



## Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION:  
SHERINGTON MANOR  
HIGH STREET  
SHERINGTON  
MILTON KEYNES**

NGR: SP 8892 4622

*for Sansome Hall Architects  
on behalf of Mrs D Stewart*



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and David Fell BA MA MIFA

April 2009

ASC: 1166/SHM/2



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## Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	SHM	<i>ASC project no:</i>	1166
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	archaeol2-58616	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	1232/AYBCM: 2009.44
<i>County:</i>	Buckinghamshire (Historic County)		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Sherington		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Sherington		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 8892 4622		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	1.85 ha		
<i>Present use:</i>	House and gardens		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Construction of outdoor pool, hot tub and bridge		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	08/02087/FUL, 08/02088/FUL & 09/00197/FUL		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Milton Keynes Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	06/04/09		
<i>Commissioned by:</i>	Peter Hall Sansome Hall Architects Furtho South Northampton Road Old Stratford Milton Keynes MK19 6NR		
<i>Client:</i>	Mr & Mrs Stewart Sherington Manor High Street Sherington Milton Keynes		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Peter Hall		

## Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Carina Summerfield-Hill and David Fell	<i>Date:</i>	30th April 2009
<i>Revisions:</i>	A Hancock	<i>Date:</i>	15 <sup>th</sup> May 2009
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>	Bob Zeepvat	<i>Date:</i>	15 <sup>th</sup> May 2009

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**Figure 1:** General location (Scale 1:25,000)

## Summary

*In April 2009 the initial pre-determination phase of a staged programme of archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Sherington Manor, Milton Keynes. A single trial trench was excavated adjacent to a medieval moated site (SAM No: 29471) that lies within the grounds of the manor. Further trial trenches will be required as the development proceeds and will form the subject of future reports. The current document applies to the initial phase of pre-determination evaluation only.*

*A shallow spread containing a mixture of local flint, a small quantity of ceramic building material (cbm), and animal bone was noted at the north-northeast end of the trench. Definitive dating evidence was not present although characteristics of the cbm and the location of the deposit suggest that it may be associated with construction of the nearby 18<sup>th</sup> century manor house. Finds or features defining activity associated with the medieval moated site (SAM No: 29471) were not observed.*

## 1. Introduction

1.1 In April 2009 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an initial phase of archaeological evaluation at Sherington Manor, Sherington, Milton Keynes. The project was commissioned by *Sansome Hall Architects* on behalf *Mrs D Stewart*, and was carried out according to a *brief* (Crank 2009) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *Milton Keynes Council*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), the *Milton Keynes Council Archaeological Officer*, and a project design prepared by ASC (Hancock and Semmelman 2009). The relevant planning application references are 08/02087/FUL, 08/02088/FUL and 09/00197/FUL.

### 1.2 *Planning Background*

This evaluation was required under the terms of *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (PPG16), as a predetermination evaluation to inform the planning application for 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 Organisation* by the Institute for Archaeologists, in recognition of its high standards and working practices.

### 1.4 *Management*

The project was managed by Alastair Hancock BSC PGDIP MIFA. ASC's Managing Director and IFA Registered Organisation post holder is Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

### 1.5 *The Site*

#### 1.5.1 *Location & Description*

The site is situated in Sherington, in the unitary authority of Milton Keynes, in the historic county of Buckinghamshire (Figure 1). It lies on the south side of

the village, at the junction of Crofts End and Sherington Road and is centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference SP 8892 4622 (Figure 2).

The site comprises an 18<sup>th</sup> century Manor House with grounds to the east (Figure 2). Sherington Road defines the west side of the site with Crofts End to the north. Residential buildings and part of the yard of Manor Farm delimit the southern boundary. The eastern boundary is formed by gardens of residential buildings (Figure 2). Access is from Sherington Road.

The grounds are dominated by a moat known as *Caves Manor*, which is protected as a *Scheduled Ancient Monument* (SAM No: 29471). The majority of the proposed development lies beyond the boundaries of the SAM but a proposed bridge crossing the moat falls partly within the SAM and its construction will require *Scheduled Monument Consent* (SMC). The trial trench which forms the subject of this report does not lie with the SAM and SMC was not required.

#### 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). The site is flat and lies at an elevation of c.66m OD.

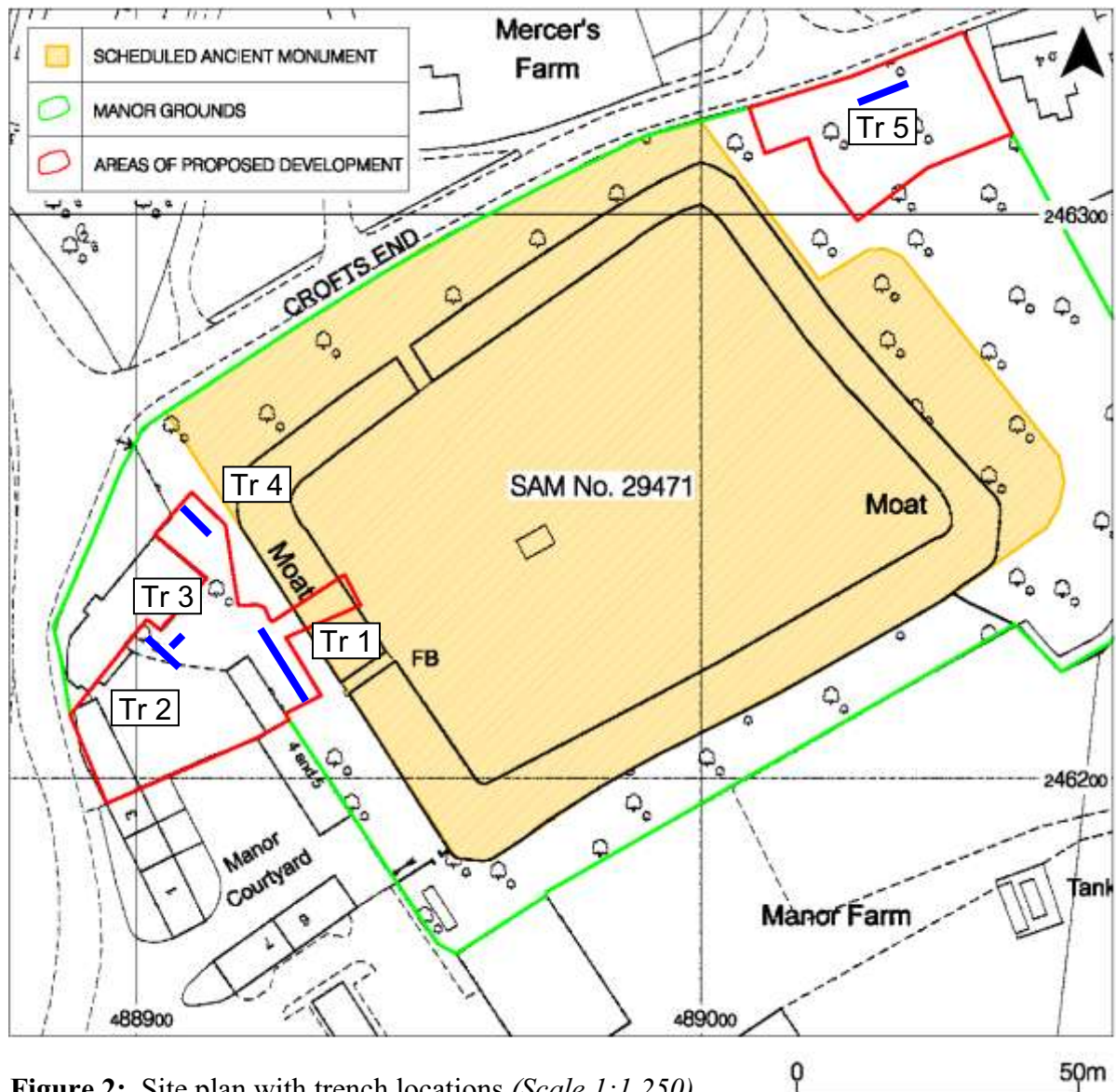
#### 1.5.3 *Proposed Development* (Figures 3 and 4)

The proposed development comprises the demolition of a section of boundary wall and erection of a single storey building (08/02087/FUL), renovation of barns, construction of outdoor pool, hot tub and bridge (08/02088/FUL) and the part demolition of outbuildings to allow the erection of two single storey extensions (09/00197/FUL).

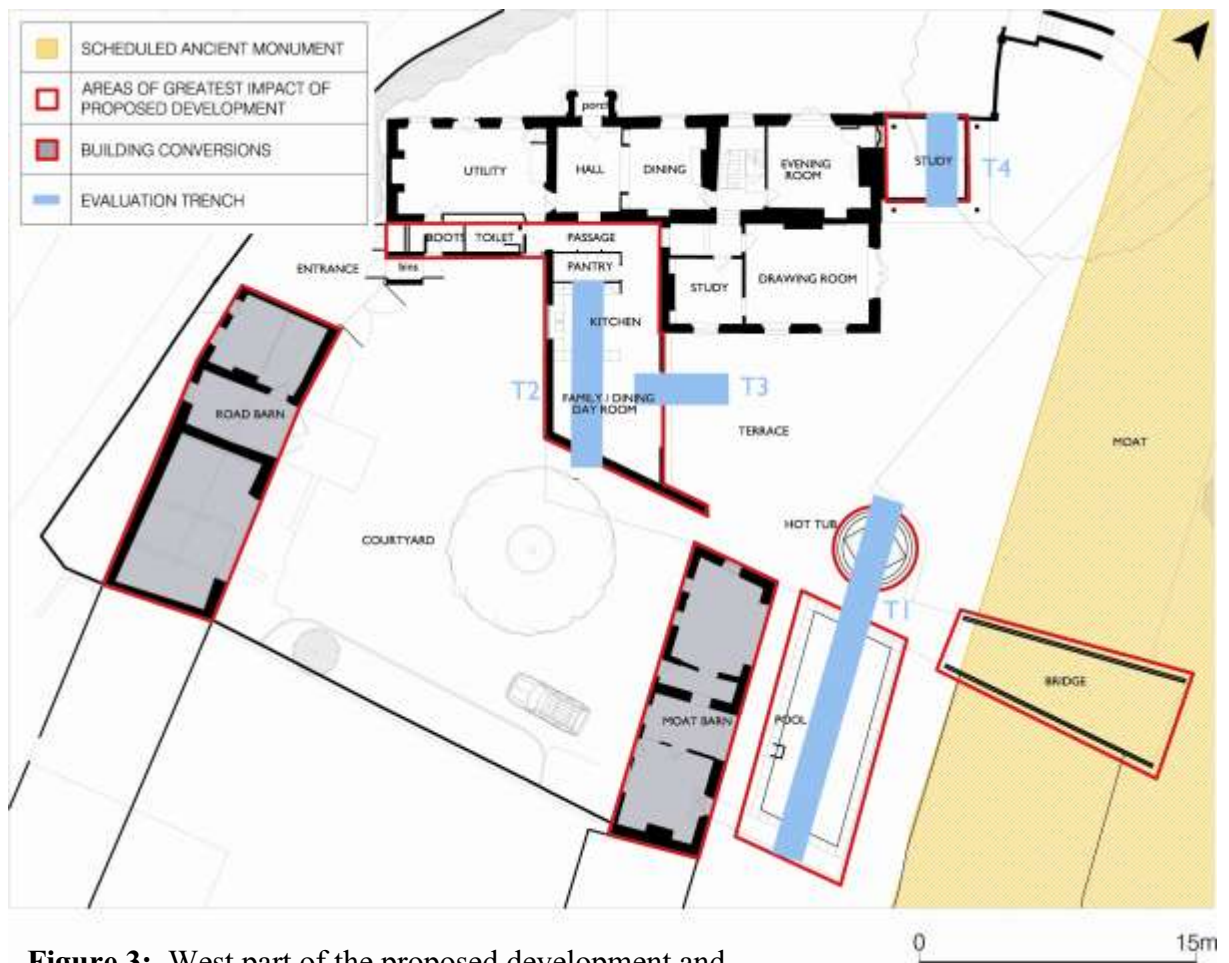
#### 1.5.4 *Programme of Archaeological Work*

Logistical constraints require the evaluation to be undertaken in two phases. Following agreement with the AA, Trench 1 (the subject of this report) has been excavated prior to the determination of the planning application. Excavation of the remaining trenches will be secured by planning condition and completed following determination of the planning application.





**Figure 2:** Site plan with trench locations (*Scale 1:1,250*)  
(Trenches 2-5 are indicative locations)



**Figure 3:** West part of the proposed development and trench locations (scale 1:1,000)





**Figure 4:** East part of the proposed development and trench location (scale 1:1,000)

## **2. Aims and Methods**

### **2.1 Aims**

As described in the *brief* (Section 5), the aims of the evaluation were:

- To obtain sufficient information to establish the extent, character, quality, date and condition of any archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts and ecofacts within the area affected by the proposed development.
- To allow formulation of an appropriate mitigation strategy designed to minimise or avoid damage to sufficiently important archaeological remains, possibly by preserving the remains *in situ* through alterations to the proposed development design.
- To provide essential site survey information to aid scheme preparation and to avoid unnecessary delays or design changes at later stages.

### **2.2 Standards**

The work conformed to the project design (Hancock & Semmelmann 2009), 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 *brief* (Section 6.3) requires the excavation of 40 linear metres of trial trenches. The initial phase of evaluation does not satisfy all the requirements of the *brief* and further phases of fieldwork are required, before the evaluation is completed. The initial phase of fieldwork comprised the excavation of a single 24.5m long trench. The remaining trenches will be the subject of a separate report.

### **2.4 Constraints**

There were no constraining factors affecting the undertaking of this project.

### **3. Archaeological and Historical Background**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

Sherington is an area of considerable archaeological and historical importance (eg Page 1927), but no large scale detailed archaeological work has taken place in the village. The proposed development lies within a moated site on the south side of the village and offers the potential to produce remains of the medieval and later periods.

#### **3.2 Prehistoric** (before AD43)

Little is known of the area during the prehistoric periods but two tumuli (burial mounds) are present in the village. One lies at the corner of Crofts End c.300m east of the development site while the second is to the north, near the parish church.

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

There is a growing body of evidence for the extent and nature of Roman settlement in Milton Keynes (Mynard 1987) and north Buckinghamshire but little is known of Sherington during this period. The valley of the rivers Great Ouse and Ouzel were extensively occupied during the Roman period but in comparison less is known of the higher land, away from the river valleys and evidence from Sherington is limited to the collection of a small assemblage of potsherds from near the churchyard.

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

Sherington probably originated during the Saxon period but little is known of the early development of the village. Prior to the Norman Conquest (1066) the area comprised a 10 hide estate that was subdivided into three manors. Edwin, son of Burgraed held the largest manor, which was of 6 hides; his man, Alwine held a 1 hide manor and the third manor was held by Oswulf, King Edward's man (Williams and Martin 2003, 400).

#### **3.5 Medieval and later** (1066-present)

The village developed considerably during the medieval period. At the time of the Domesday Survey (1086) the manors were held by the Bishop of Coutances and were worth £10 (*ibid*). The Carun family acquired the fief in the early 12<sup>th</sup> century and the development site, which includes a medieval moat may be the site of the Carun family manor. The moat occupies the central part of the development site and is protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM No: 29471). The original medieval manor house stood within the moat.

The manor passed through a number of hands including those of the Cave family who held it until the late 15th century. It was acquired by Dryden Smith in 1770, who demolished the original manor house and constructed the present Grade II listed building to the west. The moat and the area to the east were remodelled as the gardens of the house.

## **4. Results and Conclusions**

### **4.1 Introduction**

This section provides a summary of the results of the evaluation. Detailed information in tabulated form appears in Appendix 1.

### **4.2 Results**

4.2.1 Excavation of Trench 1 was undertaken under continuous archaeological supervision, using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching blade. The trench was orientated from NNE to SSW and was 24.5m long, 1.6m wide and 0.8m deep (Plates 1 and 2). The spoil was scanned with a metal detector.

4.2.2 The trench revealed *c.*0.3m of dark greyish brown humic topsoil (1001) overlying *c.*0.4m of mid greyish brown subsoil (1002).

4.2.3 Underlying the subsoil and extending into the trench for *c.*0.9m at its north-northeastern end was a shallow (<0.1m) deep deposit of mid brownish grey silty clay (1003), which contained a moderate amount of flint, fragmentary ceramic building material (cbm) and animal bone (Plate 3). The majority of the cbm was undiagnostic although made of a well fired orange sandy fabric. One fragment of probable peg tile was present, but definitively dateable material was not observed.

4.2.4 The natural geology (1004) underlay the subsoil (1002) and deposit (1003) at a depth of *c.*800mm and comprised mixed mottled orange and grey gravelly clay. Two modern service runs cut the natural strata toward the southern end of the trench.

4.2.5 A sondage was machine excavated to a depth of *c.*600mm below the surface of (1004) approximately halfway along the trench and confirmed the natural origin of (1004) (Plate 4).

### **4.3 Conclusions**

4.3.1 Although not definitively dateable, the character of the fragmentary cbm within shallow deposit (1003) suggests a post medieval date and a possible association with construction of the 18<sup>th</sup> century manor house located 10m to the northwest. The deep layer of subsoil overlying deposit (1003) indicates that material may have been deliberately deposited to raise and level this area during the post medieval period.

4.3.2 With the exception of two relatively modern service runs located at the southern end of the trench other archaeological finds or features were not observed.

4.3.3 The absence of medieval finds or features suggests that the area examined lay at the periphery of activity associated with the moated site.

### **4.4 Confidence Rating**

The fieldwork took place in dry, sunny conditions and full co-operation was received from all parties. A high confidence rating is attached to the results of the evaluation.



**Plate 1:** Trench 1 looking northwest.



**Plate 2:** View of the moat and the north end of the archaeological trench.





**Plate 3:** Deposit (1003) containing CBM and animal bone.



**Plate 4:** View of the machine excavated sondage.

## **5. Acknowledgements**

The authors are grateful to Peter Hall of *Sansome Hall Architects* for commissioning the evaluation on behalf *Mrs D Stewart*. Nick Crank, Archaeological Officer of *Milton Keynes Council* acted as curatorial monitor.

The project was managed for *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* by Alastair Hancock BSC PGDIP MIFA. The fieldwork was undertaken by David Kaye BA AIFA and Calli Rouse BA PIFA. The report was prepared by Carina Summerfield-Hill BA MSc and David Fell BA MA MIFA and edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

## **6. Archive**

6.1 The project archive will comprise:

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

6.2 The archive will be deposited with *Buckinghamshire County Museum* (AYBCM: 2009.44).

## **7. References**


### ***Standards & Specifications***

- Crank, N. 2009 *Sherington Manor, High St. Sherington: Brief for Archaeological Evaluation*.  
EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. English Heritage  
(London).
- Hancock A & Semmelmann K 2009 *Sherington Manor, High Street, Sherington, Milton Keynes. Project Design for Archaeological Evaluation*. Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd **1166/SHM/1**
- IFA 2000a Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.
- IFA 2001 Institute for 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*.
- Mynard D (ed), 1987 *Roman Milton Keynes. Excavations and Fieldwork 1971-1982*.  
Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society Monograph Series **1**. Aylesbury
- Page W 1927 *The Victoria History of the County of Buckinghamshire*, vol. **4**. London
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend*  
(Harpenden).
- Williams, A. & Martin, G.H. 2003 *Domesday Book: a complete translation* Penguin  
(London).

## Appendix 1: Trench Summary Tables

Trench 1						
	Max Dimensions (m)					
	Length	24.5	Width	1.6	Depth	0.80
	Levels					
	Trench top north			66.13 m OD		
	Trench base north			65.42 m OD		
	Trench top south			66.42 m OD		
	Trench base south			65.64 m OD		
	NGR Co-ordinates					
	NW	SP 88923 46226		SE	SP 88930 46214	
	Orientation			NW-SE		
Reason for Trench			Evaluation			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: m)	Length (max: m)	Depth (BGL: m)	
1001	Layer	Dark greyish brown humic topsoil	1.6	24.5	-	
1002	Layer	Mid greyish brown clayey silt subsoil	1.6	24.5	0.30	
1003	Deposit	Mid brownish grey silty clay containing local flint, fragmentary CBM and animal bone.	>1.6	0.9	0.70	
1004	Layer	Mottled orange and grey gravelly clay. Nat ural	1.6	24.5	0.80	

## Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: Sherington Manor, High Street, Sherington, Milton Keynes			SITE NO/CODE: 1166/SHM
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1		√	Trench 1 looking southeast
2		√	Trench 1 looking southeast
3		√	Trench 1 looking northwest
4		√	Trench 1 looking northwest
5		√	West Facing Section of Trench 1
6		√	General shot, at the southern end of the site, looking west
7		√	Deposit (1003) containing CBM and animal bone
8		√	View of the machine excavated sondage
17	√		Trench 1 looking southeast (Film 124)
16	√		Trench 1 looking southeast (Film 124)
15	√		Trench 1 looking northwest (Film 124)
14	√		Trench 1 looking northwest (Film 124)



## Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	Sherington Manor		
Short Description:	<p>In April 2009 the initial pre-determination phase of a staged programme of archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Sherington Manor, Milton Keynes. A single trial trench was excavated adjacent to a medieval moated site (SAM No: 29471) that lies within the grounds of the manor. Further trial trenches will be required as the development proceeds and will form the subject of future reports. This document applies to the initial phase of pre-determination evaluation only.</p> <p>A shallow spread containing a mixture of local flint, a small quantity of ceramic building material (cbm), and animal bone was noted at the north-northeast end of the trench. Definitive dating evidence was not present although characteristics of the cbm and the location of the deposit suggest that it may be associated with construction of the nearby 18<sup>th</sup> century manor house. Finds or features defining activity associated with the medieval moated site (SAM No: 29471) were not observed.</p>		
Project Type: (indicate all that apply)	Evaluation		
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	Listed, SAM	Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	SAM No: 29471
Current land use:	Residential	Future work: (yes / no / unknown)	Yes
Monument type:	Moated Manor	Monument period:	Medieval/Post-Medieval
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	SP 8892 4622
Site address: (with postcode if known)	Sherington Manor, High Street, Sherington, Milton Keynes, MK16 9		
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	1.85 Ha	Height OD: (metres)	67.589 m
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	Milton Keynes Council Crank 2009	Project design originator:	Hancock and Semmelman 2009
Project Manager:	Alastair Hancock BSc PgDip MIFA	Director/Supervisor:	David Kaye BA AIFA
Sponsor / funding body:	Mr & Mrs Stewart		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	06/04/09	End date:	06/04/09
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Buckinghamshire County Museum (AYBCM: 2009.44)	None	
Paper:		Site plans, site records, site record drawings.	
Digital:		CD containing digital images, list of photographs, B/W prints & negatives, project design, report.	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Sherington Manor, High Street Sherington, Milton Keynes		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1166/SHM/2		
Author(s):	David Fell BA MA MIFA and Carina Summerfield-Hill BA MSc		
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