

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF:  
HAZELEY SECONDARY SCHOOL,  
HAZELEY, MILTON KEYNES**

*on behalf of Milton Keynes Council*



**Nigel Wilson HND AIFA**

**September 2004**

**ASC: 609/HSS/01**

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## Site Data

<i>ASC Site code:</i>	HSS	<i>Project no:</i>	609
<i>MKC Event No:</i>	885		
<i>Date of fieldwork</i>	14 <sup>th</sup> September 2004		
<i>County:</i>	Buckinghamshire		
<i>District:</i>	Milton Keynes (Unitary Authority)		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Hazeley		
<i>Parish:</i>	Shenley Church End		
<i>NGR:</i>	SP 814 363		
<i>Extent of Site:</i>	13 hectares		
<i>Present land use:</i>	Arable farm land		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Secondary School		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	04/00121/MKCOD3		
<i>Client:</i>	Milton Keynes Council, PO Box No 116, Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East, Central Milton Keynes MK9 3ZG		
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## Internal Quality Check

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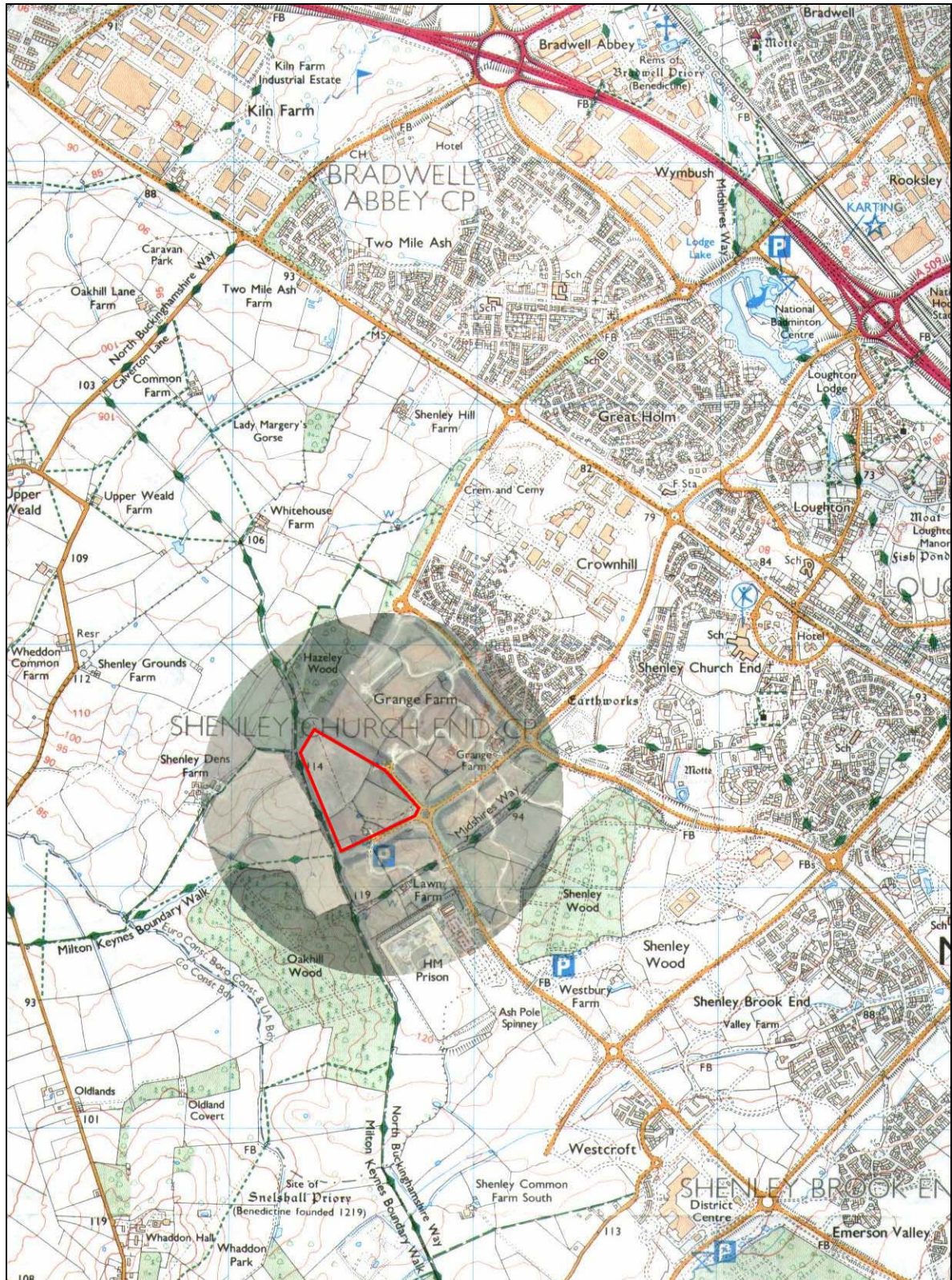


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Under current planning legislation archaeology can be a material factor in deciding the outcome of planning decisions. Planning Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) specifically covers archaeology. When plans to build a new secondary school on the Hazeley grid square, Milton Keynes (NGR SP 814 363 Fig. 1) were submitted to Milton Keynes Council (MKC) (planning ref. 04/00121/MKCOD3) the Milton Keynes Council Archaeologist (MKCA) recommended that a geophysical survey (Donaldson 2004) followed by an archaeological evaluation (Wilson 2004) should be undertaken to determine whether any archaeology was going to be disturbed during the development.
- 1.2 ASC Ltd was commissioned by MKC to undertake the required archaeological work, and the evaluation took place during July 2004. Twenty four 50m trenches were excavated. The only area of potentially significant archaeology was in Trench 27, located towards the south-eastern corner of the site where a small area of stone rubble contained a concentration of Roman pottery. This pottery included quality imports and local coarsewares which were dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries. It was concluded that this area of pottery probably represented a dump rather than part of an *insitu* feature, though it was considered possible that a settlement site could be situated nearby.
- 1.3 As there was a possibility of further archaeology being identified around Trench 27 the MKCA required a second phase of work comprising of a watching brief on this area during the removal of the topsoil in advance. As no brief was prepared for this phase of the project, the watching brief was carried out using a standard method statement. A single visit was made to the site on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2004.

### 1.4 Setting

- 1.4.1 The site is located near Hazeley Wood, within the parish of Shenley Church End. It lies c.3km west of Central Milton Keynes, at NGR SP 814 363. The area is open arable farmland. Though the site is no longer farmed.
- 1.4.2 The surface geology of the area is chalky till, described as slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils (Soil Survey 1986, 411d). The site is generally flat open arable farmland, at an elevation of c.115m above ordnance datum. This boulder clay comprises the higher ground to the west of the River Ouzel floodplain (Croft & Mynard, 1993, 1).

## 2. Standards

The work conforms to the 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*.



### 3. Results (Fig 4)

- 3.1 The watching brief observed the stripping of the topsoil from an wedge shaped area roughly centred on Trench 27 (Fig 3). The area measured c.54m N-S and 28m E-W at its southern end narrowing to 16m at the northern end. A 360° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, operated under archaeological supervision was used to remove the topsoil.



**Plate 1:** General view of the watching brief area

#### 3.2 *Plough Furrows*

A series of modern plough furrows orientated SE – NW identified during the evaluation was seen to continue across the whole of the striped area. These furrows were centred at roughly 5.5m intervals.

#### 3.3 *Roman Ditch*

A small ditch also traversed the site from NW – SE then turned north-eastwards crossing evaluation Trench 20/21. During the evaluation this ditch had been designated context number 2003 and was described as the base of a possible Roman field ditch due to it containing pottery from that period. Though no further pottery was recovered this interpretation remains.



**Plate 2:** Field boundary Ditch 2002 with Trench 20/21 in the background

### 3.4 *Stone Rubble*

The area of stone rubble identified in Trench 27 and designated context 2702 during the evaluation was found to continue north-westwards for approximately m. Further 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> century pottery similar to that recovered during the evaluation was collected. No evidence for structural remains or function other than a dump were found, and it seems likely that this was an isolated disposal of a load of stone with some pottery mixed in.



**Plate 3:** General view of the stone rubble 2702



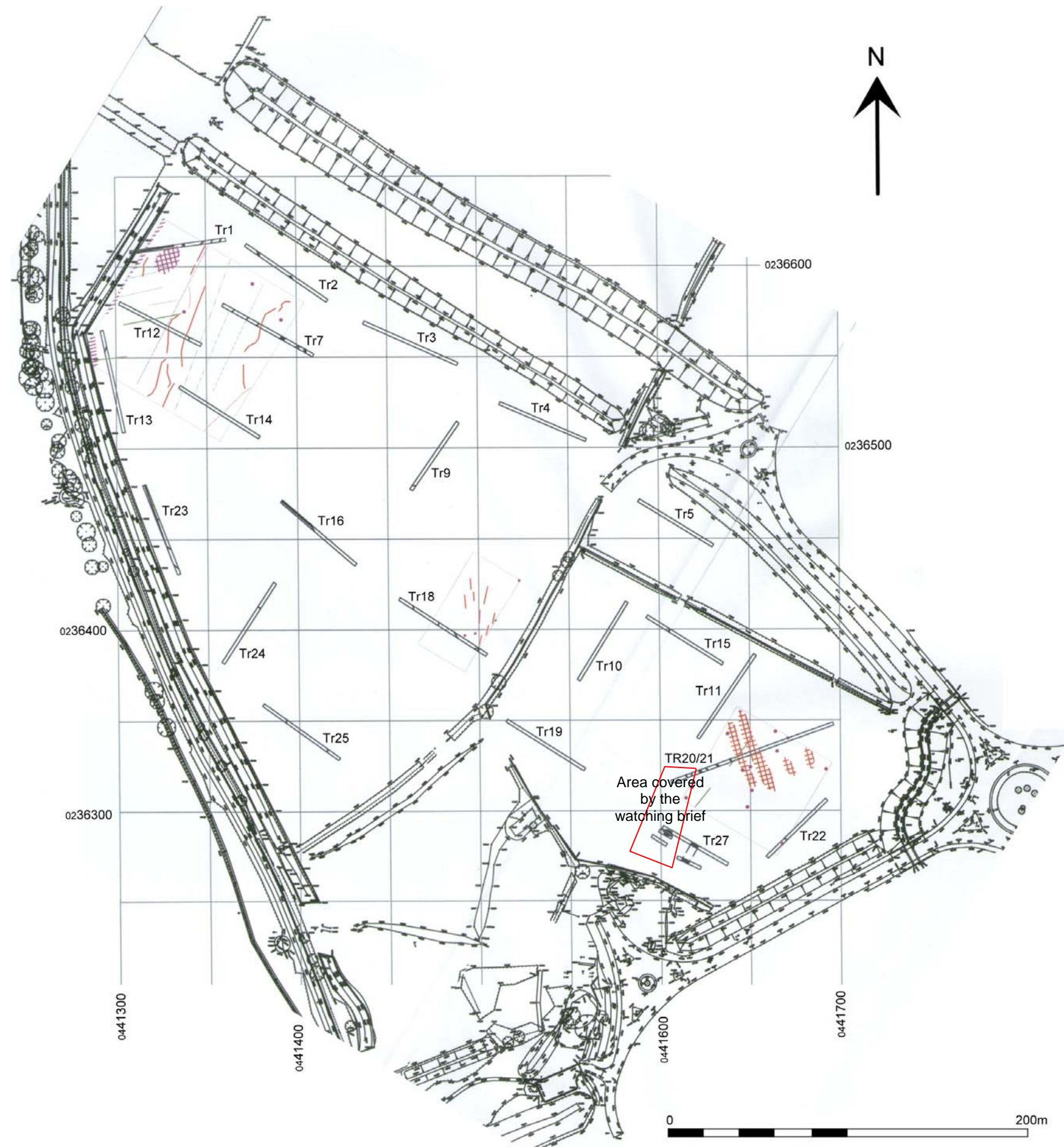
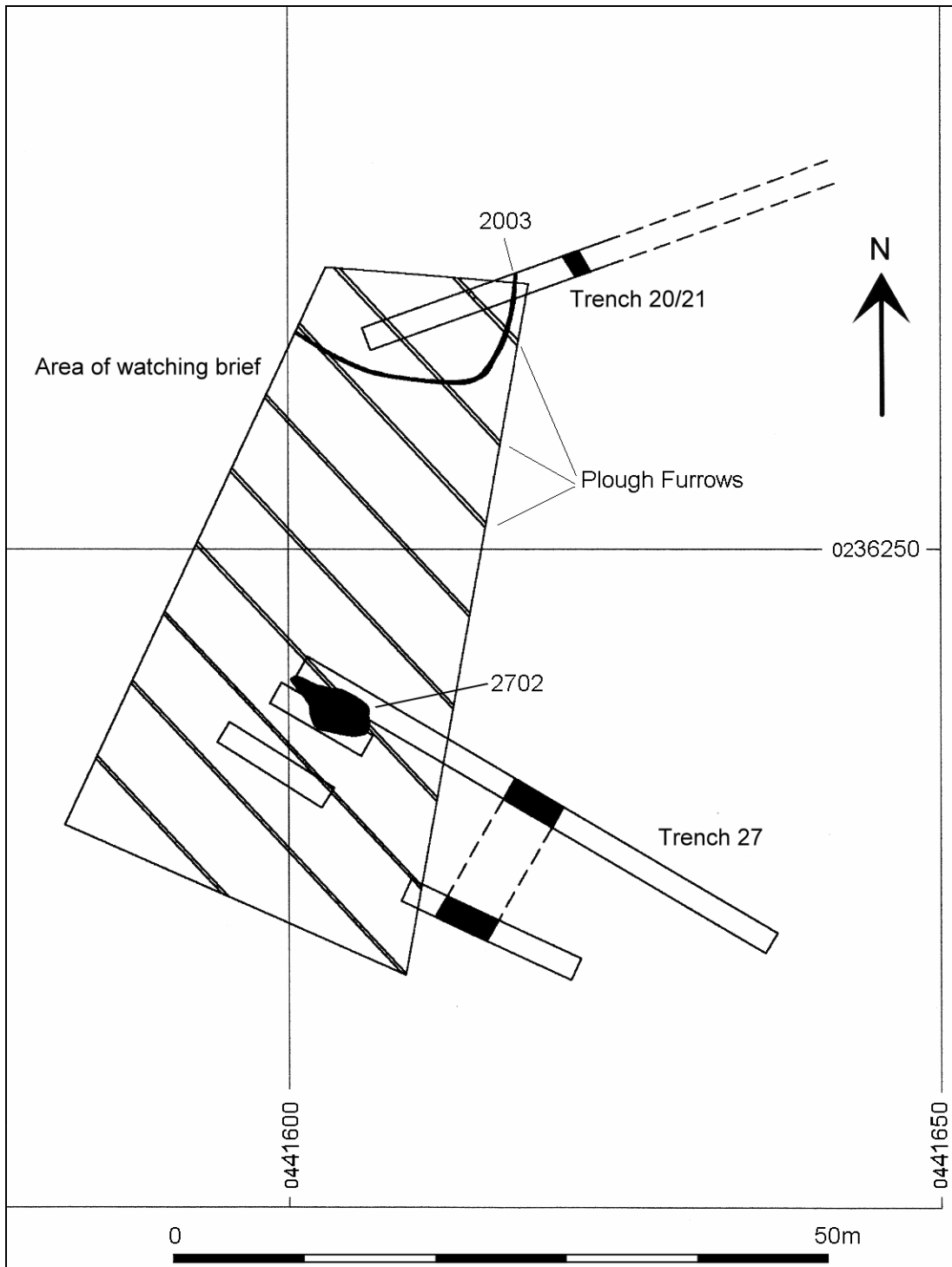


Figure 3: Trench layout plan, showing the area of the watching brief area (scale as shown)





**Figure 4:** Plan of the watching brief area (scale 1:500)

## 4. Conclusions

Having completed the watching brief on the site of Hazeley School, the original interpretation of the site as an agricultural landscape with various changing patterns of field ditches dating from the Roman period to modern remains unchanged. The interpretation of the irregular area of stone rubble designated context 2702 remains unchanged, namely that it represents a dump of material possibly from a nearby as yet Roman undiscovered settlement site. Though the dump contains Roman pottery it could have been deposited at any time since the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries when the pottery was manufactured.

## 5. Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to Richard Burch of Architecture MK for commissioning the evaluation, on behalf of Milton Keynes Council. We would also like to thank Brian Giggins the Milton Keynes Council Archaeologist who monitored the project. The project was managed by Bob Zeevat BA MIFA. Bob also examined and commented on the pottery. The fieldwork was carried out for ASC by Nigel Wilson.

## 6. Archive

6.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Field Monitoring Sheet
2. Survey Sheet
3. Report (this document)
4. List of photographs/slides
5. Colour slides
6. B/W prints & negatives
7. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

6.2 The archive will be combined with that from the evaluation before being deposited with the Buckinghamshire County Museum.

## 7. Bibliography

Croft R A & Mynard D C, 1993 *The Changing Landscape of Milton Keynes* Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society Monograph Series No.5 (Aylesbury).

Donaldson K 2004 *Geophysical Survey Report Hazley, Milton Keynes*. (Stratascan J1866)

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*).

Morris J (Ed) 1978 *Domesday Book Phillimore* (Chichester).


Salmon G 1771 *Map of Part of the Lordship of Shenley* belonging to John Knapp Esq

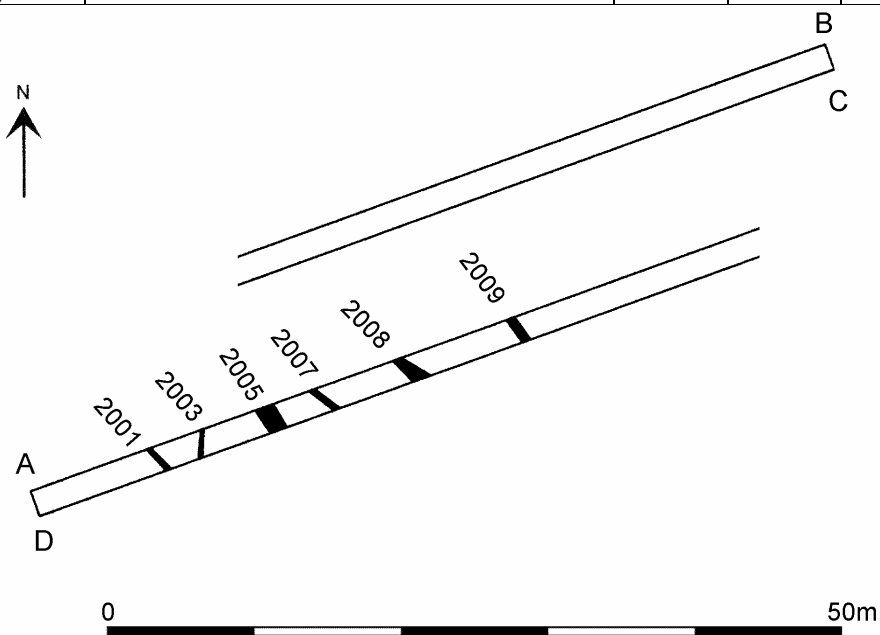
Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).


Wilson 2004 *Archaeological Evaluation Hazeley Secondary School, Hazeley Milton Keynes* ASC Ltd unpublished report (564/HSS/02).



**Appendix 1: Evaluation Trenches 20/21 & 27**

<b>Trench 20/21</b>						
 <p>Facing north-east</p>	<b>Max Dimensions</b>					
	<b>Length</b>	100m	<b>Width</b>	1.8m	<b>Depth</b>	0.35m
	<b>Levels</b>					
	<b>Trench base SW</b>			115.46m OD		
	<b>Trench top SW</b>			115.82m OD		
	<b>Trench base NE</b>			111.53m OD		
	<b>Trench top NE</b>			111.79m OD		
	<b>NGR Co-ordinates (all SP)</b>					
	<b>A</b>	81605.70	36316.85	<b>B</b>	81695.70	36348.85
	<b>D</b>	81606.82	36302.45	<b>C</b>	81696.30	36347.15
<b>Orientation</b>			SW-NE			
<b>Reason for Trench</b>			Investigate geophysical anomaly			
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description and Interpretation</b>	<b>Max Width (mm)</b>	<b>Max Thckn (mm)</b>	<b>Depth BGL (mm)</b>	
2000	Layer	Plough soil	>1800	300	0-300	
2001	Cut	Base of furrow	300	200	300-500	
2002	Fill	Yellowish brown clay fill of [2001]	300	200	300-500	
2003	Cut	Base of field ditch	200	150	300-450	
2004	Fill	Yellowish brown clay fill of [2003]	200	150	300-450	
2005	Cut	Base of furrow	1300	100	300-400	
2006	Fill	Yellowish brown clay fill of [2005]	1300	100	300-400	
2007	Cut	Base of furrow	500		300-	
2008	Cut	Base of furrow	500		300-	
2009	Cut	Base of furrow	500		300-	
2010	Layer	Natural subsoil	>1800		300-	



<b>Trench 27</b>						
	<b>Max Dimensions</b>					
	<b>Length</b>	45m	<b>Width</b>	1.8m	<b>Depth</b>	0.4m
	<b>Levels</b>					
	<b>Trench base NW</b>			115.72m OD		
	<b>Trench top NW</b>			116.08m OD		
	<b>Trench base SE</b>			113.06m OD		
	<b>Trench top SE</b>			113.54m OD		
	<b>NGR Co-ordinates (all SP)</b>					
	<b>A</b>	81601.45	36270.78	<b>B</b>	81637.45	36270.78
	<b>D</b>	81594.52	36285.20	<b>C</b>	81621.62	36267.18
<b>Orientation</b>			NW - SE			
<b>Reason for Trench</b>			Investigate area of no geophysical response			
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description and Interpretation</b>	<b>Max Width (mm)</b>	<b>Max Thckn (mm)</b>	<b>Depth BGL (mm)</b>	
2700	Layer	Plough soil	>1800	250	0-250	
2701	Layer	Natural subsoil	>1800		250-	
2702	Spread	Spread containing Roman pottery	6000	200	150-350	
2703	Spread	Cobbled trackway	4500	200	150-350	

