

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

WATCHING BRIEF:
OLD MILL VIEW
7 MILL ROAD
HAVERSHAM
MILTON KEYNES

NGR: SP 8373 4372

For CMI Consulting, on behalf of Mr Ian Poulter



Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA

June 2009

ASC: 1190/HOM/1



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Site Data

ASC project code:	HOM		ASC Project No:	1190		
OASIS ref:	archaeol2-62146		Event/Accession no:	1242/AYBCM: 2009.162		
County:	В	ucki	nghamshire (historic co	unty)		
Village/Town:	Н	avei	sham			
Civil Parish:	Н	avei	sham-cum-Little Linfor	d CP		
NGR (to 8 figs):	S	P 83	73 4372			
Extent of site:	C.	55 s	q. m.			
Present use:	L	awn				
Planning proposal:	С	onst	ruction of extension to h	nouse		
Planning application	ref/date: 08	08/01585/FUL				
Local Planning Authority:		Milton Keynes Council				
Date of fieldwork:	2 ^r	2 nd & 3 rd June 2009				
Commissioned by:	С	CMI Consulting Ltd				
		25 Walker Avenue				
		Stratford Office Village				
	M	Milton Keynes				
	M	MK12 5TW				
Client:	Ia	Ian Poulter				
		Old Mill View				
		7 Mill Road				
		Haversham				
	M	Milton Keynes MK19 7DL				
Contact name:		Jonathan Fulcher (CMI Consulting)				

Internal Quality Check

Primary Author:	Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA	Date:	9 th June 2009
Revisions:		Date:	
Edited/Checked By:	David Fell	Date:	9 th June 2009

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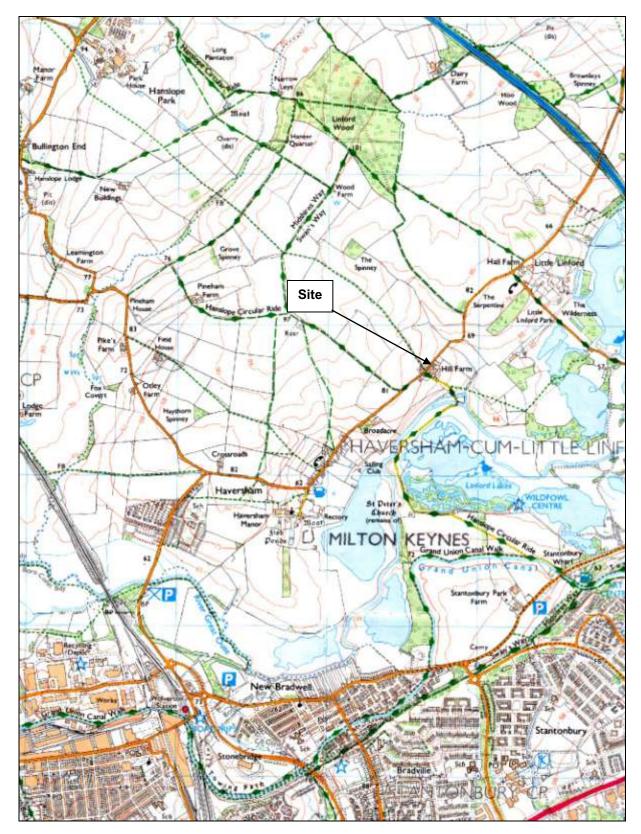


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In June 2009 a watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of footings for a single-storey extension to Old Mill View, Mill Road, Haversham. The present house partly occupies former farm buildings belonging to Hill Farm, and a number of discoveries of Roman artefacts, features and structures from in and around the farm have been taken to indicate the likelihood of a well-appointed Roman villa in the vicinity. The watching brief revealed a rough limestone rubble surface, most likely that of the farmyard, cut by a number of modern service trenches. No finds of archaeological significance, Roman or otherwise, were recovered from the footing trenches.

1. Introduction

1.1 In June 2009 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out a watching brief at Old Mill View, Mill Road, Haversham. The project was commissioned by CMI Consulting on behalf of the owner, Ian Poulter, and was carried out according to a standard method statement (Appendix 1), and the requirements of the archaeological advisor (AA) to the local planning authority, Milton Keynes Council. The relevant planning application reference is 08/01585/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 carried out under the overall direction of Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

1.5 The Site

1.5.1 Location & Description

Old Mill View is located in the civil parish of Haversham-cum-Little Linford, within the administrative area of Milton Keynes, c.1km north-east of Haversham village (Fig. 1). The L-shaped house, which forms part of a complex of converted farm buildings formerly belonging to Hill Farm, lies at the north end of the development. It is bounded to the north-west by the minor road linking Haversham and Little Linford, to the south-east by Mill Road, and to the north-east by a grass paddock (Fig. 2).

1.5.2 Geology & Topography

Soils in the area of the site belong to the Hanslope association, described as '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 Blisworth clay and limestone (BGS). The site is on level ground, at an elevation of *c*.70m OD. Natural drainage of the area is dominated by the river Great Ouse, which flows *c*.200m southeast of the site, following a meandering course from southwest to northeast.

1.5.3 Proposed Development

The development comprises construction of a single-storey playroom/gym, external dimensions 9.0×5.8 m, at the east end of the existing house (Fig. 3).

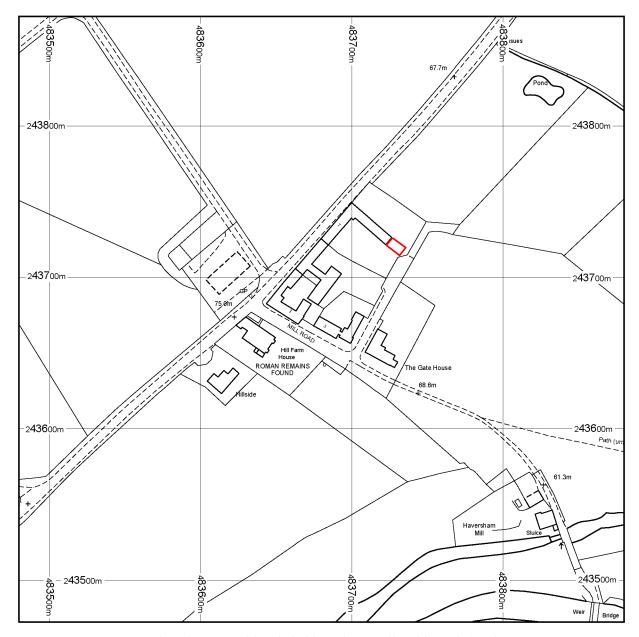


Figure 2: Site plan: watching brief location outlined in red (scale 1:2,500)

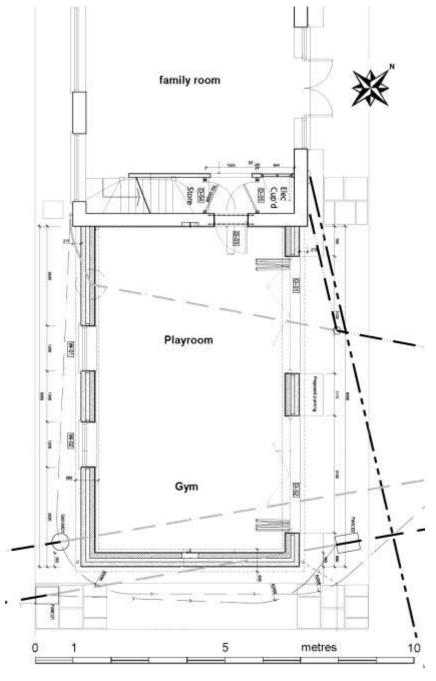


Figure 3: Proposed development (scale 1:100)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 *Aims*

The aims of the watching brief were:

- To identify and record any significant archaeological remains revealed by the groundworks
- To understand more about the structures and date range of the Roman buildings forming the villa complex

2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the method statement, 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 according to the method statement, which required:

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

2.4 *Constraints*

No constraints were encountered during the watching brief.

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, the focus being on the Roman period (AD45-*c*.410).
 - This section has been compiled with information from ASC's library.
- 3.2 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 there (Woodward 1978). In the Iron Age, the valleys of the Ouse and its tributary the Ouzel were densely populated. A later Iron Age earthwork of uncertain function has been identified at Haversham, extending on both sides of the river (Woodfield & Johnson 1989, 257). Many of these settlements continued into the Roman period.
- 3.3 The site is 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 (Zeepvat 1987a,). 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 1987b), and a major site was excavated south of Hill Farm at Stanton Low (Woodfield & Johnson 1989).
- 3.4 At Hill Farm an extensive Roman site, probably a villa, has been identified in the area now occupied by the farm (Cockerill & Harris 1962, 7). This appears to have been of some status with 'walls of superior construction', evidence for a hypocaust (underfloor heating) and fine tesserae from a mosaic. More recently, a programme of archaeological works comprising watching briefs and excavations was undertaken during conversion and redevelopment of Hill Farm for residential use (Fig. 4). This revealed evidence of activity spanning much of the Roman period. The earliest feature was a ditch of probable late Iron Age/early Roman date, which was superseded in the later 1st/2nd century by stone-founded buildings, which were abandoned during the 3rd century. Significant quantities of fine wares and the occasional roof tile, box flue tile and painted wall plaster fragment hinted that a villa lay in the vicinity (Mudd 2006). In 2001 a small-scale excavation and watching brief carried out prior to construction of the garage adjoining the site revealed a number of walls, one of which may be Roman or medieval in date (Wilson & Fell 2001).
- 3.5 Following the Roman period, there is little evidence for activity on the site until the late post-medieval period. The village of Haversham is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086, and is probably a late Saxon foundation. During and since the medieval period (*c*.1066-1500) the site has fallen within the fields belonging to the parish of Haversham.
- 3.6 Prior to the redevelopment of the farm complex, the area of the present watching brief fell within the north side of the farmyard at Hill Farm (Fell 2004, fig. 4) The farm buildings appear to be of 18th or 19th-century date.

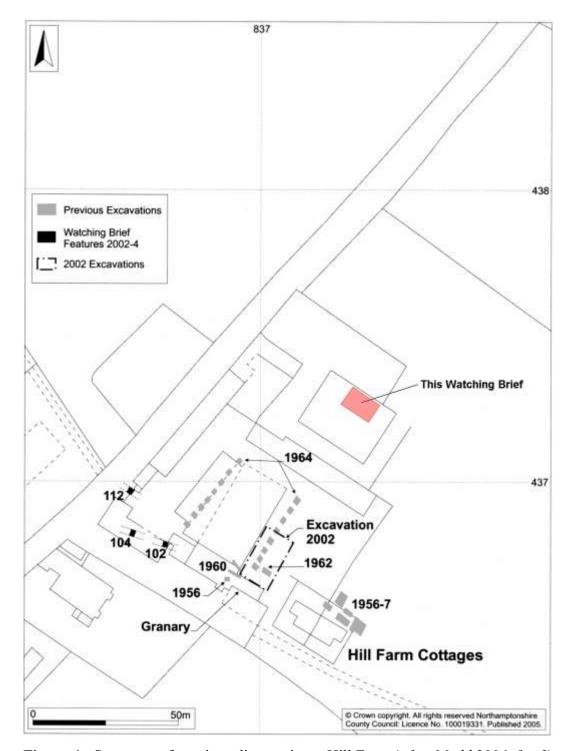


Figure 4: Summary of previous discoveries at Hill Farm (after Mudd 2006, fig. 2)

4. Results

- 4.1 Watching brief visits were made to the site over a period of two days, during the excavation of the footing trenches for the extension (Fig. 5: Appendix 1).
- 4.2 The footing trenches were excavated to a depth of at least 1.5m, and were c.0.6m wide. The stratigraphy observed in all three trenches (Plates 1 & 2) was broadly similar, as follows:

0-250mm: Modern topsoil and turf

250 – 500mm: Layer of rounded limestone rubble, mostly up to 60mm

diameter, also containing brick fragments

500mm+ Firm green-grey clay (natural)

- 4.3 The site was criss-crossed by a number of pipes and cables, all modern, at various depths (Plate 3). All had been cut through the limestone rubble layer, into the clay.
- 4.4 No artefacts of archaeological significance were noted in the sides of the trenches, or in the spoil removed from them.



Plate 1: South footing trench, north-facing section



Plate 2: North footing trench, south-facing section



Plate 3: South footing trench, showing modern services present

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 Hill Farm, on the site of which the present Mill Road development stands, has been recognised for many years as being on or adjacent to the site of a substantial Roman building, possibly a villa. Recent excavations carried out during the redevelopment of the farm complex revealed a stone-footed Roman building just over 50m south-west of the present development site. Prior to redevelopment, the area subject to the present watching brief lay within the farmyard of Hill Farm.
- 5.2 Excavation of the footing trenches for the present development revealed a significant number of buried modern services criss-crossing the site of the new extension. All had been cut through a limestone rubble surface, probably the original farmyard surface in this part of the site. This surface had been laid directly on the underlying natural clay. Its likely date was indicated by the inclusion of brick fragments. The relatively insubstantial nature of this surface can perhaps be explained by its peripheral location, on the northern edge of the farmyard.
- 5.3 No structural evidence, deposits or artefacts of Roman date were revealed in the watching brief. Therefore it seems likely, either that the watching brief site lies beyond the extent of Roman activity at Hill Farm, or that the subsequent establishment of Hill Farm has severely truncated or destroyed any evidence of that activity in that part of the site.

6. Acknowledgements

The watching brief was commissioned by CMI Consulting on behalf of the site owner. The writer is grateful to Jonathan Fulcher of CMI, and to the groundworks contractors, Hart Contracting, for their assistance. The project was monitored by Nick Crank, MKC Archaeological Officer, on behalf of the local planning authority.

The project was managed for ASC by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA, who also carried out the fieldwork and prepared this report. The report was edited by David Fell BA MA MIFA.

7. Archive

- 7.1 The project archive will comprise:
 - 1. Report
 - 2. Clients site plans
 - 3. Site Monitoring Sheets
 - 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 the Buckinghamshire County Museum (AYBCM: 2009.162).

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).

Secondary Sources

- BGS British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology.
- Cockerill E G & Harris R S 1962 'Excavation at Hill Farm, Haversham, May-June 1962' Wolverton and District Archaeological Society Newsletter, 7, 7.
- Fell D 2004 Intensive Watching Brief: Hill Farmhouse, Haversham. ASC report ref. 559/HHF/02.
- Morris C 1978 The Domesday Book. Buckinghamshire. History from the Sources. Phillimore.
- Mudd A 2006 'The Roman Site at Hill Farm, Haversham: Excavations and Watching Brief, 2002-2004', *Records of Buckinghamshire* **46**, 1-18.
- Mynard D C (ed.) 1987 Roman Milton Keynes: Excavations & Fieldwork, 1971-82. Buckinghamshire Archaeology Society Monograph Series 1 (Aylesbury).
- OS 1979 Ordnance Survey Map of Roman Britain. Ordnance Survey. Southampton
- Soil Survey 1983 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend (Harpenden).
- Williams, R.J. and Zeepvat, R.J., 1994 *Bancroft: a late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age settlement, Roman villa and temple-mausoleum* (2 vols). Buckinghamshire Archaeol. Soc. Monog. Ser. 7 (Aylesbury).
- Wilson N & Fell D 2001 An Archaeological Evaluation at Hill Farmhouse, Haversham, Milton Keynes. ASC report ref. M/HHF01/2.
- Woodfield C & Johnson C 1989 'A Roman Site at Stanton Low, on the Great Ouse, Buckinghamshire' *Archaeological Journal* **146**, 135-378.
- Woodward P J 1978 Flint Distribution, Ring Ditches and Bronze Age Settlement Patterns in the Great Ouse Valley,' *Archaeological Journal* **135**, 32-56.
- Zeepvat R J 1987a 'Romano-British Settlement in the Upper Ouse and Ouzel Valleys' *in* Mynard 1987, 6-18.
- Zeepvat R J 1987b 'MK301 Stantonbury', in Mynard 1987, 97-104
- 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).

Appendix 1: Method Statement

1 Definition

'An archaeological watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any earth-moving operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons (IFA 1999, 2). It normally involves the monitoring by an experienced archaeologist of ground disturbance on a development (eg. footing and service trenches, reduction of levels, landscaping).'

2 Standards

All work will conform to the relevant sections of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance Notes* and *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000), to current English Heritage guidelines (EH 1991), to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*, and to any specific requirements of the archaeological advisor (AA) to the local planning authority.

3 General Methodology: Observation & Recording

- 3.1 Archaeological observation and recording normally involves visits when groundworks are under way, and requires close co-operation and communication between contractor and archaeologist. In many cases only regular, relatively brief visits are required (an *intermittent* watching brief). In certain circumstances (e.g. where archaeological features are known or strongly suspected to exist), the archaeologist's continuous presence may be required (an *intensive* watching brief). In the absence of specific instruction, professional judgement will be exercised to determine the level of monitoring.
- 3.2 Each site visit will be recorded on ASC's *Site Monitoring Sheet*. These sheets should record what is observed, including sketches where appropriate. A photographic record (see 4.4, below) will also be maintained throughout the watching brief. Plans of the development provided by the client will normally form the basis for recording the location of archaeological features and finds.
- 3.3 If significant archaeological remains are identified during the watching brief, a meeting will be arranged between ASC, the client, and the AA in order to agree an appropriate investigation. Provision to cover this has been made in the project estimates. Detailed investigation will follow the methods set out in the following section.

4 General Methodology: Investigation (if required)

- 4.1 Excavation will be carried out by hand. Maximum depths of excavation will conform to current Health & Safety regulations.
- 4.2 At the start of fieldwork temporary bench marks will be established, to be tied in subsequently to an appropriate Ordnance Survey bench mark. All plans and section drawings will be annotated with relative heights derived from these benchmarks. Plans will be related to the OS National Grid. Overall site plans will normally be drawn to a scale of 1:100 or 1:50: detailed plans of specific areas or features may be drawn to 1:20 or 1:10: burials will always be drawn at the latter scale. Sections will be drawn at 1:20 or 1:10, depending upon size and complexity.
- 4.3 A detailed record of all archaeological contexts will be maintained on individual pro-forma record sheets, designed to meet current professional standards. Each context will be individually numbered in a single sequence, and will be described in terms of dimensions, shape, fill type and inclusions, artefact content, samples and interpretation. A register of contexts will be maintained, and context records will be cross-referenced to all other records.

- 4.4 The primary photographic record will normally be compiled in 35mm black & white print format, supplemented by digital photography, illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. A photographic register will be maintained on ASC's *Photographic Record Sheet*, fully cross-referenced. Digital photographs will be used to illustrate the report. Metric scales will be used in all photographs.
- 4.5 All finds relating to the archaeological record of the site will be collected with reference to context and location. Finds of particular significance (small finds) will be recorded three-dimensionally on site, and described on individual pro-forma record sheets. A register will be kept of all finds. Finds processing may take place during or after fieldwork, and will entail cleaning, marking, packaging, quantification and initial classification. Conservation of artefacts will normally take place after processing, but primary conservation of delicate artefacts may be required on site.
- 4.6 Provision will be made for the sampling and analysis of environmental data by appropriate specialists. Sampling will be carried out in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (EH 2002). All samples will be recorded on individual pro-forma record sheets, and a register of samples will be maintained. Specialists will be required to submit copies of the base data from environmental analysis for inclusion in the site archive.
- 4.7 Any human remains encountered will normally be recorded and left *in situ*. The removal of human remains requires a licence from the Ministry of Justice, and investigation or removal of remains must be agreed between ASC, the client, and other appropriate authorities. For the excavation and recording of human remains, current IFA guidelines will be followed (McKinley & Roberts 1993). In general, due care and respect will be accorded to any human remains, and site staff are required not to discuss their discovery in public, so as not to attract undesirable interest.
- 4.8 Due concern will be given to the physical security of all archaeological features, deposits, artefacts and records, both on and off site. All reasonable measures will be taken to secure their protection before, during and after excavation.

5 Reporting

- 5.1 Upon completion of the watching brief, an initial report on its findings will normally be prepared within four weeks, subject to specialist input. This will typically include:
 - a concise non-technical summary of the results
 - information relating to the circumstances of the project
 - background information about the site
 - a summary of the aims of the project and the methods used
 - a description of the results, supported by appropriate illustrative material
 - a conclusion, summarising the results and examining their significance
 - a confidence rating
 - the contents and location of the archive
 - appendices (record sheets, specialist reports, reference works etc.)
 - an SMR summary sheet, if required
- 5.2 Copies of the report will be provided as required to the client, to the AA, and to other bodies as required. Eight copies are normally produced: a charge may be made for providing any additional copies. Interim reports will be submitted to the relevant period and/or regional journals within one year of the project's completion.
- 5.3 Once the final report has been accepted by the AA, an OASIS fieldwork summary form will be completed and submitted to the Archaeology Data Service.

6 Archive

- All archaeological projects generate a quantity of records and related material Together, these constitute the *project archive*. While the report may describe the project's findings in some detail, the archive contains the evidence on which the report is based, and its importance cannot be too highly stressed. By its nature, archaeological fieldwork cannot normally be repeated, so the archive often constitutes the only surviving evidence for past activity on a site, and arrangements must therefore be made for its deposition and long-term storage.
- 6.2 At the start of a project, ASC will initiate arrangements for archive deposition. On completion of the reporting stages of the project, the archive will be prepared for long-term storage. If arrangements for deposition cannot be concluded, ASC will store the archive until deposition can be arranged.

7 Staffing

- 7.1 The project will be under the overall direction of **Bob Zeepvat** BA MIFA, 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.
- 7.2 Staff undertaking watching briefs will all be experienced archaeologists, of at least Assistant Project Officer grade. Less experienced staff may assist with any detailed investigation, under supervision.

References

- EH 1991 Management of Archaeological Projects (2nd edition). English Heritage (London).
- EH 2002 Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-Excavation. English Heritage (London).
- IFA 1999a *Standards & Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*. Institute for Archaeologists (Reading).
- IFA 1999b Code of Conduct. Institute for Archaeologists (Reading).
- McKinley J.I. & Roberts C. 1993 Excavation and Post-Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains. Institute for Archaeologists Technical Paper 13.

Appendix 2: Monitoring Sheets

A.S.C	. LTD		ARCI	HAEOLOG	ICAL FIEL	D MON	ITORII	NG RECORD
Project Name:				Project Code:			Date of / /	
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Appendix 3: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: Old Mill View, Haversham			Haversham	SITE NO/CODE: 1190/HOM	
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject		
1	✓	1479	South footing trench, north-facing section		
2	✓	1480	South footing trench, general view		
3	✓	1481	General view of site from north-east		
4	✓	1482	South footing trench, showing services		
5	✓	1483	North footing trench, south-facing section		
6	✓	1484	North footing trench, from east		
7	✓	1485	General view of site from north-east		

Appendix 4: ASC OASIS Form

	PROJEC	T DETAILS					
Project Name:	Old Mill View, Mill Road, Have	rsham					
Short Description:	storey extension to Old Mill Vi former farm buildings belongin features and structures from ir of a well-appointed Roman vill rubble surface, most likely tha	ew, Mill Road, Haversham. Th g to Hill Farm, and a number of a and around the farm have bee a in the vicinity. The watching t of the farmyard, cut by a num	cavation of footings for a single- e present house partly occupies discoveries of Roman artefacts, in taken to indicate the likelihood brief revealed a rough limestone ber of modern service trenches. were recovered from the footing				
Project Type:	Watching Brief						
Site status:	None	Previous work:	Recs Bucks 46, 1-18				
Current land use:	lawn	Future work:	no				
Monument type:	-	Monument period:	-				
Significant finds:	none						
	PROJECT	LOCATION					
County:	Buckinghamshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	SP 8373 4372				
District:	Milton Keynes	Parish:	Havershum-cum-Little Linford				
Site address:	Old Mill View, Mill Road, Haversham, Milton Keynes MK19 7DL						
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	or ha) 55 sq m Height OD: (metres) 70						
	PROJECT	CREATORS					
Organisation:	Organisation: Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd						
Project brief originator:	MKC Archaeologist	Project design originator: N/a					
Project Manager:	Bob Zeepvat	Director/Supervisor: Bob Zeepvat					
Sponsor / funding body:	Mr Ian Poulter						
	PROJE	CT DATE					
Start date:	2/06/09	End date:	3/06/09				
	PROJECT	ARCHIVES					
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, anima	l bone, files/sheets)				
Physical:	none						
Paper:	Buckinghamshire County Museum	Site records, drawings, photos, report					
Digital:	(AYBCM: 2009.162)	CD with all digital files					
BIBI IOGRAI	_l PHY (Journal/monograph, publis	shed or forthcoming or unnublis	thed client report)				
Title:		w, 7 Mill Road, Haversham, I	• • •				
Serial title & volume:							
Author(s):	Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA						
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