

# Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

## **WATCHING BRIEF: COURT ROAD REPLACEMENT MAIN CRANFIELD BEDFORDSHIRE**

*on behalf of Anglian Water Services Ltd*



**Lizzie Gill BSc PgDip**

**September 2007**

**ASC: 961/CCR/2**

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## Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	CCR	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	961
<i>Event No:</i>		<i>Accession No:</i>	pending
<i>County:</i>	Bedfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Cranfield		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Cranfield		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 9562 4194		
<i>Present use:</i>	Road		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Replacement of existing water main		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	N/a		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Mid Bedfordshire District Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	10/09/07-14/09/07		
<i>Client:</i>	Anglian Water Services Ltd C/o BSP Associates 45A High Street Stony Stratford Milton Keynes MK11 1AA		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Terry Smith		

## Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Lizzie Gill	<i>Date:</i>	25 <sup>th</sup> September 2007
<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	

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## Summary

*In September 2007, Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd. undertook a watching brief on the Court Road Replacement Main Project in Cranfield, Bedfordshire on behalf of Anglian Water Services Ltd (AWSL), as part of their statutory obligation towards the environment. Four monitoring visits were made to the site and all excavated trenches were observed. No archaeological remains were encountered during this project.*

## 1 Introduction

1.1 In September 2007 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC)* carried out a watching brief at Court Road Replacement Main, Cranfield, Bedfordshire (NGR SP 9562 4194: Fig. 1). Anglian Water Services Ltd. commissioned the project, and the work was agreed on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *Mid Bedfordshire District Council*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), *Bedfordshire County Council Heritage and Environment Section*, and a project design prepared by ASC.

### 1.2 *Planning Background*

This watching brief has been commissioned and carried out as part of Anglian Water Services Ltd. statutory obligation towards the environment.

### 1.3 *Location & Description*

The water main to be replaced is located within Court Road, in the south eastern part of the village of Cranfield. Cranfield Airfield is located c.500m to the west of the site (Fig. 1).

### 1.4 *Geology & Topography*

The soils of the area are likely to be of the *Hanslope Association*, which comprises *slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils. Some slowly permeable non-calcareous clayey soils. Slight risk of water erosion.* The underlying geology is likely to comprise chalky till. The site lies at an elevation of c.110m AOD.

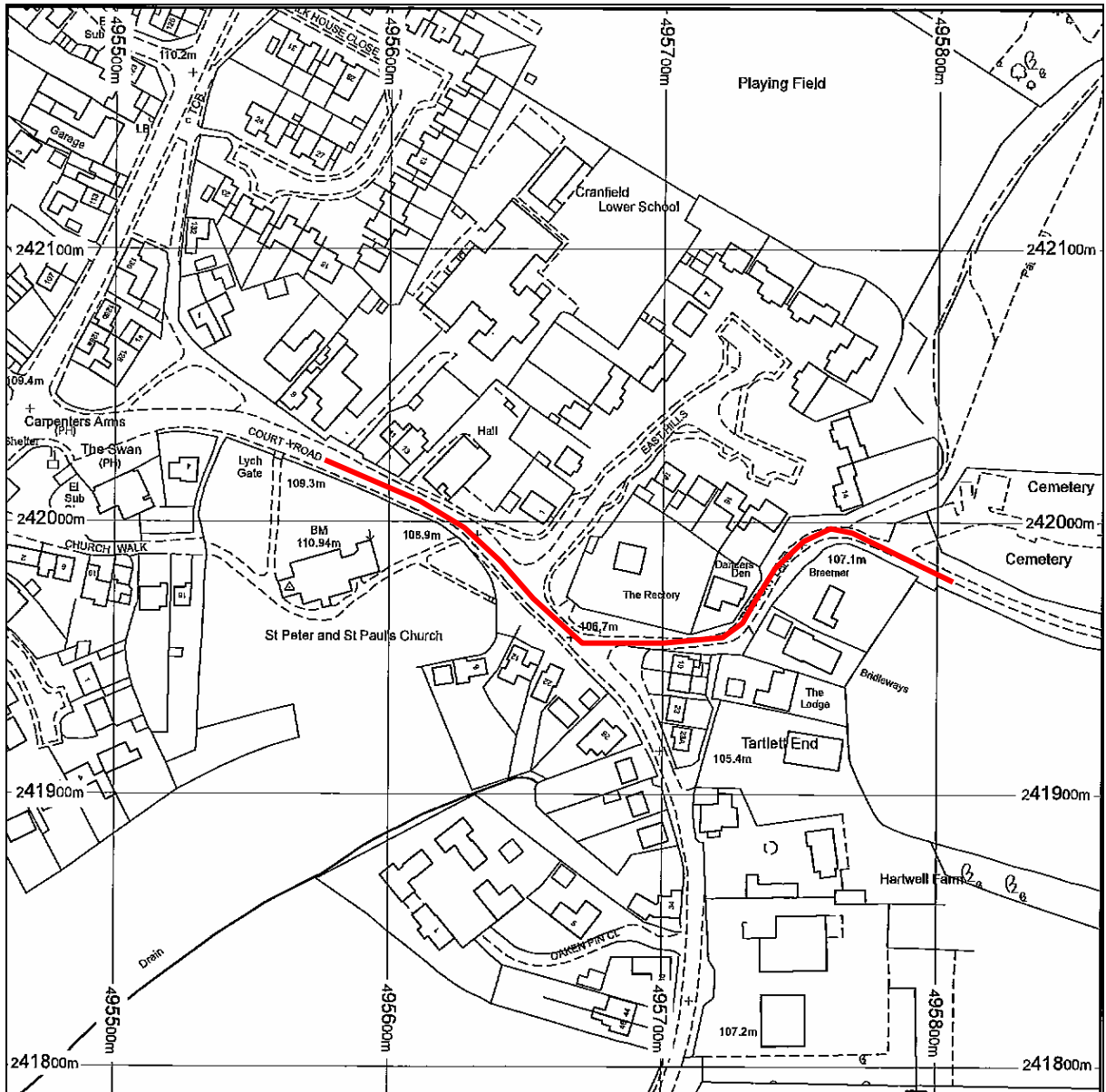


Figure 2: Site plan showing route of water main (scale 1:2500)

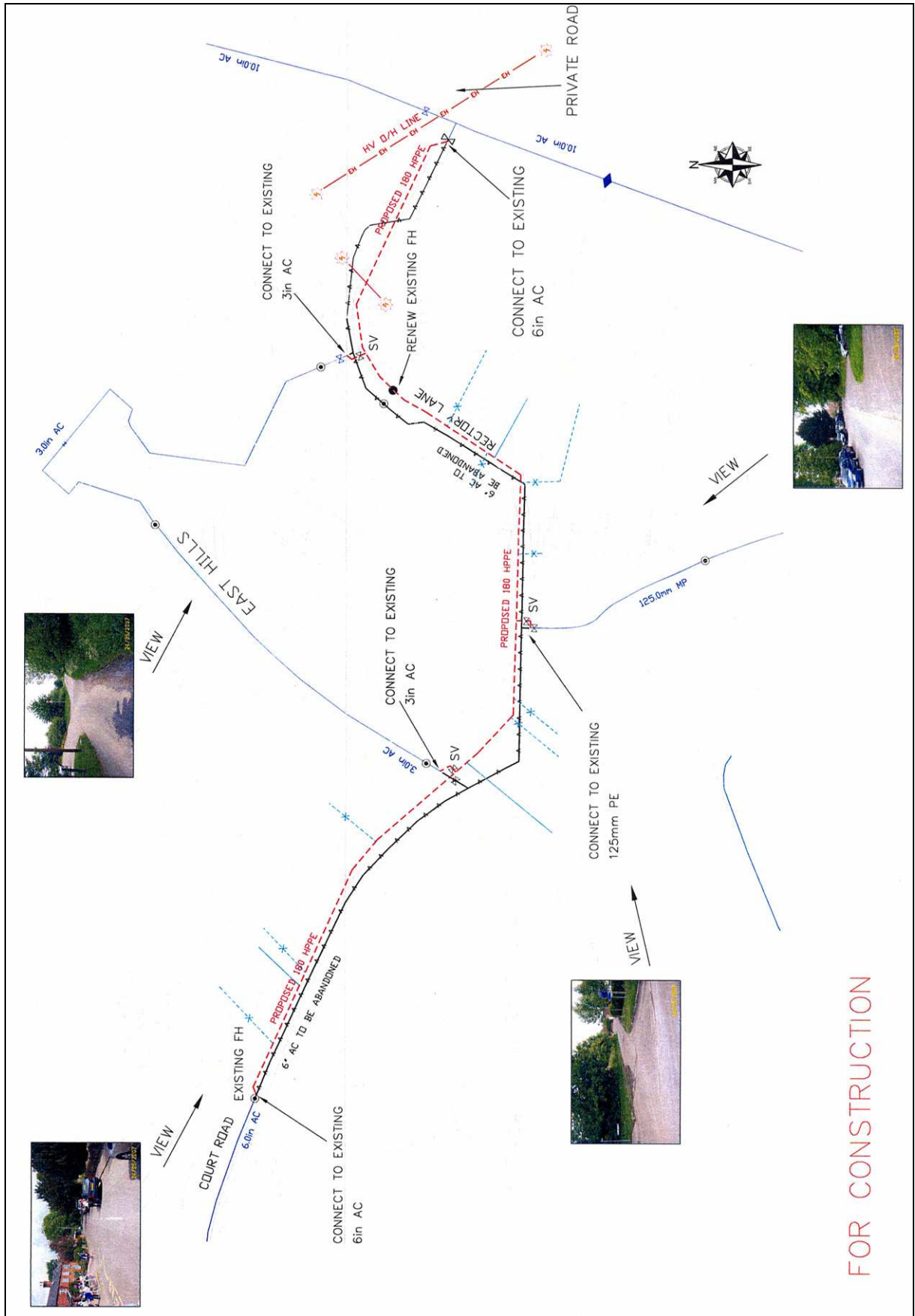


Figure 3: Proposed development (not to scale)

## **2 Aims & Methods**

### **2.1 Aims**

In line with the requirements of the AA, the aims of the watching brief were:

- To determine and understand the nature, function and character of an archaeological site in its cultural and environmental setting.
- To establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation in the development site.
- To establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes.
- To recover artefacts to assist in the development of the type series within the region.
- To recover paleo-environmental remains to determine local

### **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), to the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

### **2.3 Methods**

In line with the requirements of the AA, the methods to be adopted for this project were:

- A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording will be undertaken during any development works likely to affect archaeological remains.



### 3 Historical & Archaeological Background

HER = Historic Environment Record

- 3.1 The village of Cranfield is an area of considerable archaeological and historical importance, and has evidence of human activity dating back to early prehistoric times (Albion Archaeology 2005). An evaluation carried out in 2005 to the south east of the route of the water main '*...demonstrated that the...area contains archaeological remains, of regional significance, dating from the Iron Age, Roman, Saxo-Norman and medieval periods. In particular there is evidence for Iron Age settlement, agricultural and funereary activity, Roman settlement activity, non-specific Saxo-Norman activity and medieval settlement activity... Two undated inhumations were also identified. These are thought to be early prehistoric in date and are of regional significance.*' (*ibid*, HER13418).
- 3.2 To the south of the route is the site of medieval Cranfield Grange (HER14522), which was held by Ramsey Abbey. It is likely to have been the most impressive medieval building complex in the parish (Coleman 1997); it was situated in a prominent location on a spur, with extensive views to the east. It prospered in the 13<sup>th</sup> and early 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, but there are no post-medieval references to such a building, and the date of its demolition is unknown (*ibid*).
- 3.3 The church of St Peter and St Paul (HER1044) and its associated churchyard (HER8880) are located on the southern side of the route. The church itself dates to the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries (Pevsner 1968), but was associated with a medieval grange (HER14522) (*pers. comm.* Stephen Coleman), implying that the existing building may be the successor to an earlier church.
- 3.4 In more recent times, the village of Cranfield has been expanded, with many post medieval and modern additions, including the airfield located c.0.75km to the north west of the route.

## 4 Results

- 4.1 Four visits were made to this site between 10<sup>th</sup> September and 14<sup>th</sup> September 2007. During these visits, all excavated trenches were observed.
- 4.2 The method used for replacing the main, known as Pipe Busting meant that it was not necessary for the contractors to excavate more than the parts of the existing main that went around corners or where they needed to add a fixture. The new main was simply pushed through the old one.
- 4.3 The route of the pipeline followed the line of an existing main for its entire length in Court Road and Rectory Lane. This meant that all of the trenches in both roads revealed backfilled material from the placement of the original main in the mid twentieth century.
- 4.4 Most of the strata observed in Court Road consisted of very mixed mid brown silty clay containing occasional subangular gravels. The natural geology of mid brownish yellow silty clay with occasional inclusions of limestone fragments was reached only in one trench near the church lych gate at a depth of c. 1.10m. The layers on top of this consisted of c.1.10m of mixed re-deposited natural and mid brown silty clay topsoil.
- 4.5 The trenches in Rectory Lane were shallower than those in Court Road and contained a less mixed stratigraphy. All the trenches in this road were filled with a mid brownish sludgy silty clay with frequent inclusions of gravel.
- 4.6 No archaeology was observed during this watching brief.



**Plate 1:** Looking NW up Court Road



**Plate 2:** NE facing section of trench in Court Road near lych gate 1m scale



**Plate 3:** NE facing section of trench against church yard wall in Court Road



**Plate 4:** N corner of church from Court Road



**Plate 5:** Looking E up Rectory Lane



**Plate 6:** Fitter in action in Rectory Lane



**Plate 7:** NW facing section of SW end of Rectory Lane



**Plate 8:** SE end of main replacement in Rectory Lane

## 5. Conclusions

- 5.1 During the course of this watching brief no archaeological remains were observed. Although the full length of the existing main was not excavated, the original excavation of the trench for this is likely to have destroyed or at least heavily disturbed any archaeological remains present.
- 5.2 It is unlikely that the replacement of this water main has disturbed significant archaeological deposits, however it is possible that archaeological remains survive outside the extent of the original trench. The archaeological impact of this water main replacement is judged to be minimal.
- 5.3 *Confidence Rating*  
This watching brief was undertaken in warm, dry weather with partly sunny skies by an experienced archaeologist. Full co-operation was received from the contractors and subsequently the confidence rating attached to this project is high.

## **6. Acknowledgements**

The writer is grateful to Anglian Water Services Ltd for Commissioning ASC Ltd to carry out this watching brief. The help and advice of Lesley-Ann Mather of the Bedfordshire County Council Heritage and Environment Section is also gratefully acknowledged..

Lizzie Gill BSc PgDip carried out the monitoring visits on behalf of ASC. David Fell MA MIFA managed the project and this report was edited by him, and written by Lizzie Gill.

## **7. Archive**

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

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

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Luton Museum.

## 8. References

### *Standards & Specifications*

ALGAO 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper **14**.

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 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*).

Rouse, C. *Court Road Replacement, Cranfield, Bedfordshire Project Design for Watching Brief on Behalf of Anglian Water Ltd* (ASC Ltd.)

### *Secondary Sources*

Albion Archaeology, 2005 *Home Farm, Cranfield, Bedfordshire: Archaeological Field Survey*  
Albion Archaeology 2005/37

Coleman, S 1997 *Cranfield: Bedfordshire Parish Surveys* Historic Landscape and Archaeology (Bedfordshire County Council)

Pevsner, N 1968 *The Buildings of England: Bedfordshire, Huntingdon and Peterborough*  
Penguin

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

## Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD				
Project: Court Road Replacement		Project No/Code: 961 1 CCR		Sheet: 1 of 1		
Main, Cranfield, Beds.		Date of visit: 10/1/07				
Client/Developer: Anglian Water						
Contact: Kevin Leach		Phone: 07778613242.				
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 11.30am	Finish: 12.45pm				
Completed by: Lizzie Gill						
Development Type:						
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: Sunny & dry						
Observations: 1 x c. 4 x 1.5m excavation dug down to existing Main. Entire route of main replacement not to be excavated - Small sections to be opened up where pipes join. Larger area to be excavated where Water main leaves Court rd and heads towards Cemetery.						
Comments: All excavation to be open until Thursday 13/09/07 pm.						

For sketch plan, use reverse

©ASC, 2003





A.S.C. LTD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: Court rd, replacement main, Cranfield		Project No/Code: 961 / CCR	Sheet: 1 of 1
Client/Developer: Anglian Water		Date of visit: 11/09/07	
Contact: Kern Leech.		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 15.15pm	Finish: 16.40pm	
Completed by: LIZZIE GILL			
Development Type:			
Footings	Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roads	Levelling
			Quarrying
			Pipelines <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: Warm + dry			
Observations: 9 sections of existing main dug out. All sections show strat is highly disturbed above existing water main.			
Photographs - #1 c. 7m section 2 <sup>nd</sup> from lychgate NE facing section. Nat reached at very bottom of section c. 1.10m deep. Nat = mid brownish yellow silty clay + inclusions of limestone.			
#2 4 <sup>th</sup> section dug out showing churchyard wall - no nat			
#3 7 <sup>th</sup> section showing topsoil over re-deposited nat + water main in bottom of trench.			
Comments: Return Thursday 13/09/07			

For sketch plan, use reverse

©ASC, 2003



A.S.C. LTD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: Court Rd Replacement Main, Cranfield		Project No/Code: 961/CCR	Sheet: 1 of 1
Client/Developer: Anglian Water		Date of visit: 13/09/07	
Contact:		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 15.05pm	Finish: 16.16pm	
Completed by: LIZZIE GILL			
Development Type:			
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
			✓
Site & weather conditions: Warm + dry			
Observations: trenches machine out in Rectory Road for pipe fittings.			
Photo # 1 View down side rd looking towards main road B+W + digi			
photo # 2 Section N facing digi			
photo # 3 W facing view of pipe trench digi + B+W			
photo # 4 kern working " "			
photo # 5 View down side street (Rectory Lane) towards church.			
photo # 6 View up Rectory Lane.			
Comments: Return tomorrow (14/09/07) pm to complete watching brief as they should have got as far as they are going			

For sketch plan, use reverse

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A.S.C. LTD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: Court rd replacement main, Cranfield		Project No/Code: 961 1 CCR	Sheet: 1 of 1			
Client/Developer: Anglian Water		Date of visit: 14/09/07				
Contact: Kevin Leech		Phone:				
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 15.07pm	Finish: 16.22pm				
Completed by: LIZZIE GILL						
<b>Development Type:</b>						
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: fine + clear.						
Observations: All open trenches no observed. No archaeology seen, if any existed along route of main it has been destroyed by excavation for original pipe in 1940's - 50's.						
Comments:						

For sketch plan, use reverse

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## Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: Court Road Replacement Main, Cranfield, Bedfordshire		SITE NO/CODE: 961/CCR	
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	✓	✓	Looking NW up Court Road
2	✓	✓	NE facing section of trench in Court Road near lych gate 1m scale
3	✓	✓	NE facing section of trench against church yard wall in Court Road
4	✓	✓	N corner of church from Court Road
5	✓	✓	Looking E up Rectory Lane
6	✓	✓	Fitter in action in Rectory Lane
7	✓	✓	NW facing section of SW end of Rectory Lane
8	✓	✓	SE end of main replacement in Rectory Lane

### Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	Court Road replacement Main, Cranfield, Bedfordshire		
Short Description:	<i>In September 2007, Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd. undertook a watching brief on the Court Road Replacement Main Project in Cranfield, Bedfordshire on behalf of Anglian Water Services Ltd., as part of their statutory obligation towards the environment. Four monitoring visits were made to the site and all excavated trenches were observed. No archaeological remains were encountered during this project.</i>		
Project Type: (indicate all that apply)	Watching Brief		
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	none	Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	-
Current land use:	Road	Future work: (yes / no / unknown)	unknown
Monument type:	-	Monument period:	-
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	none-		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Bedfordshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	SP 9562 4194
District:	Mid Bedfordshire	Parish:	Cranfield
Site address: (with postcode if known)	Court Road, Cranfield, Bedfordshire		
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	287m	Height OD: (metres)	c.110m AOD
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	-	Project design originator:	Calli Rouse BA PIFA
Project Manager:	David Fell MA MIFA	Director/Supervisor:	Lizzie Gill BSc PgDip
Sponsor / funding body:	-		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:		End date:	
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:			
Paper:		PD, Report, clients plans	
Digital:		CD-ROM	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Court Road Replacement Main, Cranfield, Bedfordshire and consultancy Report 961/CCR		Archaeological Services and
Author(s):	Lizzie Gill BSc PgDip		
Page nos	-	Date:	26 <sup>th</sup> September 20077