

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

WATCHING BRIEF: 3 HOW END ROAD HOUGHTON CONQUEST BEDFORDSHIRE

NGR: TL 0332 4087

on behalf of Phillip Stone



Carina Summerfield-Hill BA MSc

July 2010

ASC: 1321/HCH/2



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Site Data

ASC project code:	НСН		ASC Project No:	1321			
OASIS ref:	archaeol2-79665		Event/Accession no:	BEDFM 2011.93			
County:		Bedfordshire					
Village/Town:		Houghton	n Conquest				
Civil Parish:		Houghton	n Conquest				
NGR (to 8 figs):		TL 0332	4087				
Extent of site:		1.2 hecta	res				
Present use:		Grass pa	ddocks				
Planning proposal:		Creation of two fishing lakes, with associated access, car parking etc.					
Planning application	Planning application ref/date:		CB/10/00992/FULL				
Local Planning Auth	Local Planning Authority:		Central Bedfordshire Council				
Date of fieldwork:		5/07/10-07/07/10					
Client:		Phillip Stone					
		3 How End Road					
		Houghton Conquest					
		Beds					
		MK45 3JT					
Contact name:		Phillip Stone					

Internal Quality Check

Primary Author:	Carina Summerfield-Hill	Date:	19/07/10
Revisions:		Date:	
Edited/Checked By:		Date:	

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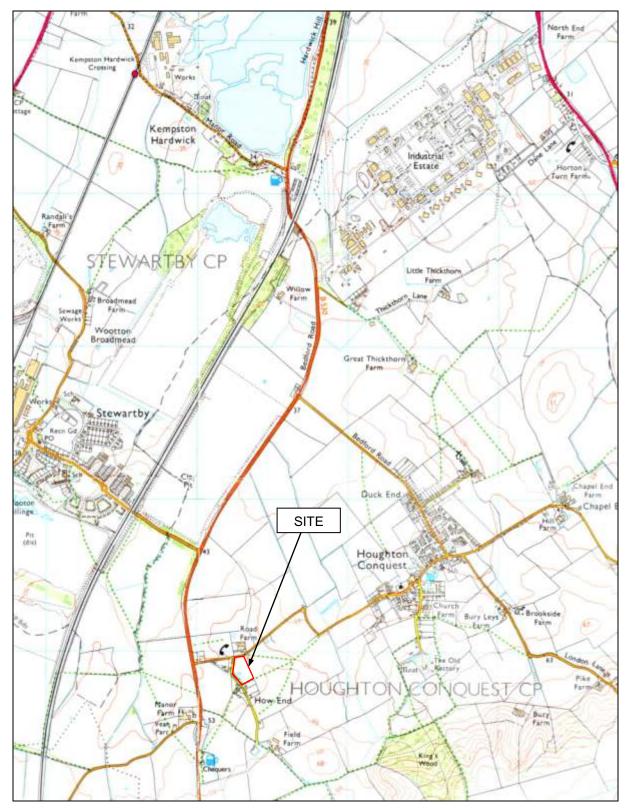


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In July 2010 an archaeological watching brief was carried out a 3 How End Road, Houghton Conquest, Bedfordshire, during the development of two fishing pools. The works uncovered the remains of late 18th century buildings and a number of modern shallow linear features, likely to be land drains. No significant finds were discovered.

1. Introduction

1.1 In July 2010 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out a watching brief at 3 How End Road, Houghton Conquest, Bedfordshire. The project was commissioned by the client, Philip Stone, and was carried out according to a brief (Oake 2010) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), Central Bedfordshire Council, by their archaeological advisor (AA), Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologists (CBCA), and a project design prepared by ASC (Zeepvat 2010). The relevant planning application reference is CB/10/00992/FULL.

1.2 Planning Background

This watching brief was required under the terms of *Planning Policy Statement 5* (PPS5), as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site.

1.3 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 and is also accredited ISO 9001, in recognition of its high standards and working practices.

1.4 The Site

1.4.1 Location & Description

The site is located in the civil parish of Houghton Conquest, in the Central Bedfordshire unitary authority area, centred on National Grid Reference TL 0332 4087 (Fig. 1). It lies within the hamlet of How End, one of several smaller settlements or 'ends' in the parish, c.1.3km west of the main village centre.

3 How End Road occupies a roughly 'D' shaped area covering c.1.2ha, at the junction of How End Road and the minor road leading westwards from Houghton Conquest. How End Road forms the west boundary to the site, with the aforementioned minor road to the north, residential properties to the south, and open farmland to the east. Buildings on the site are located near the centre of its west side, and comprise 3 How End Road, with a number of outbuildings to the north. Between them is 1 How End Road, which is not part of the area subject to development (Fig. 2). Away from the buildings, the site is down to grass, with a number of trees randomly located close to the north, south and east boundaries.

1.4.2 *Geology & Topography*

The site is located on more or less level ground, rising gradually from north-west to south-east, between 48.5 and 53.2m AOD. Soils in the area belong to the Evesham 3 association, described as 'slowly permeable calcareous clayey, and fine loamy over clayey soils. Some slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged non-calcareous clay soils (Soil Survey 1983, 411c). The underlying geology comprises mainly Oxford clays of the Marston Vale (BGS Sheet 203).

1.4.3 Proposed Development

Development comprises excavation of two fishing lakes, with associated access, parking, landscaping, etc (Fig. 3).

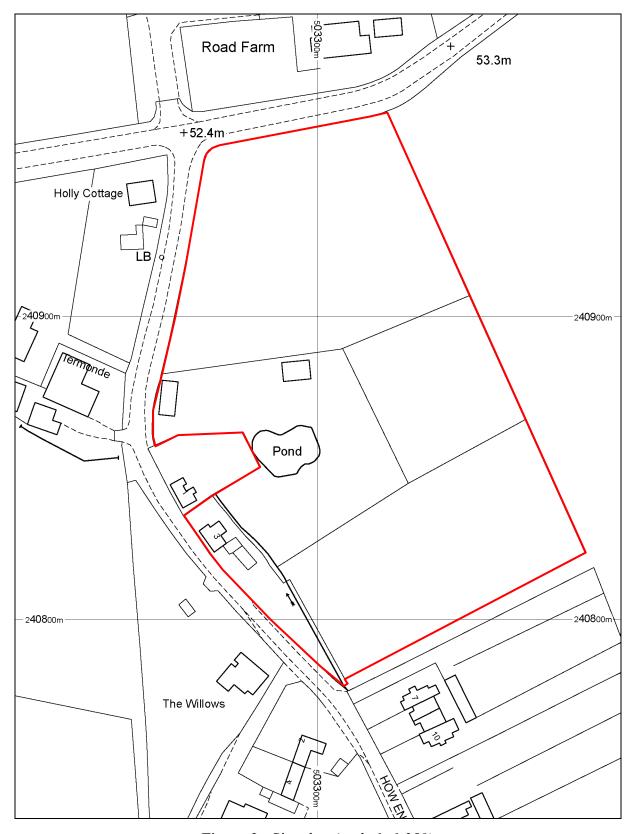


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1: 1,250)

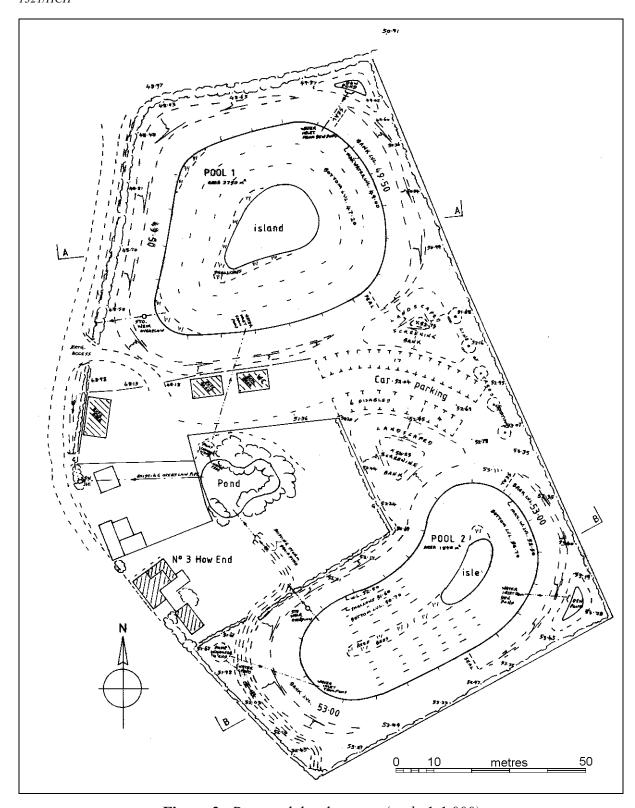


Figure 3: Proposed development (scale 1:1,000)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 *Aims*

As described in the project design (Section 4.5), the aims of the watching brief were:

- To establish the date, nature and extent of any activity or occupation within the development area
- To establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes
- To recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region
- To recover any palaeo-environmental remains present, to determine local environmental conditions.

Based on the available evidence (Section 3, below), the focus of the watching brief was likely to be on the Roman, medieval and later periods. Specific research aims relevant to this included the study of rural settlement diversity and the characterisation of settlement forms (Brown & Glazebrook 2000, 24-25: Oake *et al* 2007, 14).

2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), to the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

2.3 *Methods*

The work was carried out according to the project design (Section 5), which required:

• A programme of continuous archaeological observation, investigation and recording will be carried out during the construction of the ponds.

2.4 Constraints

Due to a misunderstanding between the planning department and the client, the client was not made aware of the need for archaeological monitoring before groundworks commenced. Therefore the Pool 2 area was not fully archaeologically monitored during development.

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 dates, though the focus of the watching brief is likely to be on the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods.

This section has been compiled with information from The Central Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER), the brief and ASC's library.

3.2 **Prehistoric – Iron Age** (before 600BC – AD43)

Evidence of activity in the claylands of Marston Vale during the prehistoric periods is slight. An earthwork in Houghton Conquest parish has been identified as a long barrow (Luke *in* Oake *et al* 2007, 29), but most of the evidence for these periods comes from the river gravels of the Ouse valley to the north.

500m to the south of the site, an excavation at Field Farm revealed a ditch and pit, in association with Iron Age, medieval and post-medieval pottery (HER 18190).

3.3 *Roman* (AD43-c.450)

Equally little is known of the Roman period in this part of Bedfordshire. During the Roman period the nearest settlements of any size were *Magiovinium* (Fenny Stratford), 15km to the south-west, and *Durocobrivis* (Dunstable), 18km to the south. A number of Roman villas are known in the Ouse valley to the north, while the nearest known villa site is at Ruxox, south of Houghton Conquest (Simco 1984).

At How End, cropmark sites that have produced Roman pottery and finds have been recorded to the east and west of the site (HER 15803; HER 2425).

3.4 **Saxon & Medieval** (c.450-1500)

No evidence for activity in the Saxon period has been recorded in the How End area. It is possible that the present settlement at Houghton Conquest has its origins in the late Saxon period. The name appears as *Oustone* and *Houstone* in the 11th century: the *Conquest* epithet derives from the Conquest family, who held land in the parish from 1223 to 1741 (Page 1912, 290-291).

How End Manor, also known as *Reddings*, formed part of the holding of Adeliza, wife of Hugh de Grandemensil, who is recorded in the Domesday Survey (1086) as holding 4½ hides in Houghton (Williams & Martin 2003).

Evidence of medieval activity in the How End area is provided by a moated site, now ploughed out, to the north-west of Road Farm (HER 5223). A second moat, now surrounding a cottage west of Field Farm, may have contemporary origins (HER 9884). In the area of Road Farm, north of the site, are earthworks and evidence of ridge and furrow ploughing (HER 1889). Other areas of ridge and furrow have been noted to the north of the site (HER 653), and on aerial photographs to the east of the site, and extending onto its southern part (AP ref. Cambridge A10L 10, dated 1969).

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

In 1610 James I appointed Edward Lord Bruce steward of How End Manor, and in 1657 it was leased to the Blofield family. By the beginning of the 18th century the manor was held by the steward of the Ampthill honour, Charles Bruce. After this date it passed, along with other lands in the parish, to the estate of the Dukes of Bedford (Page 1912, 294).

The earliest surviving buildings in How End date from the 17th century. 1 How End Road, which is encompassed by but not part of the site, is a 17th-century timber-framed building (HER 13759). Field Farmhouse, at the south end of the hamlet, is also timber framed, of a similar date (HER 5682). 2 and 4 How End Road, both formerly listed Grade III, are of 18th-century date (HER 5685), as is a barn belonging to Field Farm (HER 13758). Road Farm is a model farm of mid 19th-century date (HER 16366), and 11-13 How End Road are 19th-century estate cottages built by the Bedford Estate (HER 7354).

The earliest cartographic evidence for How End is an estate map of 1764. This shows the parish of Houghton Conquest in its original form, prior to enclosure. The layout of the parish, notably parts of its road system, was improved by the Bedford estate in the late 18th century, but the two roads bordering the site remain unchanged. Of particular note on the 1764 plan is a group of buildings, presumably farm buildings, shown on the north half of the site. This same group of buildings is shown on the parish enclosure map of 1808 and the Tithe Map of 1843 (Fig. 4), though they do not appear on the Ordnance Survey 25" sheet of 1883.

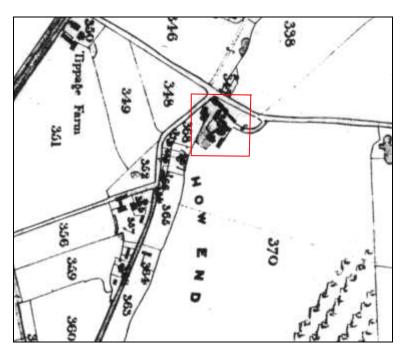


Figure 4: The 1843 Tithe Map depicting a group of buildings at the northern end of site (not to scale)

4. Results

4.1. Excavations were carried out over a period of 3 days with a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.60m toothless ditching bucket. Monitoring record sheets are reproduced in Appendix 1.

4.2 **Pool 1**

Excavations for Pool 1 were archaeologically monitored to a depth up to 0.60m. The stratigraphy (Plates 1) comprised:

000-300mm: topsoil/turf

300-450mm: made-ground (present towards the north-western and central area) consisting of mid brown/mid orangey brown, loose, silt clay/sand with frequent brick and tile inclusions.

300/450-600mm: natural strata consisting of light mottled orange grey malleable clay, with concentrations of light browny orange gravely deposits.

4.3 Towards the north-western end of Pool 1 a number of structural footings were uncovered, between 0.20-0.30m below ground level. The footings were constructed with orange bricks, brick size $23 \times 11 \times 8$ cm set in white/cream lime mortar.

Structural features/deposits (Fig 5; Plates 2-8) were as follows:

- [004] Structural feature: Three walls forming a rectangular shaped building that measured $c.4.60 \times 5m$. Each wall measured c.0.40m in width and 0.08m in depth.
- [005] Wall: A wall orientated SW-NE. The wall measured c.9.80m in length, c.0.38m in width, and three brick courses that measured c.0.21m in depth.
- [006] Well: A circular well that measured $c.1.30 \times 1.30$ m in diameter.
- [007] Structural feature: The remains of a curved wall orientated NW-SE. The wall measured c.3.50m in length and c.0.38m in width.
- (008) Structural deposit: An oval-shaped area of demolished material consisting of broken bricks and white/cream mortar that measured $c.3.85 \times 2m$.
- [009] Structural feature: A small rectangular building that measured $c.2.07 \times 0.85$ m. To the immediate east of which was an area of demolished building material, measuring $c.2.80 \times 1.70$ m, that consisted of broken bricks, white/cream mortar with flecks of charcoal, slag and clay pipe.
- 4.4 To the south of [009] an irregular shaped deposit (010) was excavated (Plate 9), consisting of mid grey, friable, silty clay with flecks of charcoal and a moderate amount of small sub-angular stones. The deposit covered an area of 2.00×2.18 m, and was c.0.30m deep. It contained clay pipe stem fragments and bowls dating to the 18^{th} century, which were not retained.
- 4.5 Three shallow linear gullies were also observed, orientated SW-NE and extended beyond the limit of excavation. The gullies were all c.0.40m in width. One gully [011] was excavated (Plate 10). It was 0.06m deep, filled with mid-dark brown, friable, silty clay with frequent small rounded/sub-rounded stones and flecks of orange

brick. Finds consisted of modern pottery and tile which were not retained. It is likely that the gullies were of relatively modern date, associated with land drainage.



Plate 1: Pool 1: East facing section of trench, looking W (scale $1 \times 1m$)



Plate 2: Part of structure [004], looking N (scale $2 \times 1m$)



Plate 3: Part of structure [004], looking E $(2 \times 1m)$



Plate 4: Wall [005], towards eastern end, looking E (scale 1×1m)



Plate 5: Wall [005], towards western end, detail, looking S (scale 1×1m)



Plate 6: Well [006], looking W (scale 2×1m)



Plate 7: Structural deposit (008) with structural feature [004] in the background, looking W (scale $2 \times 1m$)



Plate 8: Structural feature [009], looking W (scale 2×1m)



Plate 9: Deposit (010), looking NW (scale 2×1m)



Plate 10: Modern linear gully [011], looking SW (scale $1 \times 0.25m$)

4.6 **Pool 2**

Pool 2 had already been excavated before the watching brief took place. Therefore Pool 2 was observed towards completion of groundworks. The stratigraphy (Plate 11) comprised the following:

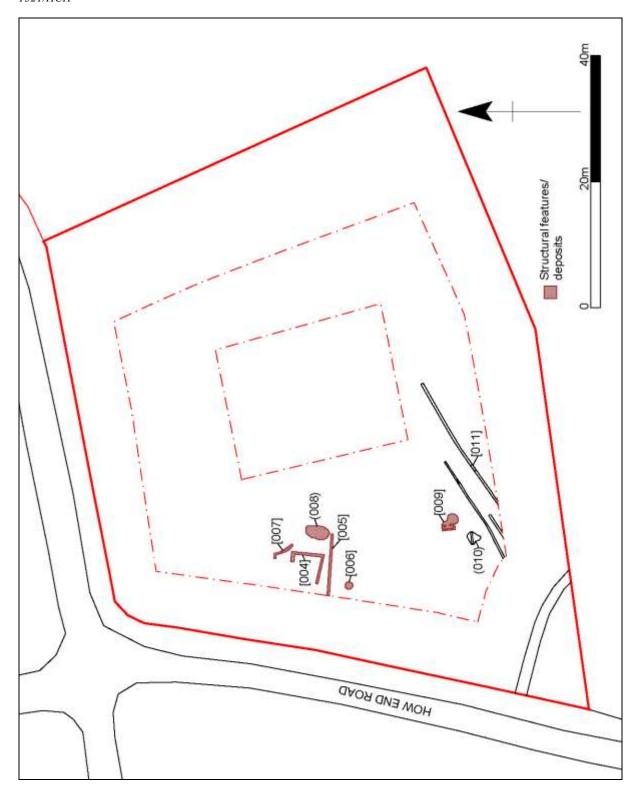
000-300mm: top soil

300-1.25m: natural strata consisting of light mottled orange grey malleable clay.

No archaeological features or deposits were observed.



Plate 11: Pool 2: SE facing section of trench, looking NW (scale $2 \times 1m$)



5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The works uncovered a series of structural features and demolition deposits in the north half of the site that may have originally been farm buildings or cottages. The features are likely associated with the group of buildings first shown on the estate map of How End dating to 1764, and demolished between 1843 and 1883. Structural feature [009] and deposit (010) also contained clay pipe fragments pointing to an 18th/19th century date.
- 5.2 A series of shallow gullies most likely to be land drains were also uncovered, containing modern pottery.
- 5.3 The watching brief did not reveal any features, deposits or artefacts of earlier periods on the site.

5.4 Confidence Rating

The work was carried out with full cooperation of the client and in good conditions and is therefore given a high confidence rating.

6. Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by the client, Philip Stone. The writer is grateful to Mr and Mrs Stone for their assistance. The project was monitored by *Central Bedfordshire County Archaeologist* Martin Oake on behalf of the local planning authority. Thanks are also due to the groundworks contractors.

The project was managed for ASC by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA. Fieldwork was carried out by Carina Summerfield-Hill BA MSc. The report was prepared by Carina Summerfield-Hill 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. Site record drawings
 - 7. List of photographs
 - 8. B/W prints & negatives
 - 9. CDROM with copies of all digital files.
- 7.2 The archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum.

8. References

Standards & Specifications

- ALGAO 2003 Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14.
- 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).
- Oake M 2010 Brief for a programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication at 3 How End Road, Houghton Conquest, Bedfordshire. Central Bedfordshire Council, 9/06/2010.
- Zeepvat, B 2010 Project Design: 3 How End Road, Houghton Conquest, Bedfordshire. Archaeological Services and Consultancy, ASC: 1321/HCH/1.

Secondary Sources

- BGS British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology.
- Brown, N & Glazebrook J (eds) 2000 Research & Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties. 2, Research Agenda and Strategy. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8.
- Oake, M, Luke, M, Dawson, M, Edgeworth, M & Murphy, P 2007 Bedfordshire Archaeology: Research & Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy. Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph 9 (Bedford).
- Page, W (ed.) 1912 *The Victoria History of the County of Bedfordshire, vol.* **3**, 288-295. Constable & Company Ltd (London).
- Simco, A 1984 Survey of Bedfordshire: the Roman Period. Bedfordshire County Council: RCHM(E) (Bedford).
- Soil Survey 1983 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend (Harpenden).
- Williams, A & Martin, G H (eds) 2003 Domesday Book: a Complete Translation. Penguin Classics (London).

Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

A.S.C. LTD	ARCHA			NITORING RECOR
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Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAM	IE : 3 Ho	w End Ro	ad, Houghton Conquest, Bedfordshire	SITE NO/CODE: 1321/HCH	
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject		
1	V	V	Wall [005], looking west (05/07/10)		
2		V	Wall [005] detail, looking south (05/07/1	0)	
3	√	V	Well [006], looking west (05/07/10)		
4		V	Well [006], looking west (05/07/10)		
5	V	V	Pool 1: east facing section of trench, loa	oking west (05/07/10)	
6	V	V	Wall [005], looking east (05/07/10)		
7	V	V	Part of structure [004], looking north (05	5/07/10)	
8	V	V	Curved wall [007], looking north (05/07/	•	
9	√	$\sqrt{}$	Part of structure [004], looking east (05,	/07/10)	
10	√	$\sqrt{}$	Wall [005], looking northeast (05/07/10)	•	
11	√	$\sqrt{}$	Structural deposit (008), looking northw	,	
12		V	Structural deposit (008) and surrounding structural features, looking northwest (06/07/10)		
13	V	V	Structure [009], looking west (06/07/10)		
14	V	V	Ash deposit (010), looking northwest (0	6/07/10)	
15		√	Pool 2, northern branch, looking southwest (06/07/10)		
16		√	Pool 2, southern branch, looking southwest (06/07/10)		
17	√	V	Pool 2: west facing section of trench, looking east (06/07/10)		
18	√	V	Pool 2: southeast facing section of trench, looking northwest (06/07/10)		
19		$\sqrt{}$	General site shot of pool 2, looking south (06/07/10)		
20		V	General site shot of pool 2, looking south (06/07/10)		
21		V	General working shot of pool 1, looking northeast (07/07/10)		
22		√	General working shot of pool 1, looking northwest (07/07/10)		
23		√	Pool 1 trench, looking north (07/07/10)		
24		√	General working shot of pool 1, looking east (07/07/10)		
25		V	Pool 1 trench, looking northeast (07/07/10)		
26	√	V	Northeast facing section of linear gully [011] (07/07/10)		
27		V	Northeast facing section of linear gully [011], detail (07/07/10)		
28		V	Pool 1 trench, looking southwest (07/07/10)		
29		V	Pool 1 trench, looking south (07/07/10)		
30		V	Pool 1 trench, looking southeast (07/07/10)		
31		V	Pool 1 trench, looking southwest (07/07/10)		
32			Pool 1 trench, looking west (07/07/10)		

Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS					
Project Name:	3 How End Road, Houghton Conquest, Bedfordshire		OASIS reference:	archaeol2-79665	
Short Description:	In July 2010 an archaeological watching brief was carried out a 3 How End Road, Houghton Conquest, Bedfordshire, during the development of two fishing pools. The works uncovered the remains of late 18 th century buildings and a number of modern shallow linear features, likely to be land drains. No significant finds were discovered.				
Project Type:	Watching Brief				
Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	No		Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	None	
Current land use:	Grass paddock		Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	Unknown	
Monument type:	N/A		Monument period:	N/A	
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	18th century structural features an	d deposit	S		
, ,	PROJECT	LOCATIO	ON		
County:	Bedfordshire	OS refe	rence: (8 figs min)	TL 0332 4087	
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	3 How End Road, Houghton Cond	quest, Bed	dfordshire, MK45 3JT		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	1.2 hectares	Height (OD: (metres)	48.5-53.2m OD	
PROJECT CREATORS					
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd				
Project brief originator:	Martin Oake	Project design originator:		Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA	
Project Manager:	Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA	eepvat BA MIFA Supervisor:		Carina Summerfield-Hill BA MSc	
Sponsor / funding body:	Developer: Philip Stone				
		T DATE			
Fieldwork start date:	05/07/10	Fieldwork end date:		07/07/10	
PROJECT ARCHIVES					
	Location (Accession no.) Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)				
Physical:	Dodford Museum	None			
Paper:	Bedford Museum (BEDFM 2011.93) Report, site records/drawings, site plans, B&W photos and negatives			·	
Digital:	All digital files on a CD including digital photos				
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)					
Title:	Watching Brief: 3 How End Road, Houghton Conquest, Bedfordshire				
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1321/HCH				
	Carina Summerfield-Hill BA MSc				
Author(s):	Carina Summerfield-Hill BA MSc				