

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

WATCHING BRIEF: THE MOAT HOUSE BRADWELL VILLAGE MILTON KEYNES

National Monument No. 19079

NGR: SP 8300 3960

on behalf of Dr and Mrs P. Staten



Martin Cuthbert BA

April 2009

ASC: 1118/BVM/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

ASC project code:	BVM		ASC Project No:	1118	
OASIS ref:	archaeol2 49713		Event/Accession no:	1215/AYBCM: 2009:47	
County: Miltor		n Keynes (Unitary Authority)			
Village/Town: Bradw		well Village			
Civil Parish:	Civil Parish: Bradw		vell		
NGR (to 8 figs):		SP 83	00 3960		
Extent of site:		c. 350	0 square metres		
Present use:		House	and garden		
Planning proposal:			ruction of a 3 bay garag	e	
Planning application	ref/date:	08/113	/1137/FUL		
Local Planning Author	ority:	Milto	ilton Keynes Council		
Date of fieldwork:		March	arch 2009		
Client:		Dr & 1	r & Mrs P. Staten		
		The Moat House			
		Abbey Road			
		Bradw	vell Village		
		Milton Keynes			
		MK13 9AN			
Contact name:		Dr &	Mrs P. Staten		

Internal Quality Check

Primary Author:	Martin Cuthbert	Date:	2 nd April 2009
Revisions:		Date:	
Edited/Checked By:	Bob Zeepvat	Date:	2 nd April 2009

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CONTENTS

Su	ummary	4
1.	Introduction	4
2.	Aims & Methods	8
3.	Archaeological & Historical Background	9
4.	Results.	12
5.	Conclusions	15
6.	Acknowledgements	16
7.	Archive	16
8.	References	17
Aį	ppendices:	
1.	ASC Watching Brief Monitoring Sheets	18
2.	Photo List	24
3.	ASC OASIS Form	25
Fi	igures:	
1.	General location	3
2.	Site plan	6
3.	Proposed development	7
4.	Excavated areas	13
5.	Archaeological remains	13
Pl	lates:	
Ca	over: The Moat House, looking west	
1.	Garage footprint, looking north	14
2.	Garage footprint section, looking east	14
3.	Cable trench, looking east	14
4.	Cable trench, looking northeast	14
5.	Robbed wall, looking north	14
6.	Mortar surface western end of cable trench, looking north	14

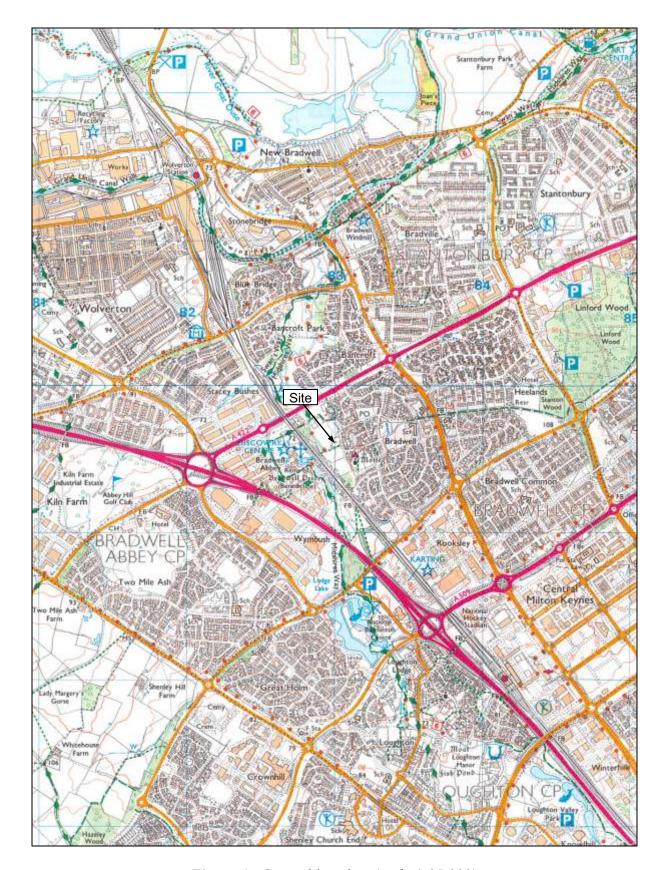


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In March 2009 a watching brief was carried out at the Moat House, Bradwell Village, Milton Keynes, during the excavation of an open area and one trench, in relation to the construction of a garage. One possible wall and adjacent floor surface were revealed in a small area within the trench, but no other archaeological features were observed within the open area or anywhere else within the trench.

1. Introduction

1.1 In March 2009 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief at the Moat House, Bradwell Village, Milton Keynes. The project was commissioned by Dr & Mrs P. Staten, and was carried out according to a standard brief, following discussions with the local planning authority (LPA), *Milton Keynes Council (MKC)* and the regional English Heritage Inspector (EH). The planning application number is 08/1137/FUL.

1.2 Planning Background

This watching brief has been required as a condition of Scheduled Monument Consent, in response to proposals for the construction of a garage.

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 site is situated in Bradwell in the administrative district of Milton Keynes in the historic county of Buckinghamshire. It is situated close to the centre of Milton Keynes, adjacent to the railway and is centred on National Grid Reference SP 8300 3960 (Fig. 1).

The site comprises the approximately square garden of The Moat House, which is accessed from Abbey Road to the east. The site is bounded by sports fields to the north and west, and by a footpath to the south. Within the site are two lengths of ditch, one close to and parallel with the northern boundary, the second in the southwest corner of the site (Fig. 2).

The 18th Century Moat House itself and one small outbuilding stand on the site whilst two other outbuildings have been demolished as part of this development (Fig. 3).

1.5.2 *Geology & Topography*

The soils on the site are likely to comprise those of the *Hanslope Association*, characterised by "slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils, some slowly permeable non-calcareous clayey soils with a slight risk of water erosion" (Soil Survey 1983, 411d) overlying Jurassic Great Oolite Clay and Limestone (BGS Sheet 203). The site lies on level ground at an elevation of *c.* 70m.

1.5.3 Proposed Development

The proposal is for the construction of a new three bay garage (Fig. 3).

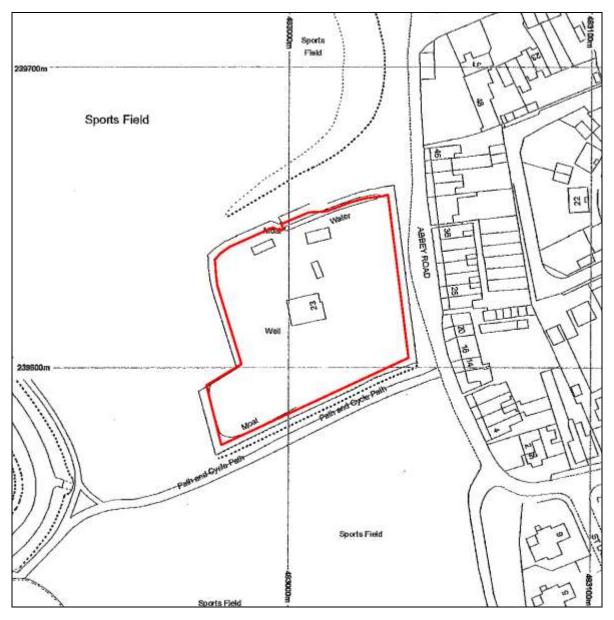


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

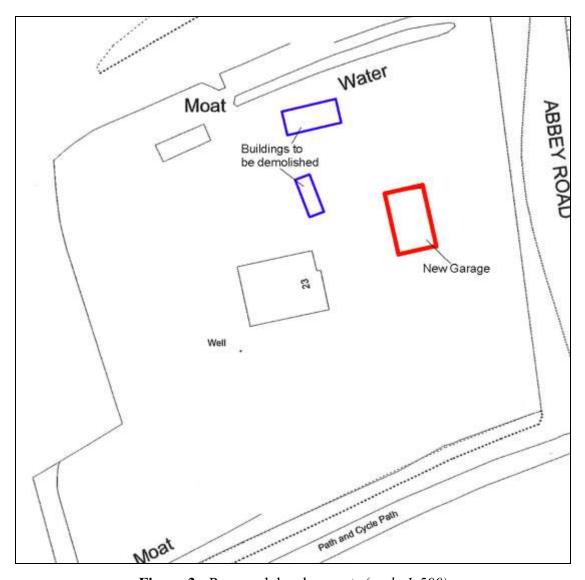


Figure 3: Proposed development (scale 1:500)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 *Aims*

Following discussions with the Milton Keynes Archaeological Officer (MKAO) and the requirements of *English Heritage* (EH), the aims of the project were:

• To record any archaeological features or deposits revealed during the construction of the proposed new garage

2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the requirements of the MKAO and EH, to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001) and *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000a), to current English Heritage guidelines (EH1991), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

2.3 *Methods*

Following discussions with the Milton Keynes Archaeological Officer (MKAO) and the requirements of EH the methods for this project were:

- A continuous watching brief on all groundworks associated with the construction of the new garage
- Appropriate provision for dealing with any significant archaeology revealed during the watching brief
- Preparation of a report and project archive

ASC's general methodology for the works required is described in detail in Sections 3.4 *et seq*.

2.4 Constraints

No constraints were identified prior to the watching brief fieldwork and none were encountered during the monitoring visits.

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 **Prehistoric** (before AD43)

There is an increasing body of evidence for activity of the prehistoric periods in the Milton Keynes area. There is currently no evidence for prehistoric occupation of the site, but flint scatters have been recorded in the Bradwell Brook valley, and an important late Neolithic to early Bronze Age settlement site was excavated to the immediate north in Stacey Bushes (Green & Sofranoff 1985).

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

There is no evidence for Roman occupation on the site. A major Roman road, now known as *Watling Street* runs *c*.1km west of the site, and Roman occupation sites have been found in the vicinity. A native enclosure of Roman date was excavated at Bradwell Abbey Barn, 1km to the south-west of the site (Niblett 1974), and there was a small villa 1km to the south at Wymbush (Mynard 1987; Zeepvat 1998), and a major villa and mausoleum at Bancroft, 1km to the north (Williams & Zeepvat 1994).

3.4 **Saxon** (c.450-1066)

A settlement was probably established at Bradwell in the Saxon period, as it is mentioned in the Domesday Survey (Williams & Martin 2003). Prior to 1066 Bradwell was divided into three manors, worth 30s, 30s and 60s respectively during the reign of King Edward (*ibid*). None of these manors had large populations; the largest is recorded as having just five villeins and two slaves in 1086 (*ibid*) and as such it is unlikely that the settlement at Bradwell was of any great size. Pottery of middle to late Saxon date was found during excavations of the earthworks to the north of the site in 1975, although this was residual and did not relate to any of the structures on the site (Mynard 1994).

3.5 *Medieval* (1066-1500)

The medieval village grew up around a central green, a layout still traceable in the current road layout (Croft & Mynard 1993). The remains of a motte and bailey castle lie 200m southeast of the site on the southern edge of the medieval village (*ibid*). This castle is thought to have been erected by a member of the Bayeux family, who held a manor in Bradwell during the reign of King Stephen (1135-54) (Page 1927).

Adjacent to this castle motte is the parish church, dedicated to St Lawrence, which contains elements of 13th-century date in the chancel arch and arcade (Pevsner 2000). The treble and second bells in the tower, cast by Michael de Wymbis, are also of 13th-century date (Page 1927).

To the west of the village was Bradwell Priory, founded by the Benedictine order in 1154 and suppressed during the Dissolution in 1524. Although probably closely connected to the village in the medieval period, the priory and its lands formed a separate parish (Page 1927). The Chapel of Our Lady, dating to c. 1350, is the only surviving structure (Pevsner 2000) although part of the plan of the church is marked in the grass following excavations in 1968-9 and 1981 (*ibid*).

The Moat House lies within an extensive moated site, now partly destroyed, which formerly occupied much of the west side of the village. This moated site was partly excavated in 1975 prior to the construction of the village sports field. It contained the remains of several buildings of medieval date, including two superimposed dovecotes and a lime kiln (Mynard 1994). These features are believed to form part of a larger settlement which extended east and south of the excavated area, encompassing the Moat House site, and known as *Bradwell Bury* (*ibid*). The only surviving section of the moat is that surrounding The Moat House (Fig. 2).

The remains of the 13th century manor house, built by the Barre family who held the manor of Bradwell until the early 14th century, were also found to the north of Moat House during these excavations (Mynard 1994). Although this manor house went out of use and was probably demolished in the late 14th century, when the manor was held by the d'Aylesbury family, the dovecotes and barns associated with it continued in use and were leased to Nicholas Amiger in 1557 (*ibid*).

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

The parish of Bradwell was inclosed by Act of Parliament in 1788, although enclosures had been made by the Prior of Bradwell and Sir John Longville in the early 16th century (Page 1927). With the exception of the church, the earliest surviving buildings in Bradwell date from the 17th century, the most significant being Bradwell House, a five bay structure northeast of the church, built in the 17th century but with 18th and 19th century alterations (Pevsner 2000).

The Moat House itself dates to 1784 although it incorporates a wall from an earlier timber-framed building (Woodfield 1986). The datestone above the main door bears the initials 'TM', referring to Thomas Mercer, a descendent of an earlier Thomas who married Elizabeth Fuller, heiress of Roger Fuller, lord of the manor of Bradwell, in 1707 (Croft & Mynard 1993). The remains of the earlier buildings may have been removed and the area of the moat reduced when the Moat House was constructed (*ibid*).

Apart from the construction of the railway in 1838 (Markham 1975), which passed to the west of the village on a major embankment, the village remained largely untouched by 19th and 20th-century development until the establishment of the new city in the 1970s. The majority of development in Bradwell grid square is residential in contrast to Bradwell Abbey grid square on the opposite side of the railway line, which is predominantly industrial (*ibid*; Fig. 1).

3.7 Scheduled Monument Description

The moated site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, (National Monument No. 19079). The official description is as follows:

The monument includes a moated site and the remains of an associated manor house which once formed part of a more extensive monument, some of which has been removed by excavation and subsequent landscaping. It lies at the top of the gentle east facing slope of the valley of the Bradwell Brook. The surviving moated enclosure is 60m square and surrounds Moat House. The moat ditch has been disturbed by garden landscaping but remains visible as an earthwork around the north, west and south sides, where its outside slope survives largely intact and portions of its inside slope can be recognised. From this surviving evidence it appears to have averaged 7m wide and in excess of 1.3m deep. The southern arm of the moat extends for some 12m beyond its junction with the western arm. This may be original or may be the result of later landscaping. The eastern arm of the moat can no longer be recognised as a surface feature, having been infilled within living memory; it does however survive as a buried feature. The central moat platform, the central area of which is occupied by Moat House, has been reduced in area on the south side by garden landscaping but elsewhere survives intact and largely undisturbed. It measures some 40m east to west by 23m north to south, is level, and is raised slightly above the surrounding land surfaces. Finds made during gardening activity on the platform have included a medieval pilgrim flask and substantial wall footings.

Rescue excavations in 1975, in advance of a landscaping development of the area adjacent to the northern arm of the moat, and outside the boundary of Moat House garden, revealed the existence of an associated complex of medieval buildings and structures spanning in time from the 11th century to the 17th century. The excavations demonstrated that the existing moated enclosure had once been larger, extending to the north to enclose an area roughly double its size. The extent of the present moated enclosure is believed to represent a contraction in size during a late phase of occupation. Most of the works to the north were destroyed by landscaping following the archaeological investigation. However the remains of a substantial building of some importance, interpreted as the early manor house, survive as a buried feature.

This building was of limestone construction, measured 22m east to west, and had a roughly central cross wall dividing it into two. The west room had dimensions of 4.2m by 8.7m, with a doorway in the south wall, a hearth east of centre, and a garderobe at its south-west corner. The larger east room was 11.7m long but of uncertain width, the south wall having been destroyed by the north arm of the surviving moat. Finds from within the building were of 13th to 14th century date. The building was re-buried after excavation and lies immediately outside the northern boundary of Moat House. The Moat House itself is listed as a Grade II building and is of 17th century origin. There is a date stone over the main doorway bearing the inscription T M 1784. This is believed to relate to Thomas Mercer who acquired the Manor of Bradwell in the mid-18th century and re-built or restored the house. Excluded from the scheduling is the listed building, all modern buildings and structures, all boundary features and metalled surfaces, although the ground beneath them is included.

4. Results

- 4.1 The watching brief consisted of three half day visits to monitor a rectangular area on the footprint of the proposed development as well as a service trench. Both were excavated by a mini digger prior to the construction of a garage (Fig 4). No archaeological finds or pottery, other than a few limestone building fragments, and roofing tile were observed in the spoil from the garage footprint and trench, which was visually scanned.
- 4.2 The garage footprint measured 5.7m x 8.5m and was located within the current garden, east of the Moat House (Fig 4, Plates 1 & 2). Topsoil to a depth of 0.2m was removed and the natural subsoil was not reached and no archaeological remains were observed.
- 4.3 The service trench ran east-west from the garage footprint to the Moat House. It was 0.3m wide, 0.2-0.3m deep and c. 11.2m long (Fig 4 & 5, Plates 3-6). Excavation revealed possible structural remains (Plates 4 & 5) as well as a mortar surface (Plate6).

The structural remains comprised a possible north-south wall, aligned with the east wall of the Moat House. Only one worked and faced limestone fragment was discovered (not retained) but the cut of a possible robber trench could still be seen in section. The robber trench was c.0.6m in width and filled with a mid brown clay deposit containing frequent mortar inclusions. To the west of the wall was a possible mortar surface or what could have been a dump of lathing wall plaster, at least 1m in width.

Between the mortar surface and the robbed wall trench and also to the east of the possible wall the ground makeup consists of 0.15m of made ground overlying a dark brown soil which both the wall and mortar surface cut.

No other archaeological finds or features were observed throughout the rest of trench.

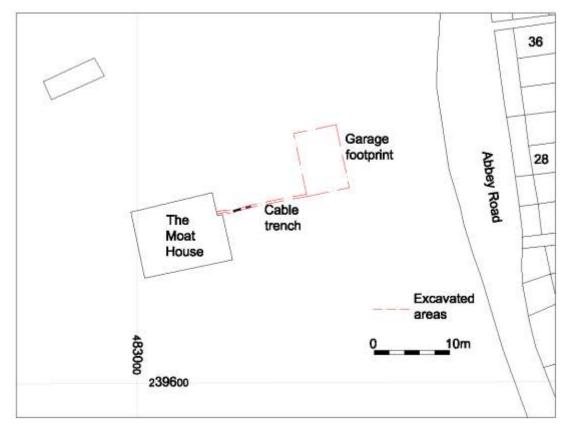


Figure 4: Excavated areas (scale 1:500)

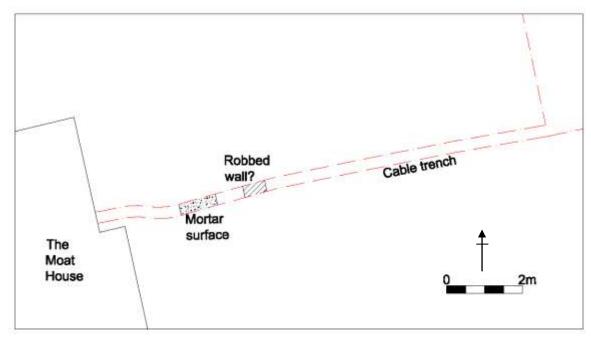


Figure 5: Archaeological remains (scale 1:100)



Plate 1: Garage footprint, looking north



Plate 2: Garage footprint section, looking east



Plate 3: Cable trench, looking east



Plate 4: Cable trench, looking northeast



Plate 5: Robbed wall, looking north



Plate 6: Mortar surface western end of cable trench, looking north

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The conditions for the evaluation were good and the work took place in dry and sunny weather conditions. Full co-operation was received from the contractors and a high degree of confidence is attached to the results of the evaluation.
- 5.2 Both discoveries within the cable trench were within close proximity to the Moat House itself. The direction and significance of the possible wall and possible floor surface cannot be determined due to the constraints of the size of the cable trench.
- 5.3 Archaeological finds or features were not observed in the garage footprint, as the natural soil horizon was not reached. This however does not imply that there are no archaeological deposits within this area.
- 5.4 Even with the large amounts of modern disturbance in the area of the cable trench archaeology was still present close to the surface, with possible wall and floor surfaces.

6. Acknowledgements

The watching brief was commissioned by Dr & Mrs P. Staten. The writer is grateful to the clients for their assistance. The project was monitored by Nick Crank, the Milton Keynes Council Archaeologist, to whom thanks are also due for his input and advice. Thanks are also due to the bulders involved.

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

7. Archive

- 7.1 The project archive will comprise:
 - 1. Project Design
 - 2. Initial Report
 - 3. Clients site plans
 - 4. Site Monitoring Sheets
 - 5. Site record drawings
 - 6. List of photographs
 - 7. B/W prints & negatives
 - 8. CDROM with copies of all digital files.
- 7.2 The archive will be deposited with *Buckinghamshire County Museum* (AYBCM: 2009:47).

8. References

Standards & Specifications

- EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd 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).
- Richards J 2008 Project Design for Archaeological Watching Brief at the Moat House, Bradwell Village, Milton Keynes, ASC ref: 1118/BVM/1.

Secondary Sources

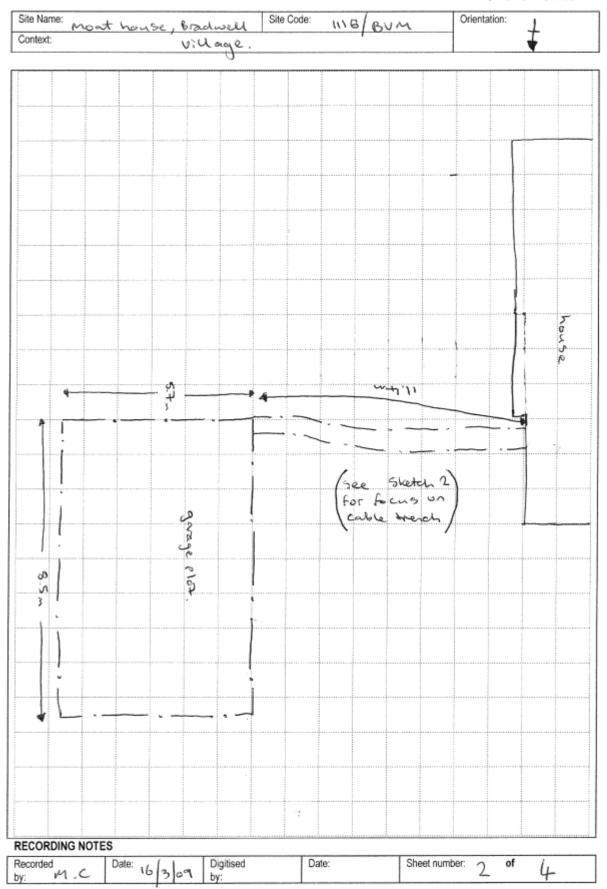
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- Markham, F. 1975 History of Milton Keynes and District (Luton)
- Mynard, D. C. (ed) 1987 *Roman Milton Keynes: Excavation and Fieldwork 1971-82*. Bucks Archaeol. Soc Monograph Ser. **1** (Aylesbury).
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- Zeepvat, R. J. 1998 'Another Roman Building at Wymbush, Milton Keynes', *Records of Buckinghamshire* **30**, 111-116.

Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

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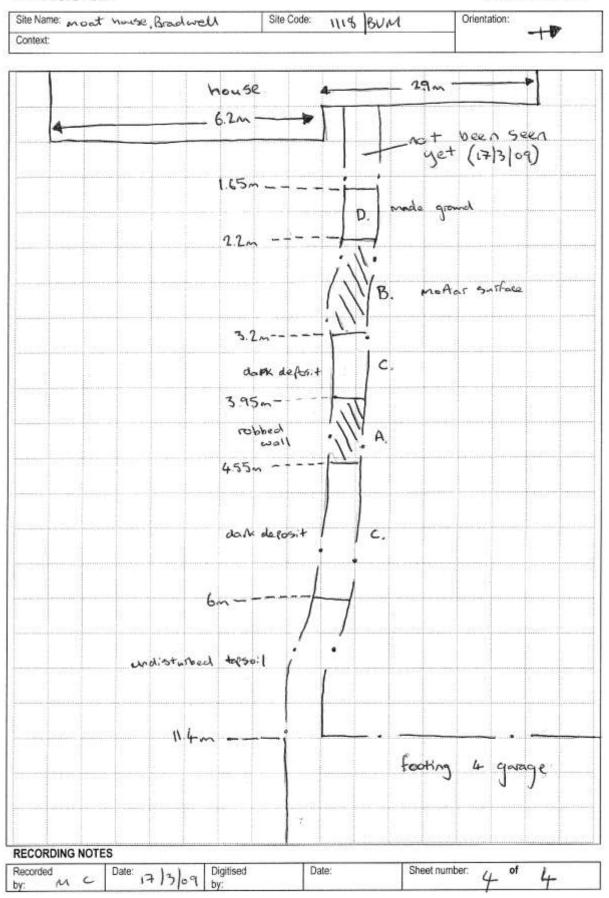
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SKETCH SHEET



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Appendix 2: List of Photographs

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1		V	General shot of gardens	
2		V	General shot of gardens	
3		V	General shot of gardens	
4			General shot of gardens	
5			General shot of gardens	
6		V	Garage stripping, looking north	
7	V	V	Garage footprint section, looking east,	2x1m scale
8		V	Garage footprint section, looking east,	2x1m scale
9	V	V	Garage stripping, looking north, 2x1m	scale
10		V	Garage stripping, looking north, 2x1m s	scale
11		V	General shot of gardens	
12		V	Cable trench, looking east	
13	V	V	Cable trench, looking east, 2x1m scale	
14			Moat house looking southwest	
15		V	Moat house looking southwest	
16	V	V	Mortar surface western end of cable tre	ench, looking north, 2x1m scale
17			Mortar surface western end of cable tre	•
18			Robbed wall, looking northeast 2x1m s	cale
19	√		Robbed wall, looking north 2x1m scale	
20	√		Robbed wall, looking north 2x1m scale	
21		V	Robbed wall, looking north 2x1m scale	
22		V	Robbed wall, looking north 2x1m scale	
23	V	√	Cable trench, looking northeast, 2x1m	
24			Stripping of garage footprint, looking no	orthwest
25			Stripping of garage footprint, looking no	
26	$\sqrt{}$		Cable trench eastern end, looking nortl	h, 2x1m scale

Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

	PROJEC	T DETAILS	
Project Name:	The Moat House, Bradwell Villa	age, Milton Keynes	
Short Description:	Keynes, during the excavation of a garage. One possible wall	of an open area and one trenc and adjacent floor surface wer naeological features were obs	House, Bradwell Village, Milton th, in relation to the construction to revealed in a small area within the open area or
Project Type: (indicate all that apply)	Watching Brief		
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	SAM	Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	
Current land use:	17 th century house and gardens	Future work: (yes / no / unknown)	no
Monument type:	Moated site	Monument period:	13-14 th century
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	none	•	
	PROJECT	LOCATION	
County:	Buckinghamshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	SP 8300 3960
District:	Milton Keynes	Parish:	Bradwell
Site address: (with postcode if known)	The Moat House, Abbey Road	, Bradwell Village, Milton Keyne	s, MK13 9AN
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	c. 3500 square metres	Height OD: (metres)	c. 70m
	PROJECT	CREATORS	
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Con	sultancy Ltd	
	NI/-	Duniant denima evisionateur	ASC Itd
Project brief originator:	N/a	Project design originator:	ASO ita
Project brief originator: Project Manager:	K Semmelmann	Director/Supervisor:	M Cuthbert
,			
Project Manager:	K Semmelmann Dr & Mrs P. Staten		
Project Manager:	K Semmelmann Dr & Mrs P. Staten	Director/Supervisor:	
Project Manager: Sponsor / funding body:	K Semmelmann Dr & Mrs P. Staten PROJE 16/3/09	Director/Supervisor: CT DATE	M Cuthbert
Project Manager: Sponsor / funding body:	K Semmelmann Dr & Mrs P. Staten PROJE 16/3/09	Director/Supervisor: CT DATE End date:	M Cuthbert 20/03/09
Project Manager: Sponsor / funding body:	K Semmelmann Dr & Mrs P. Staten PROJE 16/3/09 PROJECT	Director/Supervisor: CT DATE End date: ARCHIVES	M Cuthbert 20/03/09
Project Manager: Sponsor / funding body: Start date:	R Semmelmann Dr & Mrs P. Staten PROJE 16/3/09 PROJECT Location (Accession no.) None Buckinghamshire Museum	Director/Supervisor: CT DATE End date: ARCHIVES	M Cuthbert 20/03/09 I bone, files/sheets)
Project Manager: Sponsor / funding body: Start date: Physical:	K Semmelmann Dr & Mrs P. Staten PROJE 16/3/09 PROJECT Location (Accession no.) None	Director/Supervisor: CT DATE End date: ARCHIVES Content (eg. pottery, anima	M Cuthbert 20/03/09 I bone, files/sheets)
Project Manager: Sponsor / funding body: Start date: Physical: Paper: Digital:	R Semmelmann Dr & Mrs P. Staten PROJE 16/3/09 PROJECT Location (Accession no.) None Buckinghamshire Museum	Director/Supervisor: CT DATE End date: ARCHIVES Content (eg. pottery, anima Site records, report, photogra CD-ROM with copies of all di	M Cuthbert 20/03/09 I bone, files/sheets) aphs gital files
Project Manager: Sponsor / funding body: Start date: Physical: Paper: Digital:	K Semmelmann Dr & Mrs P. Staten PROJE 16/3/09 PROJECT Location (Accession no.) None Buckinghamshire Museum (AYBCM: 2009:47)	Director/Supervisor: CT DATE End date: ARCHIVES Content (eg. pottery, anima Site records, report, photogra CD-ROM with copies of all di	M Cuthbert 20/03/09 I bone, files/sheets) aphs gital files
Project Manager: Sponsor / funding body: Start date: Physical: Paper: Digital: BIBLIOGRAF	K Semmelmann Dr & Mrs P. Staten PROJE 16/3/09 PROJECT Location (Accession no.) None Buckinghamshire Museum (AYBCM: 2009:47) PHY (Journal/monograph, publis	Director/Supervisor: CT DATE End date: Content (eg. pottery, anima) Site records, report, photogra CD-ROM with copies of all displayed or forthcoming, or unpublishage, Milton Keynes	M Cuthbert 20/03/09 I bone, files/sheets) aphs gital files
Project Manager: Sponsor / funding body: Start date: Physical: Paper: Digital: BIBLIOGRAF	R Semmelmann Dr & Mrs P. Staten PROJE 16/3/09 PROJECT Location (Accession no.) None Buckinghamshire Museum (AYBCM: 2009:47) PHY (Journal/monograph, publis The Moat House, Bradwell Villa	Director/Supervisor: CT DATE End date: Content (eg. pottery, anima) Site records, report, photogra CD-ROM with copies of all displayed or forthcoming, or unpublishage, Milton Keynes	M Cuthbert 20/03/09 I bone, files/sheets) aphs gital files