

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF:
19 SILVER STREET
NEWPORT PAGNELL
MILTON KEYNES**

on behalf of Russell Lawton



Nigel Wilson HND AIFA

September 2007

ASC: 986/NPS/1

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Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	NPS	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	986
<i>Event No:</i>	1141	<i>Accession No:</i>	n/a
<i>Unitary Authority:</i>	Milton Keynes		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Newport Pagnell		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Newport Pagnell		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 87669 43770		
<i>Present use:</i>	Lawn and garden		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Erection of garage		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	06/00641/FUL		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Milton Keynes Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	10 th September 2007		
<i>Client:</i>	Russell Lawton 19 Silver Street Newport Pagnell Milton Keynes MK16 0EJ		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Russell Lawton		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Nigel Wilson	<i>Date:</i>	13 th September 2007
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<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
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<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
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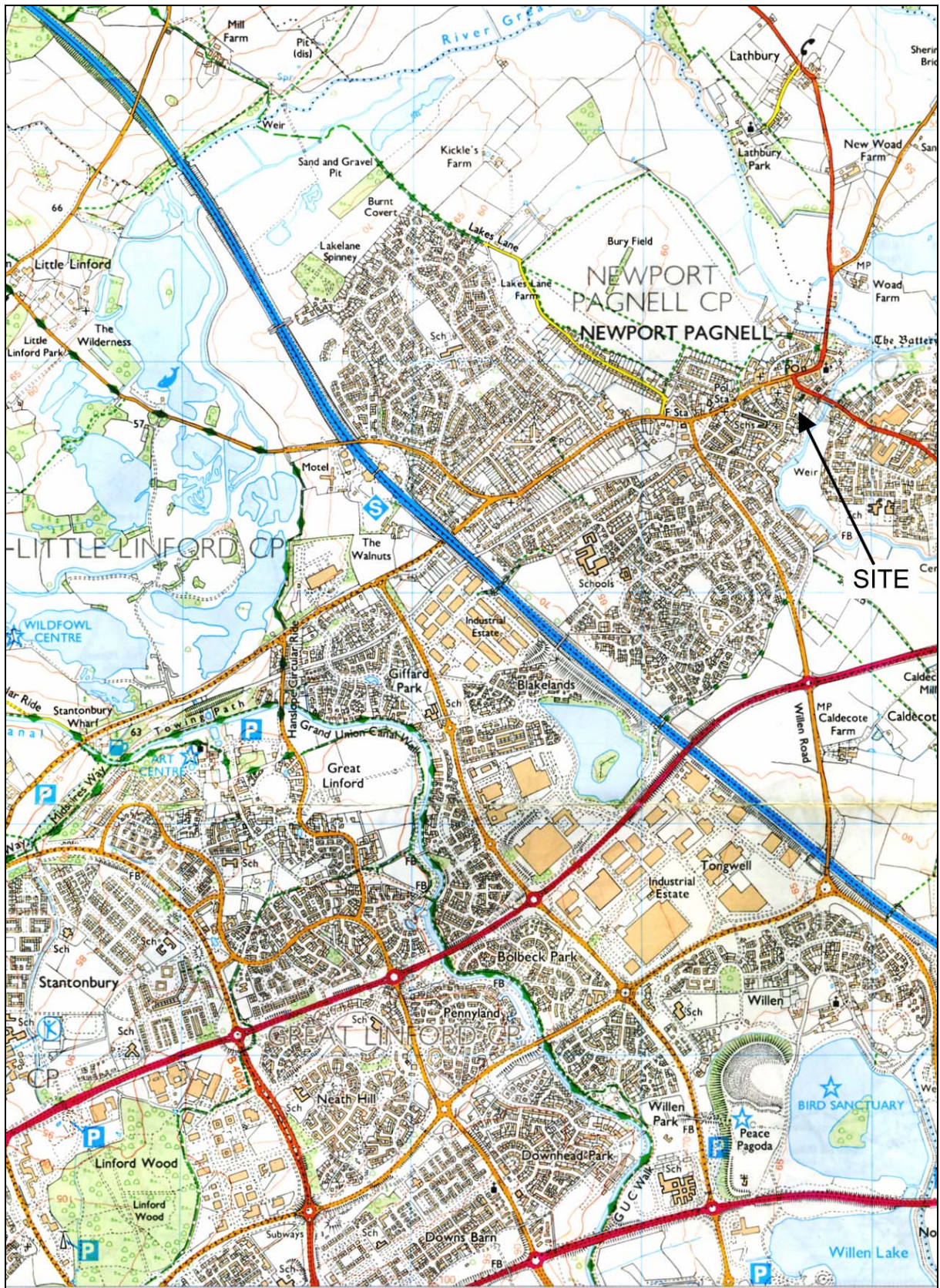


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

During September 2007, a watching brief took place on land to the rear of 19 Silver Street Newport Pagnell, in advance of construction of a garage. An area of approximately 6x6m was stripped for a concrete base. At the depth required for the development between 0.3-0.6m the only deposits observed were a layer of topsoil above natural limestone. No features were present and the only finds observed were modern within the topsoil.

1 Introduction

1.1 In September 2007 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief on land to the rear of 19 Silver Street, Newport Pagnell (NGR SP 87669 43770: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Russel Lawton, and was carried out according to a standard ASC method statement (Appendix 1) approved by the Milton Keynes Council Archaeological Officer (MKCAO) acting as archaeological advisor to the local planning authority (LPA), Milton Keynes Council. The relevant planning application reference is 06/00641/FUL.

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 the construction of a garage.

1.3 *Location*

Number 19 Silver Street is located on the east side of Silver Street (Fig. 2), and is a listed building within a conservation area. The site lies within the garden and is accessed from a small lane to the rear of the plot.

1.4 *Geology & Topography*

The natural drainage of the area is dominated by the river Great Ouse, which flows to the north of the town centre. To the east of the site a tributary the river Ouzel flows northeastwards to join the main river. As the development lies within an urban area the soils of the area have not been mapped. However they probably belong to the Aberford association (Soil Survey 1983, 511a), described as '*shallow, locally brashy, well-drained calcareous fine loamy soils over limestone*'. The underlying geology of the site area consists of clay, overlying Cornbrash limestone (Horton *et al* 1974). The site slopes gently from west to east and lies at an elevation of *c.* 55m OD.

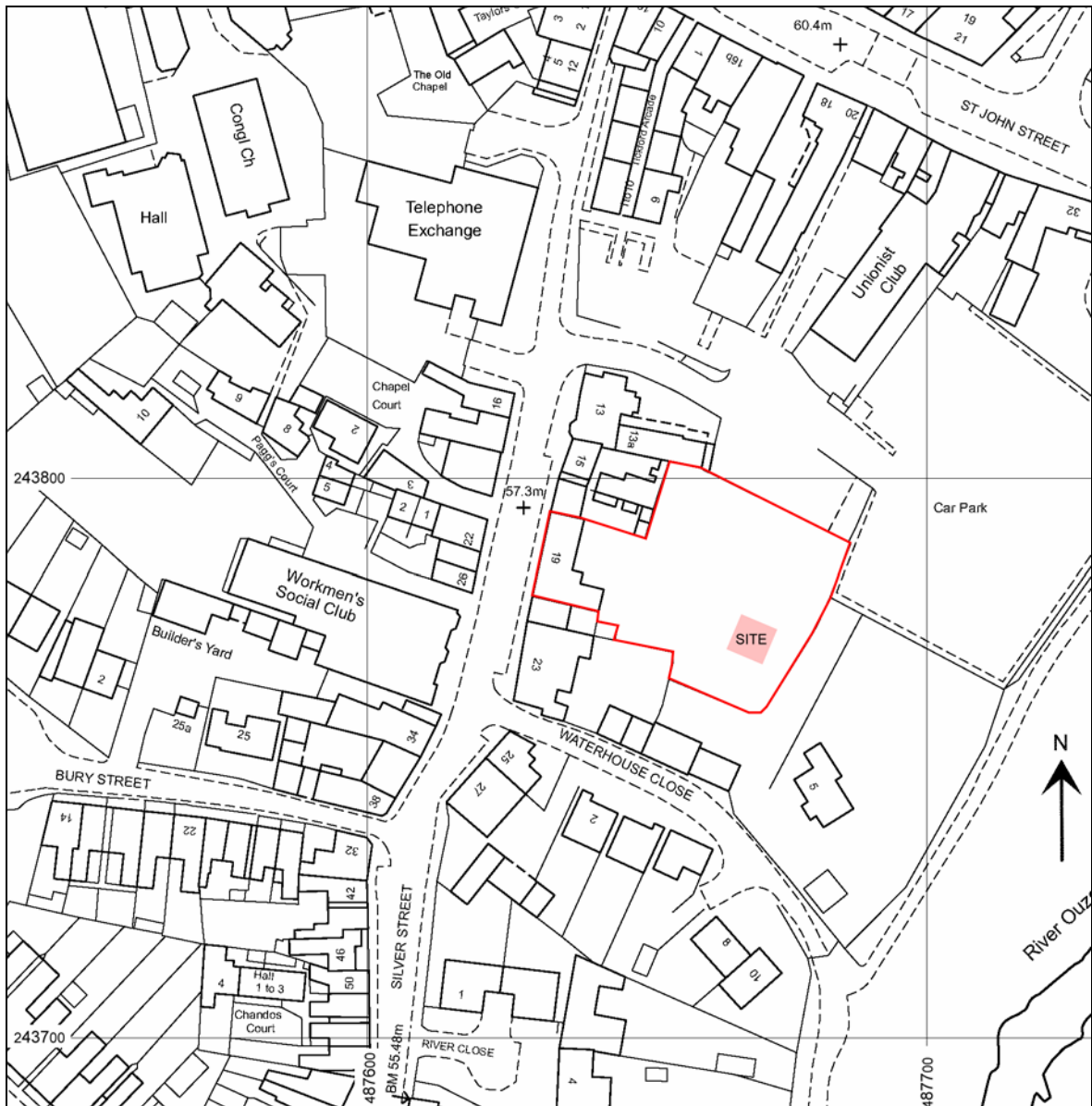


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

2 Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

In accordance with the requirements of MKCAO, the aim of the watching brief was:

- to carry out appropriate levels of investigation, recording and sampling of archaeological features revealed during construction works in order to characterise their date, form and function.

2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the method statement, 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's standard watching brief methodology (Appendix 1)

2.4 Constraints

The work was not hindered by any factors, and all observations were made after the site had been stripped to the depth required for the development.

3 Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 General

The town and environs of Newport Pagnell are of considerable archaeological and historical interest, and many of the properties along Silver Street are listed buildings, including no. 19. Previous archaeological investigations in the vicinity of Newport Pagnell have un-earthed evidence from a range of periods since at least c.2000BC (Wilson 2002). Although no prehistoric sites or finds have been identified within the town, Roman coins have been found on sites along the High Street and Caldecote Street (*ibid*). Today the plan of the town owes much to the survival of burgage plots along both sides of the High Street that were formed during the medieval period.

Saxon (c.450-1066)

Newport Pagnell itself was probably established during the late Saxon period, in the 8th or 9th century (Mynard & Hunt 1995). Its strategic location at the junction of two rivers and a crossing point, close to *Watling Street*, which formed the boundary between Saxon Mercia and the Danish-held eastern part of the country, made it of potential importance to both sides (Wilson 2002). Following the capture of London by King Alfred in 885, Newport Pagnell and the surrounding settlements passed into Saxon hands (*ibid*). The town plan was probably laid out by them, as was the contemporary settlement at Buckingham (*ibid*).

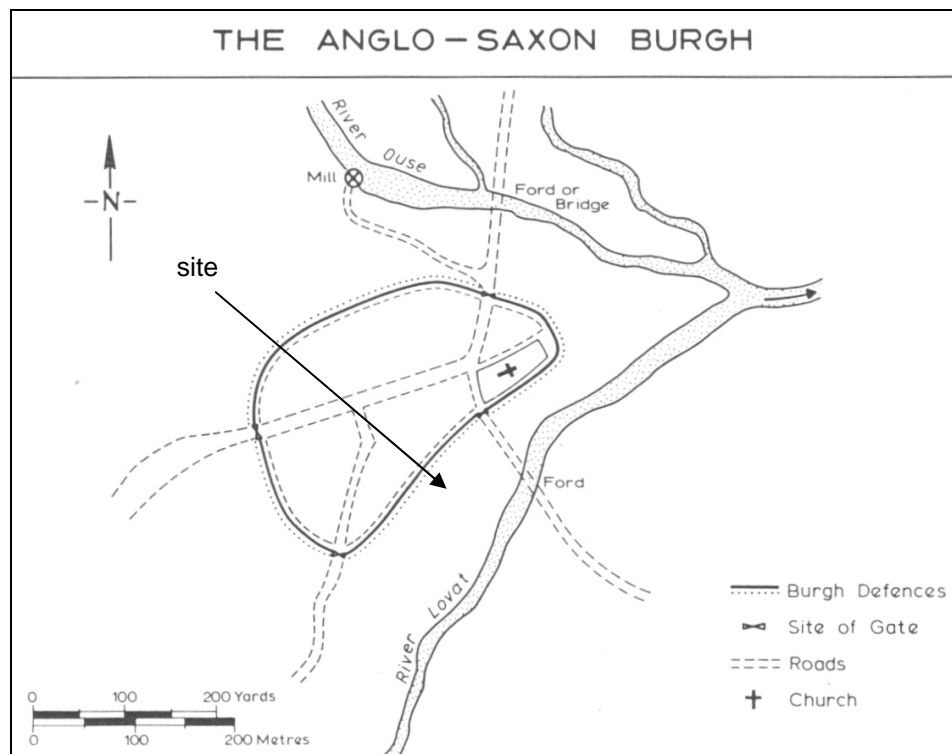


Figure 3: Map of the town during the Saxon period (after Robinson 1975)

As a trading centre with a mint, the Saxon town, or Burgh, is thought to have been defended by a large earthwork (Fig. 3; Pevsner and Williamson 2000; Robinson 1975). Towards the end of the Saxon period the town and surrounding area belonged to Ulf, a thegn of King Edward (Pevsner and Williamson 2000; Page 1927).

Medieval (1066-1500)

Newport Pagnell is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086, where it is referred to as 'Nuwport', and was one of only two boroughs in the county at that time (Page 1927). The manor of Newport belonged to William Fitz Ansculf, son of Ansculf de Picquigny, in the 11th century before it passed to Fulk Paynel (*ibid*; Mynard and Hunt 1995). The Survey entry makes it clear that Newport was a populous, thriving market town. By at least 1086 the land within the town along the High Street was divided into burgage plots (Robinson 1975). It is likely that buildings such as shops, houses or taverns were erected on each plot along the street front, and the market would have been held along the road in front of the burgage plots up to Market Hill (*ibid*; Fig. 4).

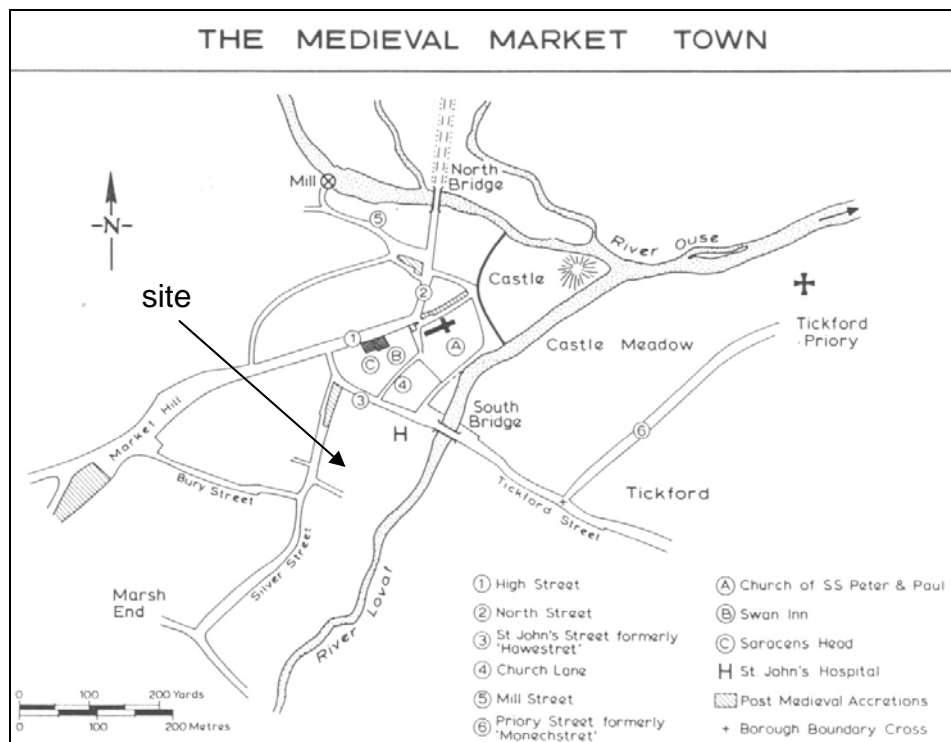


Figure 4: Map of the town during the Medieval period (after Robinson 1975)

At the beginning of the 12th century Fulk Pagnell granted lands in Tickford, east of the town, to the French abbey of Marmoutier, whose monks built Tickford Priory (Page 1927). In 1187 Gervase Pagnell, Fulk's grandson, gave the monks the right to buy provisions in the market of Newport free of toll (*ibid*; Mynard and Hunt 1995). The main church in the town along the High Street, St Peter and St Paul's, was constructed in the mid 14th century, but may have replaced an earlier church (Pevsner and Williamson 2000).

The name 'Newport Pagnell' is thought to have derived from the Pagnell family, who held the manorial rights of the town for some 150 years (Page 1927; Staines 1842). The manor passed to the Somerie family and by the end of the medieval period to the Earl of Ormond (Page 1927; Mynard and Hunt 1995).

Post-Medieval (1500-1900)

Newport remained a prosperous market town throughout the medieval period and into the post-medieval period. Through its continued prosperity, mainly from the lace trade, the town grew in size expanding beyond the High Street. The lace trade was a cottage industry with mainly women working in their homes for lace dealers, making lace by hand to sell in local shops and in London (Markham 1975; Mynard and Hunt 1995). Newport Pagnell became the most prolific producer of lace in the Midlands during the late 17th, 18th and early 19th centuries until the decline of hand-made lace production during the mid 19th century due to industrialisation (*ibid*; Pevsner and Williamson 2000). In the mid to late 18th century, there were two lace dealers in the town, one of which was Walter Beaty (Mynard and Hunt 1995; Universal British Directory 1790 - 1798). Later, in 1850, his daughter Charlotte Beaty bequeathed money in her will to help build the Independent Chapel Almshouses in Union Street, Newport Pagnell (*ibid*; Pevsner and Williamson 2000).



Figure 5: 1766 Jefferys' map

During the Civil War, Newport Pagnell's strategic location was recognized by both sides (Bull 1900; Mynard and Hunt 1995; Pevsner and Williamson 2000). The town was occupied first by royalist troops commanded by Prince Rupert and subsequently by parliamentary forces, who held the town until 1645 (Wilson 2002). A plan of the Parliamentarians' defences built around the town still survives (Fig. 6).

The manor of Newport Pagnell passed in and out of Crown hands in the 16th and 17th century before being sold to Sir Francis Anglesey in 1627, whose family continued to own it until 1810 (Page 1927; Mynard and Hunt 1995).

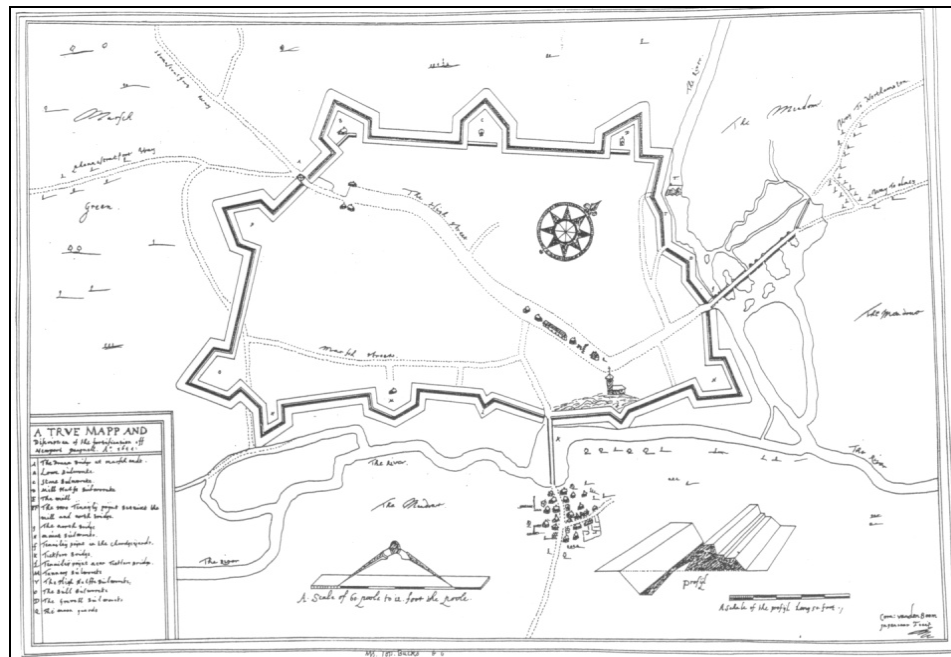


Figure 6: A plan of Parliamentary defences around the town in 1664 (after Mynard and Hunt 1995)

Modern (1900-present)

Until the 19th century Newport, though continuing to be prosperous, appears to have remained essentially the same size, with settlement centred on the High Street, St John Street, and the upper end of Silver Street (Wilson 2002). However, the establishment of Joseph Salmons' coach building works in 1820 (now Aston Martin), the opening of the railway works (1840) and other industries at Wolverton, and the coming of the canals (1817) and the railways (1865) to Newport Pagnell resulted in a great demand for new housing in the town (*ibid*). Although the plan of the town centre remained much the same, the construction and opening of Britain's first motorway, the M1, in 1959 transformed the area around the town (Pevsner and Williamson 2000). More residential housing was built and the town, once its own borough, became part of the Milton Keynes borough in 1967 (*ibid*).

3.2 Site-Specific

Listed building description (Grade II Ref: X2 1/39 24.10.50)

C17, front modified C18. Symmetrical design in red brick with old tiled roof. 2 storeys and attic, plinth, stringcourse, brick moulded eaves. 4 windows, 3 light sashes except for original casement on left of 1st floor. 4 box dormers. Steps up to door with cut bracketted hood. All the listed buildings on the south east side of Silver Street form a group.

4 Results

- 4.1 The garage is to be built on a concrete base. To enable the slab to be formed an area c.6x6m was cut into the garden. Prior to the start of the development the area sloped gently from west to east and was laid down to lawn. The rich topsoil below the turf ranged in depth from 0.3m at the eastern side rising to 0.6m in the northwestern corner of the stripped area. The base of the topsoil was not reached over much of the southern and eastern sides of the site. However where the base of the topsoil was reached it was found to sit directly on the natural limestone. No archaeological features or pottery other than modern porcelain were observed in the spoil which was visually scanned.



Plate 1: General view of the site looking eastwards

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 Silver Street is part of the original Saxon core of Newport Pagnell, and the frontage has probably been occupied since that time. It is likely that the land to the rear of the houses fronting onto the east side of Silver Street has never been developed.
- 5.2 The watching brief on the excavation of the garage footprint to the rear of Silver Street has been able to determine that this particular plot is archaeologically sterile. This result confirms the evidence depicted on the pre 19th century cartographic sources and map reconstructions.
- 5.3 ***Confidence Rating***

When examining such a small area, and with the depth of excavation barely reaching the base of the topsoil some doubt must be raised about the validity of the results. However as no finds were recovered from the spoil and the natural limestone was reached over about half of the site a fair degree of confidence can be given to the overall results of the watching brief.

6. Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to Russell Lawton for commissioning ASC to carry out the watching brief. We would also like to thank Nick Crank the Milton Keynes Council Archaeologist for his input and advice during the project. The project was managed by Bob Zeevat BA MIFA and the field work was undertaken by Nigel Wilson HND AIFA.

7. Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Initial Report
2. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Milton Keynes Sites and Monuments Record.

8. References

Standards & Specifications

EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd 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)*.

Secondary Sources

Bull, FW. 1900. *A History of Newport Pagnell*. WE and J Goss, Kettering.

Markham, Sir. F. 1975. *History of Milton Keynes and District. Vol 2*. White Crescent Press, Luton.

Mynard, D. and Hunt, J. 1995. *Newport Pagnell. A Pictorial History*. Phillimore, Chichester.

Page, W. (ed). 1927. *The Victoria History of the County of Buckingham. 4*

Pevsner, N. and Williamson, E. 2000. *The Buildings of England. Buckinghamshire*. Penguin Books, (London).

Robinson, J. 1975. *The Evolution of the Townscape of Medieval Newport Pagnell in Buckinghamshire*. Occasional Paper no. 2. Bradwell Abbey Field Centre for the Study of Archaeology, Natural History and Environmental Studies, Milton Keynes.

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

Staines, J. 1842. *The History of Newport Pagnell and its immediate vicinity*. C. Tite, Newport Pagnell.

Wilson, N. 2002. *Archaeological Evaluation at 77 High Street, Newport Pagnell*. ASC Ltd, Milton Keynes.

Appendix 1:

Method Statement for Archaeological Watching Brief

1 Definition

An archaeological watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any earth-moving operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons (IFA 1999, 2). It normally involves the monitoring by an experienced archaeologist of ground disturbance on a development (eg. footing and service trenches, reduction of levels, landscaping).

2 Standards

All work will conform to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance Notes* and *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000), to current English Heritage guidelines (EH 1991), to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*, and to any specific requirements of the Planning Archaeologist (PA).

3 General Methodology: Observation & Recording

3.1 Archaeological observation and recording normally involves visits when groundworks are under way, and requires close co-operation and communication between contractor and archaeologist. In many cases only regular, relatively brief visits are required (an *intermittent* watching brief). In certain circumstances (e.g. where archaeological features are known or strongly suspected to exist), the archaeologist's continuous presence may be required (an *intensive* watching brief). In the absence of specific instruction, professional judgement will be exercised to determine the level of monitoring.

3.2 Each site visit will be recorded on ASC's *Site Monitoring Sheet*. These sheets should record what is observed, including sketches where appropriate. A photographic record (see 4.4, below) will also be maintained throughout the watching brief. Plans of the development provided by the client will normally form the basis for recording the location of archaeological features and finds.

3.3 If significant archaeological remains are identified during the watching brief, a meeting will be arranged between ASC, the client, and the PA in order to agree an appropriate investigation. Provision to cover this has been made in the project estimates. Detailed investigation will follow the methods set out in the following section.

4 General Methodology: Investigation (if required)

4.1 Excavation will be carried out by hand. Maximum depths of excavation will conform to current Health & Safety regulations.

4.2 At the start of fieldwork temporary bench marks will be established, to be tied in subsequently to an appropriate Ordnance Survey bench mark. All plans and section drawings will be annotated with relative heights derived from these benchmarks. Plans will be related to the OS National Grid. Overall site plans will normally be drawn to a scale of 1:100 or 1:50: detailed plans of specific areas or features may be drawn to 1:20 or 1:10: burials will always be drawn at the latter scale. Sections will be drawn at 1:20 or 1:10, depending upon size and complexity.

4.3 A detailed record of all archaeological contexts will be maintained on individual pro-forma record sheets, designed to meet current professional standards.

Each context will be individually numbered in a single sequence, and will be described in terms of dimensions, shape, fill type and inclusions, artefact content, samples and interpretation. A register of contexts will be maintained, and context records will be cross-referenced to all other records.

- 4.4 The primary photographic record will normally be compiled in 35mm black & white print format, supplemented by digital photography, illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. A photographic register will be maintained on ASC's *Photographic Record Sheet*, fully cross-referenced. Digital photographs will be used to illustrate the report. Metric scales will be used in all photographs.
- 4.5 All finds relating to the archaeological record of the site will be collected with reference to context and location. Finds of particular significance (small finds) will be recorded three-dimensionally on site, and described on individual pro-forma record sheets. A register will be kept of all finds. Finds processing may take place during or after fieldwork, and will entail cleaning, marking, packaging, quantification and initial classification. Conservation of artefacts will normally take place after processing, but primary conservation of delicate artefacts may be required on site.
- 4.6 Provision will be made for the sampling and analysis of environmental data by appropriate specialists. Sampling will be carried out in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (EH 2002). All samples will be recorded on individual pro-forma record sheets, and a register of samples will be maintained. Specialists will be required to submit copies of the base data from environmental analysis for inclusion in the site archive.
- 4.7 Any human remains encountered will normally be recorded and left *in situ*. The removal of human remains in consecrated ground requires a Home Office licence, and investigation or removal of remains must be agreed between ASC, the client, and other appropriate authorities. For the excavation and recording of human remains, current IFA guidelines will be followed (McKinley & Roberts 1993). In general, due care and respect will be accorded to any human remains, and site staff are required not to discuss their discovery in public, so as not to attract undesirable interest.
- 4.8 Due concern will be given to the physical security of all archaeological features, deposits, artefacts and records, both on and off site. All reasonable measures will be taken to secure their protection before, during and after excavation.

5 Reporting

- 5.1 Upon completion of the watching brief, an initial report on its findings will normally prepared within four weeks, subject to specialist input. This will typically include:
 - a concise non-technical summary of the results
 - information relating to the circumstances of the project
 - background information about the site
 - a summary of the aims of the project and the methods used
 - a description of the results, supported by appropriate illustrative material
 - a conclusion, summarising the results and examining their significance
 - a confidence rating
 - the contents and location of the archive
 - appendices (record sheets, specialist reports, reference works etc.)
 - an SMR summary sheet, if required
- 5.2 Copies of the report will be provided as required to the client, to the PA, and to other bodies as required. Eight copies are normally produced: a charge may be made for

providing any additional copies. Interim reports will be submitted to the relevant period and/or regional journals within one year of the project's completion.

- 5.3 Once the final report has been accepted by the PA, an OASIS fieldwork summary form will be completed and submitted to the Archaeology Data Service.

6 *Archive*

- 6.1 All archaeological projects generate a quantity of records and related material. Together, these constitute the *project archive*. While the report may describe the project's findings in some detail, the archive contains the evidence on which the report is based, and its importance cannot be too highly stressed. By its nature, archaeological fieldwork cannot normally be repeated, so the archive often constitutes the only surviving evidence for past activity on a site, and arrangements must therefore be made for its deposition and long-term storage.
- 6.2 At the start of a project, ASC will initiate arrangements for archive deposition. On completion of the reporting stages of the project, the archive will be prepared for long-term storage. If arrangements for deposition cannot be concluded, ASC will store the archive until deposition can be arranged.

7 *Staffing*

- 7.1 The project will be under the overall direction of **Bob Zeepvat** BA MIFA, an established archaeologist with extensive experience in managing archaeological projects, of a wide range of fieldwork in both rural and urban environments, of post-excavation, publication and presentation projects, and of work on a wide range of historic buildings and structures.
- 7.2 Staff undertaking watching briefs will all be experienced archaeologists, of at least Assistant Project Officer grade. Less experienced staff may assist with any detailed investigation, under supervision.

Appendix 2: Monitoring Sheets

A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD				
Project: 19 SILVER STREET NEWPORT PAGNELL		Project No/Code: 986 1 NPS		Sheet: 1 of 1		
Client/Developer RUSSELL LAWTON		Date of visit:				
Contact:			Phone:			
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 3.20		Finish: 4.20		
Completed by: NSW						
Development Type:						
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: DRY BRIGHT						
Observations: AREA C. 6x6 m STRIPPED FOR CONCRETE SLAB						
LAWN OVER TOPSOIL						
TOPSOIL DEPTH E 0.3m W 0.6m						
LIMESTONE NATURAL EXPOSED OVER 1/2 SITE NOW TOPSOIL NOT REMOVED FROM THE REST OF THE AREA						
NO FEATURES, SPOIL HEAPS VISUALLY SCANNED FOR FINDS V. LATE 19 th /20 th						
LAND SLOPES DOWN W-E TOWARDS THE RIVER						
Comments: NO FURTHER WORK REQUIRED						

For sketch plan, use reverse

©ASC, 2003

Appendix 3: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: 19 Silver Street, Newport Pagnell		SITE NO/CODE: 986/NPS	
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	✓	✓	General view of the area
2	✓	✓	General view of the area
3	✓	✓	General view of the area

Appendix 4: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	19 Silver Street, Newport Pagnell		
Short Description:	<i>During September 2007, a watching brief took place on land to the rear of 19 Silver Street Newport Pagnell, in advance of construction of a garage. An area of approximately 6x6m was stripped for a concrete base. At the depth required for the development between 0.3-0.6m the only deposits observed were a layer of topsoil above natural limestone. No features were present and the only finds observed were modern within the topsoil.</i>		
Project Type: (indicate all that apply)	Watching Brief		
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	Listed Building Conservation Area	Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	n/a
Current land use:	Garden	Future work: (yes / no / unknown)	No
Monument type:	n/a	Monument period:	n/a
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	n/a		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	n/a	OS reference: (8 figs min)	
District:	Milton Keynes	Parish:	Newport Pagnell
Site address: (with postcode if known)	19 Silver Street, Newport Pagnell, Milton Keynes, MK16 0EJ		
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	36 sq m	Height OD: (metres)	55.00
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	n/a	Project design originator:	ASC Ltd (Method statement)
Project Manager:	Bob Zeepvat	Director/Supervisor:	Nigel Wilson
Sponsor / funding body:	Owner		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	10/9/2007	End date:	10/9/2007
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:			
Paper:	Milton Keynes SMR (1141)	Report	
Digital:	Milton Keynes SMR (1141)	CD Containing photos and report	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Watching Brief Report, 19 Silver Street, Newport Pagnell		
Serial title & volume:			
Author(s):	Nigel Wilson		
Page nos		Date:	13/9/2007