

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION:
GORSE VIEW
TYLERS GREEN
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

NGR: SU 9029 9384

on behalf of Box Design Ltd



Calli Rouse BA PIFA

February 2008

ASC: 1034/TGV/2

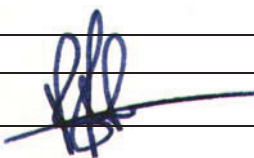
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Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	TGV	<i>ASC project no:</i>	1034
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	tbc	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	tbc
<i>County:</i>	Buckinghamshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Tylers Green		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Penn CP		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SU 9029 9384		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	0.26ha		
<i>Present use:</i>	Residential		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Demolition of the existing buildings and construction of 3 dwellings and access roads		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	07/06907		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Wycombe District Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	04/02/08		
<i>Client:</i>	Box Design Ltd Damson Lodge Longford Lane Longford Ashbourne Derbyshire DE6 3DT		
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Internal Quality Check

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

Summary

In February 2008, ASC undertook an archaeological evaluation at Gorse View, Tylers Green, Buckinghamshire, in advance of residential development. Trenches were targeted on the footprints of the proposed new dwellings. A modern pit was uncovered at the southern end of the site. No other archaeological finds or features were observed within the trenches. However, the garden of Gorse View is dominated by a large hollow, which appears to be an unrecorded extraction pit, possibly related to the tile industry in the area.

1. Introduction

1.1 In February 2008 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an evaluation at Gorse View, Tylers Green, Buckinghamshire. The project was commissioned by *Box Design Ltd*, and was carried out according to a brief (Radford 2008) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *Wycombe District Council*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), *Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service*, and a project design prepared by ASC (McLeish 2008). The relevant planning application reference is 07/06907.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This evaluation was required under the terms of *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (PPG16), as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site.

1.3 *Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd*

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd (ASC) is an independent archaeological practice providing a full range of archaeological services including consultancy, field evaluation, mitigation and post-excavation studies, historic building recording and analysis. ASC is recognised as a *Registered Archaeological Organisation* by the Institute of Field Archaeologists, in recognition of its high standards and working practices.

1.4 *Management*

The project was carried out under the overall direction of **Bob Zeepvat** BA MIFA. Bob is an established archaeologist with extensive experience in managing archaeological projects, of a wide range of fieldwork in both rural and urban environments, of post-excavation, publication and presentation projects, and of work on a wide range of historic buildings and structures. He holds a first degree from the University of Leicester, and has been a validated Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists since 1986. He has been involved in the management of archaeological projects since the late 1970s, formerly as Senior Field Archaeologist for the *Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit*, and as Project Manager for the *Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust*.

1.5 **The Site**

1.5.1 *Location & Description*

The site is located in Tylers Green in the civil parish of Penn, in the administrative district of High Wycombe, centred on grid reference SU 9029 9384 (Fig 1). It comprises an irregular area of approximately 0.26ha. The site is situated at the south-eastern end of Tylers Green, between Church Road and Bank Road. It is bounded to the south, west and east by residential properties and overlooks an open area to the north. Access to the site is from the southern side of Bank Road (Fig.2).

1.5.2 *Geology & Topography*

The soils of the site consist of the *Andover 1 Association*, namely well-drained calcareous silty soils over chalk on slopes and crests (Soil Survey 1983, 343h). The site lies at an elevation of *c.*155m OD. The underlying geology consists of upper chalk (BGS 1:25000).

1.5.3 *Proposed Development*

The proposed development comprises the demolition of the existing building and construction of three houses and an access road.

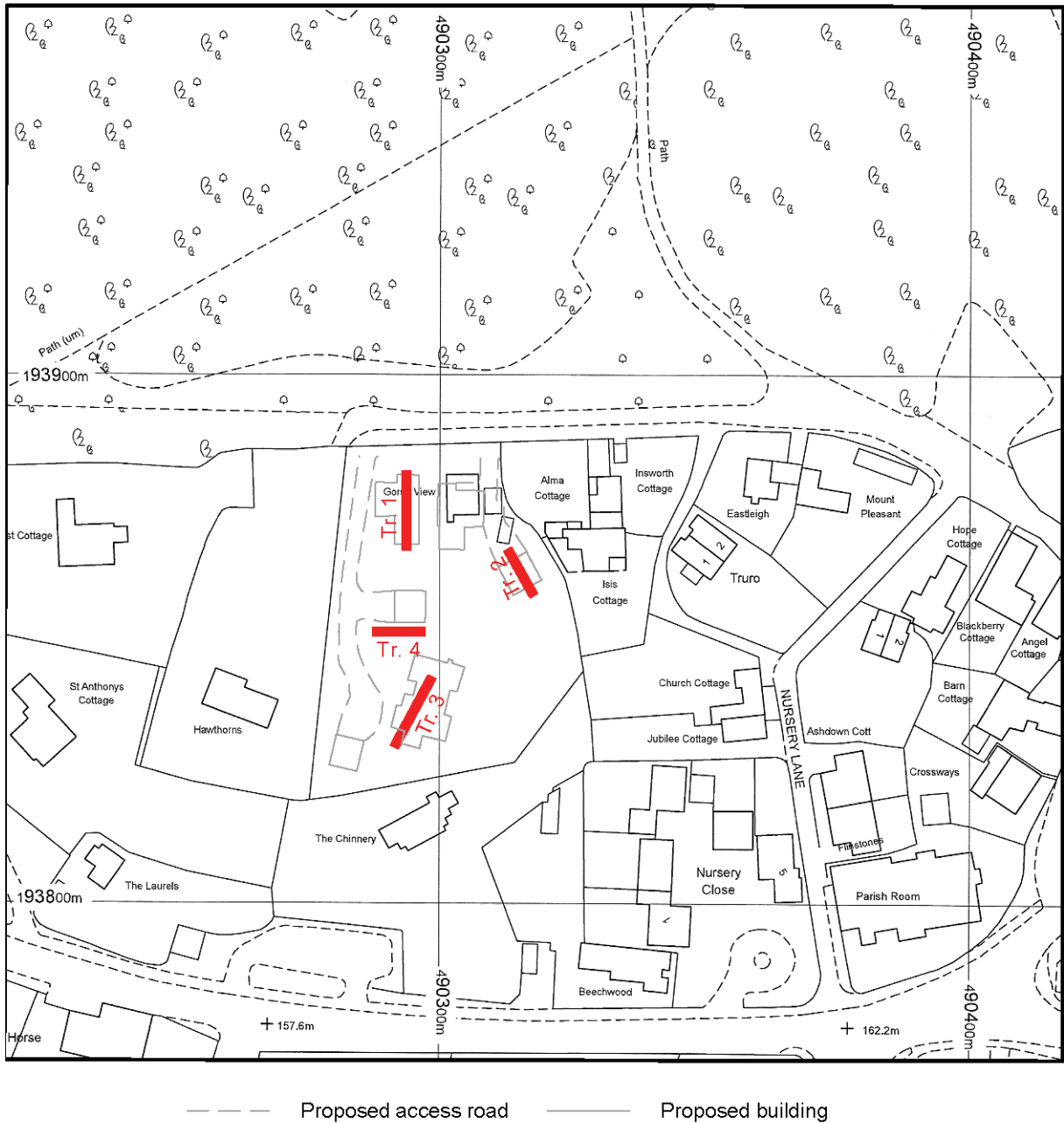


Figure 2: Site plan showing actual trench locations (scale 1:1250)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 *Aims*

As described in the brief (Section 6), the aims of the evaluation were:

- To gather sufficient information to generate a reliable predictive model of the extent, character, date, state of preservation and depth of burial of important archaeological remains within the area of study.
- To establish whether there is evidence for medieval/post medieval tile manufacture in this area.
- To establish whether there is evidence for occupation, property boundaries, domestic, commercial or industrial activities associated with the medieval and post medieval settlement.
- To ascertain the date of settlement encroachment onto the green and establish its character.

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 50m of trial trenches within the development footprint. The trench locations are shown in Figure 2.

2.4 *Constraints*

Trench 4 was moved c.3.5m to the south of its original location, as it would have been positioned directly on the slope in the garden.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

- 3.1 The following section provides a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the development site and its environs. The site lies within an area of archaeological and historical interest, and has the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods.

This section has been compiled with information from Buckinghamshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR).

3.2 **Prehistoric** (before 600BC-AD43)

Although the Chilterns were occupied during the prehistoric periods and a number of sites and artefacts have been found in the river valleys (Holgate 1995), there is no archaeological or historical evidence for activity in the proposed development area prior to the medieval period.

3.3 **Roman** (AD43-c.450)

The Chilterns was a region of considerable importance during the Roman period (Branigan 1987), when a number of villas were built in the river valleys. Archaeological evidence for Roman activity has been revealed at *Ashwells* c.400m south west of the site (CAS 0165, Cauvain *et al* 1989), but there is no evidence for Roman activity on the development site.

3.4 **Saxon & Medieval** (c.450-1500)

Evidence for the Saxon period has not been found at the site or in the surrounding area and the origin of settlement at Penn is uncertain. Penn and Tylers Green are not included in the *Domesday* Survey (1086) and the first historical reference to Tylers Green is in the 1332 *Subsidy Roll*, which records the presence of tile manufacturing.

At this time the village was attached to the honour of Leicester (Page 1969, 236). The parish church at Penn is dedicated to the Holy Trinity and dates from the 14th century (CAS 4471).

The medieval tile industry at Penn is of considerable importance and has been the subject of a number of studies (Hohler 1941; Hunt 1994; Cauvain 1995). Little detailed historical information is available about the industry, although account books show that Penn tiles were used in the construction of the royal manors of Sheen and the Tower of London in the 1380s (Eames 1980, 222).

The area to the west of Penn has long been known as Tylers Green and there is an increasing body of archaeological evidence to suggest that the medieval tile industry was centred in this area. Although no large-scale archaeological work has taken place at Tylers Green, the Sites and Monuments Record records finds of tiles across the area.

The presence of kilns in the area is suggested by finds of tile wasters. These pieces have been found in the centre of Penn c.1km south east of the site (CAS 4245, 4246 and 4761) and work in Penn churchyard revealed a grave with a lining of both tile and vessel wasters (CAS 4471). Further wasters have been found at April Cottage 600m south east of the site (Broadbent 1981) and opposite Slade's Garage (CAS 4244; Rouse and Broadbent 1952). Wasters have also been found at Puttenham Place c.900m east of the site (Cauvain 1987, CAS 5411). Puttenham Place Farm (CAS 0164) was

probably built by the Puttenham family during the 15th century (RCHM 1912, 267; Page 1969, 236). It comprised a timber hall with an open timber roof (Page 1969, 236) and was extensively rebuilt c.1600, when it was divided into two storeys (*ibid*).

Further ceramic finds, including both tile and vessel fragments have been recorded across Tylers Green. For example a number of 13th century pottery sherds were recorded c.450m north east of the site at *Yonder Lodge* (CAS 2165). This area is known as *Potters Cross*, providing further evidence of the importance of the ceramics industry in this area. A number of decorated 15th and 16th century floor tiles were found with the wasters at Puttenham Place (Cauvain 1987), while further vessel and tile fragments have been recorded 900m north-east of the site at Pugh's Wood (CAS 5449). A number of burnt stones were found at the latter site and a note in the CAS entry records that this may also have been the site of a kiln. Finally, an assemblage of 152 fragments of decorated floortile has been collected at Beacon Hill 1km south east of the site (Cauvain & Cauvain 1991).

3.5 *Post-Medieval* (1500-1900)

The settlement at Tylers Green has developed considerably during the post-medieval period. The tile industry continued to be of importance and a possible kiln site, dating to the 16th to 17th centuries has been found with the 13th century tiles north of the site near Potters Cross (CAS 2165). A kiln date to the late 17th or early 18th century was recently excavated in the garden of Rose Cottage (Abrams & Zeepvat 2007).

3.6 *Modern* (1900-present)

At present the area of Penn and Tylers Green retains its semi-rural character, with houses centred round the village green. Extensive development has taken place to the north and west of Tylers Green, with ribbon development along the major roads towards High Wycombe and Hazelmere (Fig. 1).

4 Results

4.1 *General*

Two 15m and two 10m trenches were excavated within the garden of Gorse View, targeted on the areas of proposed development (Fig. 2). The topsoil in all four trenches comprised mid brown silty loam, and was between 0.15m and 0.25m thick.

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

4.2 *Trench 1* (Fig. 2: Plate 1)

Trench 1 was excavated to the west of the existing house, on a north-south alignment, and measured 15m by 1.4m, with a maximum depth of 0.6m at the southern end. The trench contained no subsoil, and simply comprised topsoil (described in Section 4.1, above) overlying the natural strata, which comprised mid orange clay with frequent large flint inclusions. No archaeological finds or features were observed within the trench.

4.3 *Trench 2* (Fig. 2: Plate 2)

Trench 2 was located to the southeast of the existing house, on a northwest-southeast alignment, and measured 10m by 1.4m, with a maximum depth of 0.74m at the north-western end. The trench comprised *c.*0.15m of topsoil over natural brownish yellow clay with frequent inclusions of flint and semi-dissolved chalk, which was between 0.3m and 0.6m thick. No archaeological finds or features were observed within the trench.

4.4 *Trench 3* (Fig. 3: Plates 4,5 & 6)

Trench 3 was located towards the south-western corner of the site, and measured 15m long by 1.4m wide, and was on a north-east south west alignment. The topsoil in this trench was *c.*0.2m thick, and overlay *c.*0.6m of mid brown silty clay subsoil with occasional tile, flint and chalk inclusions. This subsoil overlay the natural chalk. The south-western end of the trench was dominated by a modern pit filled with black organic soil containing glass bottles, cigarette packs and modern household material. Not other archaeological finds or features were observed within the trench.

4.5 *Trench 4* (Fig. 2: Plate 3)

Trench 4 was located on the western side of the site, on an east-west alignment. It measured 9.5m long by 1.4m wide, and had a maximum depth of 0.7m. It contained 0.2m of topsoil, over a 0.5m thick layer of mixed mid orange chalky clay with frequent brick/tile and chalk inclusions, which overlay the natural chalk subsoil. No archaeological finds or features were observed within the trench.



Plate 1: Trench 1 looking south. 1m scales



Plate 2: Trench 2 looking south east. 1m scales



Plate 3: Trench 4 looking west. 1m scales



Plate 4: Trench 3 looking north east. 2m scale



Plate 5: Detail of modern pit [305] on east side of Trench 3, looking east. 2m scale



Plate 6: North eastern end of Trench 3, looking east. 2m scale