE EXCAVATED                      SERIES OF TEST TRENCHES 20m SE OF SE SECTION                      OF DRAIN AND HAVE NOT DISCOVERED ANY FURTHER                      PARTS OF IT. INTERNAL INSPECTION WITH FLASH                      LIGHT INDICATES DRAIN IS BLOCKED 10m SE OF                      THE VISIBLE SOUTHERLY SECTION. IT MAY ∴ TURN                      OR HAVE BEEN TRUNCATED BY EARLIER CONSTRUCTION                      WORKS.                      DIMENSIONS — 1m HIGH x 0.8m WIDE                      BASE AND TOP — SLIGHT CURVATURE, SIDES ARE (4 COURSES OF BRICK) VERTICAL                 </p>						
Comments: <p style="text-align: center;">                     EXPOSED AREAS CLEANED AND PHOTOGRAPHED.                      DRAIN ALIGNED NE - SW                      NE PART OF DRAIN      SP    488545    236997                      SW PART OF DRAIN      SP    488530    236970                 </p>						

For sketch plan, use reverse

©ASC, 2003

## Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: The Jennie Lee Library, Walton Hall , Open University				SITE NO/CODE: 833/OUL
Shot	B&W	Slide	Digital	Subject
1			✓	General, culvert in foreground
2			✓	Culvert in foreground and Geoffrey Crowther building in background
3			✓	Culvert in foreground and Walton Hall in background
4			✓	Detail of southwestern part of culvert
5			✓	Detail of northeastern part of culvert

## Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS						
Project Name:	The Jennie Lee Library, Walton Hall, Open University					
Short Description:	Two sections of a Victorian linear brick built culvert were exposed during demolition and ground reduction work prior to construction of the new library building.					
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)		None	
Current land use:	Open University Campus		Future work: (yes / no / unknown)		No	
Monument type:	Culvert		Monument period:		Victorian	
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	-					
PROJECT LOCATION						
County:	Milton Keynes Unitary Authority		OS reference: (to at least 8 figures)			
District:	Walton		Parish:		Walton CP	
Site address: (with postcode if known)	Jennie Lee Library, Open University, Walton Hall					
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	500 sq m approx		Height OD: (metres)		66m	
PROJECT CREATORS						
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd					
Project brief originator:	-		Project design originator:		-	
Project Manager:	D. Fell		Director/Supervisor:		A Hancock	
Sponsor / funding body:	The Open University					
PROJECT DATE						
Start date:	09/08/06		End date:		09/08/06	
PROJECT ARCHIVES						
	Location (Accession no.)		Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)			
Physical:	-					
Paper:	Buck's County Museum		Report			
Digital:	Bucks County Museum		Report, digital site plans, photos			
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)						
Title:	Archaeological recording at the Jennie Lee Library, Open University, Walton Hall					
Serial title & volume:	-					
Author(s):	A Hancock					
Page nos	1-26		Date: 29/08/09			