

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION:
5 HIGH STREET
HAVERSHAM
MILTON KEYNES**

NGR: SP 8290 4299

on behalf of Dr L James



J Richards BA PIFA

April 2008

ASC: 1056/HHS/2

Letchworth House
Chesney Wold, Bleak Hall,
Milton Keynes MK6 1NE
Tel: 01908 608989 Fax: 01908 605700
Email: office@archaeological-services.co.uk
Website: www.archaeological-services.co.uk



Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	HHS	<i>ASC project no:</i>	1056
<i>OASIS ref:</i>		<i>Event no:</i>	1164
<i>County:</i>	Buckinghamshire (historic county)		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Haversham		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Haversham-cum-Little Linford CP		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 8290 4299		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c.13 x 7 m. sq.		
<i>Present use:</i>	Residential		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Extension		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	Milton Keynes Council		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	07/01450/FUL		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	1 st April 2008		
<i>Commissioned by:</i>	Sansome Hall Architects Furtho South Northampton Road Old Stratford Milton Keynes MK19 6NR		
<i>Client:</i>	Dr Luke James & Dr Vanessa Clewett		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Peter Hall (Sansome Hall Architects)		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	J Richards BA PIFA	<i>Date:</i>	7 th April 2008
<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	

© Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

No part of this document is to be copied in any way without prior written consent.

Every effort is made to provide detailed and accurate information. However, Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies within this report.

© Ordnance Survey maps reproduced with the sanction of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
ASC Licence No. AL 100015154

CONTENTS

Summary.....	4
1. Introduction	4
2. Aims & Methods	8
3. Archaeological & Historical Background.....	9
4. Results.	10
5. Conclusions	13
6. Acknowledgements	14
7. Archive	14
8. References	15

Appendices:

1. Trench Summary Tables.....	16
2. Finds Concordance	17
3. List of Photographs.....	17
4. ASC OASIS Form	18

Figures:

1. General location	3
2. Site plan	6
3. Proposed development.....	7
4. Trench plan and section.....	12

Plates:

Cover: Trench overview

1. Section of soakaway	11
2. Detail of stones in east of trench	11

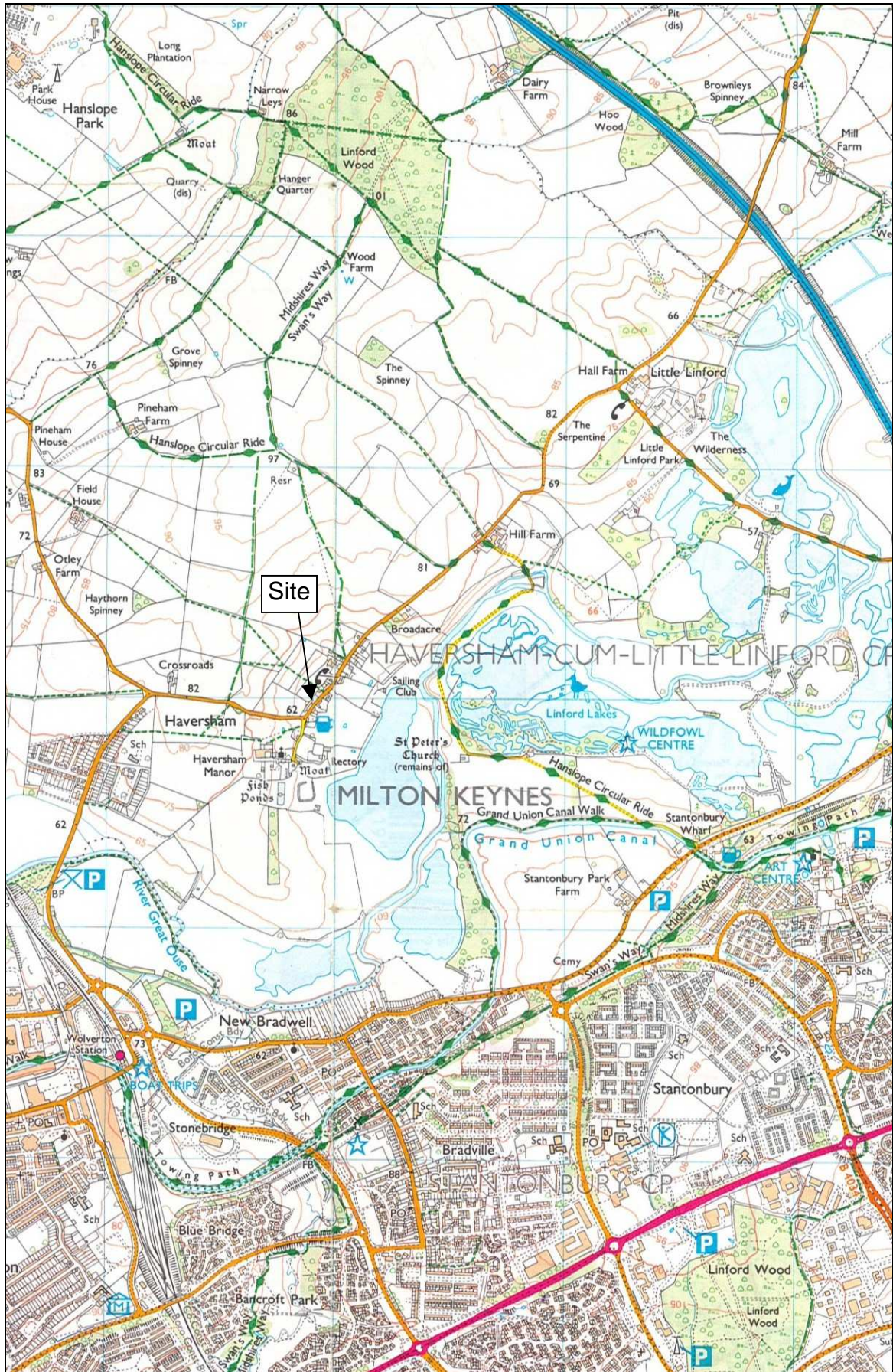


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In April 2008 ASC Ltd carried out an evaluation at 5 High Street, Haversham, Milton Keynes in advance of the construction of an extension to the existing dwelling. A single trench was excavated within the footprint of the proposed extension. The remains of a former soakaway were identified along with a deposit of subangular stones apparently used to raise the level of the garden area. Three sherds of 19th century pottery, two sherds of 13th to 14th century pottery and some fragments of animal bone were recovered. No archaeological features predating the 19th century were observed, and the archaeological impact of the development is likely to be low.

1. Introduction

1.1 In April 2008 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an evaluation at 5 High Street, Haversham, Milton Keynes. The project was commissioned by *Sansome Hall Architects* on behalf of Dr Luke James & Dr Vanessa Clewett, and was carried out according to a brief (Crank 2008) prepared by the local planning authority (LPA), *Milton Keynes Council (MKC)*, and a project design prepared by ASC (Barclay 2008). The relevant planning application reference is 07/01450/FUL.

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 the village of Haversham, in the administrative district of Milton Keynes, and is centred on NGR SP 8290 4299 (Fig. 1). The site is roughly rectangular in shape, and comprises part of the garden of 5 High Street. There are houses on either side of the garden (Fig. 2). Access to the site will be from the High Street, to the east of the development area. Service plans have not been provided.

1.5.2 *Geology & Topography*

The soils of the area comprise the *Bishampton 2 Association*, which consists of “*Deep fine loamy and fine loamy over clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging associated with similar slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged soils.*” (Soil Survey 1983; 572d). The geological base is *Great Oolite clay and limestone* (BGS 203). The site lies at a height of c. 65, OD.

1.5.3 *Proposed Development*

The proposal is for the construction of an extension to the existing building (Fig. 3).

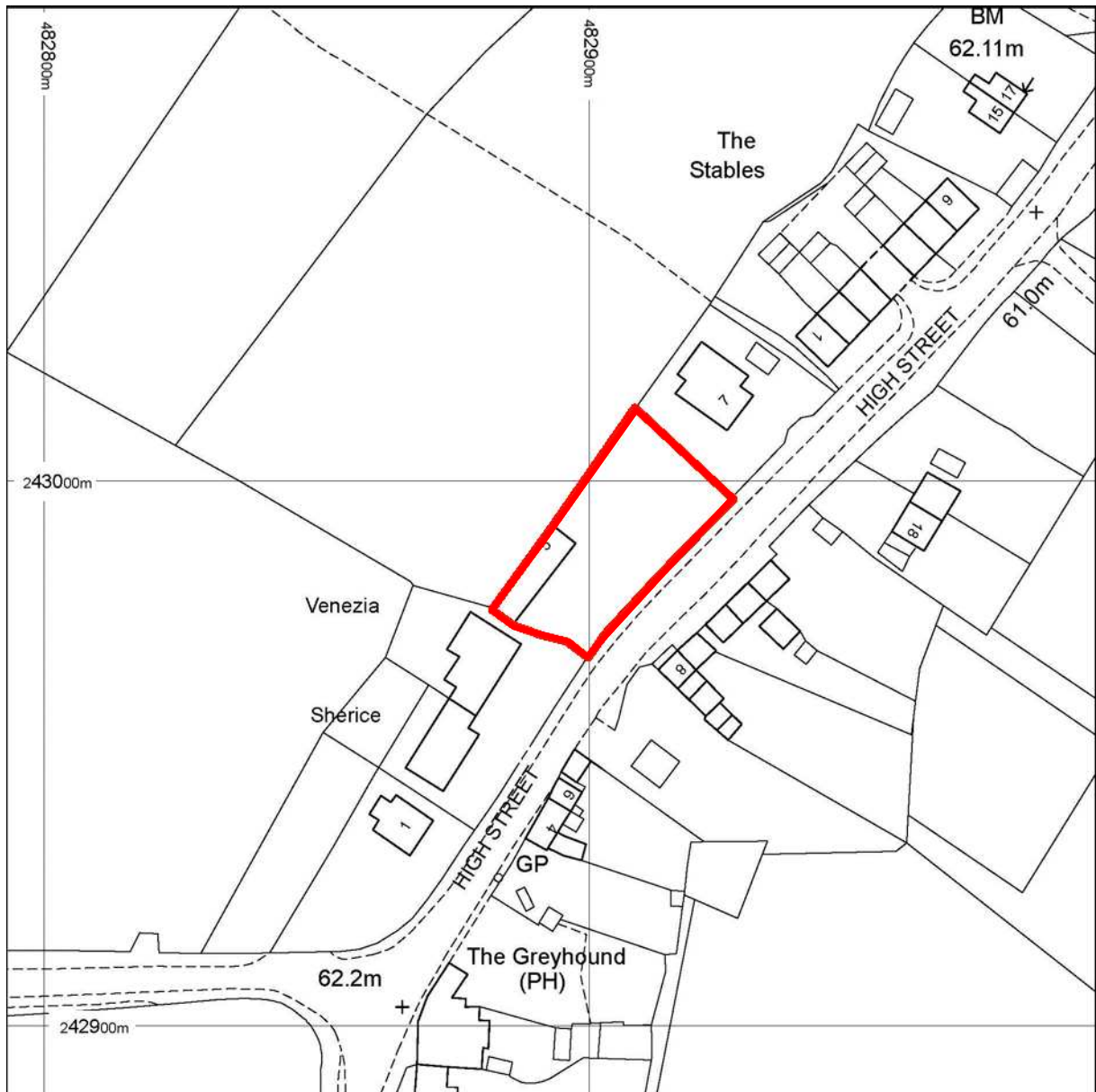


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

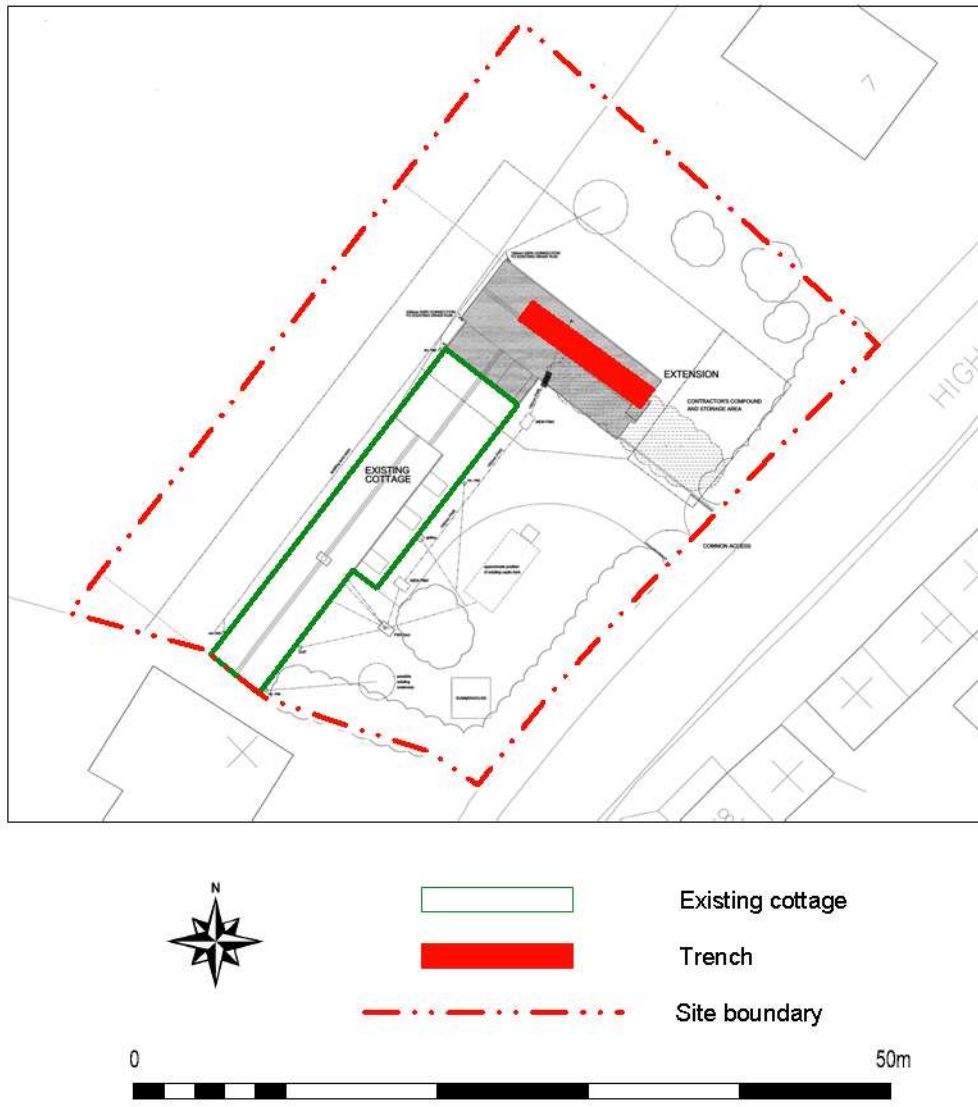


Figure 3: Proposed development with trench location (scale 1:500)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

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

- To establish the extent, character, quality, date and condition of any archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts and ecofacts within the development area

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 (Section 6), which required:

- Machine-based trial trenching, comprising a single 10m trench of at least 1.6m width on the footprint of the proposed building.

2.4 Constraints

Weather conditions for the evaluation were good, a 1.60m wide bucket was not available, and therefore a narrower bucket was used to open the trench to a width of 1.60m. No other factors hindered the evaluation.

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 the project design for this evaluation (Barclay 2008).

3.2 The site lies outside the designated area of Milton Keynes new town. Consequently the site did not receive attention from the former *Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit*, and as a result systematic fieldwork has not been undertaken in the area. However, previous work undertaken in the upper Ouse valley in the vicinity of the site shows that there is considerable archaeological and historical potential in the area. The main focus of interest lies in the late Iron Age and Roman periods.

3.3 *Prehistoric & Iron Age (before AD43)*

During the early prehistoric period the Ouse valley was an area of considerable significance and a large number of ring ditches (ploughed-out burial mounds) have been identified in the river valley (Woodward 1978). A later Iron Age earthwork has been identified in Haversham (Woodfield & Johnson 1989, 257). In the Iron Age, the valleys of the Ouse and its tributary the Ouzel were densely populated. Many of these settlements continued into the Roman period.

3.5 *Roman (AD43-c.450)*

The site lies c.4km north-east of the major Roman road now known as *Watling Street* (OS 1979). During the Roman period, the Ouse valley was densely settled, with Roman villas at intervals of two to three kilometres along the valley. On the north bank villas have been found at Deanshanger and Cosgrove, while to the south of the river similar establishments have been examined at Bancroft and Stantonbury (Williams & Zeepvat 1994; Zeepvat 1987), while a major site was excavated south of Hill Farm at Stanton Low (Woodfield & Johnson 1989). A Roman villa was also excavated at Hill Farm (Cockerill & Harris 1962), and further work was carried out at Hill Farm in 2004 by ASC Ltd.

3.6 *Saxon (c.450-1066)*

It is unknown when the village first developed, but it was in existence by the Saxon period, as the village is mentioned in the Domesday survey (1086), where it is referred to as *Havreha*. At this time the land was held by *William Peverel* and was valued at £6 (Morris 1978).

3.7 *Medieval (1066-1500)*

Medieval settlement developed in the area of the site, with the present village of Haversham developing around the parish church and manor house.

3.8 *Post-Medieval & Modern (1500-present)*

The OS map of 1900 shows the area as being divided into sub-rectangular plots of land, but only a few had been developed.

4 Results

4.1 General

A single trench was excavated using a mechanical excavator with a 1m wide toothless bucket. The trench was 10m in length, 1.60m wide and was aligned approximately east-west within the footprint of the proposed extension.

Dark blackish brown silty clay topsoil overlay the trench, and had been cut by a garden path of concrete flags, removed before the evaluation began. The natural strata, orange silty clay, was reached at a depth of 0.50m below ground surface at the western end of the trench, but was not reached at the eastern end.

Detailed information regarding the trial trench and its contents appears in tabular form in Appendix 1.

4.2 Trench 1 (Fig. 1: Plates 1-2)

A deposit of topsoil (101) between 0.20m and 0.60m in thickness overlay the site, fragments of white glazed and blue and white glazed pottery of obviously modern date were recovered from this along with a single fragment of animal bone.

A ceramic land drain, repaired with an internal plastic pipe, was observed in the northwest corner of the trench on a southwest-northeast alignment. This overlay a deposit of sub-angular stones.

A steep sided cut [103] at the western end of the trench was filled by an almost identical dark blackish brown silty clay (102) with no finds or inclusions (Plate 1).

At the eastern end of the trench a deposit of light brown sandy silt with inclusions of fine gravel and moderately sized sub-angular stones (104) was observed. A further deposit of irregular stones of varying size (105) was below this demolition layer and above the natural strata (Plate 2). These stones did not appear to form a structure and may represent a levelling deposit associated with the creation of the garden. Two abraded body sherds of pottery of 13th to 14th century date (*Zeevat pers comm.*) were found within deposit (104) along with three fragments of animal bone.



Plate 1: Section of soakaway [103]



Plate 2: Detail of stones (105) in east of trench

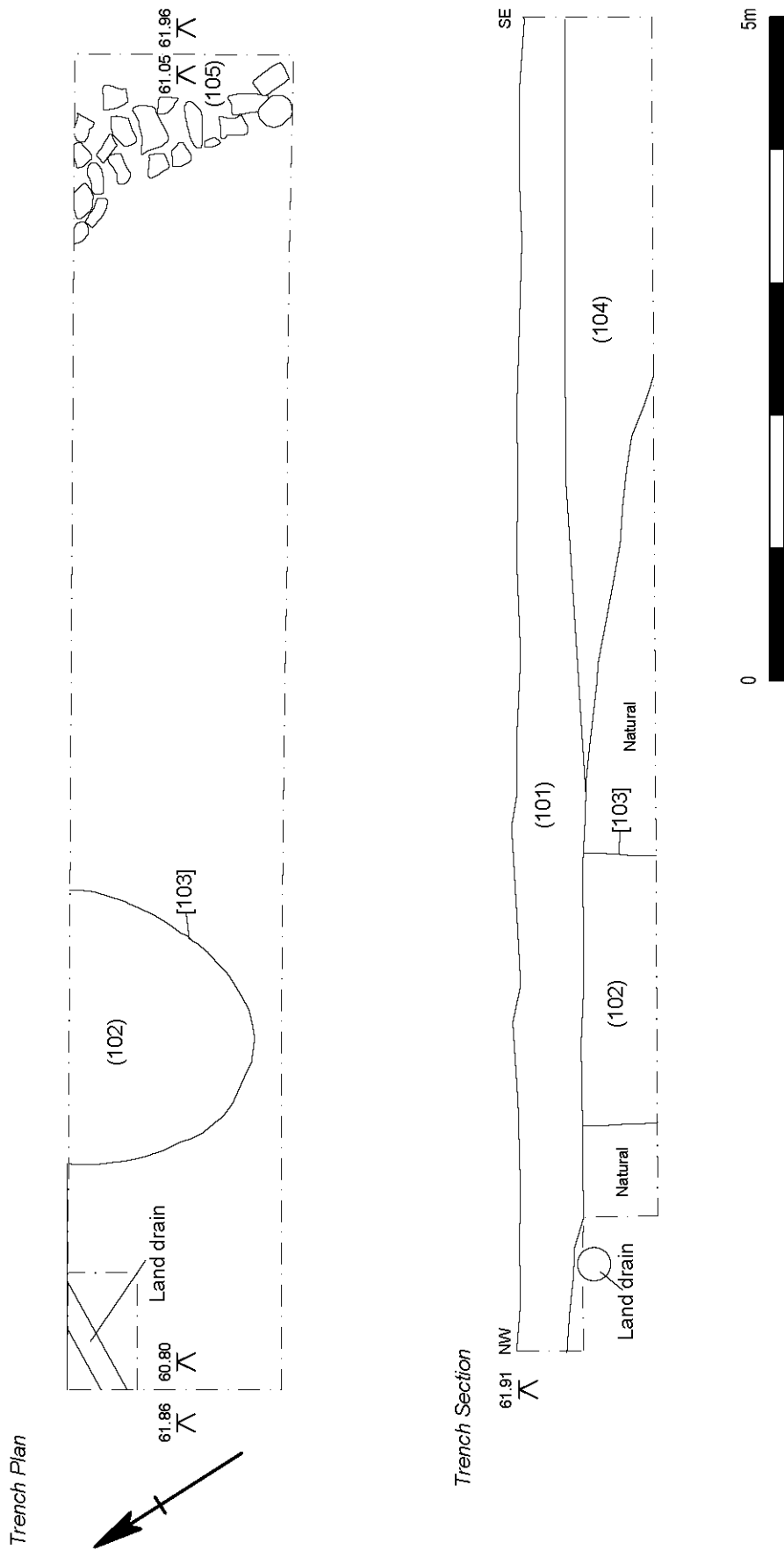


Figure 4: Section and Plan of Trench (Scale 1:50)

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The steep sided pit [103] filled by a deposit (102) identical to the topsoil has been interpreted as a former soakaway relating to the land drains crossing the field to the west of the house, one of which was observed in the north west corner of the trench.
- 5.2 The deposit of stones to the east of the trench (105) has been interpreted as deliberate deposition in order to raise the level of this part of the garden. Although the deposit above these stones (104) contained pottery of 13th to 14th century date, these two sherds were somewhat abraded and are likely to be residual, rather than providing accurate dating for the deposition of the stones.
- 5.3 Significant archaeological features were not observed in the trenches. While the existence of individual isolated archaeological features away from the trenches cannot be specifically excluded, it is unlikely that large numbers of archaeological features were present on the site. It is unlikely that the proposed development will have a significant impact on archaeological remains.
- 5.4 *Confidence Rating*
No factors hindered the evaluation, which took place during fine weather. A high confidence rating is attached to the results of the evaluation.

6. Acknowledgements

The evaluation was commissioned by *Sansome Hall Architects* on behalf of Dr. L. James. The writer is grateful to Peter Hall of *Sansome Hall Architects* for his assistance. The project was monitored by Nick Crank on behalf of the local planning authority. Thanks are also due to *KIM Building and Civil Engineering* for their assistance on site.

The project was managed for ASC by Karin Semmelmann MA AIFA under the overall direction of Bob Zeepvat MA MIFA. Fieldwork was carried out by Jenny Richards BA PIFA and Calli Rouse BA PIFA. The report was prepared by Jenny Richards and edited by David Fell MA MIFA.

7. Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans
5. Site records
6. Finds records
7. Finds
8. Site record drawings
9. List of photographs
10. B/W prints & negatives
11. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with *Buckinghamshire Museum*.

8. References

Standards & Specifications

Barclay, C. 2008 *Project Design for Archaeological Evaluation at 5 High Street, Haversham* ASC Ltd

Crank, N. 2008 *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation at 5 High Street, Haversham* MKC

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).*

Secondary Sources

Cockerill E G & Harris R S 1962 'Excavation at Hill Farm, Haversham, May-June 1962' *Wolverton and District Archaeological Society Newsletter*, 7, 7.

BGS *British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology.*

Morris C 1978 *The Domesday Book. Buckinghamshire.* History from the Sources. Phillimore.

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


Woodfield C & Johnson C 1989 'A Roman Site at Stanton Low, on the Great Ouse, Buckinghamshire' *Archaeological Journal* **146**, 135-378. Royal Archaeological Institute.

Woodward P J 1978 'Flint Distribution, Ring Ditches and Bronze Age Settlement Patterns in the Great Ouse Valley' *Archaeological Journal* **135**, 32-56. Royal Archaeological Institute.

Zeepvat R J 1987a 'Romano-British Settlement in the Upper Ouse and Ouzel Valleys' *in* Mynard 1987, 6-18.

Zeepvat, R.J. & Williams, R.J 1994 *Bancroft: a late Bronze Age/Iron Age Settlement, Roman Villa & Temple-Mausoleum.* Buckinghamshire Archaeology Society Monograph Series **7** (Aylesbury).

Appendix 1: Trench Summary Tables

Trench 1						
	Max Dimensions (m)					
	Length	10	Width	1.60	Depth	1.05
	Levels					
	Trench base west		60.80m OD			
	Trench top west		61.86m OD			
	Trench base east		61.05m OD			
	Trench top east		61.96m OD			
	NGR Co-ordinates					
	NW	482897 249293	SE	482905 242986		
	Orientation		NW-SE			
Reason for Trench		Planning condition				
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)	
101	Layer	Dark blackish brown silty clay. Topsoil	-	500	-	
102	Fill	Dark blackish brown silty clay. Identical to topsoil (101)	2006	570	500	
103	Cut	Vertical sided cut of probable soakaway				
104	Layer	Mid brown silty sand, moderate inclusions of sub angular stone	581	640	300	
105	Layer	Deposit of sub angular stones	1440	-	940	
106	Layer	Mid orange silty clay. Natural	-	-	500	

Appendix 2: Finds Concordance

Context	Pottery		Bone	
	(no)	(g)	(no)	(g)
101	2	38	1	1
104	3	16	3	293

Appendix 3: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: 5 High Street, Haversham			SITE NO/CODE: 1056/HHS
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	✓	✓	Trench overview from northwest
2	✓	✓	Section of soakaway [103]
3	✓	✓	Detail of stone deposit (105)

Appendix 4: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	5 High Street, Haversham		
Short Description:	In April 2008 ASC Ltd carried out an evaluation at 5 High Street, Haversham, Milton Keynes in advance of the construction of an extension to the existing dwelling. A single trench was excavated within the footprint of the proposed extension. The remains of a former soakaway were identified along with a deposit of subangular stones apparently used to raise the level of the garden area. Three sherds of 19 th century pottery, two sherds of 13 th to 14 th century pottery and some fragments of animal bone were recovered. No archaeological features predating the 19 th century were observed, and the archaeological impact of the development is likely to be low.		
Project Type: (indicate all that apply)	Trial Trenching		
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	None	Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	None
Current land use:	Residential and garden	Future work: (yes / no / unknown)	No
Monument type:	None	Monument period:	None
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	3 sherds of 19 th century pottery, 2 sherds 13 th to 14 th century pottery		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Buckinghamshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	SP 8290 4299
Site address: (with postcode if known)	5 High Street, Haversham, Milton Keynes		
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	91 sq. m	Height OD: (metres)	c. 65
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	N Crank	Project design originator:	C Barclay
Project Manager:	K Semmelmann	Director/Supervisor:	J Richards
Sponsor / funding body:	Dr L James		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	1 st April 2008	End date:	1 st April 2008
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Buckinghamshire Museum	Pottery, animal bone	
Paper:	Buckinghamshire Museum	Site records, report, project design, photographs	
Digital:	Buckinghamshire Museum	CD-ROM with copies of all digital files	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Archaeological Evaluation: 5 High Street, Haversham, Milton Keynes		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1056/HHS/2		
Author(s):	J Richards BA PIFA		
Page nos	18	Date:	7 th April 2008