

## Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION: THE OLD RECTORY, LATHBURY, MILTON KEYNES**

*on behalf of Mr & Mrs Tice*



**J Richards BA PIFA**

**September 2007**

**ASC: 963/LOR/2**

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## Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	LOR	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	963
<i>Event No:</i>	1146	<i>Accession No:</i>	Pending
<i>County:</i>	Buckinghamshire (historic county)		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Lathbury		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Lathbury CP		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 8755 4512		
<i>Present use:</i>	Garden		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Swimming Pool		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	07/00249/FUL		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Milton Keynes (unitary authority)		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	17 <sup>th</sup> September 2007		
<i>Client:</i>	Mr & Mrs Tice c/o Pauley Construction The Annexe Broughton Manor Broughton Milton Keynes MK10 9AA		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Mr Andrew Pauley		

## Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	J Richards BA PIFA	<i>Date:</i>	28 <sup>th</sup> September 2007
<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	

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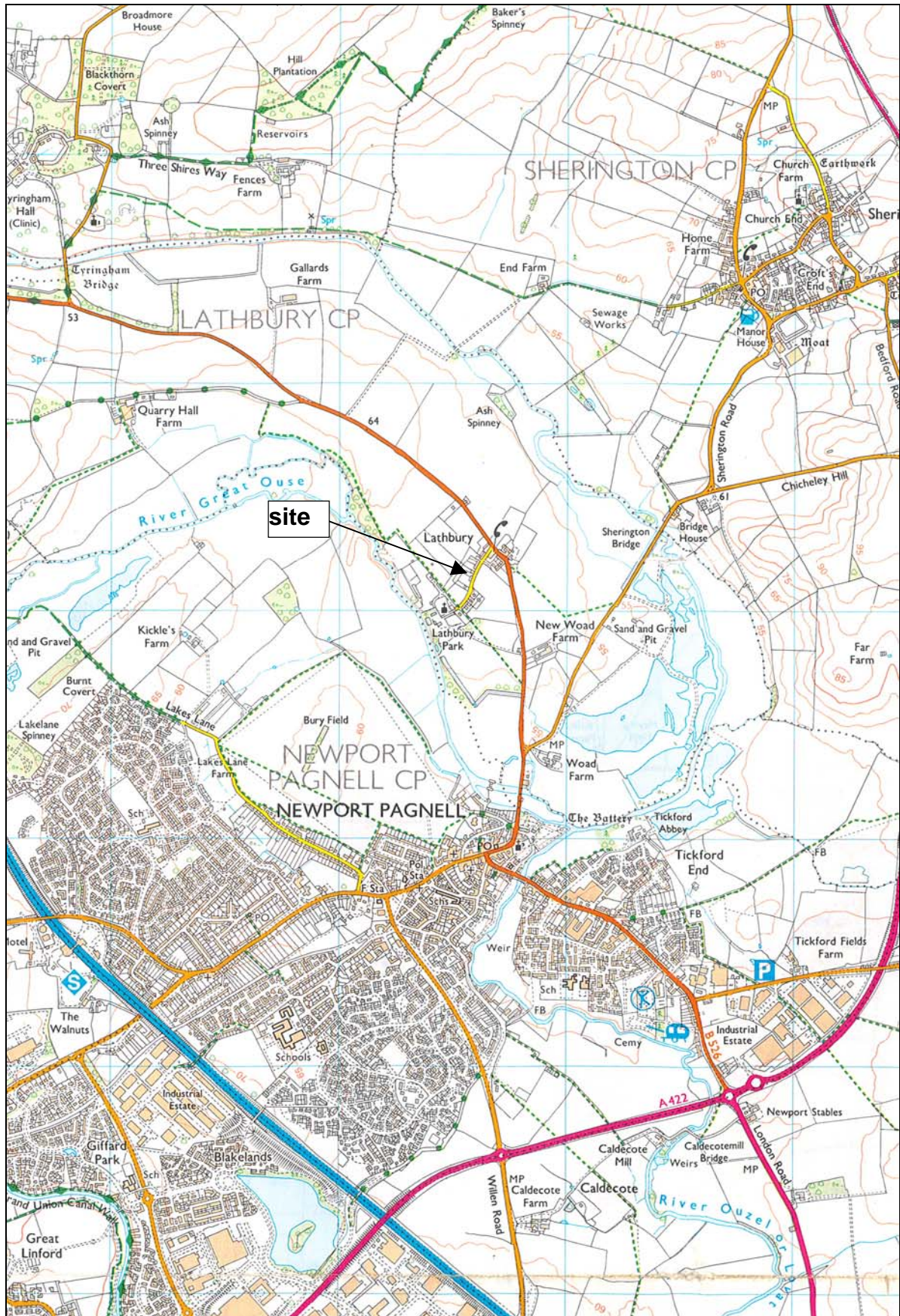


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

## Summary

*In September 2007 ASC Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation at The Old Rectory, Lathbury. The project was commissioned by Mr & Mrs Tice in order to fulfil a planning condition prior to the construction of a swimming pool. Significant archaeological remains were not identified and the only archaeological feature was a probable cess-pit associated with the 17<sup>th</sup> century house.*

## 1 Introduction

1.1 In September 2007 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an evaluation at The Old Rectory, Lathbury (NGR: SP 8755 4512, Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Tice, and was carried out according to a brief (Crank 2007) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *Milton Keynes Council*, by their archaeological officer (AO), and a project design prepared by ASC (Brown 2007). The relevant planning application reference is 07/00249/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 swimming pool.

### 1.3 *Location*

The site is situated within the historic village of Lathbury, approximately 1km northeast of Newport Pagnell, at NGR SP 8755 4512 (Fig. 1). It lies to the rear of The Old Rectory, a 17<sup>th</sup> century Grade II listed building, located on the west side of Church Lane.

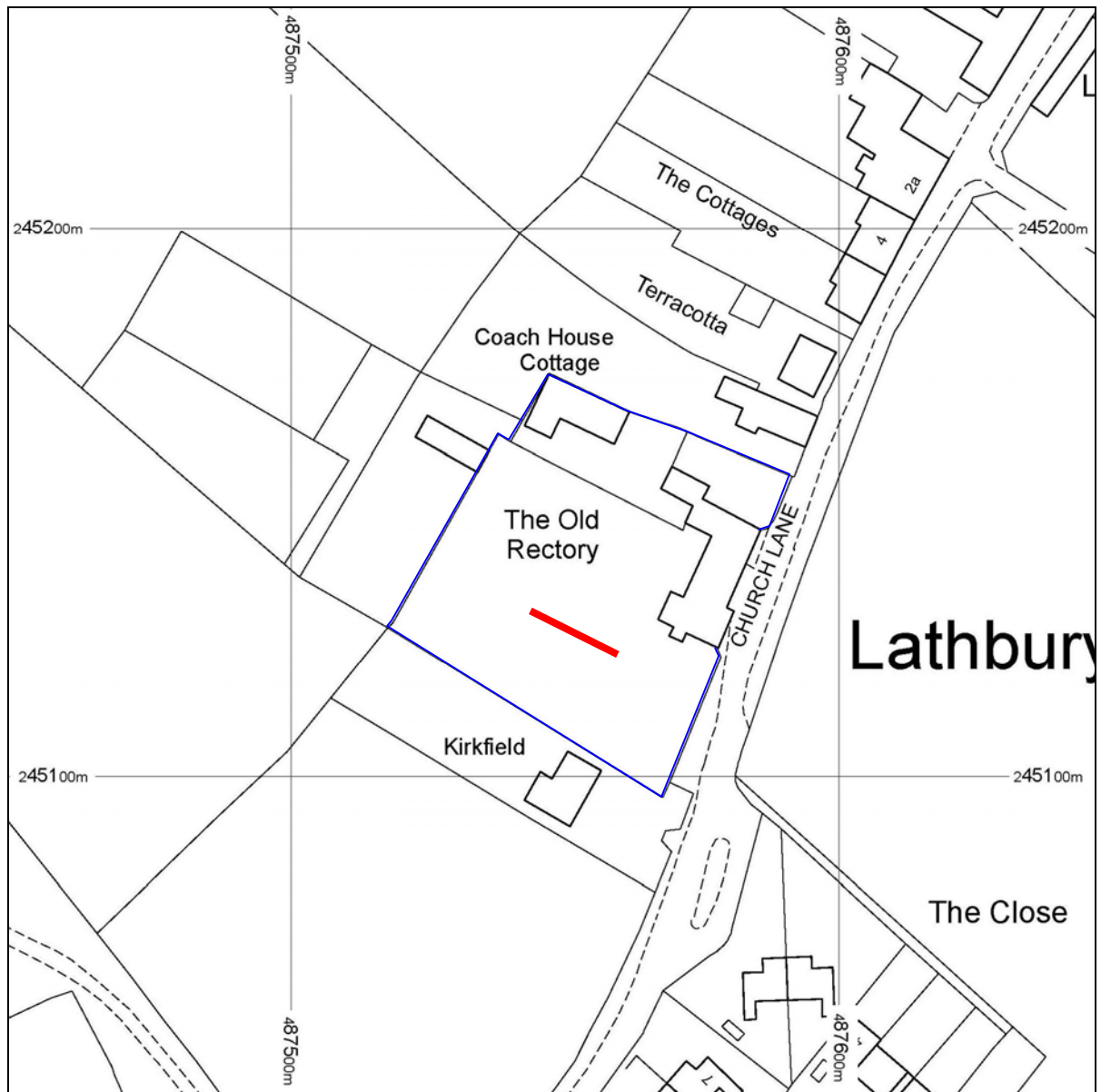
### 1.4 *Description*

The site currently forms the garden of The Old Rectory, and is enclosed by a high, red-brick wall. A number of mature trees as well as shrubs are within the garden area.

### 1.5 *Geology & Topography*

Lathbury is enclosed within a loop of the river Great Ouse, and the topography of the site is flat, lying at around 60m OD. The natural soils are likely to comprise the Bishampton 2 Association, consisting of “deep fine loamy and fine loamy over clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging associated with similar slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged soils” (Soil Survey 1983; 572t). These are likely to overlie river terrace drift.





**Figure 2:** Site plan (scale 1:1,250), trench location shown in red

## **2 Aims & Methods**

### **2.1 Aims**

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

- to obtain sufficient information to establish the extent, character, quality, date and condition of any archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts and ecofacts within the area affected by the proposed 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), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

### **2.3 Methods**

The work was carried out according to the brief (Section 6), which required:

- machine-based trial trenching to inspect and assess the archaeological deposits and achieve the evaluation objectives
- trenching comprising a single trench of 10m in length and a minimum of 1.6m in width within the footprint of the proposed swimming pool.

### **2.4 Constraints**

Due to the presence of mature trees and shrubs, it was not possible to excavate a trench 1.60m wide within the footprint of the proposed swimming pool; therefore the trench excavated was 1m wide.

### 3 Archaeological & Historical Background

- 3.1 Despite a shortage of recorded archaeological investigations from the surrounding area, the site has the potential to uncover remains from a wide range of periods.
- 3.2 The potential for Iron Age and Roman deposits comes is indicated by the results of a watching brief at *Piglets*, 180m to the southwest (Crank 2007). Roman and possibly Iron Age features were found, and the artefacts included a Samian bowl. Evidence for significant Romano-British activity, including a number of inhumation burials, was also uncovered in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in the vicinity of Lathbury Park, c.200m southwest of site (*ibid.*).
- 3.3 Lathbury is mentioned in the Domesday survey (1086), when it was held by Edwin son of Burgræd, a thegn of King Edward. The oldest surviving medieval building in Lathbury is the Parish Church of All Saints, constructed in the early 12<sup>th</sup> century. Some traces of the 12<sup>th</sup>-century church remain in the nave, where the proportions are characteristic of a small church of that date (Pevsner & Williamson, 1994). Much of the church, however, seems to have been constructed in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century, extending into the early 13<sup>th</sup>. On the north side of the churchyard is a large mound, possibly the burial place for plague victims in the 17<sup>th</sup> century (RCHM 1913). An unpublished amateur excavation 70m east of site uncovered the substantial limestone foundations of a medieval building (Crank 2007).
- 3.4 The Old Rectory itself was built in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, and was re-fronted in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Lathbury Park and a number of other dwellings in Lathbury date to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.



## 4 Results

- 4.1 A single trench 1m wide by 10m in length was excavated within the footprint of the proposed swimming pool on a NW-SE alignment (Fig. 3). This was excavated to a maximum depth of 2m at its north western end (Plates 1-2).
- 4.2 The topsoil (1001) was a dark greyish black silty clay soil, and was between 0.20m and 0.35m in thickness. This overlay a 0.15m thick deposit of light yellow sand and gravel (1002). Below this, a dark grey silty clay soil with occasional inclusions of limestone and tile (1003) overlay a 0.35m thick, compacted deposit of light yellow sand and gravel with occasional inclusions of limestone and roof tile fragments and frequent inclusions of charcoal (1004). This overlay a 0.80m thick deposit of loose limestone pieces and roof tile fragments (1005).
- 4.3 The footings of a limestone wall (1006), interpreted as being the wall of a cess-pit were observed beneath this rubble layer at a depth of 1.80m below the current ground surface. A deposit of dark red sand (1007) was associated with the footings. The three courses of un-mortared footings were within cut [1008], which was excavated into the yellow sand natural strata (1009) (Plates 3-4 and 6).
- 4.4 The natural substrata was not reached at the north western end of the trench. The deposit of dark grey silty clay (1003) extended to at depth of over 2m below ground level at this end of the trench.
- 4.5 A 0.50m wide test pit was excavated by machine to a depth of 2.30m below ground level, adjacent to the wall footings, in order to investigate the deposits in this area. A further 20cm by 20cm test pit was excavated by hand in the base of this test pit to a depth of 0.40m below the base of the trench as the machine could no longer reach the base of the trench (Fig. 6). The dark red sandy deposit (1007) extended a further 0.10m, the remaining 0.30m consisted of yellow sandy natural (1009) (Plate 5).

Detailed information regarding the trial trench and its contents appears in Appendix 1.



**Plate 1:** view of trench from north showing constraints



**Plate 2:** view of trench from south, scale 2m



**Plate 3:** view of wall footings from north east, scale 2m





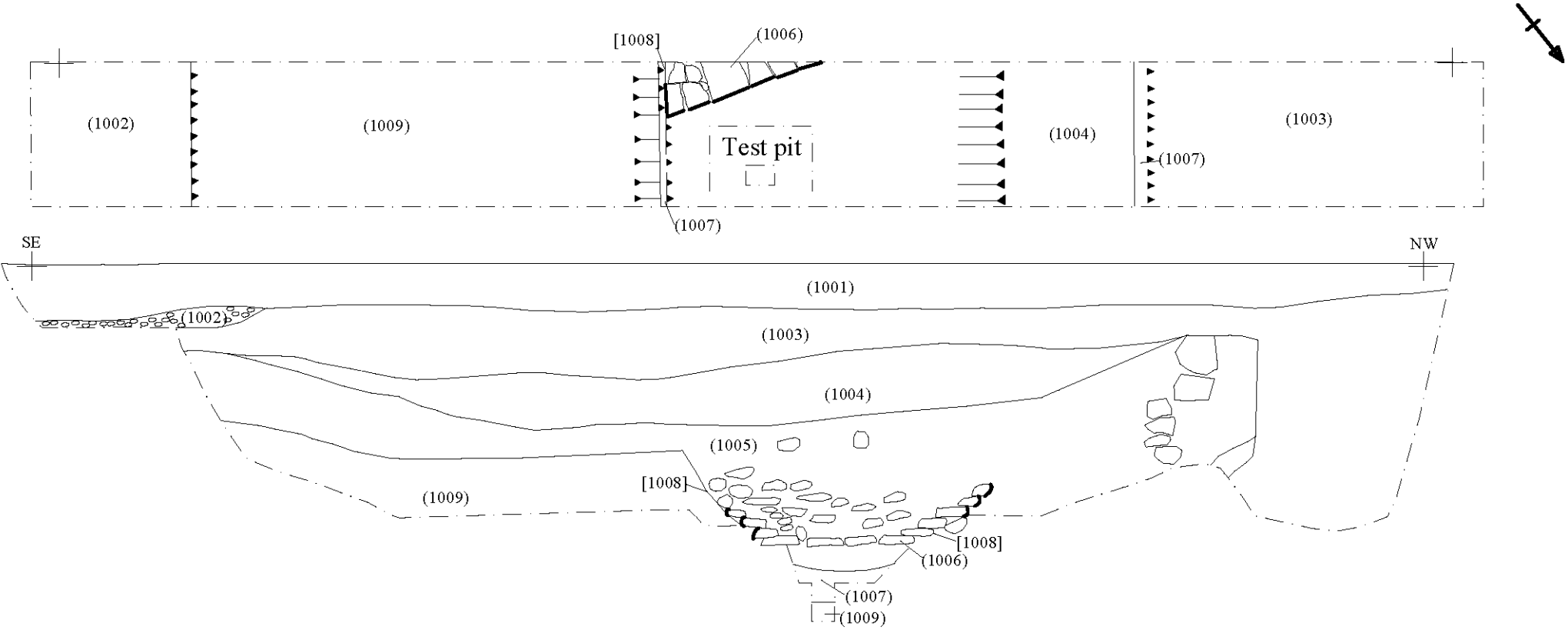
**Plate 4:** view of wall footings from north, scale 1m



**Plate 5:** base of cess pit from south, scale 1m



**Plate 6:** view of wall footings and rubble layer from north, scale 1m



**Figure 3:** Trench plan and section drawing (Scale 1:40)

## 5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The remains of unmortared limestone wall-footings (1006), [1008] were observed 1.70m below the existing ground surface. These were associated with deposits of dark red sand (1007), which may have been decomposed bricks (again, unmortared). No floor was observed within this structure, and it has been interpreted as being a cess-pit. It is likely to have been constructed at the same time as the house in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and to have gone out of use by the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A thick layer of limestone rubble with roof tiles and occasional broken brick fragments (1005) overlay the wall footings. This has been interpreted as being the demolition rubble from a superstructure over the cess-pit. No cess remains were observed within the trench, and it is therefore likely that the pit had been cleaned out prior to the superstructure being demolished.
- 5.2 Although constructed of similar materials to the building remains observed by an amateur excavation 70m east of this site in 1994, the structural remains observed in this evaluation trench were unmortared, and appear to be footings for a small structure, rather than relating to a much larger building.
- 5.3 *Confidence Rating*  
Despite the constraints on site preventing a wider trench being excavated, 14% of the proposed swimming pool footprint was evaluated. Full co-operation was received from the clients Mr & Mrs Tice, and their agents Pauley Construction. Weather conditions were good. A high confidence rating is therefore attached to the results of this evaluation.



## **6. Acknowledgements**

The writer is grateful to Mr & Mrs Tice, and to Pauley Construction for their co-operation during this evaluation. The advice of Nick Crank, Archaeological Advisor to Milton Keynes Council, is also gratefully acknowledged.

Fieldwork was conducted on behalf of ASC Ltd by Jenny Richards BA PIFA and Calli Rouse BA PIFA; the report was written by Jenny Richards BA PIFA and edited by David Fell MA MIFA.

## **7. Archive**

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

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

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum, accession number pending.

## 8. References


### *Standards & Specifications*

- Brown, R. S. 2007 *The Old Rectory, Lathbury, Milton Keynes: Project Design for Archaeological Evaluation* (ASC Ltd)
- Crank N. A. 2007 *The Old Rectory, Church Lane, Lathbury: Brief for Archaeological Evaluation* Milton Keynes Council
- EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. English Heritage (London).
- 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*

- Pevsner N. & Williamson E. 1994 *The Buildings of England: Buckinghamshire* Penguin Books
- Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, 1913 *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Buckinghamshire Volume 2* London: JAS Truscott and Son
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).

## Appendix 1: Trench Summary Tables

Trench 1						
		Max Dimensions (m)				
		Width	1m	Length	10m	
		Depth	2m	Level (top)	58.42mAOD	
		NGR Coordinates				
		Orientation:		WNW-ESE		
Reason for Trench:		Within footprint of swimming pool				
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Max Width (mm)	Max Thckn (mm)	Depth BGL mm)	
1001	Deposit	Dark greyish black silty clay, topsoil	-	350	0	
1002	Deposit	Pale yellow gravel, redeposited natural soil	-	150	300	
1003	Deposit	Dark grey subsoil with rubble inclusions, modern debris	-	2000	300	
1004	Deposit	Pale yellow gravel with rubble and charcoal inclusions – demolition layer	-	400	700	
1005	Deposit	Limestone and tile rubble, demolition rubble from superstructure over cess-pit	-	800	700	
1006	Wall	Limestone wall footings for cess-pit	-	400	1800	
1007	Fill	Dark red sand, possible degraded bricks, within cut for footings	-	300	1700	
1008	Cut	Cut for wall footings, contained (1007) and (1008)	-	500	1700	
1009	Natural	Yellow sand natural substrata	-	-	1300	

## Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: Old Rectory, Lathbury			SITE NO/CODE: 963/LOR
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1		√	Overview of site
2		√	Trench from NE showing constraints
3	√	√	Overview of trench from SW
4	√	√	Wall footings from N
5	√	√	Wall footings from NE
6	√	√	Rubble layer
7	√	√	Footings with rubble and red sand
8	√	√	Trench extension from S
9	√	√	Trench extension from S

## Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	The Old Rectory, Lathbury		
Short Description:	In September 2007 ASC Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation at The Old Rectory, Lathbury. The project was commissioned by Mr & Mrs Tice in order to fulfil a planning condition prior to the construction of a swimming pool. Significant archaeological remains were not identified and the only archaeological feature was a probable cess-pit associated with the 17 <sup>th</sup> century house.		
Project Type: (indicate all that apply)	Trial trenching		
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	Within curtilage of listed building	Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	None
Current land use:	Garden	Future work: (yes / no / unknown)	Unknown
Monument type:	None	Monument period:	None
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Buckinghamshire (historic county)	OS reference: (8 figs min)	SP 8755 4512
Site address: (with postcode if known)	The Old Rectory, Church Lane, Lathbury, Milton Keynes		
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	2200 m <sup>2</sup>	Height OD: (metres)	c.60m
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	Nick Crank	Project design originator:	Ralph Brown
Project Manager:	Bob Zeepvat	Director/Supervisor:	Jenny Richards
Sponsor / funding body:	Mr & Mrs Tice		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	17 <sup>th</sup> September 2007	End date:	18 <sup>th</sup> September 2007
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	None	N/a	
Paper:			
Digital:			
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:			
Serial title & volume:			
Author(s):	J Richards BA PIFA		
Page nos		Date:	