

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF
8 WELDON RISE, LOUGHTON,
MILTON KEYNES**

Joe Abrams BA AIFA



September 2002

ASC:LWR02/01

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SITE DATA

ASC site code:	LWR 02	Project No:	400
District:	Milton Keynes		
Village/Town:	Loughton		
Parish:	Loughton		
NGR:	SP 8380 3760		
Total extent of site:	c.02.ha		
Present land use:	Empty plot – rough grassland		
Planning proposal:	Construction of a detached dwelling, garage and associated services.		
Planning application ref/date:	02/00099/FUL		
Client:	Mr & Mrs Folkard 15 Whitworth Lane Loughton Milton Keynes MK5 8EB		
Contact name:	Clive Folkard		
Telephone:		Fax:	n/a

CONTENTS

Summary	3
1. Introduction & Setting	3
2. Archaeological & Historical Background	5
3. Aims & Methods	7
4. Results	8
5. Conclusions	11
6. Acknowledgements	11
7. Bibliography	12
8. Archive	12

Appendices:

1. Field Monitoring Sheets	13
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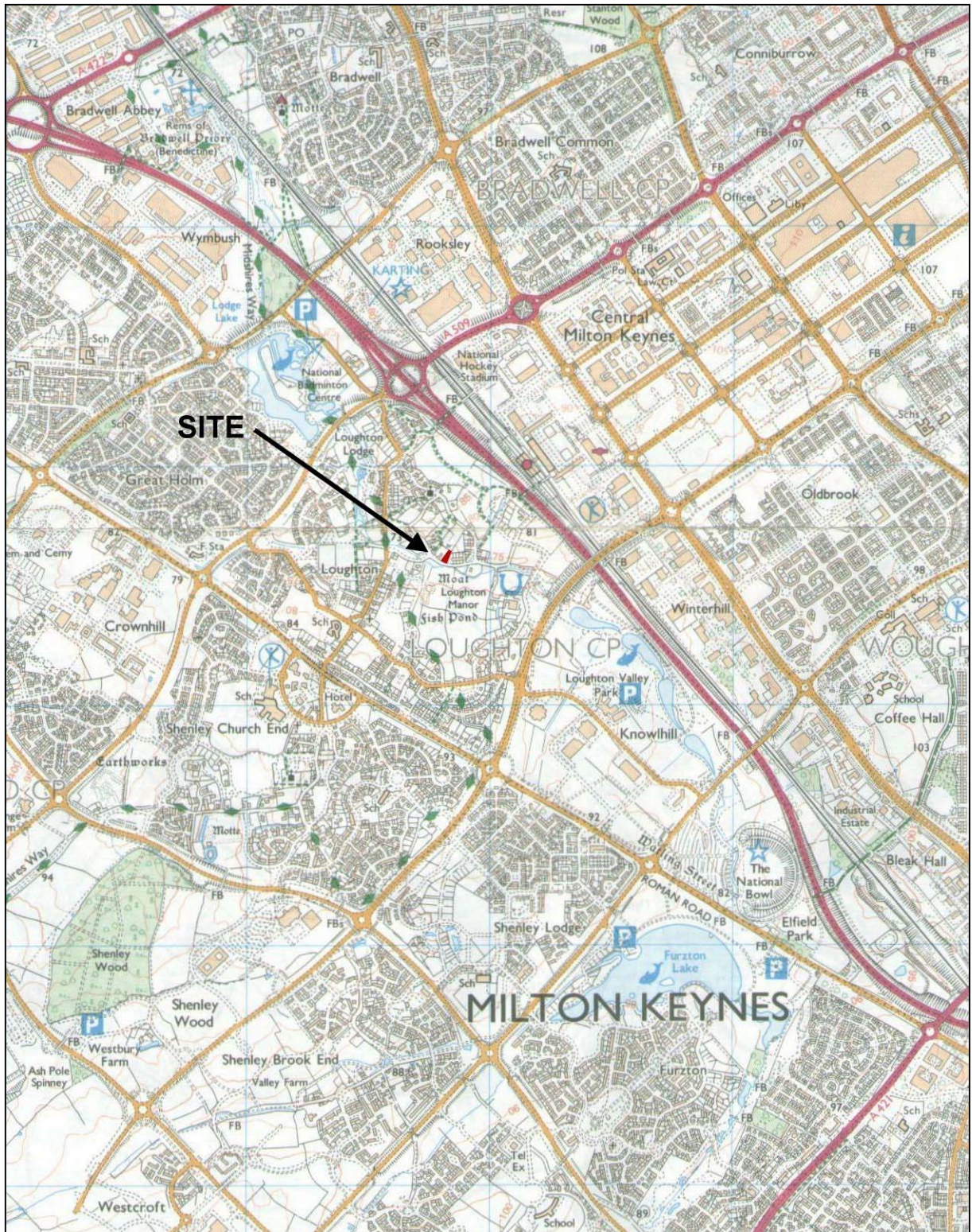
Figures:

1. General location	2
2. Site location	4
3. Loughton Village Earthworks	5
4. Earthworks south of Leys Road, including Crofts and Closes A-G.....	6
5. Plan of proposed development	10

Plates:

Cover:

1. Topsoil Stripping House Plot	8
2. Topsoil Stripping House Plot	8
3. Topsoil Stripping Driveway	9
4. Excavation of House Footings.....	9
5. Excavation of House Footings.....	9



Based upon the 1998 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map, with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
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Figure 1: General location (*scale 1:25,000*)

Summary

During September 2002 a watching brief was undertaken during ground works for a detached dwelling at 8 Weldon Rise, Loughton, Milton Keynes. No archaeological features were recorded during the watching brief.

1 Introduction

1.1 The watching brief at 8 Weldon Rise, Loughton was commissioned by Mr Clive Folkard in response to a PPG16 (archaeology and planning) planning condition imposed by the local planning authority, Milton Keynes Council. The condition was placed due to the proximity of the development area to the historic core of Loughton village and its location immediately north of the Medieval Village earthworks immediately south of the site. It was thought that the development area may have contained archaeological features useful in establishing the extent of the village during the Medieval and/or Post medieval periods. It was expected that any archaeological remains present within the development area would have been severely damaged or destroyed by the ground works associated with the construction of a house, driveway, garage and associated services.

1.2 *Setting*

1.2.1 The site is a broadly rectangular shaped plot approximately 0.2ha in size. It is located within the historic village and parish of Loughton.

1.2.2 The elevation of the site is approximately 75m OD. The land is broadly level but rises steeply in the 10m stretch of land leading to the northern boundary with Weldon Rise. The development area is bordered by residential buildings and gardens to the east and west, by Leys Road to the south and by Weldon Rise to the north.

1.2.3 The natural soils of the area are derived from boulder clay (Zeepvat 1993) and the underlying geology is classified as belonging to the Hanslope Association (Soil Survey 1983), being 'slowly permeable calcerous clayey soils' overlying boulder clay.

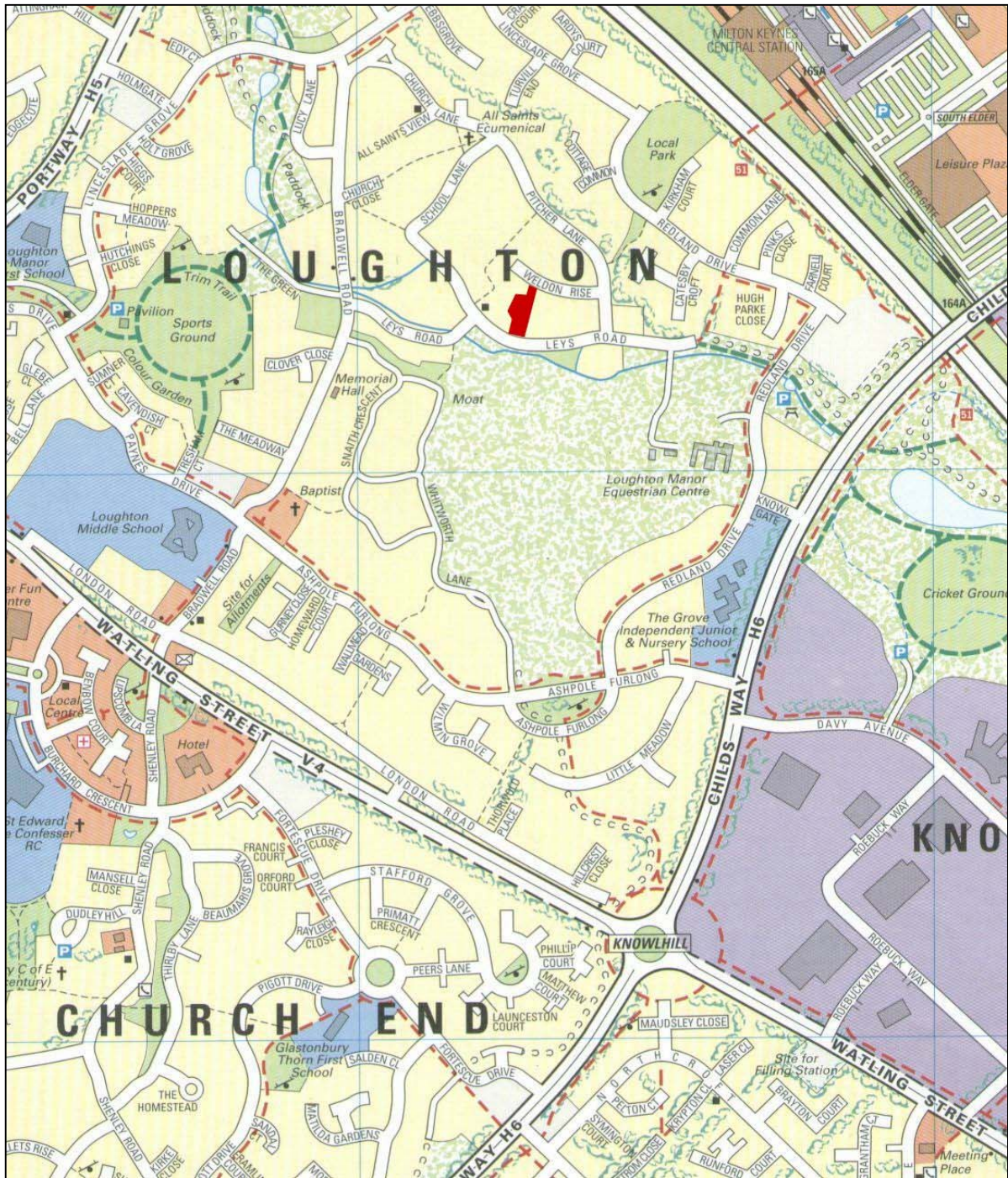


Figure 2: Site location (not to scale)

2 Archaeological & Historical Background

- 2.1 The name Loughton derives from the old english Luhington and means 'Luha's farm' (Mawer and Stenton 1925). The parish originally covered 621ha and was bordered Watling Street to the south which follows the course of a Roman Road. This lies c.800m of the site. The highest part of the parish was c.1.5km northeast of the site in Bradwell Common, now the city centre, the elevation at this point is c.120m OD (Croft and Mynard 1993).
- 2.2 The site is located within the historic core of Loughton. Prior to AD 1409 Loughton consisted of two settlements, Great Loughton and Little Loughton, both of which had parish status. The site lies within the boundaries of what was Great Loughton. The southern boundary of that settlement was defined by Leys Road and the brook (Fig 3) which runs broadly east west through the village. To the north and east Pitcher Lane and Church Lane define former boundaries and to the west Bradwell Road completes the roughly triangular shape of what was Great Loughton.

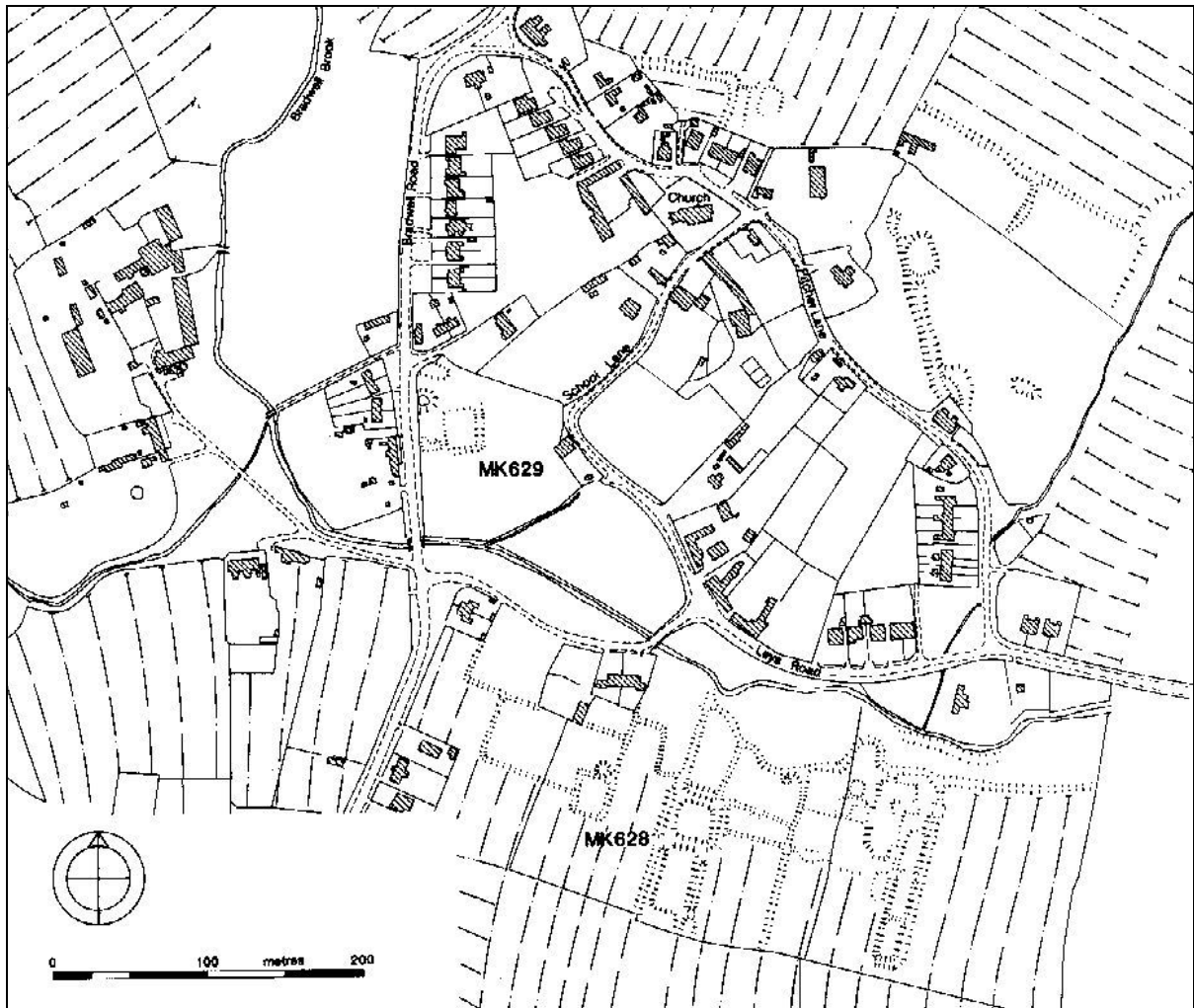


Figure 3: Loughton Village Earthworks and Archaeological Sites MK628 and MK629

- 2.3 Little Loughton lay immediately south and west of the site and Leys Road. All that remains of this settlement are the earthworks (MK628) which are visible on the Green south of Leys Road. These consist of three closes and five crofts (Fig 4) one of which contains a moat and associated fishpond. Precise dates for the establishment of these dwellings are not known. However, they all appear to post-date the ridge and furrow earthworks also visible in the field. Archaeological rescue excavations during the excavation of drainage works in 1975 recorded a stone founded house in Close D (Fig 4) with associated artefactual material dated to the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. Pottery sherds dating to the seventeenth century were recorded in Close G during the same drainage works. This suggests that the dwellings may have been established in the late medieval period, an idea backed up by documentary evidence recording the existence of a fishery in Loughton in 1587. It is also recorded that several of the house plots were still in use in 1769 (Croft and Mynard 1993).
- 2.4 This important complex of earthworks lies directly opposite the site (Fig 4). It was considered a possibility that archaeological remains contemporary with them may exist on the site.

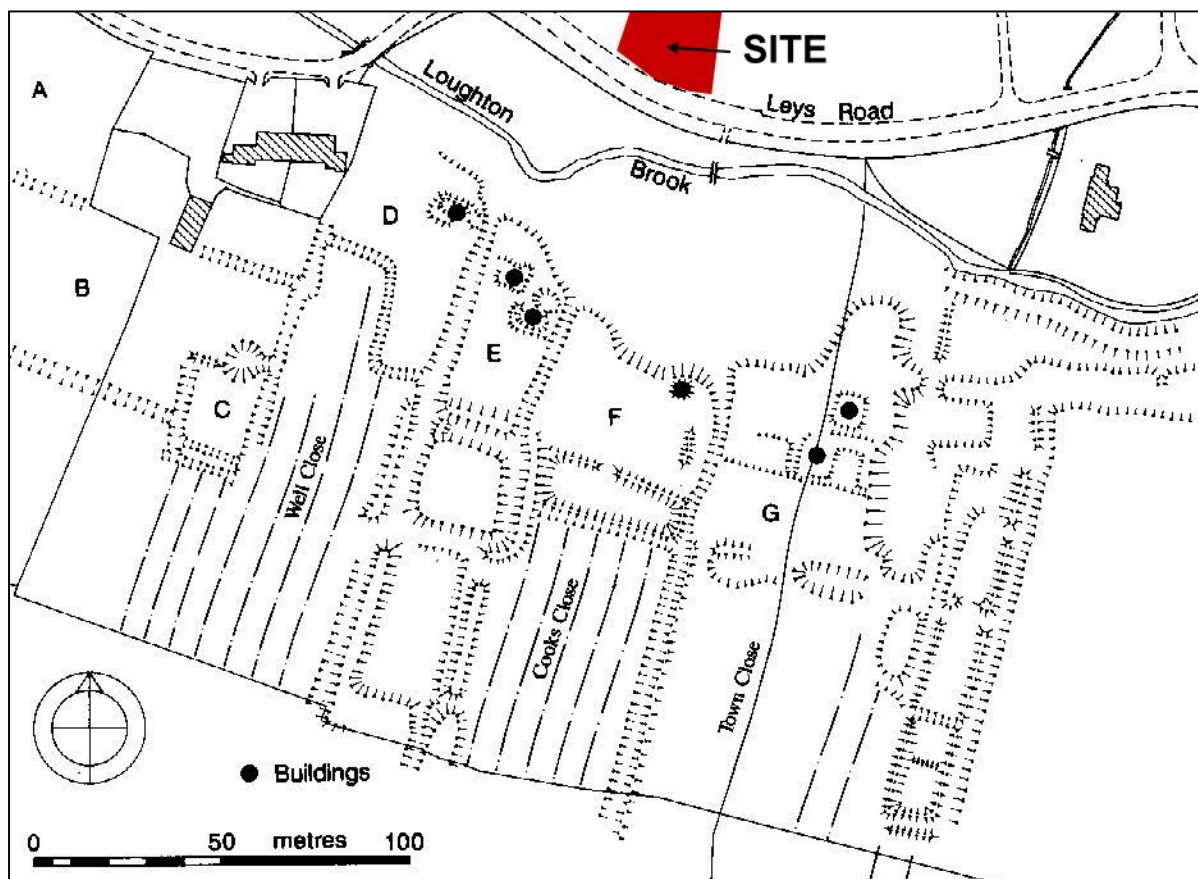


Figure 4: Earthworks south of Leys Road, including Crofts and Closes A-G

3 Aims & Methods

3.1 The aims of the watching brief were:

- To establish whether there is evidence for medieval or post medieval occupation at the site. This would assist in establishing the extent of the village during these periods.
- To produce an accurate and full record of the archaeology present, such that a permanent record will be made and the results presented in such a way that they may be re-examined and interpreted in the future.

3.2 In the absence of a brief the work was carried out according to the following standards used by ASC on projects of this type:

- A watching brief by an archaeological contractor on any foundations, service trenches and any other works involving excavations.
- Intermittent watching briefs where the earth moving is carried out in stages over a period of time.
- The excavation and recording of any archaeological features/deposits;
- Examination of any service and foundation trenches and the subsequent recording of any exposed archaeological deposits;
- Research as is necessary to place into context any significant archaeological deposits encountered.
- A programme of post-fieldwork analysis, archiving and publication.

3.3 The work was carried out in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Watching Briefs*, and the relevant section(s) of ASC's *Operations Manual*.

3.4 Each site visit was recorded on ASC's Site Monitoring Sheets (Appendix 1). A photographic record (B&W prints, colour slides and digital photographs) was also maintained throughout the watching brief. A plan of the development provided by the client (Fig. 5) was used as the basis for recording the location of archaeological features and finds.

4 Results

4.1 Three visits were made to the site, during which the following ground works operations were monitored:

- Removal of topsoil and overburden from the area of the house, garage and drive.
- Excavation of footings for the house.

4.2 Stripping and excavation of footings in the area of the house plot (Fig 5) revealed a dark brown silty clay topsoil layer, this varied from 0.20m to 0.30m across the site. Several pieces of Post medieval pottery and house brick were recorded in the topsoil. Below this three distinct layers of natural subsoil were recorded. The uppermost was a mid orange sandy clay with moderate gravel inclusions, uniformly 0.80m deep in all the house footings. Below this was a yellowish grey clay layer, 1m deep. The base of the footing trenches was cut into a dark blue clay, 0.10m deep at the limit of excavation. No archaeological features were recorded in this area.

4.3 Stripping in the area of the drive (Fig 5) revealed that the natural subsoil had been disturbed during the excavation of drains in the modern period. A mixture of coarse gravel and redeposited natural clay had been used to backfill the drainage trench. No archaeological features were recorded in this area.



Plate 1: Topsoil Stripping House plot



Plate 2: Topsoil Stripping House plot



Plate 3: Topsoil Stripping Driveway



Plate 4: Excavation of house footings



Plate 5: Section of house footings

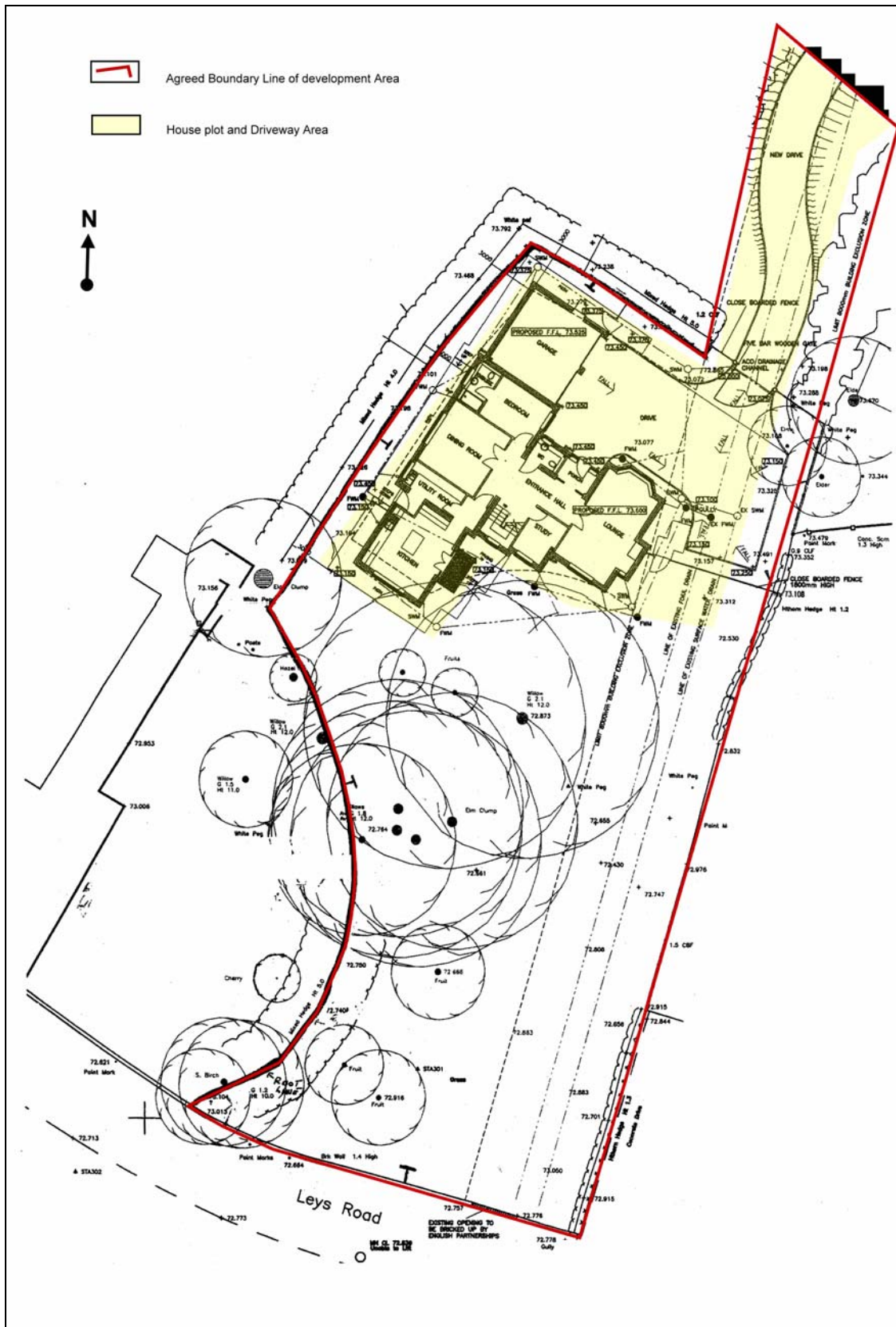


Figure 5: Plan of proposed development (not to scale)

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 No archaeological features were recorded during this watching brief. It is suggested that although the site lies within the historic core of Loughton it may have remained as pasture rather than being used for occupation.
- 5.2 Although the site is located immediately north of a series of significant late Medieval/Post medieval earthworks to the south of Leys Lane, no related features were recorded. It should be noted however that the Leys Lane lies c40m south of the ground works observed during this watching brief. The southern part of the site fronting Leys Lane is likely to have the highest archaeological potential, and the possibility remains that archaeological features exist in that part of the site.

6 Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to Mr Clive Folkard for commissioning ASC to undertake the watching brief, and to Paul Reid (building contractor) for his co-operation during the ground works phase. Thanks are also extended to Brian Giggins (Archaeological Officer) who monitored the watching brief on behalf of Milton Keynes Council. The fieldwork and report preparation were undertaken by Joe Abrams of ASC Ltd. The report was edited by Bob Zeepvat.

7 Bibliography

Croft, R.A. and Mynard, D C, 1993 *The changing landscape of Milton Keynes*. Buckinghamshire Archaeol. Soc. Monog. Ser. **5** (Aylesbury).

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IFA. 1994 *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*. Institute of Field Archaeologists.

Zeepvat, R 1993 'The Geology and Topography' in Croft, R.A. and Mynard, D.C., 1993 *The changing landscape of Milton Keynes*. Buckinghamshire Archaeol. Soc. Monog. Ser. **5** (Aylesbury).

Mawer A and Stenton F M 1925 *The Place-Names of Buckinghamshire*.

8 Archive

8.1 The project archive comprises:

- 3 Archaeological Field Monitoring Sheets
- 2 continuation sheets
- Report (this document)
- Black and white prints
- Colour slides
- CDROM

Appendix 1: Field Monitoring Sheets

A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD		
Project Name: <u>COUGHTON/WELDON RISE</u>		Project Code: <u>LWR 02</u>		Date of visit: <u>2/9/07</u>
Location: <u>MILTON KEYNES</u>				
Client/Developer: <u>MR FOLKARD</u>				
Architect: <u>/</u>				
Site Manager/ Farmer: <u>PAUL REID</u>			Phone:	
Development Type:				
Foundations	Services	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Quarrying
				Pipelines
				Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions:				
<u>SUNNY + DRY</u>				
Observations: <u>ARRIVE 3:40 PM DEPART 4:20 PM</u>				
<u>TOPSOIL STRIP HOUSE PLOT:</u>				
<u>(SEE SKETCH ALSO) AREA STRIPPED WAS 24 m L</u>				
<u>X 17 m W X 0.20 m - 0.30 m DEEP.</u>				
<u>NATURAL SUBSOIL WAS NOT REVEALED AT ANY</u>				
<u>POINT. STRIPPING WAS ONLY REALLY OF THE</u>				
<u>VEGETATION/ROOT ZONE.</u>				
<u>NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES OBSERVED.</u>				
<u>A LINE OF POST MED BRICKS OBSERVED</u>				
<u>IN MIDDLE OF HOUSE PLOT - ALIGNED NW-SE</u>				
<u>OCCASIONAL FRAGMENTS OF POST MED POTTERY</u>				
<u>PRESENT.</u>				
<u>- FREQUENT ROOTS, BRICK FRAGS & COAL.</u>				
<u>- LINE OF BRICKS SHOULD BE OBSERVED DURING</u>				
<u>EXCAVATION OF FOOTINGS.</u>				
Comments:				
<u>DISCUSSED SCHEME OF WORKS WITH PAUL</u>				
<u>REID. 2/9/07 - TOPSOIL STRIP FOR HOUSE PLOT</u>				
<u>3/9/07 - TOPSOIL STRIP DRIVEWAY.</u>				
<u>4/9/07 → 6/9/07 - FOOTINGS FOR HOUSE PLOT</u>				
<u>TO A DEPTH OF 2.9m</u>				
Completed by: <u>JOE ABRAMS</u>				

For sketch plan, use reverse

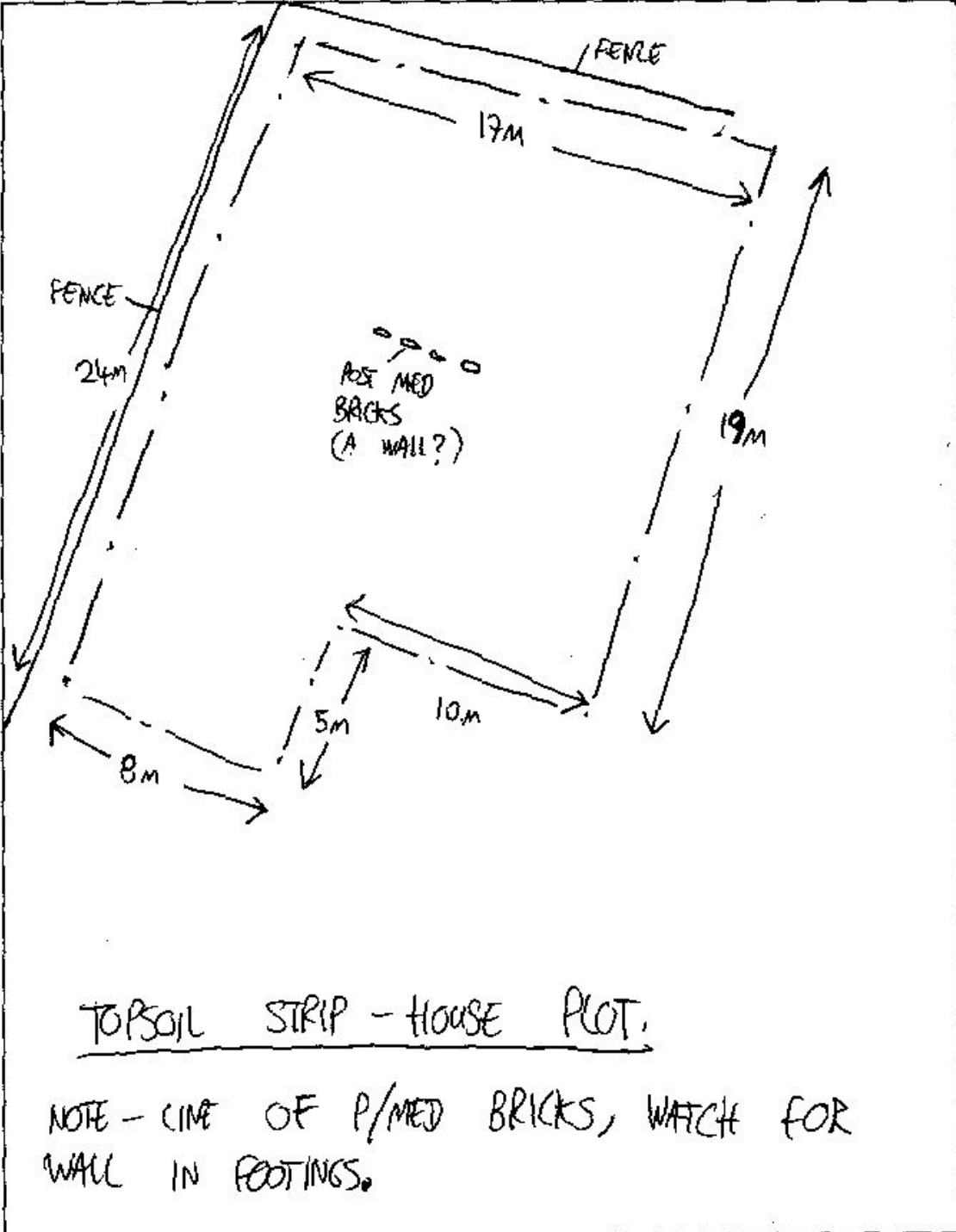
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CONTINUATION SHEET

Site Code: LWR_02	Co-ordinates:	Continued from Sheet Number:
Sheet Type:		


ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:



RECORDING NOTES


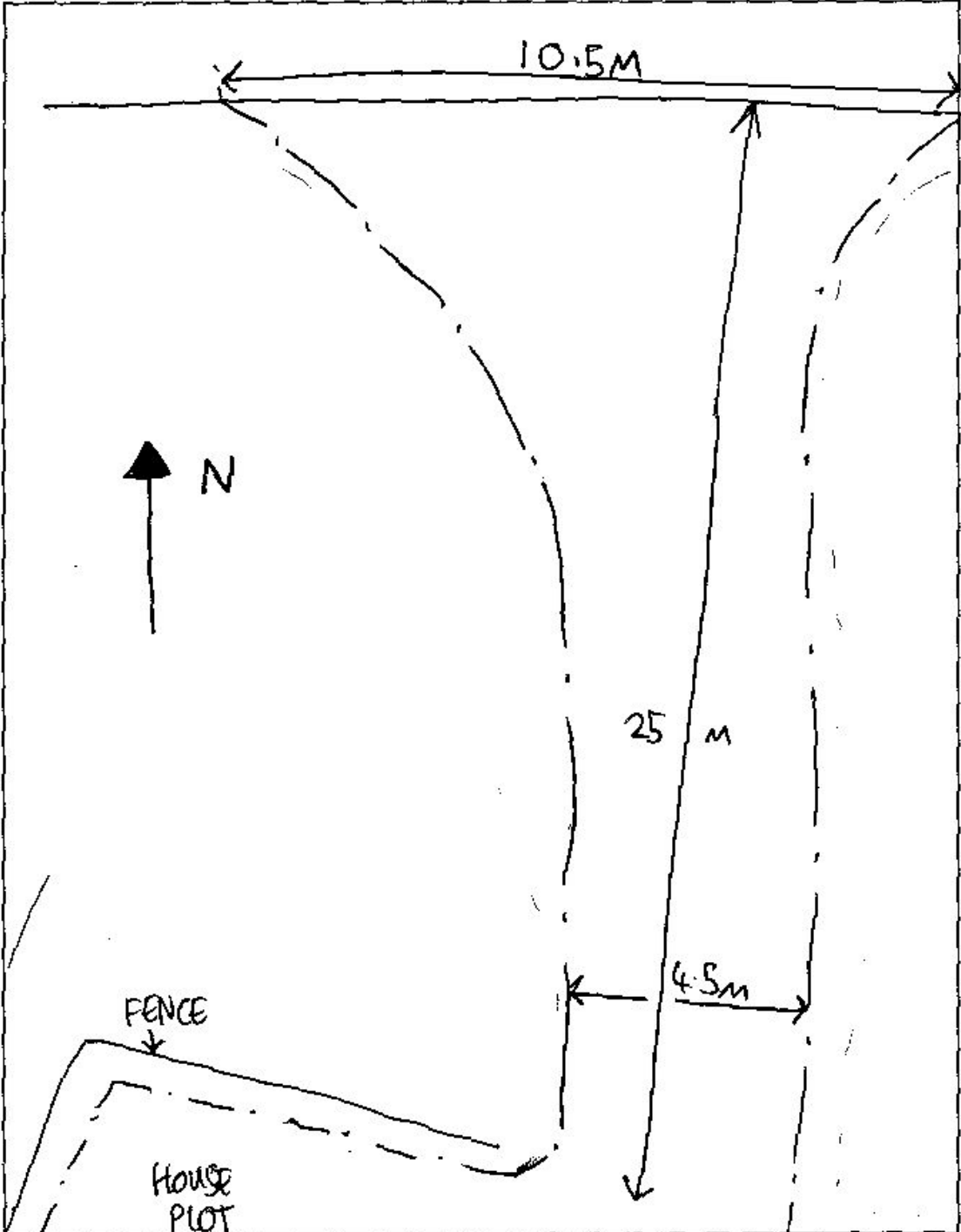
Recorded by: SA	Date: 2/9/02	Checked by:	Date:	Entered by:	Date:
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 A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD				
Project Name: LOUGHTON, WELDON RISE		Project Code: LNR 02		Date of visit: 3/9/02		
Location: LOUGHTON, MILTON KEYNES						
Client/Developer: MR FOLKARD						
Architect:						
Site Manager/ Farmer: PAUL REID				Phone:		
Development Type:						
Foundations	Services	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: DRY + SUNNY						
Observations: ARRIVE 10.30 AM DEPART 11.10 AM OBSERVED TOPSOIL STRIP ON DRIVEWAY.						
NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES OBSERVED. STRIPPING REVEALED RE-DEPOSITED TOPSOIL + CERAMIC DRAINS + GLASS + COARSE GRAVEL. THE DRIVEWAY IS BEING CONSTRUCTED ABOVE A MODERN DRAIN CUT THIS MATERIAL IS SURFACE OF THIS.						
SEE SKETCH ALSO. → STRIPPING DIMENSIONS 2.5 m L x 4.5 m W x 0.3 m D						
DRIVEWAY SLOPED c2 m FROM NORTH TO SOUTH.						
Comments: WILL RETURN TOMMOROW & SEE FOOTINGS BEING EXCAVATED						
Completed by: SOE ABRAMS						

For sketch plan, use reverse

CASC, 2000

 A.S.C. LTD		CONTINUATION SHEET	
Site Code: CWR 02	Co-ordinates:	Continued from Sheet Number:	
Sheet Type:			
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:			
			
RECORDING NOTES			
Recorded by: S.A	Date: 3/9/02	Checked by:	Date:
Entered by:			Date:

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A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD				
Project Name: LOUGHTON, WELDON RISE		Project Code: LWR02		Date of visit: 4/9/02		
Location: LOUGHTON, WELDON RISE, MILTON KEYNES						
Client/Developer: MR FOLKARD						
Architect:						
Site Manager/ Farmer: PAUL REID.				Phone:		
Development Type:						
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Foundations	<input type="checkbox"/> Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Roads	<input type="checkbox"/> Levelling	<input type="checkbox"/> Quarrying	<input type="checkbox"/> Pipelines	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: DRY OVERCAST						
Observations: ARRIVE - 12:45 PM DEPART - 1:30 PM						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OBSERVED c.60% OF HOUSE FOOTINGS BEING EXC - NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES OBSERVED. - FOOTINGS TRENCHES ARE c2.0m - 2.30m DEEP. 						
TOPSOIL 0.30m DEEP						
NAT SUBSOIL - CLAY/SAND/GRVEL MEDIUM ORANGE 0.80m DEEP						
NAT SUBSOIL - YELLOW CLAY 1m DEEP						
NAT SUBSOIL - BLUE CLAY 0.1m DEEP TO LOE						
NOTE - POSSIBLE WALL NOTED 2/9/02 AMOUNTED TO NOTHING.						
SEE (SITE PLAN) FOR LOCATION OF FOOTINGS TRENCHES						
Comments: PHONED BRIAN GIGGINS WITH UPDATE. WE AGREED TO STOP MONITORING TODAY AS NOTHING SIGNIFICANT SHOWING UP.						
Completed by:						

For sketch plan, use reverse

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