

# Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

## **WATCHING BRIEF: 27 OLNEY ROAD LAVENDON MILTON KEYNES**

*on behalf of  
Caroline Reid*



**A J Hancock BSc PgDip**

**June 2007**

**ASC: 830/LOR/01**

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## Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	LOR	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	830
<i>Event No:</i>	1073	<i>Accession No:</i>	
<i>County:</i>	Milton Keynes		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Lavendon		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Lavendon		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 9163 5348		
<i>Present use:</i>	Residential		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Extension		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	06/00818/FUL		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Milton Keynes		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	31/08/06 – 30/05/07		
<i>Client:</i>	Caroline Reid 27 Olney Road Lavendon Milton Keynes MK46 4EU		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Caroline Reid		

## Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	A J Hancock	<i>Date:</i>	6 <sup>th</sup> June 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

*A watching brief was carried out by ASC Ltd between August 2006 and May 2007, at the rear of 27 Olney Road, Lavendon, Milton Keynes during construction of an extension and levelling of an east-west trending natural gradient. No archaeological finds or features were observed during watching brief visits although the small scale of the development may have hampered definitive determination of the presence or absence of archaeology. The results of the watching brief suggest that the site could lie beyond the limit of the Medieval village.*

### 1. Introduction

1.1 From August 2006 to May 2007 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief at 27 Olney Road, Lavendon, Milton Keynes (NGR: SP 9163 5348 Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Caroline Reid, and was carried out according to ASC's standard watching brief method statement, and in accordance with IFA standards and guidelines (IFA 2000, 2001).

#### 1.2 *Planning Background*

The watching brief was required as a planning condition under the terms of *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (PPG16), in response to proposals for the construction of an extension at the rear of the extant house. The relevant planning application reference is 06/00818/FUL.

#### 1.3 *Location*

The site was located on the eastern side of Olney Road at NGR: SP 9163 5348, c.130m south of the village centre (Fig 1).

#### 1.4 *Description*

The area subject to the watching brief formed the rear garden of 27 Olney Road (Fig 2). The building work consisted of demolition of an existing rear extension and subsequent excavation of footing trenches, soakaways and ground reduction.

#### 1.5 *Geology & Topography*

The soils of the site are of the *Moreton Association* (Soil Survey 1983: 511b), which are described as "*well drained calcareous clayey and fine loamy soils over limestone, in places shallow and brashy. Some deeper slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils*". The underlying solid geology consists of Jurassic clay and limestone. The rear garden exhibited an east-west trending gradient that dropped from c.60m AOD to c.58m AOD immediately adjacent to the house.

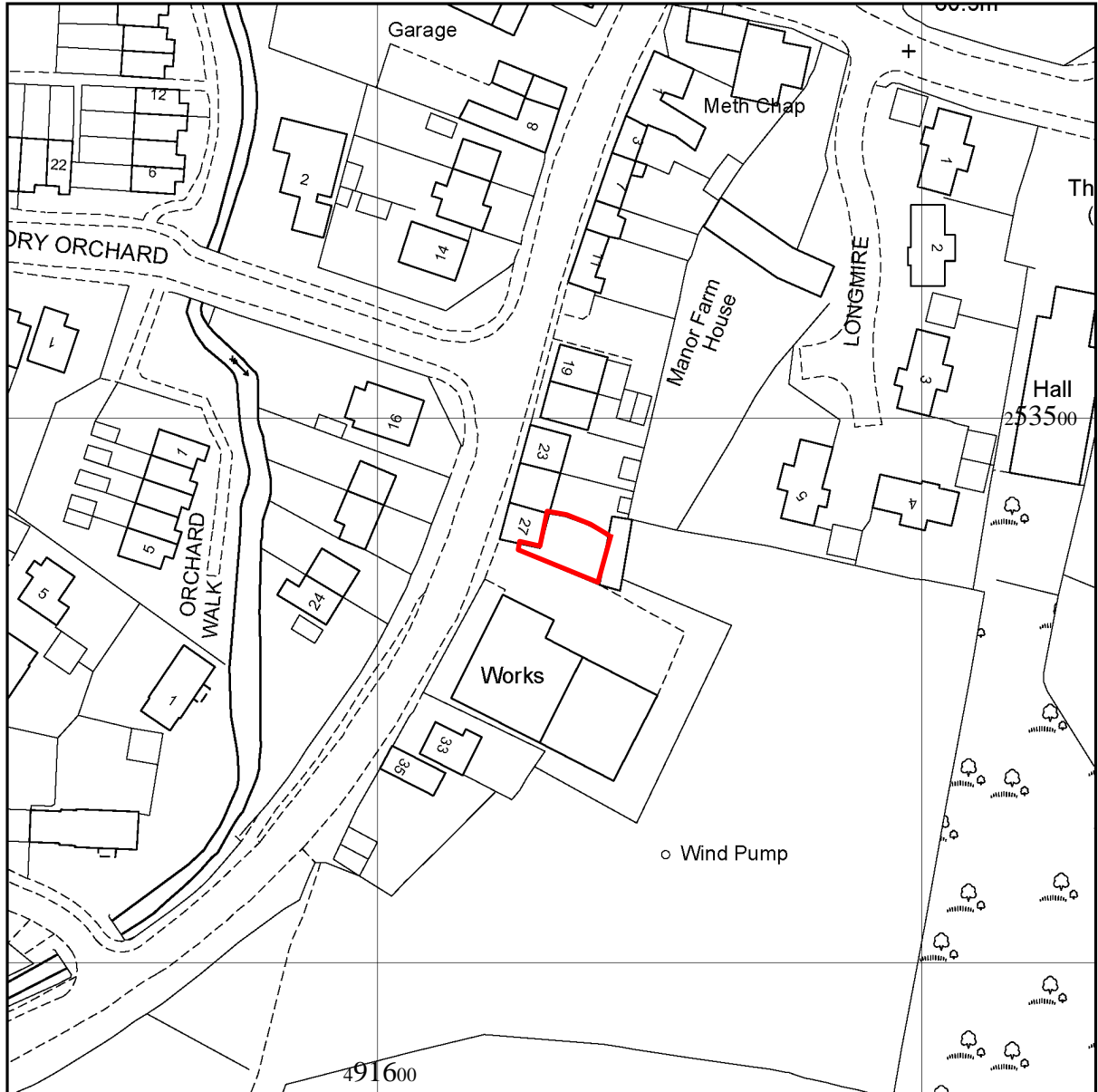


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

## **2. Aims & Methods**

### **2.1 Aims**

The aims of the watching brief were:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.
- To identify and record any significant archaeological remains revealed by the groundworks.

### **2.2 Standards**

The work conformed to the ASC's proforma watching brief 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 proforma watching brief method statement; in this instance at the level of:

- Intermittent watching brief

### **2.4 Constraints**

No constraints were encountered during monitoring visits.

### 3. Archaeological & Historical Background

#### 3.1 Introduction

The local and regional settings of archaeological sites are factors that are taken into consideration when assessing the implications of development proposals. The following sections provide a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the site and its environs. *SAM = Scheduled Ancient Monument*

#### 3.2 Prehistoric (before 600BC)

The valley of the river Great Ouse and was of considerable importance during the prehistoric period (Dawson 2001). Intensive exploitation occurred although no known sites of this period are recorded in the immediate environs of the site.

#### 3.3 Iron Age (600BC-AD43)

Sites of this period are not known in the immediate environs of 27 Olney Road although human exploitation of the Ouse Valley continued and likely grew more intense than during the preceding period.

#### 3.4 Roman (AD43-c.450)

A number of Roman sites are known in the area, notably the settlement at Ashfurlong, c.2km west-southwest of 27 Olney Road, which is designated an SAM. A second site of this period has been recorded at Lavendon Mill c.1km southwest of 27 Olney Road.

#### 3.5 Saxon (c.450-1066)

Parts of St Michaels Church are of proposed 11<sup>th</sup> century date (Pevsner and Williamson 2000), which suggests that settlement remains of the late Saxon period are probably present in its immediate vicinity. It is currently unclear whether archaeology dating to earlier Saxon periods lies under the modern village.

#### 3.6 Medieval (1066-1500)

Lavendon is recorded in the Domesday Survey as being included in "*Bunsty Hundred*" (Williams and Martin 2003) and the village lay at the centre of three high status sites constructed during this period. The remains of a motte and bailey castle are located c.1km north of the village centre and the remains of a Premonstratensian Abbey founded in 1154 by John de Bidun, are located at Lavendon Grange c.1.5km west of the village; both sites are protected as SAMs. The remains of a moated manor site are located at Uphoe Manor Farm c.0.5km to the east.

#### 3.7 Post-Medieval (1500-1900)

Lavendon contains a number of vernacular buildings, inclusive of 27 Olney Road, which date to the later centuries of this period. Comprehensive restoration of the church of St Michael was carried out by William Butterfield in 1858-9 (Pevsner and Williamson 2000).

#### 3.8 Modern (1900-present)

The village remained agricultural in character during the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and its residents saw the Jarrow marchers pass through en route to London in 1936. The later decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century saw housing development triple the size of the village.



## 4. Results

- 4.1** ASC Ltd was informed that an initial watching brief visit was required after demolition of the original extension and ground reduction to level the western third of the rear garden had occurred (Plate 1). Subsequent watching brief visits monitored foundation trenches of the new extension, two soakaways, further ground reduction and a shallow topsoil strip at the rear of the site adjacent to a stone built outbuilding.
- 4.2** The development had little affect on the stone built outbuilding located at the rear of the garden and an area extending *c.*2m west of it (Plate 2). A limited depth of topsoil was removed adjacent to the northwest of the outbuilding but the groundwork was not sufficiently intrusive to enable determination of the presence or absence of archaeological finds or features at this part of the development.
- 4.3** The soil/sediment profile revealed at the rest of the site consisted of:
- (100) *c.*0.2m of dark brownish black organic topsoil containing sherds of modern porcelain and earthenware plus fragments of ceramic building material (cbm).
  - (101) *c.*0.2m of mid brownish grey sandy silt subsoil containing sherds of modern earthenware, cbm and small limestone nodules.
  - (102) *c.*0.8m of mid reddish brown sandy silt extending *c.*2m east of the rear of the house (Plate 3). Natural, probably colluvial deposit accumulated at the base of an east-west trending slope.
  - (103) *c.*1m – 1.5m of natural degraded limestone cornbrash, overlain by 102 adjacent to the house and 101 in the remainder of the rear garden (Plate 4).
  - (104) unknown depth of natural light grey clay containing frequent fragments of shell (Plate 5).
- 4.4** Three 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century ceramic drains were cut into (102) adjacent to the rear of the house (Plate 6). Two small features were observed cut into the cornbrash (103) during the watching brief. Rapid investigation illustrated that both features were sealed by the topsoil, fragments of modern earthenware and cbm were noted within their fills.
- 4.5** No archaeological finds or features predating the 19<sup>th</sup> century were observed in spoil from the groundwork, the foundation trenches, the area of ground reduction, the soakaways or in section at the limit of the area of ground reduction.



**Plate 1:** Rear of 27 Olney Road, facing WNW



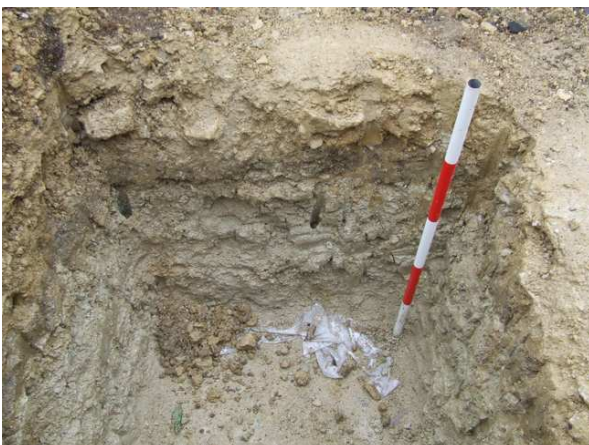
**Plate 2:** Outbuilding at rear of garden, facing E



**Plate 3:** Groundworkers stood on reddish brown colluvium (102), facing WNW



**Plate 4:** Strata showing underlying natural cornbrash (103), facing E



**Plate 5:** Light grey clay (104) underlying cornbrash, facing WNW



**Plate 6:** Ceramic drains cut into (102), facing SSW

## **5. Conclusions**

- 5.1** No archaeological finds or features predating the 19<sup>th</sup> century were observed at the western part of the rear garden of 27 Olney Road during watching brief monitoring visits. Due to the small scale of the development dumps of spoil often obscured areas of the site surface during monitoring visits and a medium/low confidence rating is attributed to the observations made during fieldwork.
- 5.2** The eastern third of the rear garden was not impacted by the development and the presence or absence of archaeological finds or features could not be determined in this area.
- 5.3** The observed soil/sediment profile suggests that the small terrace of houses including 27 Olney Road were built on a natural colluvial deposit accumulated at the base of a gentle east-west trending natural slope.
- 5.4** The absence of archaeological finds or features could suggest that the site lies beyond the boundary of the medieval and earlier village.

## **6. Acknowledgements**

The writer is grateful to Caroline Reid for commissioning this project and to Nick Crank of Milton Keynes Council for monitoring it.

The fieldwork was carried out by the author and K Semmelmann BA MA AIFA and the report was edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

## **7. Archive**

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Initial Report
2. Site Monitoring Sheets
3. List of photographs
4. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum.

## 8. References

### *Standards & Specifications*

EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.* English Heritage (London).

IFA 2000 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*


Dawson M 2001 *Prehistoric, Roman and Post Roman Landscapes in the Great Ouse Valley.* CBA Research Report.

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

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

Williams A and Martin G H 2003 *Domesday Book: A Complete Translation.* (Penguin Books)

# Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

 <b>A.S.C. LTD</b>		<b>ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD</b>				
Project: <b>27 OLNEY ROAD</b> <b>LAVENDON</b>		Project No/Code: <b>830 / LOR</b>		Sheet: <b>1</b> of <b>1</b>		
Client/Developer: <b>CAROLINE KEID</b>		Date of visit: <b>31   8   06</b>				
Contact: <b>↑</b>		Phone: <b>07887 607254</b>				
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: <b>9 00</b>		Finish: <b>10 50</b>		
Completed by: <b>AJH</b>						
Development Type:						
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions:						
<b>ADVANCED STAGE OF GROUNDWORK, OVERCAST + MILD</b>						
Observations:						
<b>HOUSE GUTTED, FLOORS REMOVED TO BELOW LEVEL OF WALLS. SURFACE COVERED IN BUILDERS DEBRIS. SMALL AREA INVESTIGATED SHOWED EVIDENCE OF EARLY MID GREY SANDY CLAY (FREQ CHARCOAL) SURFACE.</b>						
<b>EXTENSION AT REAR OF HOUSE DEMOLISHED AND UP TO A METRE OF TOP/SUBSOIL REMOVED IN THIRD OF GARDEN - SURFACE COVERED IN RUBBLE FROM DEMOLITION.</b>						
<b>NO ARCH FINDS OR FEATURES VISIBLE AS SURFACE OBSCURED BY DEMOLITION RUBBLE</b>						
Comments:						
<b>NO FURTHER VISITS NEEDED UNTIL RUBBLE IN GARDEN REMOVED AND FOOTINGS START AS IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE PRESENCE/ABSENCE OF ARCHAEOLOGY UNTIL THIS OCCURS.</b>						

For sketch plan, use reverse

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD**

Project: <b>27 OLNEY ROAD</b>		Project No/Code: <b>830 1 LOR</b>	Sheet: <b>2 of</b>
<b>LAVENDON</b>		Date of visit: <b>6/9/06</b>	
Client/Developer <b>CAROLINE REID</b>			
Contact:		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: <b>13.00</b>	Finish: <b>14 30</b>	
Completed by: <b>AJM</b>			
<b>Development Type:</b>			
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: <b>DRY / SUNNY / HOT</b>			
Observations: <b>RUBBLE REMOVED - TWO MODERN DRAINS VISIBLE CUT INTO THE NATURAL LEVELLING THAT HAS OCCURRED PRIOR TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVOLVEMENT HAS REMOVED UP TO 1m OF NATURAL IN A THIRD OF THE REAR GARDEN. IF ANY ARCH WAS PRESENT - HAS GONE IN UNMONITORED LEVELLING ACTIVITY IN THIS AREA. SPOIL HEAP TO REMOVE TOMORROW AND AREA OF LEVELLING AT REAR OF GARDEN. AT LATER DATE.</b>			
<b>NO ARCH FINDS OR FEATURES OBSERVED.</b>			
Comments: <b>VISIT TOMORROW AM TO EXAMINE AREA CURRENTLY UNDER SPOIL</b>			

For sketch plan. use reverse

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: <b>27 OLNEY ROAD</b>		Project No/Code: <b>8301 LOR</b>	Sheet: <b>3</b> of
LAVENDON, MILTON KEYNES		Date of visit: <b>7/9/06</b>	
Client/Developer: <b>CAROLINE RED</b>			
Contact:		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: <b>9.20</b>	Finish: <b>11.30</b>	
Completed by: <b>AJH</b>			
Development Type:			
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: <b>DRY, SUNNY, HOT</b>			
Observations: <b>SPOIL REMOVED REVEALING REDDISH BROWN SILTY CLAY - NATURAL DEPOSIT. FURTHER INVESTIGATION BY HAND REVEALED NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS OR FEATURES PRESENT STRAT APPEARS TO BE</b> <b>c 0.2m TOPSOIL (DARK BROWNISH BLACK)</b> <b>c 0.2m NATURAL (MID REDDISH BROWN CLAY) SILT - PATCHES</b> <b>c 0.1m AND MORE NATURAL CORNBRASS</b>  <b>NO ARCHA FINDS OR FEATURES OBSERVED</b>			
Comments: <b>FURTHER VISIT NECESSARY TO OBSERVE FOOTINGS ON 12/9/06.</b>			

For sketch plan, use reverse

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A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD				
Project: 27 OLNEY ROAD		Project No/Code: 830 1 LOR	Sheet: 4 of			
LAVENDON, MK		Date of visit: 12/9/06				
Client/Developer: CAROLINE REID						
Contact:			Phone:			
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start:	Finish:				
Completed by:						
Development Type:						
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: OVERCAST, DRY, MILD						
Observations: FOOTINGS DUG AT REAR OF HOUSE. DUG INTO NATURAL CORNBRASS AND REDDISH BROWN CLAYEY SILT DEPOSITED IN NATURAL HOLLOW IN AREA AT BASE OF SLOPE NEXT TO THE REAR HOUSE WALL. PIPE TRENCH WITH 2 FIRED CLAY DRAINS VISIBLE IN SECTION - DARK MIXED ORGANIC/RUBBLE FILL. FURTHER PIPE TRENCH WITH FIRED CLAY DRAIN ALSO PRESENT - FILL - MID BROWN SLIGHTLY ORGANIC CLAYEY SILT - BOTH PIPE TRENCHES INSERTED (19 or 20). TOPSOIL AND SPOR EXAMINED - CONTAINS MODERN CBM AND (19 - 20 CERAMICS NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS OR FEATURES OBSERVED						
Comments: FURTHER VISIT NECESSARY TO OBSERVE TOPSOIL STRIP AT REAR OF GARDEN. CONTRACTOR/CLIENT WILL INFORM ASC OF DATE SO THAT WB VISIT CAN TAKE PLACE TOLD BUILDERS 2/3 DAYS NOTICE NECESSARY TO TIMETABLE VISIT - HAPPY WITH THIS ALSO SAID WOULD PHONE CLIENT AND ADVISE THEM OF SITUATION						

For sketch plan, use reverse

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 <b>A.S.C. LTD</b>		<b>ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD</b>	
Project: <b>27 OLNEY ROAD</b> <b>LAVENDON</b>		Project No/Code: <b>830 1 LOR</b>	Sheet: <b>6</b> of
Client/Developer: <b>CAROLINE REID</b>		Date of visit: <b>30/05/07</b>	
Contact: <b>↑</b>		Phone: <b>07887 607254</b>	
Duration of Visit (Inc. travel):	Start: <b>13.00</b>	Finish: <b>14.55</b>	
Completed by: <b>AVH</b>			
<b>Development Type:</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Footings	<input type="checkbox"/> Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Roads	<input type="checkbox"/> Levelling
<input type="checkbox"/> Quarrying	<input type="checkbox"/> Pipelines	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): <b>SOAKWAYS</b>	
Site & weather conditions: <b>OVERCAST, DRY, MILD</b>			
Observations: <b>TWO SQUARE SOAKWAYS EXCAVATED -</b> <b>c. 1m x 1m AND 1m DEEP.</b> <b>BOTH CUT THROUGH REDDISH BROWN SANDY</b> <b>CORNBASH INTO A LIGHT GREY CALCAREOUS</b> <b>CLAY.</b> <b>ALL STRATA NATURAL - NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL</b> <b>FINDS OR FEATURES OBSERVED</b>			
Comments: <b>FINAL PART OF GROUNDWORK - NO</b> <b>FURTHER VISITS NECESSARY.</b>			

For sketch plan, use reverse

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## Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: 27 Olney Road, Lavendon, Milton Keynes			SITE NO/CODE: 830/LOR
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1		✓	Front elevation of 27 Olney Road
2		✓	Rear of 27 Olney Road, facing WNW
3		✓	Outbuilding at rear of garden, facing E
4		✓	Groundworkers stood on reddish brown colluvium (102), facing WNW
5		✓	Strata showing underlying natural cornbrash (103), facing E
6		✓	Light grey clay (104) underlying cornbrash, facing WNW
7		✓	Ceramic drains cut into (102), facing SSW

### Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	Watching Brief: 27 Olney Road, Lavendon, Milton Keynes		
Short Description:	A watching brief was carried out between August 2006 and May 2007 during work to build an extension at the rear of 27 Olney Road, Lavendon, Milton Keynes. No archaeological finds or features were observed.		
Project Type: (indicate all that apply)	Watching Brief		
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	None	Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	None
Current land use:	Residential	Future work: (yes / no / unknown)	Unknown
Monument type:	None	Monument period:	None
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Milton Keynes	OS reference: (8 figs min)	SP 9163 5348
District:	Lavendon	Parish:	Lavendon
Site address: (with postcode if known)	27 Olney Road, Lavendon, Milton Keynes, MK46 4EU		
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	100sq m	Height OD: (metres)	c.59m
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	N/a	Project design originator:	N/a
Project Manager:	B Zeepvat	Director/Supervisor:	A J Hancock
Sponsor / funding body:	Caroline Reid		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	31/08/06	End date:	30/05/07
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	N/a		
Paper:	Bucks County Museum	Report, monitoring sheets	
Digital:	Bucks County MUuseum	Report, monitoring sheets, photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Watching Brief: 27 Olney Road, Lavendon, Milton Keynes		
Serial title & volume:	Unpublished client report		
Author(s):	A J Hancock		
Page nos	1 - 20	Date:	6 <sup>th</sup> June 2007