

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION:
PARK FARM, TYRINGHAM,
MILTON KEYNES**

on behalf of Simon Hill Esq



Jonathan R Hunn BA PhD MIFA

July 2007

ASC: 957/TPF/1

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Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	TPF	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	957
<i>Event No:</i>	1128	<i>Accession No:</i>	
<i>County:</i>	Buckinghamshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Tyringham		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Tyringham with Filgrave		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 8533-4744		
<i>Present use:</i>	Part of grounds to house		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Alterations and extension to existing dwelling		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	02/01278/FUL		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Milton Keynes		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	July 10 th 2007		
<i>Client:</i>	Mr S. Hill Park Farm Tyringham Park Tyringham Milton Keynes MK16 0ES		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Isabel Lisboa (Archaeologica)		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Jonathan R. Hunn	<i>Date:</i>	12/07/2007
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Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

An evaluation was undertaken in July 2007 by ASC Ltd at Park Farm, Tyringham Park. The work was required as an archaeological planning condition in response to development proposals to alter and extend the existing dwelling. The site is situated on the edge of the floodplain of the river Ouse, in which the ploughed-out remains of 'ring ditches', circular burial mounds belonging to the Bronze Age period, have been recorded. However, the evaluation trenches were devoid of archaeological remains in the area immediately to the east of the present building.

1 Introduction

1.1 In early July 2007 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an evaluation at Park Farm, Tyringham Park, near Newport Pagnell (NGR SP 8533 4744: Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by *Archaeologica Ltd* on behalf of the owner, *Simon Hill*, and was carried out according to a brief (Crank 2007) prepared for the local planning authority (LPA), *Milton Keynes Council*, by their Archaeological Officer, and a project design prepared by *Archaeologica* (Lisboa 2007). The relevant planning application reference is 02/01278/FUL (4th October 2002).

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 an extension and garage to Park Farm.

1.3 *Location*

The site is located 3km north of Newport Pagnell and 5km south of Olney, in the historic county of Buckinghamshire. The site lies on the edge of the floodplain of the river Great Ouse, which lies 400m to the west.

1.4 *Description*

The site lies immediately to the east of the present dwelling, which is a modest stone-built house of early 19th-century date. The site is mostly down to lawn but is dominated by a large, albeit multi stemmed trunk of a Mulberry tree, believed to date from the late 19th century.

1.5 *Geology & Topography*

The terrain is quite level and lies at an elevation of 53m AOD. Beyond the river, 400m to the west, the land rises up some 20m where the B526 road runs in a north-westerly direction. The geology of the site is River terrace drift which gives rise to the Bishampton 2 Soil Association (Soil Survey 1983). This is described as having a '*fine loamy, slightly stony profile that are waterlogged occasionally in winter*' (Hodge et al 1984, 123). The terrace drift is a product of post-Anglian activity, which created interconnecting channels that occupied much of the valley floor (Green 2000). Along these channels coarse gravel deposits were laid down in longitudinal bars of horizontal gravel beds (*ibid.*). Beneath these Quaternary deposits lie sedimentary deposits belonging to the Mesozoic age described a Cornbrash and Oolites (*ibid.*).

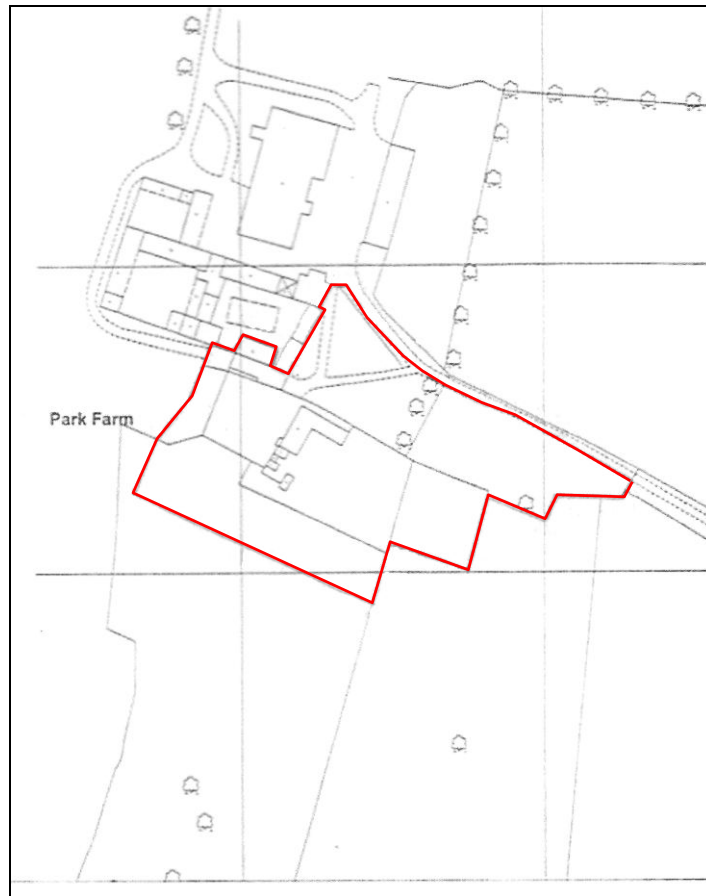


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:2500)

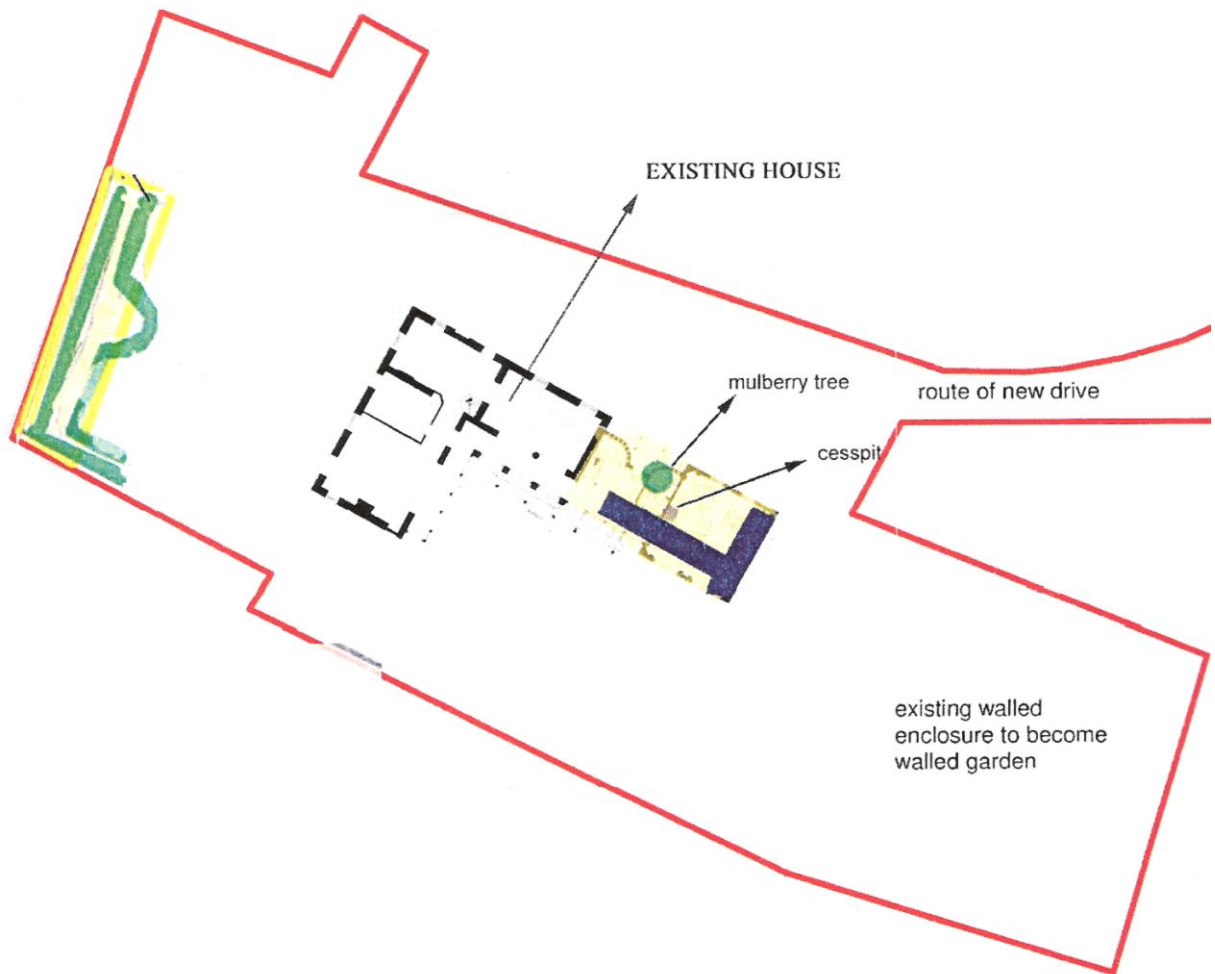


Figure 3: Proposed extension to existing dwelling (*not to scale*)

2 Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

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

- Establish the extent, character, quality, date and condition of any archaeological deposits present on the site.

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, which required:

- Excavation of a 15m x 1.6m trench

2.4 Constraints

None were encountered.

3 Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 Prehistoric (before 600BC)

Information on the Mesolithic period in the Great Ouse valley is sparse (Dawson 2000, 46). There are no Neolithic sites listed along the Ouse, nor much evidence of either settlement or ceremonial sites on the heavier clay uplands (Malim 2000, 82). The evidence for Bronze Age settlement is not much better, though there is improved data for burial practices. Some 250m to the west of Park Farm there is a cropmark showing a ring ditch (Lisboa 2007, 2). Its shape and location on land subject to periodic flooding suggests that it is probably the remains of a Bronze Age barrow. Such mounds are frequently located on the edge of territories and emphasise the significance of tribal boundaries. In this case it would be the Great Ouse and its associated band of open pastureland.

3.2 Iron Age (600BC-AD43)

There is not much information concerning Iron Age activity in the vicinity of the development site. However, the recent discovery of a substantial hoard of gold staters at Tyringham does hint at the possibility of ritual deposition (S. Hill *pers. com*). Elsewhere in the Great Ouse catchment area open settlements are common, though are usually found on the higher slopes well above the floodplain (Dawson 2000, 115). Small-scale, subsistence based settlements predominated and were subject to cyclical occupation (*ibid*, 121). This pattern is matched by a concomitant paucity of hillforts in the region (*ibid*, 118).

3.3 Roman (AD43-c.450)

On the basis of the admittedly sparse evidence the Iron Age pattern of open sites seems to have continued into the early post-Conquest period in the Ouse valley. In the late first to early second century nucleated settlements started to develop, matched by the rise of villa estates (*ibid*, 125-7). Some forty villa sites are known in the upper Ouse (*ibid*). To what extent the demise of the villa estates in the 4th/5th century effected the rural landscape remains uncertain.

3.4 Saxon (c.450-1066)

Like many dates the invitation of Vortigern to the Anglo-Saxons in AD 449 has become a key point in the history of England. However, its true impact is perhaps more symbolic than real, since it is perhaps no more than just another transitional phase in the settlement history of the British Isles. It is becoming evident that the impetus to this development started in the late 4th century if not before (Stafford 1985, 80-3). The occupation of East Anglia and Mercia seems to have begun in earnest after the arrival of Anglo-Saxons in the area around the Wash in AD 527 (*ibid*). These new groups moved up the Nene, Welland and Ouse valleys and early cemeteries have been found at Kempston, Kettering and Duston (*ibid*). There is little evidence for any significant change in the settlement pattern.

The name of Tyringham is derived from 'the ham of Tir's people' (Mawer and Stenton 1925, 15). It is likely that the settlement was of late Anglo-Saxon date if not earlier, and was presumably located in the vicinity of the present church.

3.5 Medieval (1066-1500)

Before the Norman Conquest Tyringham was held by seven thanes, each holding different amounts of land, all of which was in effect 'freehold' (Morris 1978, sections 5,10 and 17,22). At the time of the Domesday Survey (1086) Tyringham was held by two landowners, Ansketel and Acard, whose overlords were the bishop of Coutances and William son of Ansculf (*ibid.*). The population consisted of 12 villeins, 12 smallholders and 10 slaves (*ibid.*). There was land for 12 ploughs, of which each of the two lords held land for 3 ploughs, so that half the arable land of Tyringham was held directly by manorial lord(s). There was meadowland for 8 ploughs and woodland for 200 pigs. There was no mention of a watermill, though there is reference to Godwin the priest who held half a hide prior to 1066 (*ibid.*). The subsequent history of Tyringham is outlined in the Victoria County History volume for Buckinghamshire.

3.6 Post-Medieval (1500-present)

Sometime in the early 16th century the village of Tyringham became depopulated. Whether this event took place gradually or came about by seigniorial act is not certain. The village is listed as a deserted medieval village (Beresford & Hurst 1989, 184) and is mentioned as being depopulated by 1562 (Pevsner & Williamson 1994, 703). The ancient parish of Tyringham became merged with that of Filgrave in 1639 (Youngs 1980, 41). The Elizabethan manor house stood by the church until its demolition in 1792 (*ibid.*). Tyringham House was designed by Sir John Soane between 1793-7 (1979, 220). The date of the park is at least of late 18th century, though some of it may be earlier.

There is no reference to Park Farm on Thomas Jefferys' map of 1770 (BAS 2000, 6). However, Park Farm is shown on Bryant's map of 1825, located on the edge of the area denoted as a park (BAS 2000, 18).

4 Results

General

Detailed information regarding the trial trenches and their contents appears in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Fig. 4: Plate 1)

Location: The first trench lay at a distance of 2.5m ESE of the present dwelling at Park Farm.

Description: The trench was 10.00 × 1.25m with an average depth of 0.4m. The upper horizon was about 0.25m thick and consisted of a dark grey, sandy friable loam containing occasional pebbles. Beneath the topsoil was brown pebbly subsoil. At a depth of 0.5m the top of the local fluvio-glacial gravels was observed. Apart from a water pipe no features were observed in this trench.

Trench 2 (Fig. 4: Plate 2)

Location: The second trench intersected Trench 1 at its eastern end thereby forming an L-shape.

Description: This trench was similar to Trench 1 except that it had a soakaway trench aligned E-W. No other features were observed and the spoil heaps were also devoid of man made material except for the occasional tile fragment and odd loose brick.



Plate 1: Trench 1 looking north west



Plate 2: Trench 2 looking north east

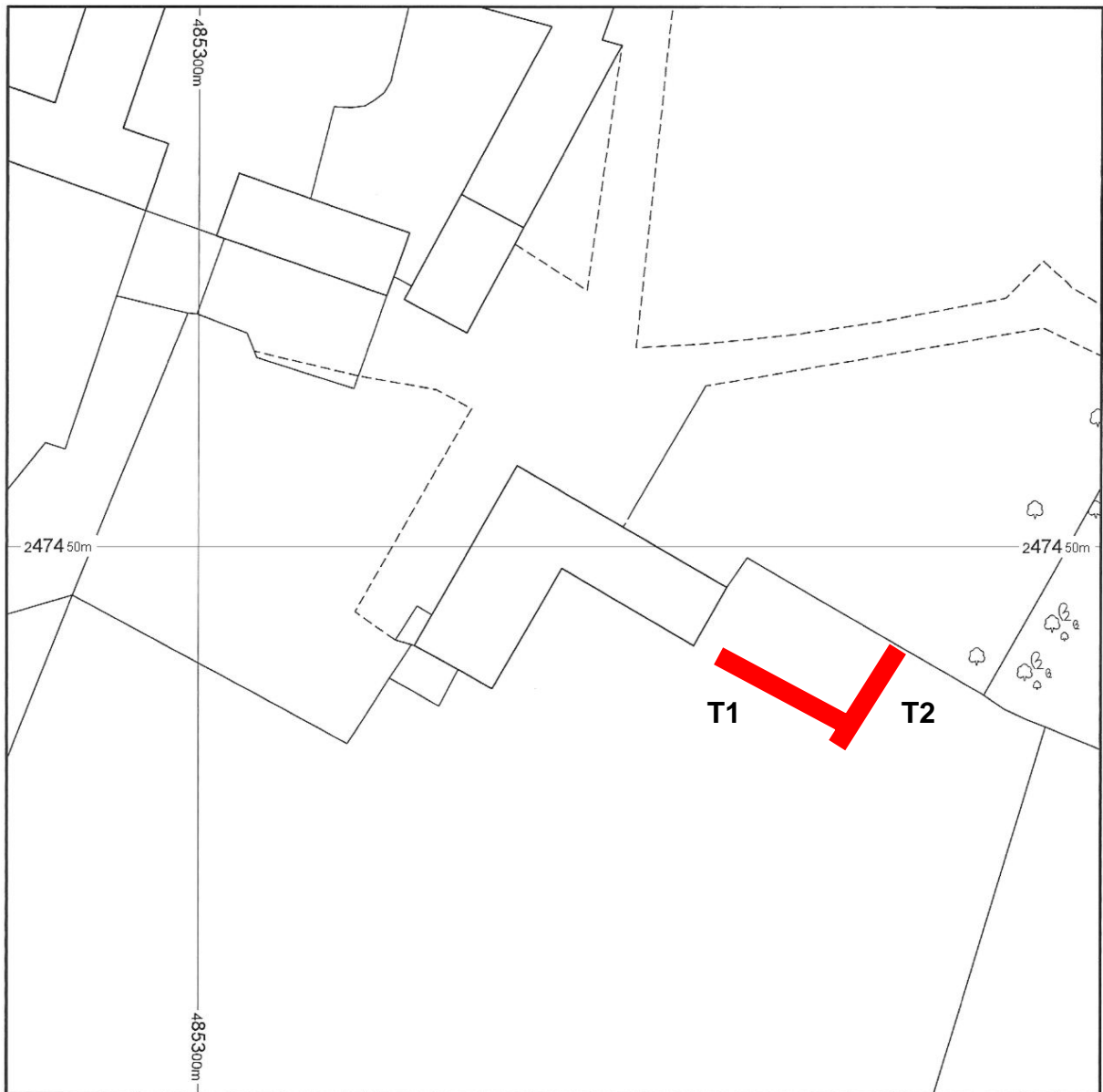


Figure 4: Trench location plan (*scale: 1:500*)

5. Conclusions

The two trenches amounted to an area of 23.3 sq metres, or 22% of the proposed extension area of 105 sq. m. No archaeological features were observed in the trenches, and no finds were recovered from their fills. The topsoil was particularly clean, which is unusual given its proximity to a 200-year-old domestic building (Park Farm). Although the possible presence of isolated archaeological features in areas not examined by the evaluation cannot be discounted, it seems reasonable to infer that the site of the proposed extension has only a 'low' archaeological potential.

6. Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to Dr Lisboa of Archaeologica for commissioning the fieldwork on behalf of the client Mr Hill. The fieldwork was monitored for the local planning authority by their Archaeological Officer, Nick Crank. The work was undertaken for ASC by the author, and the report was edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

7. Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Clients site plans
4. Site records
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 Buckinghamshire County Museum.

8. References


Standards & Specifications


- Crank, N. 2007: Park Farm, Tyringham, Milton Keynes. Brief for archaeological evaluation (PS/537/2/A/C995).
- EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd 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)*.
- Lisboa, I. 2007: Specification for an archaeological evaluation at Tyringham Park (Archaeologica, doc. ref. AC 31154/D1)

Secondary Sources

- Beresford, M and Hurst, J. 1989: *Deserted medieval Villages*. Alan Sutton (Gloucester).
- BAS 2000: *Buckinghamshire in the 1760s and 1820s: The county maps of Jefferys & Bryant*. Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society (Aylesbury).
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- Hodge, C.A.H., Burton, R.G.O., Corbett., W.M., Evans, R. and Seale, R.S. 1984: *Soils and their use in Eastern England*. Soil Survey of England and Wales Bulletin no. 13. Harpenden.
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- Pevsner, N and Williamson, E. 1994: *The Buildings of England: Buckinghamshire*. Penguin Books (London).
- Reed, M. 1979: *The Buckinghamshire Landscape*. Hodder & Stoughton (London).
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).
- Stafford, P. 1985; *The East Midlands in the Early Middle Ages*. Leicester University Press
- Youngs, F. A. 1980: *Guide to the Local Administrative Units of England: Vol I Southern England*. Royal Hist Soc. Univ of London (London)

Appendix 1: Trench Summary Tables

Trench 1					
		Max Dimensions (m)			
		Width	1.25m	Length	10m
		Depth	0.50	Level (top)	52.40m
		NGR Coordinates			
		SP 85338-47442		SP 85347-47437	
		Orientation:		WNW-ESE	
Reason for Trench:		Evaluation			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Max Width (mm)	Max Thckn (mm)	Depth BGL (mm)
11	layer	Topsoil: dark grey, sandy friable loam containing occasional pebbles		250	
12	layer	Subsoil:		250	
13	natural	Natural: fluvio-glacial gravels			500

Trench 2					
		Max Dimensions (m)			
		Width	1.25	Length	8.7
		Depth	0.4m	Level (top)	52.40m
		NGR Coordinates			
		SP 85347-47435		SP 85352-47443	
		Orientation:		NE-SW	
Reason for Trench:		Evaluation			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Max Width (mm)	Max Thckn (mm)	Depth BGL (mm)
21	layer	Topsoil: dark grey, sandy friable loam containing occasional pebbles		250	
22	layer	Subsoil:		250	
23	natural	Natural: fluvio-glacial gravels			500
24	cut	Modern soakaway trench, cutting 22 & 23	600		

Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: Park Farm, Tyringham		SITE NO/CODE: 957/TPF	
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1		1773	Western end of existing house
2	yes	1774	Setting of current evaluation looking NW
3		1775	Setting of current evaluation looking WNW
4	yes	1776	Trench 1 looking WNW
5	yes	1777	Trench 2 looking NE
6		1778	Detail of subsoil in T1, note gravel
7	yes	1779	Front elevation of existing dwelling
8		1780	Detail of soakaway trench in T.2

Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	Park Farm, Tyringham Park, Tyringham, Milton Keynes		
Short Description:	<i>An evaluation was undertaken in July 2007 by ASC Ltd at Park Farm, Tyringham Park. The work was required as an archaeological planning condition in response to development proposals to alter and extend the existing dwelling. The site is situated on the edge of the floodplain of the river Ouse, in which the ploughed-out remains of 'ring ditches', circular burial mounds belonging to the Bronze Age period, have been recorded. However, the evaluation trenches were devoid of archaeological remains in the area immediately to the east of the present building.</i>		
Project Type:	evaluation		
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	none	Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	none
Current land use:	garden	Future work: (yes / no / unknown)	unknown
Monument type:	Post-medieval	Monument period:	Post-medieval
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Milton Keynes	OS reference: (8 figs min)	SP 8533 4744
Site address: (with postcode if known)	Park Farm, Tyringham Park, Tyringham, Milton Keynes, MK16 9ES		
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	23.3 sq. m.	Height OD: (metres)	52.4m
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeologica Ltd		
Project brief originator:	Nick Crank (MKC)	Project design originator:	Isabel Lisboa (Archaeologica)
Project Manager:	Isabel Lisboa (Archaeologica)	Director/Supervisor:	Jonathan R Hunn (ASC)
Sponsor / funding body:	Simon Hill		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	10/7/07	End date:	10/7/07
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	No	No	
Paper:	Yes	Archive box with site records	
Digital:	Yes	CD with digital files	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Archaeological Evaluation: Park Farm, Tyringham, Milton Keynes		
Serial title & volume:	ASC report, ref ASC/957/TPF		
Author(s):	Jonathan Hunn BA PhD MIFA		
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