

# Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:  
WARREN COURT FARM  
LITTLE HORWOOD  
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

NGR: SP 7918 3210

*on behalf of Rebekah Cronk*



Calli Rouse BA PIFA

February 2008

ASC: 999/LHW/2

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## Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	LHW	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	999
<i>OASIS ref:</i>		<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	Tbc.
<i>County:</i>	Buckinghamshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Little Horwood		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Little Horwood		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 7918 3210		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	800sq.m		
<i>Present use:</i>	Pasture		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Erection of a manege		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	Aylesbury Vale District Council		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Pre-planning		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	30/01/08 & 01/02/08		
<i>Client:</i>	Rebekah Cronk Aston Firs 95 Weston Road Aston Clinton Buckinghamshire HP22 5EP		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Rebekah Cronk		

## Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Calli Rouse	<i>Date:</i>	14/02/2008
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<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
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<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
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*Cover:* General site view

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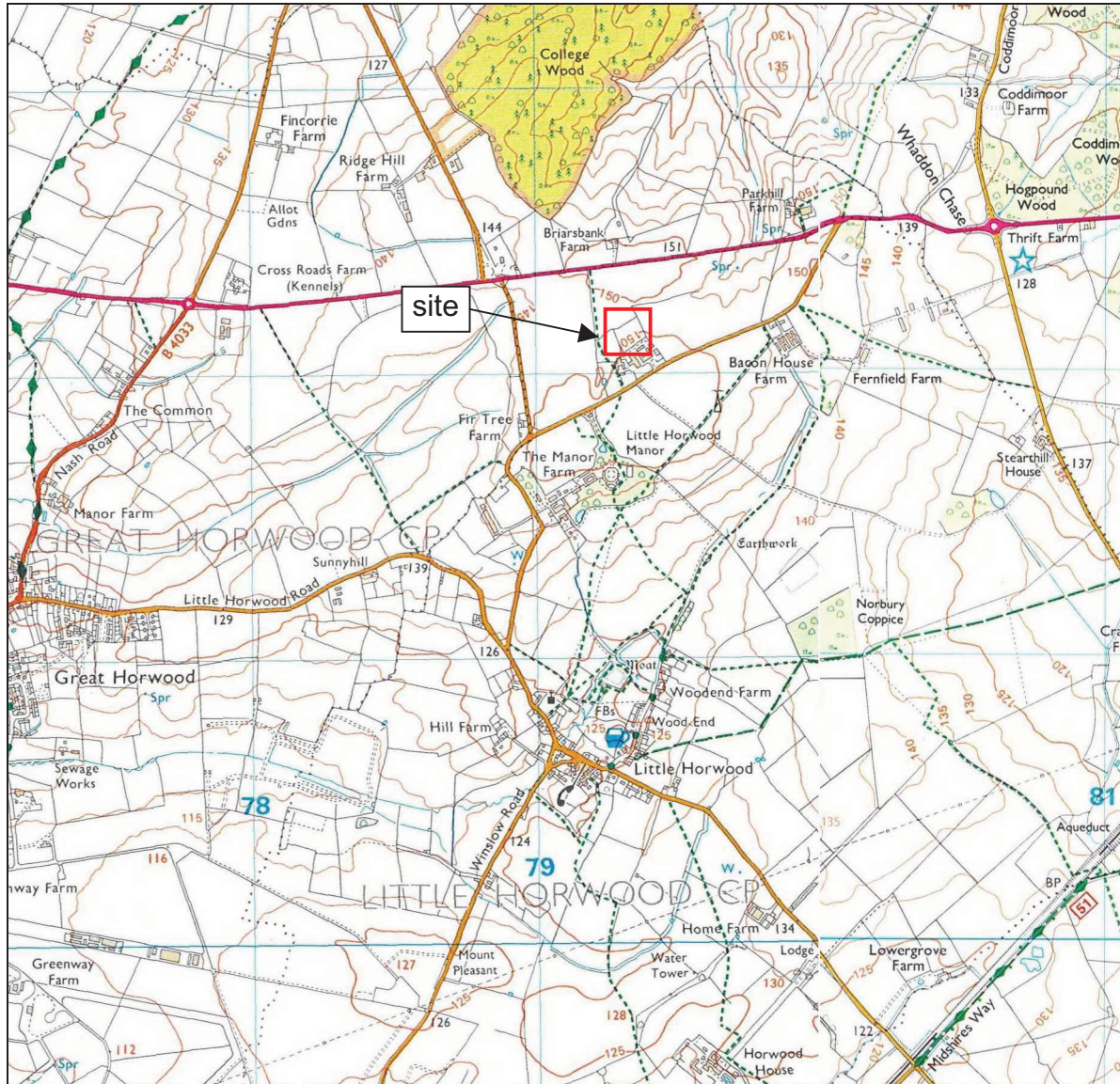


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)



## Summary

*In January and February 2008, ASC undertook an archaeological watching brief at Warren Court Farm, Little Horwood, Buckinghamshire, during the groundworks for a new manege, as aerial photography of the area had highlighted possible enclosures and trackways in the adjacent field. Only the topsoil was removed from the development area, and no archaeological finds or features were observed within the development area.*

### 1. Introduction

1.1 In January and February 2008 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief at Warren Court Farm, Little Horwood, Buckinghamshire. The project was commissioned by *Mrs Rebekah Cronk*, and was carried out according to a brief (Radford 2007) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *Aylesbury Vale District Council*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), *Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service*, and a project design prepared by ASC (Barclay 2007).

#### 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 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*

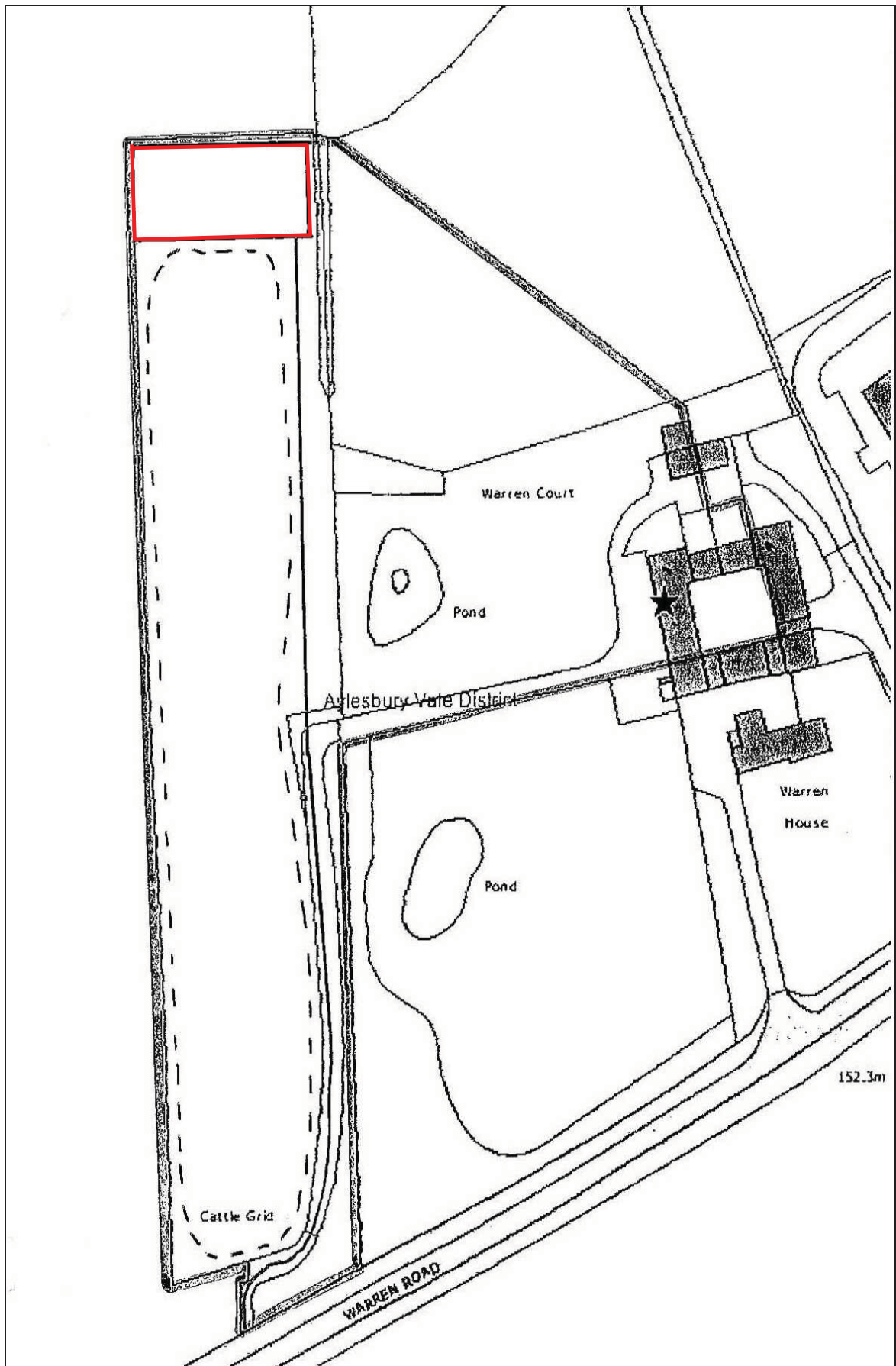
The site is situated in Little Horwood, in the administrative district of Aylesbury Vale, Buckinghamshire (Fig.1). It lies in the north part of the parish, off Warren Road, and to the west of Whaddon Chase and is centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference SP 7918 3210 (Fig.2).

### 1.5.2 *Geology & Topography*

The soils of the area consist of the Hanslope Association, which comprises “*Slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils. Some slowly permeable non-calcareous clayey soils. Slight risk of water erosion.*” This overlies a geological base of chalky till (Soil Survey 1983; 411d; BGS, Sheet 219). The site is essentially flat and has an elevation of *c.*151m OD.

### 1.5.3 *Proposed Development*

The proposal is for the development of a manege (Fig.2).



**Figure 2:** Site plan with manege outlined in red (scale 1: 1250)

## **2. Aims & Methods**

### **2.1 *Aims***

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

- To identify and record any significant archaeological remains revealed by the groundworks, paying particular regard to the potential for deposits related to the nearby enclosures.

### **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 8), which required:

- Groundwork to be undertaken with appropriate machine, with a toothless bucket and under archaeological supervision
- Archaeological remains will be excavated and recorded
- Finds to be collected and recorded as appropriate



### 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 (CAS = County Archaeological Service record number).

3.2 Little Horwood is an area of considerable archaeological and historical importance (Page (ed) 1969, 376-9) and the *Leverhulme Medieval Settlements and Landscapes Project* has identified the Horwood parishes as an area of particular research interest. The site has the potential to reveal evidence of a variety of periods but the focus of interest is likely to lie in the Roman, Saxon and medieval periods.

3.3 A geophysical survey, with negative results, has been undertaken elsewhere on Warren Court Farm and the archaeological and historical background to the area has recently been summarised in a desk-based assessment (Lisboa 2000).

3.4 The origin of village of Little Horwood is uncertain, but the area was occupied from the prehistoric periods and a number of prehistoric worked flints have been found in the area. The area was of considerable importance during the Iron Age and an enclosure of this period, known as *Norbury Camp* (CAS 0030) is situated c.400m southeast of the site. A nationally important hoard of Iron Age coins was discovered during the 19<sup>th</sup> century in an adjacent field (CAS 0006; Markham 1973, 1-2).

2.5 The origin and nature of Roman period settlement in the Little Horwood area is not fully understood but there is an increasing body of evidence to suggest that the area was of importance during this period. A major Roman road, linking *Magiovinium* (Dropshort) with Tingewick passed c.2km north of the site. A second road is thought to run along the southern edge of Warren Court Farm (CAS 400402).

2.6 North Buckinghamshire was extensively settled during the Roman period but to date little large scale archaeological investigation has taken place. A temple and Roman barrows (burial mounds) have been investigated at Thornborough, c.5km west of the site (Johnson 1975).

2.7 Evidence for Roman period settlement elsewhere around the site comprises scatters of pottery, notably at Little Horwood Manor, c.400m south of the site (CAS 54900000) and at Cross Roads Farm (CAS 224000000) c.1km to the west, where tile and metalwork has also been recorded. Further Roman material has also been recorded at Wood End, in Little Horwood village (CAS 0024, 1967 & 2490; Lisboa 2003).

3.8 The village of Little Horwood may have developed during the Saxon period. A number of Saxon sources refer to Horwood and it has been suggested that the proximity of known Roman sites to Saxon and later settlement points to settlement continuity (Reed 1979, 71-2).

3.9 The place name Horwood occurs from the late 8<sup>th</sup> century and is thought to mean 'filthy' or 'muddy wood'. In 795 reference is made to a wood known as *Horwudu*,

which was granted by King Offa to St Albans Abbey (Page 1969, 376). Horwood is included in the Domesday survey (1086) as *Hereworde* (Morris 1979). The villages of Little and Great Horwood were not differentiated and the present area of Little Horwood may have been included with Winslow, which was also held by St Albans Abbey (*ibid*).

- 3.10 A separate settlement, known as *Shucklow* may have developed during the Saxon period in the area of Little Horwood Manor (CAS 20700000). Enclosures and trackways have been recorded on aerial photographs to the west of Warren Court Farm, which may have formed part of this settlement (Plate 1: CAS 6216). The name 'Shucklow' has been interpreted as meaning a burial or meeting mound and in this case, may refer to the 'barrow of the demon or evil spirit' (Farley 1997).
- 3.11 The medieval settlement pattern in the parish of Little Horwood is of considerable interest. The present village lies to the south of the site and is dominated by the church of St Nicholas, which dates from the 14<sup>th</sup> century (Pevsner & Williamson 2000, 438-9). It is likely that a dispersed pattern of settlement developed during the medieval period and evidence for this period has been recorded at a variety of locations in the parish. Wood End developed as a separate hamlet or 'end' on the east side of the village. Two mounds, interpreted as medieval or post-medieval windmill mounds have been recorded c.0.5m southwest of the site, adjacent to Little Horwood Road (CAS 48500000 & 48600000) and earthworks to the northeast of the site, near College Wood, may be the remains of the manor of *Mychel Horwood* (CAS 3200000).

## **4. Results & Conclusions**

4.1 The manege covered an area measuring 20m by 40m. The total area was reduced by a maximum of 0.3m. The topsoil comprised mid brown silty loam with few inclusions, which overlay a flinty subsoil which only showed through in small patches. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

### 4.2 *Conclusions*

The watching brief failed to reveal any evidence of the enclosures and trackways recorded on aerial photographs located directly to the west of the development site. However, this does not exclude the possibility that some remains may exist either at a deeper level than that to which the manege was excavated, or away from the development itself.

### 4.3 *Confidence Rating*

The watching brief was undertaken in generally sunny conditions, and full cooperation was received from all parties involved. Therefore a high level of confidence is attached to this watching brief.



**Plate 1:** Western end of manege, looking north, 2x1m scale



**Plate 2:** Eastern end of manege, looking north, 2x1m scale



**Plate 3:** General view of manege, looking northwest, 2x1m scale

## **6. Acknowledgements**

The evaluation was commissioned by Mrs Rebekah Cronk. The writer is grateful to Ian Sedgeley and Sid (Foreman) for their assistance. The project was monitored by David Radford on behalf of the local planning authority.

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

## **7. Archive**

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans
5. Site Monitoring Sheets
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.



## 8. References

### *Standards & Specifications*

- Barclay C 2007 *Project Design for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Warren Court Farm, Little Horwood, Buckinghamshire* ASC/999/LHW/2
- 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)*.
- Radford D 2007 *Brief for an Archaeological Watching Brief. Warren Court Farm, Little Horwood*. Buckinghamshire County Council

### *Secondary Sources*

- BGS *British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology*.
- Farley M 1997 'Buckslow at Swanbourne and other Saxon mound names in Buckinghamshire' *Records of Buckinghamshire* **39**, 59-62
- Johnson A 1975 'Excavations at Bourton Grounds, Thornborough 1972-3' *Records of Buckinghamshire* **22.1**, 3-56
- Lisboa 2000. *Warren Farm, Little Horwood. Desk-Based Assessment*. Archaeologica Ltd
- Markham F 1973 *A History of Milton Keynes and District*. White Crescent Press, Luton
- Morris J 1979 *The Domesday Book. Buckinghamshire*. Phillimore
- Pevsner N & Williamson E 1994 *The Buildings of England. Buckinghamshire*. Penguin
- Reed M 1979 *The Making of the English Landscape. The Buckinghamshire Landscape*. Hodder & Stoughton
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpندن).

**Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets**

A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD				
Project: <b>WARREN COURT FARM</b>		Project No/Code: <b>999 1LHW</b>		Sheet: <b>1 of 3</b>		
Client/Developer: <b>LITTLE HORWOOD</b>		Date of visit: <b>30/1/08</b>				
Contact: <b>Ian Sedgely</b>		Phone:				
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: <b>2 pm</b>	Finish: <b>4 pm</b>				
Completed by: <b>CL</b>						
Development Type:						
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: <b>Sunny, windy, dry</b>						
Observations: Observed beginning of levelling of area for manure. Max depth they will be digging to is 0.3m, so they are unlikely to go below the topsoil. Patches of flinty ground showed through topsoil. No arch noted.						
Comments:						

A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD				
Project: WARREN COURT FARM		Project No/Code: 999 / LHW		Sheet: 2 of 3		
LITTLE HORWOOD		Date of visit: 1 <sup>ST</sup> FEB 2008				
Client/Developer: REBEKAH CROOK						
Contact: IAN SEDGELY (T SID - FOREMAN)			Phone:			
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 10:30AM - 11AM		Finish:		
Completed by: D FELL						
Development Type:						
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify): TOPSOIL STAMP
Site & weather conditions: SUNNY - BUT WET UNDERFOOT.						
Observations: OBSERVED NORTHERNMOST 20m OF THE ARENA AREA. TOPSOIL STAMP TO TOP OF SUBSOIL - 150mm DEEP APPROX. TOPSOIL IS CLEAN, WITH CLEAN INTERFACE WITH SUBSOIL. NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS OBSERVED						
Comments: SOIL STAMP BEING UNDERTAKEN WITH A TOOTHED BUCKET. ANOTHER MACHINE TO ARRIVE LATER THIS A.M. WITH A TOOTHLESS BLADE. STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS TO THE SITE FOREMAN. WILL VISIT ASAW THIS AFTERNOON						

A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD				
Project: <i>Warren Court Farm, Little Horwood</i>		Project No/Code: <i>999 1 LHW</i>		Sheet: <i>3 of 3</i>		
		Date of visit: <i>01/02/08</i>				
Client/Developer: <i>Rebecca Crank</i>						
Contact: <i>Ian Sedgely</i>			Phone:			
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: <i>3.15 pm</i>		Finish: <i>4.15 pm</i>		
Completed by: <i>CR</i>						
Development Type:						
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify): <i>Topsoil strip</i>
Site & weather conditions: <i>Sunny, wet underfoot</i>						
Observations: <i>Observed topsoil strip after toothless bucket had gone over it. No archaeological finds or features observed - likely strip did not go deep enough.</i>						
<i>Slight rise in ground on eastern side of strip, but no archaeology seen.</i>						
Comments:						

## Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: Warren Court Farm, Little Horwood, Buckinghamshire		SITE NO/CODE: 999/LHW	
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1			North western corner of manege, looking north west
2			Working shot, looking south west
3			Western end of manege, looking north, 2x1m scale
4			General shot, looking north west
5			Manege, looking north east, 2x1m scale
6			Western end of manege, looking north, 2x1m scale
7			Manege, looking east
8			Manege, looking north west, 2x1m scale
9			Eastern end of manege, looking north, 2x1m scale
10			Manege, looking north west, 2x1m scale



## Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	Warren Court Farm, Little Horwood, Buckinghamshire		
Short Description:	In January and February 2008, ASC undertook an archaeological watching brief at Warren Court Farm, Little Horwood, Buckinghamshire, during the groundworks for a new manege, as aerial photography of the area had highlighted possible enclosures and trackways in the adjacent field. Only the topsoil was removed from the development area, and no archaeological finds or features were observed within the development area.		
Project Type: (indicate all that apply)	Watching Brief		
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	-	Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	-
Current land use:	Pasture	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 7918 3210
District:	Aylesbury Vale	Parish:	Little Horwood
Site address: (with postcode if known)	Warren Court Farm, Little Horwood, Buckinghamshire		
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	800sq.m	Height OD: (metres)	151
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	David Radford	Project design originator:	C. Barclay
Project Manager:	R. Zeepvat	Director/Supervisor:	R. Zeepvat
Sponsor / funding body:	Mrs Rebekah Cronk		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	30/01/2008	End date:	01/02/2008
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Buckinghamshire County Museum	-	
Paper:		Archive box	
Digital:		CD	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Watching Brief: Warren Court Farm, Little Horwood, Buckinghamshire		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 999/LHW/2		
Author(s):	Calli Rouse BA PIFA		
Page nos	1-18	Date:	14/02/08