

## Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:  
SUNNYSIDE COTTAGE  
BAY LANE  
RAVENSTONE  
MILTON KEYNES**

NGR: SP 8493 5083

*on behalf of Mr J. Cleland*



Calli Rouse BA PIFA

April 2009

ASC: 1115/RBL/1



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## Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	RBL	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	1115
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	archaeo12-49710	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	1234/AYBCM: 2009.158
<i>County:</i>	Milton Keynes (Unitary Authority)		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Ravenstone		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Ravenstone		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 8493 5083		
<i>Present use:</i>	Garden		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Construction of new garage		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	08/00919/FUL		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Milton Keynes Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	14 <sup>th</sup> April 2009		
<i>Client:</i>	Mr J. Cleland Sunnyside Cottage Bay Lane Ravenstone Milton Keynes MK46 5AT		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Mr J. Cleland		

## Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Calli Rouse	<i>Date:</i>	23/04/2009
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<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
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<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>	Bob Zeepvat	<i>Date:</i>	23/04/2009
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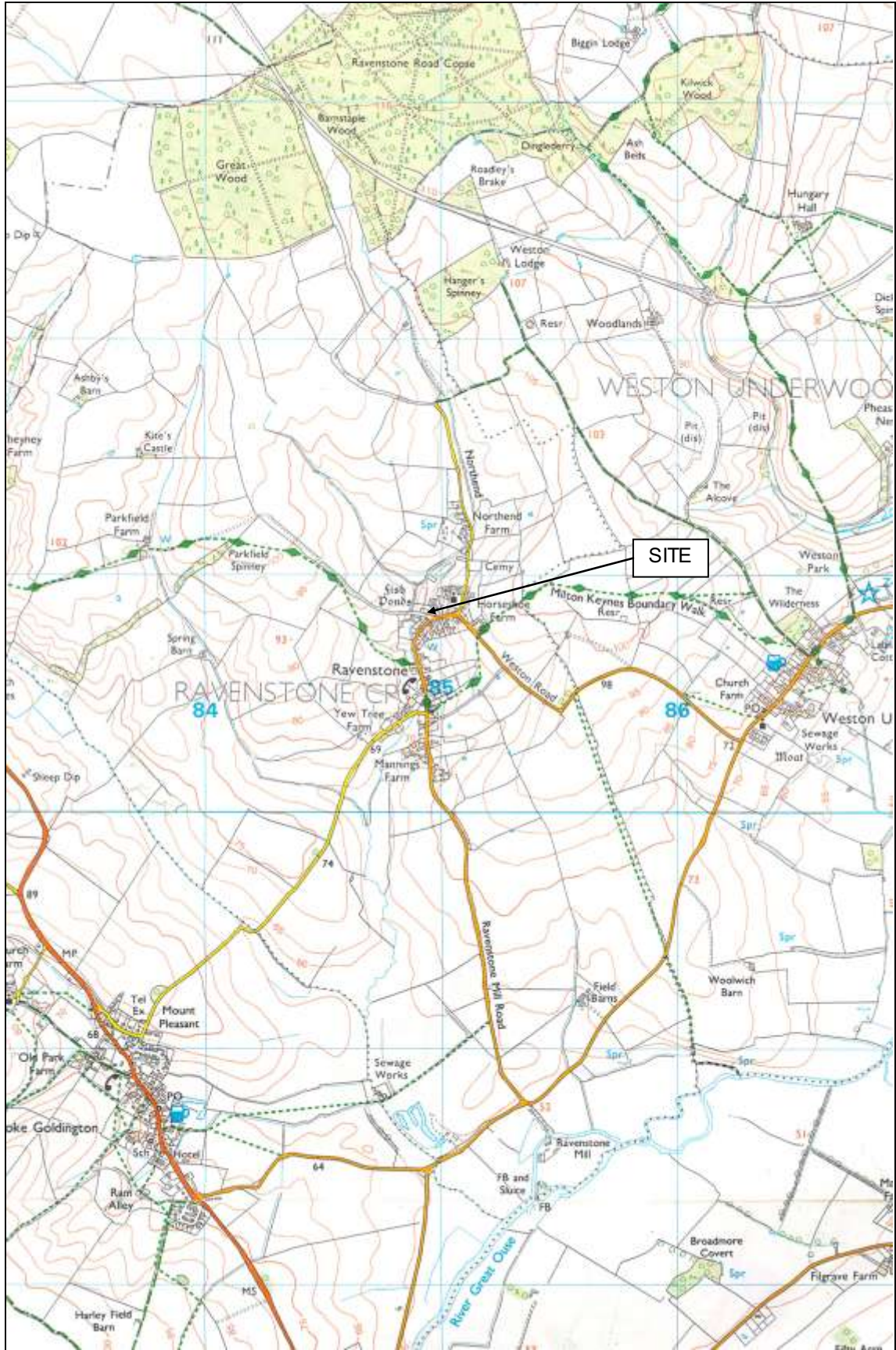


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

## Summary

*In April 2009, ASC carried out an archaeological watching brief at Sunnyside Cottage, Bay Lane, Ravenstone, Milton Keynes, during groundworks for a new double garage to the west of the cottage. The development area was located directly adjacent to the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Ravenstone Priory.*

*No archaeological finds or features were observed during the watching brief, and a high confidence rating is attached to the results of the fieldwork.*

### 1. Introduction

1.1 In April 2009 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief at Sunnyside Cottage, Bay Lane, Ravenstone, Milton Keynes. The project was commissioned by Mr J. Cleland, and was carried out according to a standard brief following discussions with the local archaeological advisor (AA), *Milton Keynes Council Archaeological Officer*. The relevant planning application reference is 08/00919/FUL.

#### 1.2 *Planning Background*

This watching brief 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 managed by Karin Semmelmann BA MA MIFA and was carried out under the overall direction of Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

#### 1.5 *The Site*

##### 1.5.1 *Location & Description*

The development site is located within the unitary area of Milton Keynes, in the parish and village of Ravenstone, at NGR SP 8493 5083 (Fig. 1).

The development site comprises a roughly square area within the garden of Sunnyside Cottage. Access to the site is from Bay Lane, which forms the southern boundary of the garden (Fig. 2).

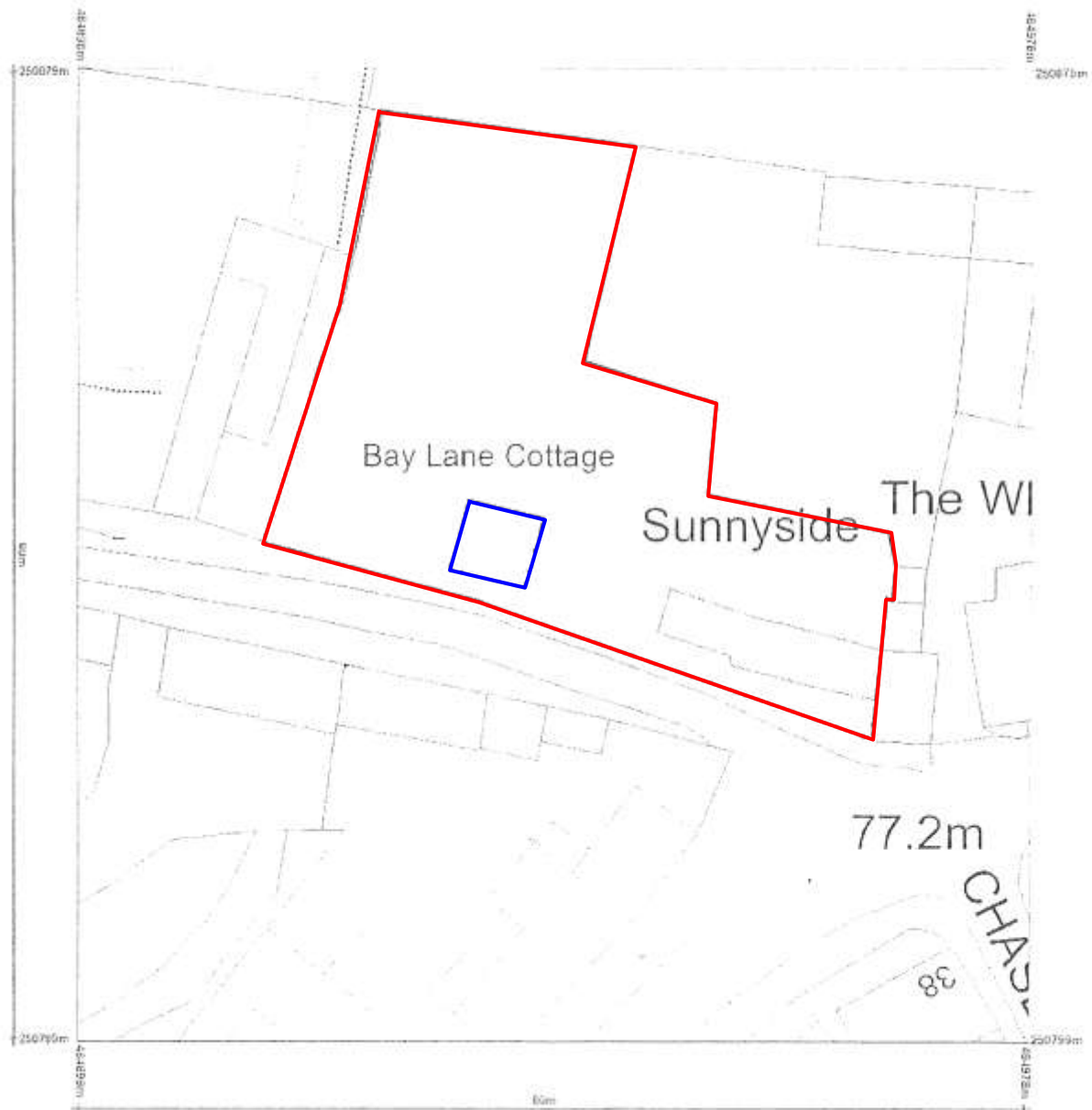
##### 1.5.2 *Geology & Topography*

The soils of the area are of the *Hanslope Association*, which comprise *slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils*. Some *slowly permeable non-calcareous clayey soils*. *Slight risk of water erosion* over chalky till (Soil Survey 1983, 411d). The underlying geology comprises Jurassic Great Oolite clay and limestone (BGS, Sheet 203).

### 1.5.3 *Proposed Development*

The proposed development comprises the construction of a double garage to the west of Sunnyside Cottage.





**Figure 2:** Site plan, showing location of new garage in blue (scale 1:500)

## 2. Aims & Methods

### 2.1 Aims

As discussed with the Planning Archaeologist (PA), the aims of the watching brief were:

- To ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect archaeological remains
- To secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme
- To secure the analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site.
- To provide an adequately detailed project report that will place the findings of the monitoring and recording of the development programme in their local and regional context.

### 2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute for 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 after discussion with the PA, which required:

- Soil and overburden stripping under archaeological supervision
- The inspection of the sub-soil for archaeological features, deposits and artefacts
- The rapid investigation and recording of any archaeological features or deposits
- Sub-soil stripping under archaeological supervision
- Rapid examination of spoil-heaps for archaeological material
- A programme of post-fieldwork analysis, archiving and publication.



### 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 readily available sources.

3.2 Ravenstone is an area of considerable archaeological and historical importance (*cf* RCHM 1913, 251-253). The site falls within the historic core of the village, and offers the potential for discoveries of a variety of periods, with the focus of interest lying in the medieval and post-medieval periods.

3.3 A large number of prehistoric sites and artefacts are known from the valley of the river Great Ouse, where archaeological discoveries have often been made as a result of gravel extraction. Similarly, the development of the new city of Milton Keynes has offered the opportunity for extensive excavations south of the river and in the valley of the river Ouzel. In contrast, relatively little work has taken place in and around Ravenstone, which lies on higher ground north of the river valley.

3.4 Little is known of the prehistoric periods in Ravenstone. A human inhumation, comprising a crouched burial with a breaker, dating to the early Bronze Age has been recorded *c.* 1.5km south of the site, west of Ravenstone Mill Road. An Iron Age enclosure has also been recorded in the parish, at Chitmore Hill (Mynard 1970).

3.5 The area was occupied during the Roman period. Roman remains have not been found in the village, but a bathhouse has been recorded in *Black Furlong* field, *c.* 1km southwest of the site.

3.6 The early history of Ravenstone is not well understood, but the settlement may have originated during the Saxon period. The village is recorded in the Domesday survey (1086), where it is referred to as *Ravenston*. The land was held by *Walter Giffard*, and ten villagers with six smallholders are recorded (Morris 1978).

3.7 The centre of the village is situated directly to the west of the site and is focused on the church of All Saints, which dates from the 11<sup>th</sup> century (RCHM 1913, 251). The church is situated south of the site of the Augustinian Priory of Ravenstone. This was founded in 1255 by *Peter Chaceporc* and was dissolved in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

3.8 During the medieval period the settlement was probably centred on the church and priory, to the north of the development site. Earthworks in the field immediately to the north of the development site represent fishponds associated with the priory. The pattern of settlement probably developed during this period and a separate settlement, referred to as *Northend*, grew up north of the abbey. This is shown on Thomas Jefferys map of Buckinghamshire



## **4. Results**

- 4.1 A single watching brief visit was made to the site, during which an area measuring 6.5m by c.10m was reduced. The majority of the area was considerably higher than the road, which forms the southern boundary of the site, and the ground to the west of the development area had already been reduced to create a driveway.
  
- 4.2 As a result of the varying ground level across the site, the depth of excavation varied from c.0.45m at the northwestern end of the site, to 1.3m at the eastern end. The soil profile typically had 0.3m of mid brown silty topsoil over 0-0.2m of reddy brown sandy silt subsoil, which overlay the natural subsoil, which comprised mid yellow sandy soil with frequent chalk inclusions. No significant archaeological finds or features were observed during the watching brief.



**Plate 1:** General view of stripped area, looking north east, 2m scale



**Plate 2:** Typical section of stripped area, looking east, 1m scale

## **5. Conclusions**

5.1 The proximity of the site to the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Ravenstone Priory suggested a high potential for the survival of associated remains on the development site. However, no archaeological finds or features were observed during the watching brief, suggesting that the site was outside the boundaries of the Priory, and was potentially not developed until the post medieval period.

### 5.2 *Confidence Rating*

The watching brief was carried out in clear, dry conditions, and full cooperation was received from all parties involved. As a result, a high confidence rating is attached to the results of the watching brief.

## **6. Acknowledgements**

The watching brief was commissioned by Mr J. Cleland, and the writer is grateful to him for his assistance. The project was monitored by Nick Crank, the Milton Keynes Council Archaeology Officer on behalf of the local planning authority.

The project was managed for ASC by Karin Semmelmann MA MIFA. Fieldwork was carried out by Calli Rouse BA PIFA. The report was prepared by Calli Rouse and edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

## **7. Archive**

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

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

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum (AYBCM: 2009.158).

## 8. References

### *Standards & Specifications*

- EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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*

- BGS *British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology*.
- Morris J (ed) 1978. *Domesday Book. Buckinghamshire*. History from the Sources. Phillimore
- Mynard D C 1970 'An Iron Age Enclosure at Ravenstone, Buckinghamshire' in *Records of Buckinghamshire* **18.5** (1970), p393-413
- RCHM 1913, *Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England). An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Buckinghamshire (North)*
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).



## Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets


A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD				
Project: SUNNYSIDE COTTAGE		Project No/Code: 1115 1		Sheet: 1 of 2		
RAVENSTONE		Date of visit: 14/04/09				
Client/Developer: Mr J. Adland.						
Contact:			Phone:			
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 8.35		Finish: 11.30		
Completed by: CR						
Development Type:						
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: Sunny, dry						
Observations: Garden much higher than road, already partially levelled for drive, path etc. At N end of dig, 0.3m <del>rock</del> TS on top of mid yellow sandy clay with <sup>Chalk</sup> <del>lime</del> inclusions. No subs. Max depth 1.3m - 0.3m TS, 0.2m Subs, over clay as above  No arch finds or features observed						
Comments: NO FURTHER VISITS REQUIRED						

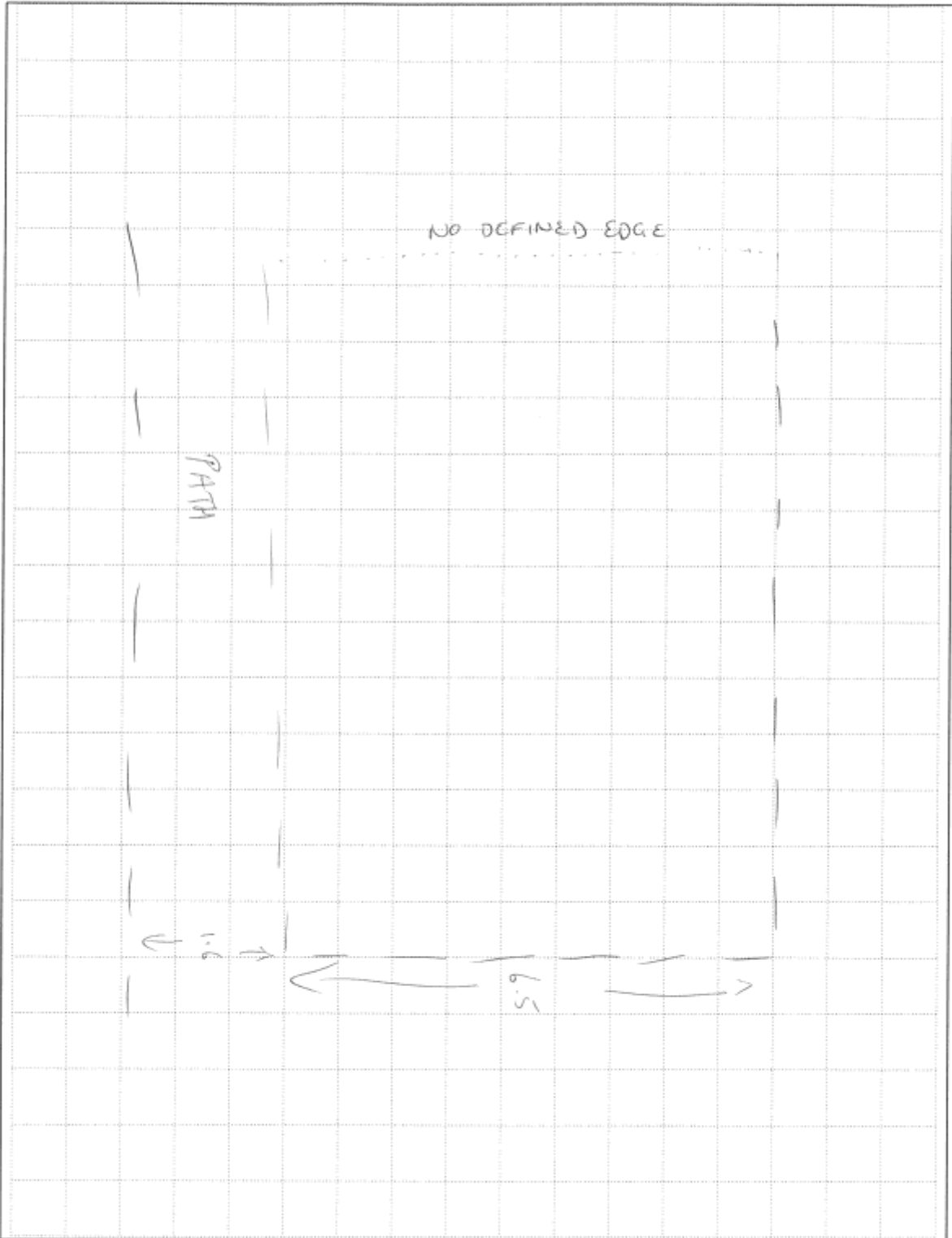
For sketch plan, use separate sheet

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SKETCH SHEET

Site Name: <i>Sunnyside Cottage, Ravenstone</i>	Site Code: <i>1115</i>	Orientation: 
Context:		



RECORDING NOTES

Recorded by: <i>CR</i>	Date: <i>14/4/09</i>	Digitised by:	Date:	Sheet number: <i>2</i> of <i>2</i>
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## Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: Sunnyside Cottage, Bay Lane, Ravenstone, Milton Keynes			SITE NO/CODE: 1115/RBL
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1			General view northeast, 1m scale
2			General view northeast, 1m scale
3			General view southeast, 1m scale
4			Working shot, looking east
5			Priory earthworks, looking north
6			Priory earthworks, looking north
7			General view northeast, 2m scale
8			General view north, 2m scale
9			General view northeast, 2m scale
10			Typical section, looking east, 1m scale

## Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	Sunnyside Cottage, Bay Lane, Ravenstone, Milton Keynes		
Short Description:	<p>In April 2009, ASC carried out an archaeological watching brief at Sunnyside Cottage, Bay Lane, Ravenstone, Milton Keynes, during groundworks for a new double garage to the west of the cottage. The development area was located directly adjacent to the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Ravenstone Priory.</p> <p>No archaeological finds or features were observed during the watching brief, and a high confidence rating is attached to the results of the fieldwork.</p>		
Project Type: (indicate all that apply)	Watching Brief		
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	-	Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	-
Current land use:	Garden	Future work: (yes / no / unknown)	No
Monument type:	-	Monument period:	-
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	-		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Buckinghamshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	SP 8493 5083
District:	Milton Keynes	Parish:	Ravenstone
Site address: (with postcode if known)	Sunnyside Cottage, Bay Lane, Ravenstone, Milton Keynes, MK46 5AT		
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	1200 sqm	Height OD: (metres)	c.75
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	-	Project design originator:	-
Project Manager:	K. Semmelmann	Director/Supervisor:	R. Zeepvat
Sponsor / funding body:	Mr J. Cleland		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	14/04/09	End date:	14/04/09
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Buckinghamshire County Museum (AYBCM: 2009.158)	-	
Paper:		Archive Box	
Digital:		CD	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Sunnyside Cottage, Bay Lane, Ravenstone, Milton Keynes		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1115/RBL/1		
Author(s):	Calli Rouse BA PIFA		
Page nos	1-18	Date:	23/04/09