

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:
NEW ROAD,
MAULDEN,
BEDFORDSHIRE**

on behalf of Mrs K. Iddeson



J Richards BA PIFA

August 2007

ASC: 944/MNR/1

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Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	MNR	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	944
<i>Event No:</i>	N/A	<i>Accession No:</i>	BEDFM 2007.603
<i>County:</i>	Bedfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Maulden		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Maulden		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TL 0588 3682		
<i>Present use:</i>	Pasture		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Positioning of temporary log cabin, the erection of a farm building and the formation of a new vehicular access		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	07/255/FUL		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Mid Bedfordshire District Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	13 th & 14 th August 2007		
<i>Client:</i>	Mr and Mrs Iddeson 83 Dunstable Road, Toddington, Bedfordshire LU5 6DT		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Mrs K. Iddeson		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	J Richards BA PIFA	<i>Date:</i>	15 th August 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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CONTENTS

Summary	4
1. Introduction	4
2. Aims & Methods	7
3. Archaeological & Historical Background	8
4. Results.	10
5. Conclusions	12
6. Acknowledgements	13
7. Archive	13
8. References	14

Appendices:

1. ASC Watching Brief Monitoring Sheets	15
2. Photo List.....	17
3. ASC OASIS Form	18

Figures:

1. General location	3
2. Site plan	5
3. Proposed development.....	6

Plates:

Cover: Site prior to development

1. North facing shot of driveway	11
2. East facing shot of footprint of barn.....	11
3. East facing shot of footprint of temporary dwelling.....	11

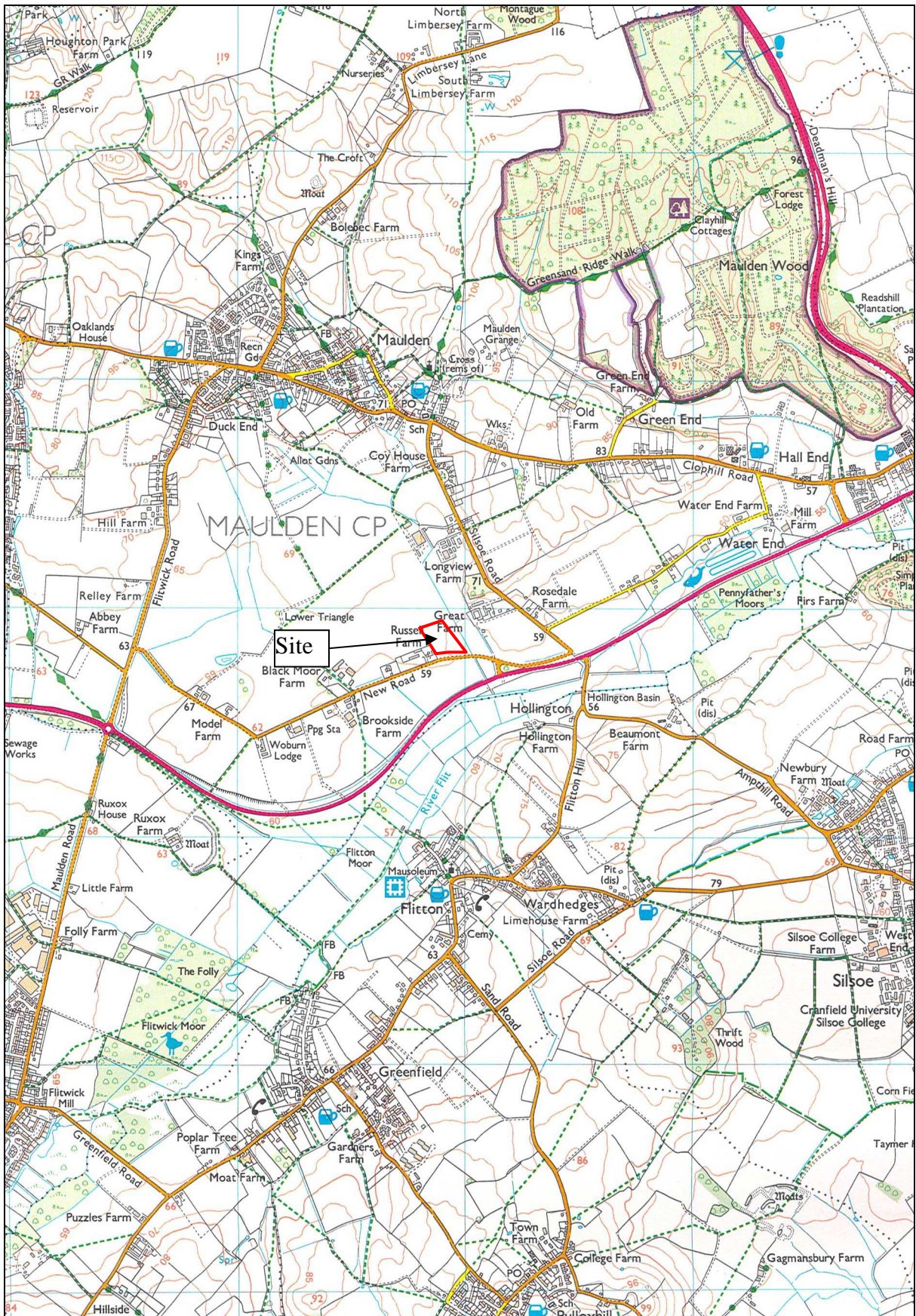


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

During August 2007 ASC Ltd were commissioned by Mr and Mrs Iddeson to carry out a watching brief at New Road, Maulden during groundworks for new buildings associated with an alpaca farm. Topsoil and subsoil stripping was monitored. No archaeological features were observed during this.

1 Introduction

1.1 In August 2007 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief at New Road, Maulden (NGR TL 0588 3682: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Mr and Mrs, and was carried out according to a brief (BCC 2007) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *Mid Bedfordshire District Council*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), the *Heritage and Environment Section Bedfordshire County Council* (BCAS), and a project design prepared by ASC. The relevant planning application reference is 07/255/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 temporary log cabin for use as an agricultural dwelling in connection with an alpaca farm, the erection of a farm building and formation of a new vehicular access (Fig. 3).

1.3 *Location*

The site is situated in Maulden in the administrative district of Mid Bedfordshire (Fig. 1). It lies to the south of the village on the north side of New Road and is centred on Ordnance Survey National grid reference TL 0588 3682 (Fig. 2).

1.4 *Description*

The site is currently used as pasture for four horses. It is surrounded by fields that are under arable agriculture and the development site may have been used for this purpose also in the past.

1.5 *Geology & Topography*

The site lies near the base of the valley of the River Flit with a gentle slope to the southeast at an average height of c. 60m OD.

The natural soils comprise Evesham 3 Association. These are described as *slowly permeable calcareous clayey, and fine loamy over clayey soils, some slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged non-calcareous clayey soils*, which overlie Jurassic and Cretaceous Clay (Soil Survey, 1983, 411c).



Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:2500)



Figure 3: Proposed development (scale 1:1250)

2 Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

As described in the brief (Section 4), the aims of the watching brief were:

- 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 type series in the region
- to recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

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

The work was carried out according to the brief (Section 5), which required:

- the continuous observation of topsoil (and if necessary upper subsoil) stripping
- the investigation and recording of any archaeological features which may be revealed
- the investigation of footings and services, if appropriate.

3 Archaeological & Historical Background

HER=Historic Environmental Record

- 3.1.1 Maulden is an area of considerable archaeological and historical interest. A large number of archaeological sites have been identified in the valley of the river Flit and are often identified by the presence of cropmarks. One such cropmark is present within the application area and further examples are present to the south (HER. 3213, and 3214) and west (HER. 578, 10125). The majority have not been investigated but they have the potential to be prehistoric or Roman in date.
- 3.1.2 There is an increasing body of evidence for Iron Age activity in the area. A burial of this date has been identified to the west of the application area, which has a late Iron Age ceramic vessel associated with it (HER. 2775) and a significant settlement has been found at Ruxox Farm, c.1.3km to the southwest (HER. 918; Dawson 2000).
- 3.1.3 The valleys of the rivers Flit and Great Ouse were of considerable importance during the Roman period (Dawson (2000) and a number of Roman period sites are present in and around Maulden. Closest to the application area is New Road which, it has been speculated, may have formed part of the Roman road Viatores number 176, running from Woburn to Dunton (Viatores no. 176; HER. 5342). However it is also possible that New Road was laid out during the post-medieval period (below, section 3.1.7).
- 3.1.4 A site of considerable importance has been recorded at Ruxox Farm, to the southwest of the application area (HER. 918). This settlement has been referred to as an extended site where *“rather than a village, the landscape components divide into a linear site of aligned enclosures..., and, approximately 500m away a villa”* (Dawson, 2000). The settlement was occupied from the 1st to the late 4th centuries and walls and plaster floors have been identified with a varied collection of artefacts including brooches, bone needles, intaglios and tesserae. The presence of a large number of figurines indicates the possible presence of a cult centre based on a temple (Dawson, 2004). A cemetery was also uncovered which included over thirty inhumations and cremations. There is also evidence of industrial activity in the form of metal working crucibles.
- 2.1.5 A further Iron Age/Roman settlement has been found at Flitwick c. 2km to the southwest of the application area (HER. 573; Luke 1999). The site probably originated during the middle Iron Age period and, following a possible hiatus during the late Iron Age, was occupied from the 2nd century through to the Saxon period.
- 3.1.6 The early history of Maulden is not understood in detail, but the village may have originated during the Saxon period. The settlement was included in the Domesday Survey (1086) when the principal landowners were Elstow Abbey and Hugh Bolebec (Williams and Martin 2002).

- 3.1.7 The site lies south of the medieval village, which was centred on the church of St Mary. The settlement is now focused to the west of the church, where the majority of the buildings are post-medieval and modern in date. New Road may have been laid out during the 18th or 19th centuries, possibly as a result of parliamentary enclosure. Great Farm, which is situated east of the application area, is shown on the 1889 edition Ordnance Survey map, but Russell Farm, which is situated to the west does not appear, and is probably a late 19th or early 20th century development.

4 Results

- 4.1 The removal of the topsoil and subsoil to a depth of 0.30m below ground level in the areas of the building footprints and the driveway and vehicle parking area was observed.
- 4.2 The natural strata was a mid yellowish orange sandy gravel to the western part of the development area, changing to a dark greyish orange silty clay at the eastern side.
- 4.3 No archaeological remains were observed during the removal of topsoil and subsoil.
- 4.4 The development site is currently pasture, however the surrounding fields are under arable agriculture and this field may also have been intensively ploughed in the past. This would have impacted upon any archaeological remains present.
- 4.5 As no archaeological remains were observed during the watching brief, it was agreed on consultation with the Archaeological Advisor of the *Archaeology Section, Bedfordshire County Council*, that no further field visits need be undertaken.



Plate 1: driveway



Plate 2: footprint of barn



Plate 3: footprint of temporary dwelling

5. Conclusions

5.1 Although there is a possible cropmark visible on aerial photos of the development area, no archaeological remains were observed during the groundworks. The natural strata changed from a sandy gravel in the west, to a silty clay in the east of the stripped area; this may be the cause of the cropmark, if it extended as far west as the stripped area.

5.2 *Confidence rating*

The site was stripped to the horizon of the natural strata using a machine excavator with a toothless bucket, and weather conditions were reasonably good; full co-operation was given by the clients and the machine driver and a high confidence rating is therefore attached to the results of the watching brief.

6. Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to Mr and Mrs Iddeson for commissioning this watching brief, and to Lesley-Ann Mather of Bedfordshire County Council for acting as curatorial monitor.

The project was managed by David Fell BA MA MIFA. The fieldwork was undertaken by Jenny Richards BA PIFA. The report was prepared by Jenny Richards and edited by David Fell.

7. Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

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

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum (accession number: BEDFM 2007.603)

8. References

Standards & Specifications

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

BCC 2007 *Brief for a Program of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Land at New Road, Maulden and Publication of Land at New Road, Maulden, Bedfordshire*

Browne, R. S. 2007 Project Design for a watching brief at New Road, Maulden, Bedfordshire, on behalf of Mrs K Iddeson (ASC Ltd)

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

Dawson M. 2000 *The Ouse Valley in the Iron Age and Roman periods: a landscape in transition in, Prehistoric, Roman, and Post-Roman Landscapes of the Great Ouse Valley*, CBA Research Report **119**


Dawson M. 2004 *Archaeology in the Bedford Region* British Archaeological Reports. British Series 373

Luke M. 1999 *An enclosed, pre- "Belgic" Iron Age farmstead with later occupation at Hinksley Road, Flitwick*, Bedfordshire Archaeology **Vol. 23**

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

Williams A & Martin G H (eds) 2002 *Domesday Book. A Complete Translation*. Penguin

Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

 A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD				
Project: NEW ROAD, MAULDEN		Project No/Code: 9441MNR		Sheet: 1 of		
		Date of visit: 13/08/07.				
Client/Developer: MR + MRS IODESON.						
Contact: MRS K IODESON			Phone:			
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 8:00		Finish: 4:35		
Completed by:						
Development Type:						
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):
/		/	/			
Site & weather conditions:						
PASTURE, DRY AND SUNNY.						
Observations:						
TOPSOIL AND SUBSOIL STRIP OF DRIVEWAY AND BARN FOOTPRINT. TO TOP OF NATURAL 0.30M BELOW GROUND LEVEL.						
NATURAL IS A MID YELLOWISH ORANGE SANDY GRAVEL WITH LOTS OF PEBBLES.						
SURROUNDING FIELDS ARE ARABLE, POSSIBLE THAT THIS FIELD WAS ARABLE IN PAST						
NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES OBSERVED						
Comments:						
STRIPPING OF CAR PARK AND TEMPORARY DWELLING FOOTPRINT WILL CONTINUE 14/08/07						

For sketch plan, use reverse

©ASC, 2003



A.S.C. LTD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: New Road, MAULDEN		Project No/Code: 9441 MNR	Sheet: 2 of
		Date of visit: 14/08/07	
Client/Developer MR + MRS IDDESON			
Contact: MRS K. IDDESON		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 8:00	Finish: 12:30.	
Completed by:			
Development Type:			
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: PASTURE. RAINING BUT WELL DRAINED SOIL.			
Observations:			
TOP SOIL AND SUBSOIL STRIP OF CARPARK AREA			
AND FOOTPRINT OF TEMPORARY DWELLING TO TOP OF			
NATURAL.			
NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES OBSERVED			
WESTERN END OF STRIPPED AREA REVEALS THAT			
THE NATURAL STRATA CHANGES TO A HEAVY			
DARK GREENISH ORANGE CLAY.			
Comments:			
AGREES FOLLOWING EMAIL TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL			
ADVISOR OF BEDSCC THAT NO NO FURTHER VISITS			
NECESSARY.			

For sketch plan, use reverse

©ASC, 2003

Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: New Road, Maulden			SITE NO/CODE: 944/MNR
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	-	/	View of site prior to work
2	-	/	View of site prior to work
3	/	/	N facing shot of driveway
4	/	/	Section of trench
5	/	/	E facing shot of barn footprint (north)
6	/	/	E facing shot of barn footprint (south)
7	/	/	E facing shot of temporary dwelling footprint (north)
8	/	/	W facing shot of temporary dwelling footprint (north)
9	/	/	E facing shot of temporary dwelling footprint
10	-	/	Fields to south of site
11	-	/	View over site to field in north west

Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	New Road, Maulden		
Short Description:	<i>During August 2007 ASC Ltd carried out a watching brief at New Road, Maulden during groundworks for new buildings associated with an alpaca farm. Topsoil and subsoil stripping was monitored to a depth of 0.30m at the horizon with the natural strata. No archaeological features were observed during the watching brief.</i>		
Project Type: (indicate all that apply)	Watching Brief		
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	None	Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	None
Current land use:	Pasture	Future work: (yes / no / unknown)	No
Monument type:	None	Monument period:	None
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Bedfordshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	TL 0588 3682
District:	Mid Bedfordshire	Parish:	Maulden
Site address: (with postcode if known)	New Road, Maulden		
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	772 sq. m.	Height OD: (metres)	c.60m
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	Beds CC	Project design originator:	Ralph Brown
Project Manager:	David Fell	Director/Supervisor:	Jenny Richards
Sponsor / funding body:	Mr & Mrs Iddeson		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	13/08/07	End date:	14/08/07
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	N/a	N/a	
Paper:	Bedford Museum (BEDFM 2007.603)	Monitoring sheet, Project design, Report, B&W negatives and photographs	
Digital:	Bedford Museum (BEDFM 2007.603)	CD: Digital images, MS Word documents	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Watching Brief Report (944/MNR)		
Author(s):	J Richards BA PIFA		
Page nos	18	Date:	21 st August 2007