

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:
LAND SOUTH OF MANOR COTTAGE
6 HIGH STREET
HAVERSHAM
MILTON KEYNES**

NGR: SP 8292 4280

on behalf of Mrs Jane Dawes



Martin Cuthbert BA

March 2009

ASC: 1157/HMC/1



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Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	HMC	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	1157
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	archaeol2-56180	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	1226/AYBCM: 2009.45
<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 8292 4280		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	112 sq m		
<i>Present use:</i>	Paddock		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Stable Block		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	04/00522/FUL		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Milton Keynes Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	February 2009		
<i>Client:</i>	Mrs Jane Dawes Manor Cottage 6 High Street Haversham Milton Keynes MK19 7DX		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Jane Dawes		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Martin Cuthbert	<i>Date:</i>	2 nd March 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>	2 nd March 2009
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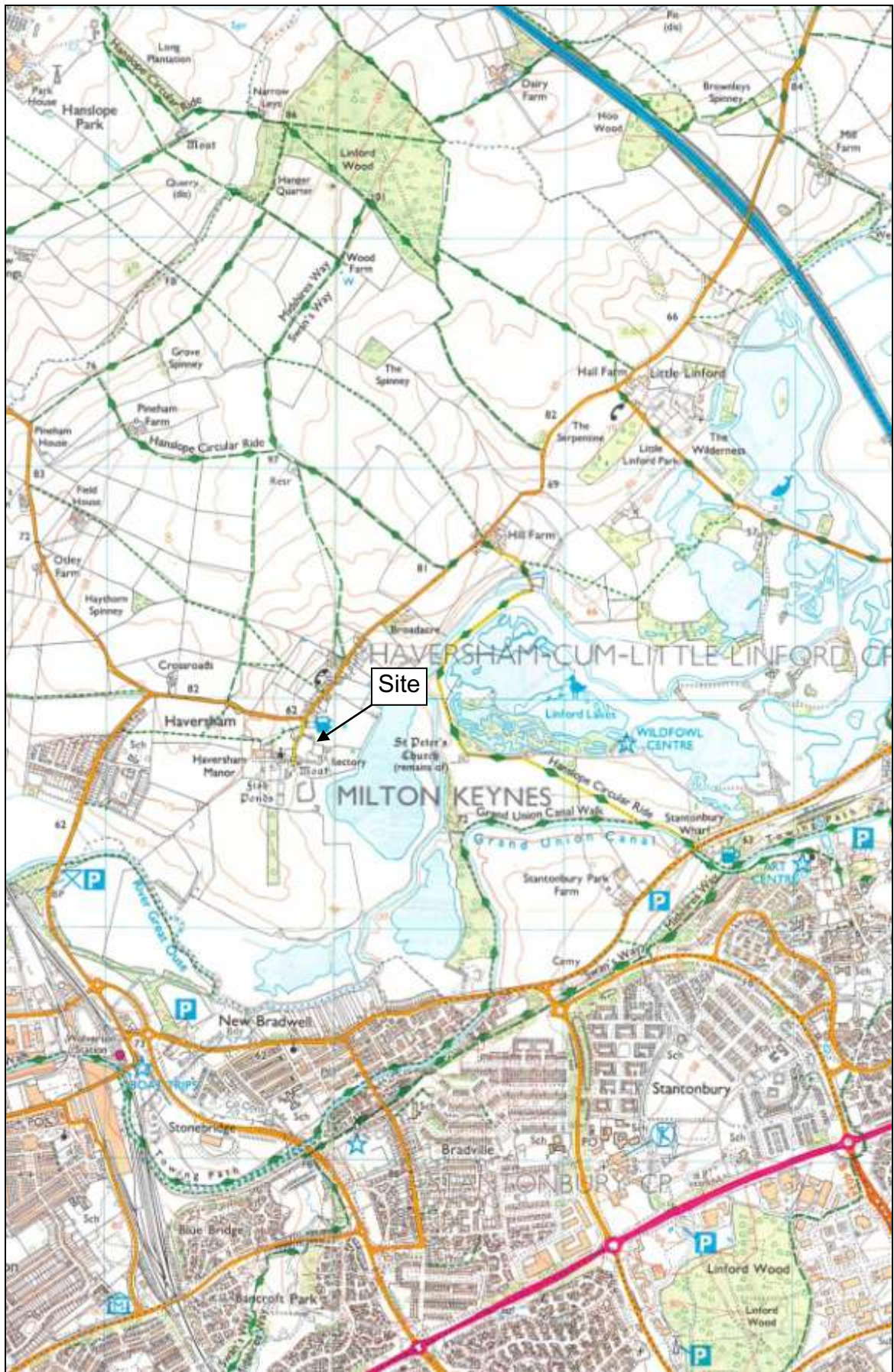


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In February 2009 ASC Ltd carried out a Watching Brief on land south of Manor Cottage, 6 High Street, Haversham, Milton Keynes, during the clearance of an area before the construction of a stable block. The site lies within an area of archaeological and historical interest, and had the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods, but no archaeological finds or features were observed within the stripped development area. One sherd of 19th century pottery, and one sherd of 13th to 14th century pottery were recovered from the topsoil. This is not surprising due to the close proximity to the church to the west of the site and also the presumed location of the medieval manor house to the south.

1. Introduction

1.1 In February 2009 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief at Manor Cottage, 6 High Street, Haversham, Milton Keynes. The project was commissioned by Mrs Jane Dawes, and was carried out according to a standard brief, following discussions with the local planning authority (LPA), *Milton Keynes Council (MKC)*. The relevant planning application reference is 04/00522/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 site is located in the village of Haversham, in the administrative district of Milton Keynes, and is centred on NGR SP 8292 4280 (Fig. 1). The site is irregular in shape, and comprises a paddock north of the Old Rectory (Fig 2). Access to the site will be from the High Street, to the west of the development area.

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 a stable block.

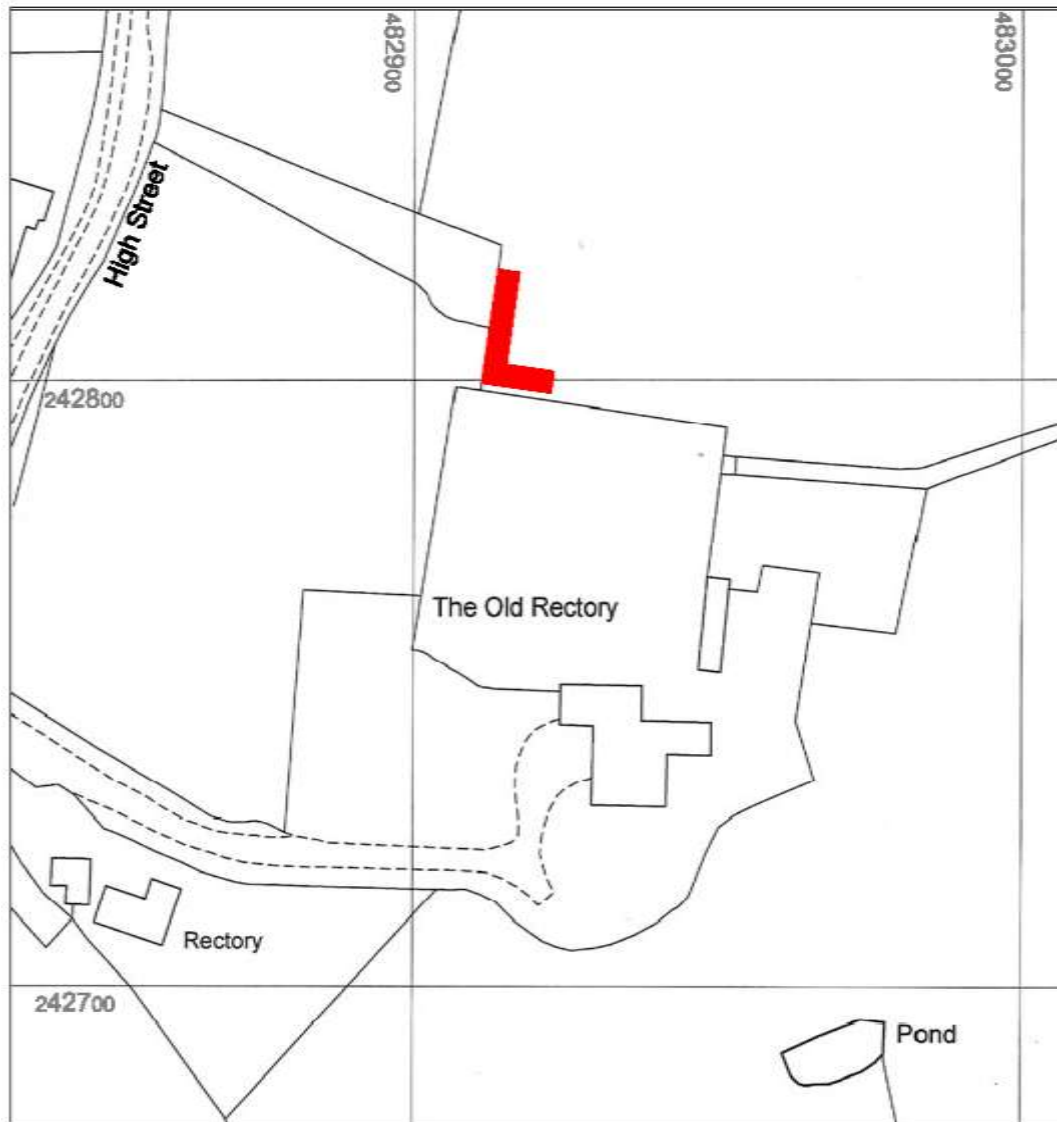


Figure 2: Site plan showing stripped area (scale 1:1250)

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 requirements of the PA, 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.

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 the project design for an evaluation undertaken by ASC at 5 High Street, Haversham (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 Old Rectory 40 m south of the development area was built in the late 18th century along with the walled garden that the stable will back onto (Fig 2).

4. Results

- 4.1 An area comprising of approximately 112 square metres to the north of the Old Rectory (Plate 1) formed the area of the proposed development (Fig. 2).
- 4.2 The stratigraphy of the site comprised topsoil made up of a dark brown silty clay loam, to a depth of 250mm, Below this was 150mm of subsoil comprising of mid brown silty clay (Plate 2 and 3). The natural subsoil was not reached.
- 4.3 No archaeological finds or features were observed in the stripped area although two pieces of pot were discovered in the topsoil, one fragment being Medieval Coarse Ware made of Shelly fabric, and the other Post Medieval in date. This is not surprising due to the close proximity to the church to the west of the site and also the medieval manor houses presumed location to the south.



Plate 1: General shot, looking southwest



Plate 2: Section of site, looking south. 1 m scale



Plate 3: General shot, looking north. 1 m scale

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 No significant archaeological features were discovered within the development area. 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 development has had a significant impact on archaeological remains.
- 5.2 The conditions for the watching brief were reasonable and the work took place in dry weather conditions. Full co-operation was received from the contractors and a very high degree of confidence is attached to the results of the watching brief

6. Acknowledgements

The watching brief was commissioned by Mrs Jane Dawes. The writer is grateful to Mrs Dawes for her assistance. The project was monitored by Nick Crank on behalf of the local planning authority.

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

7. Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

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

7.2 The archive will be deposited with *Buckinghamshire County Museum* (AYBCM: 2009.45).

8. References

Standards & Specifications

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

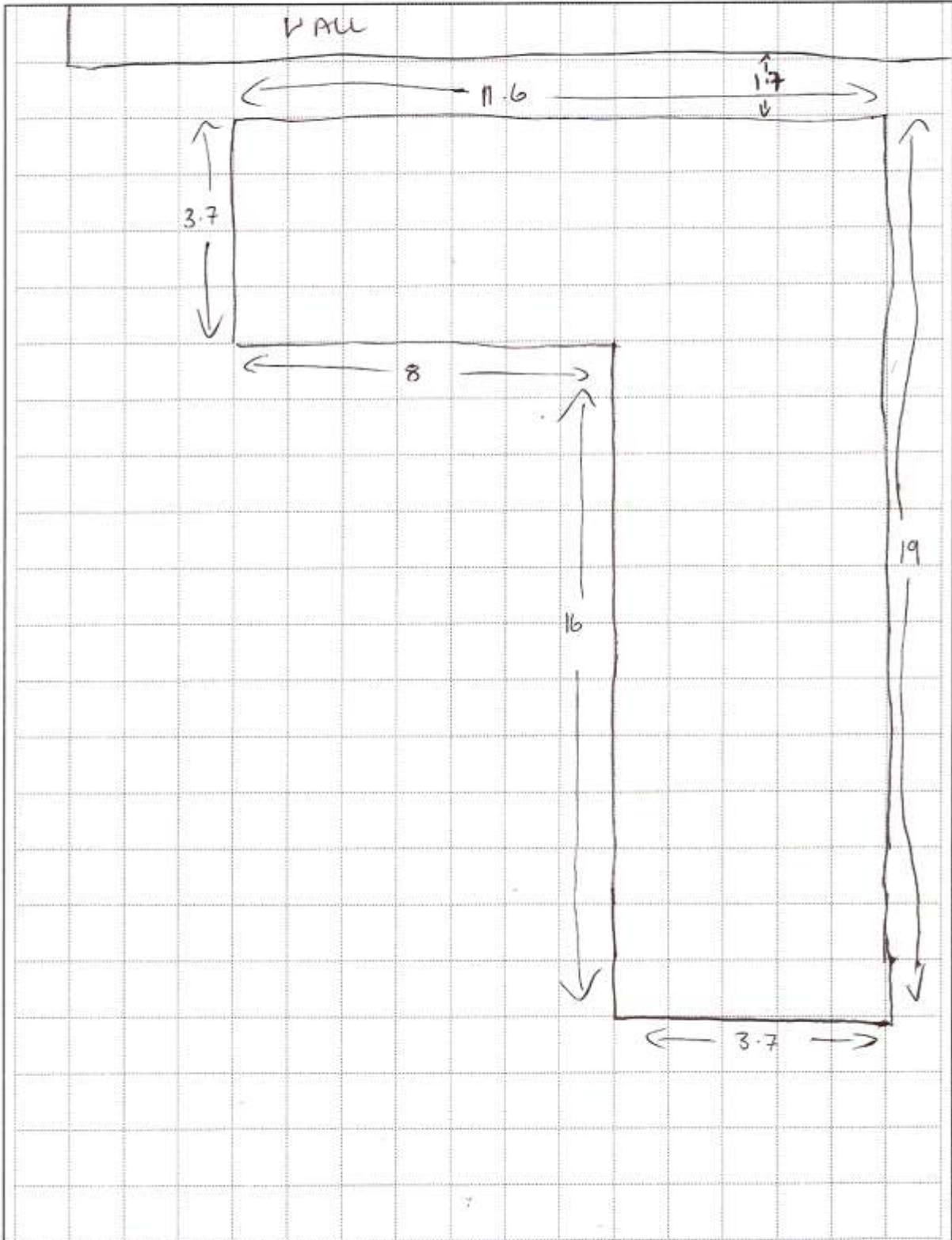
Secondary Sources

- 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).



SKETCH SHEET

Site Name: HANVERSHAM	Site Code:	Orientation:
Context:		



RECORDING NOTES				
Recorded by:	Date:	Digitised by:	Date:	Sheet number: of

Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: Land south of Manor Cottage, High Street, Haversham		SITE NO/CODE: 1157/HMC	
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1		✓	Close up of Section of site no scale, looking south
2		✓	Section of site no scale, looking south
3		✓	General shot, looking southwest
4		✓	General shot, looking southwest
5		✓	General shot, looking southwest
6		✓	General shot, looking southwest
7		✓	Section of site, looking south. 1 m scale
8		✓	General shot, looking southwest. 1 m scale
9		✓	General shot, looking south. 1 m scale
10		✓	Section of site, looking west. 1 m scale
11		✓	General shot, looking west. 1 m scale
12		✓	General shot, looking north. 1 m scale
13		✓	General shot, looking north. 1 m scale

Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	Land south of Manor Cottage, 6 High Street, Haversham, Buckinghamshire		
Short Description:	In February 2009 ASC Ltd carried out a Watching Brief on land south of Manor Cottage, 6 High Street, Haversham, Milton Keynes, during the clearance of an area before the construction of a stable block. The site lies within an area of archaeological and historical interest, and had the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods, but no archaeological finds or features were observed within the stripped development area. One sherd of 19 th century pottery, and one sherd of 13 th to 14 th century pottery were recovered from the topsoil. This is not surprising due to the close proximity to the church to the west of the site and also the medieval manor houses presumed location to the south.		
Project Type: (indicate all that apply)	Watching Brief		
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	None	Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	None
Current land use:	Paddock	Future work: (yes / no / unknown)	No
Monument type:	None	Monument period:	N/a
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)			
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Buckinghamshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	SP 8292 4280
District:	Milton Keynes	Parish:	Haversham-cum-Little Linford CP
Site address: (with postcode if known)	Land south of Manor Cottage, 6 High Street, Haversham, Buckinghamshire, MK19 7DX		
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	112 sq m	Height OD: (metres)	c.65
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	N/a	Project design originator:	N/a
Project Manager:	K Semmelmann	Director/Supervisor:	M Cuthbert
Sponsor / funding body:	Mrs J Dawes		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	24/02/09	End date:	24/02/09
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	N/a	None	
Paper:	Buckinghamshire Museum (AYBCM: 2009.45)	Site records, report, photographs	
Digital:		CD-ROM with copies of all digital files	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Watching Brief South of Manor Cottage: 6 High Street, Haversham, Milton Keynes		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1157/HMC		
Author(s):	Martin Cuthbert BA		
Page nos	17	Date:	02/03/09