

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:
CHURCH FARM
CHURCH END
SHERINGTON
MILTON KEYNES**

NGR: SP 8903 4692

on behalf of Brian Cawley



Calli Rouse BA PIFA

September 2010

ASC: 1307/SCF/2




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Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	SCF	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	1307
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	archaeol2-83303	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	1271
<i>County:</i>	Buckinghamshire (historic county)		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Sherington		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Sherington		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 8903 4692 (farmhouse)		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	Access road: c.1300 sq. m. Field barn: c.32 sq. m.		
<i>Present use:</i>	Agricultural		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Construction of new access to farm from Gun Lane Construction of field barn		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	Access road: 09/02292/FUL Field barn: 08/01409/FUL		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Milton Keynes Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	9 th , 10 th & 13 th September 2010		
<i>Client:</i>	Brian Cawley BPJ Properties Ltd Basepoint Business Centre Great Marlings Luton LU2 8DL		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Brian Cawley		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Calli Rouse	<i>Date:</i>	28/09/2010
<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	28/09/2010

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CONTENTS

Summary.....	4
1. Introduction	4
2. Aims & Methods	7
3. Archaeological & Historical Background.....	8
4. Results.	10
5. Conclusions	13
6. Acknowledgements	14
7. Archive	14
8. References	15

Appendices:

1. ASC Watching Brief Monitoring Sheets	16
2. Photo List.....	19
3. ASC OASIS Form	20

Figures:

1. General location	3
2. Site plan	6
3. Site plan showing watching brief observations	11

Plates:

Cover:

1. Driveway in the area of linear earthworks	12
2. Area of burning along southeastern edge of driveway	12
3. Spread of rubble at southern end of driveway	12
4. Areas of burning and rubble at southern end of driveway.....	12
5. Rubble observed within area of field barn.....	12

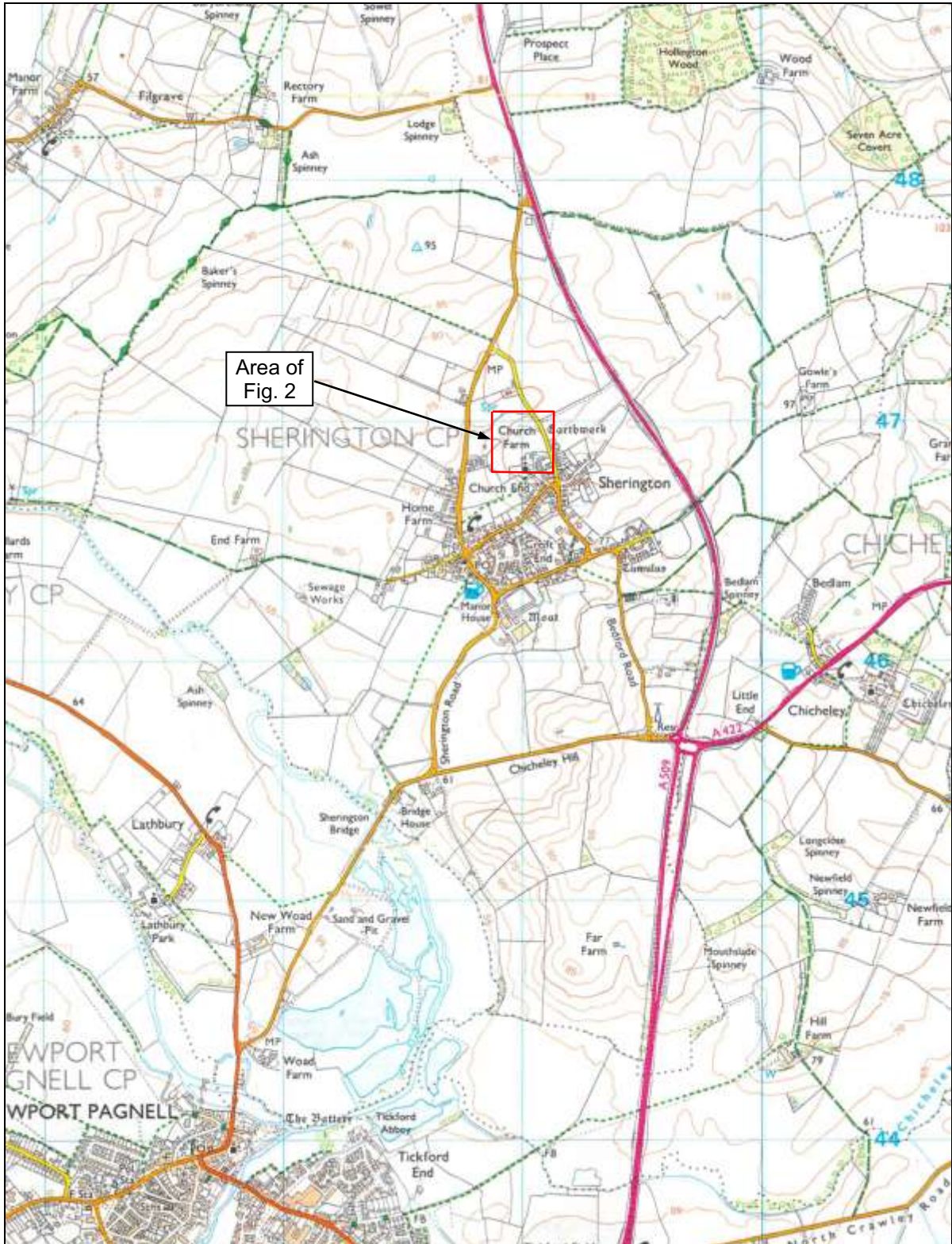


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

During September 2010, two archaeological watching briefs were carried out during the groundworks for a new driveway and field barn at Church Farm, Church End, Sherington. An area of linear earthworks had previously been recorded along the route of the new driveway. Little evidence of these was recorded above ground, and no evidence was observed below ground level. An area of burning and a spread of rubble, both of which included fragments of post medieval and modern brick and tile as well as animal bone. These are both likely to be remnants of agricultural activity within the field.

1. Introduction

1.1 In September 2010 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief at Church Farm, Church End, Sherington, Milton Keynes. The project was commissioned by *Brian Cawley*, and was carried out according to the requirements of the project design (Zeepvat 2010), and of the *Milton Keynes Council Archaeological Officer*, archaeological advisor (AA), to the local planning authority (LPA). The relevant planning application references are 09/02292/FUL (access road) and 08/01409/FUL (field barn).

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*

Church Farm is located at the north end of the village of Sherington, in the civil parish of the same name, and the administrative area of Milton Keynes, at SP 8904 4650 (Fig. 1). The farm house and outbuildings are immediately north of the parish church of St Laud, at the end of Church End.

The locations for the two watching briefs covered by this project design are in the large pasture field north of the farm. The field is bounded to the east by Gun Lane, to the south by Sherington itself, and to the west and north by a brook. Access will be from Gun Lane (Fig. 2).

1.4.2 *Geology & Topography*

The watching brief location is on an east-west spur of land, falling steadily westwards from 79m AOD in the south-east corner of the field, to c.70m AOD at the north-west corner. Soils around Sherington 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 Jurassic Great Oolite clay and limestone (BGS, Sheet 203).

1.4.3 *Proposed Development*

The watching brief covered two developments (Fig. 2). The first comprises construction of a new access route *c.*130m in length, northwards from Church Farm to join Gun Lane at SP 8907 4700, with associated landscaping and tree planting. The second involves construction of the concrete base, 9.0 × 3.5m, for a field barn at SP 8927 4684.

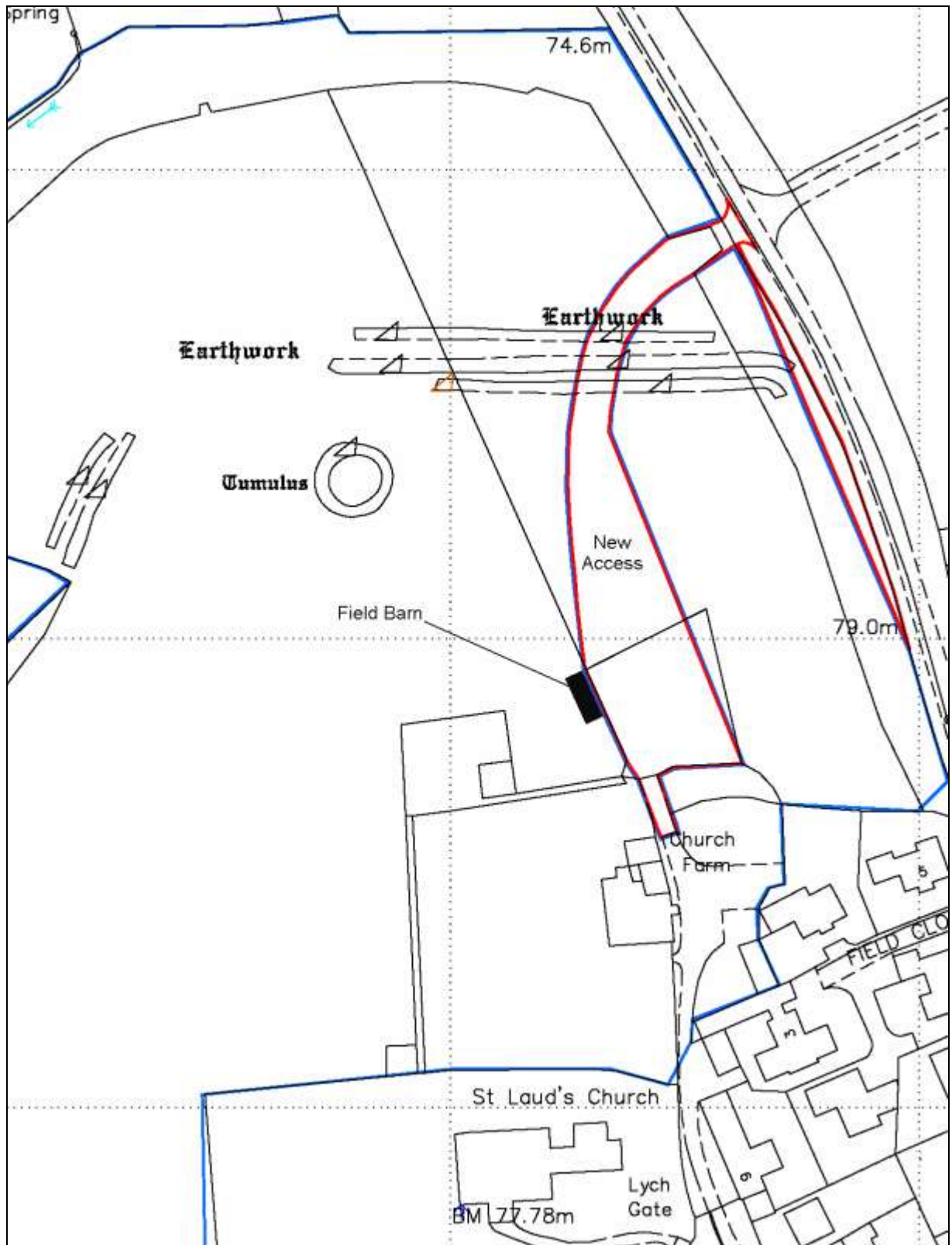


Figure 2: Site plan and proposed developments (scale 1:1250)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 *Aims*

As described in the project design (Section 3), the aims of the watching brief were:

- To determine the location, extent, date, nature, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains observed on site.
- In particular, to examine the previously recorded linear earthworks where they are encountered by the access way, to determine their date and function.

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), 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 3), which required:

- Soil and overburden stripping under archaeological supervision;
- The rapid investigation and recording of any archaeological features or deposits present, including adequate provision of both drawn and photographic records;
- Subsoil stripping under archaeological supervision;
- The examination of any service and foundation trenches and the subsequent recording of any exposed archaeological remains, including adequate provision of both drawn and photographic records;
- Rapid examination of spoil-heaps for archaeological material;
- A programme of post-fieldwork analysis, archiving, and publication.

2.4 *Constraints*

The stripping of an area of c.8sqm between the driveway and the area of the field barn was not observed due to timing constraints.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 *Introduction*

The site of the proposed development lies within an area of archaeological and historical interest. The field in which the developments are taking place contains a tumulus and other earthworks of unknown date. The following paragraphs provide a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the site and its environs.

3.2 *Prehistoric* (before 600BC)

Two possible tumuli are located near Sherington. One lies at the corner of Crofts End and Bedford Road, c.400m south of Church Farm, the other lies in the field in which the proposed developments are located (Fig. 2). Neither monument is securely dated.

3.3 *Iron Age* (600BC-AD43)

Little is known of Iron Age occupation and activity in the Sherington area. Iron Age and Belgic potsherds have been found near the churchyard, south of the proposed development.

3.4 *Romano-British* (AD43-c.450)

During the Roman period the Sherington area lay within the tribal territory of the *Catuvellauni*, with its capital at *Verulamium* (St Albans). The nearest Roman towns were *Magiovinium* (Fenny Stratford) and Ichester: the road between them probably passed near Sherington (Farley 2010, 77-79). An extensive scatter of Roman potsherds, roof and flue tiles and building stone is recorded north of the church (Scott 1993, 30, BU72), suggesting a possible Roman building.

3.5 *Anglo Saxon* (c.AD450-1066)

A settlement was present at Sherington, although it is unclear when it was established. Before the Conquest, Sherington was 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).

3.6 *Medieval* (1066-1500)

The manors were held by the Bishop of Coutances after the Conquest and were worth £10 at the time of the Domesday Survey (*ibid*). A large medieval moated site known as Cave's Manor (Scheduled Ancient Monument 29471) lies within the grounds of the current Sherington Manor, south-west of the development site, which was constructed in the 18th century. The moated site is one of the largest in Buckinghamshire and north Bedfordshire: it probably defines the site of the original manor of Sherington, which was constructed by the Carun family after they acquired the fief in the early 12th century.

The manor later relocated to the north side of the village, where it stood until about 1780, and the moated site passed through a number of hands including those of the Cave family who held it until the late 15th century.

3.7 ***Post-Medieval*** (1500-1900)

Being far from any major communication routes or population centres, Sherington has remained as a primarily agricultural settlement, with little development, until the present day.

The farmhouse at Church Farm is Grade II listed, and dates from the 18th century, with a 19th-century rear range.

3.8 ***Undated***

In addition to the tumulus described above, the field in which the proposed development is located contains a series of linear earthworks, through which the proposed access road will pass. The nature and date of these earthworks is unknown. It should be noted that examination of recent air photographs of the development area (Google Earth, coverage dated 15/04/2007) shows no trace of the linear earthworks or the tumulus.

4. Results

- 4.1 Both watching briefs were carried out in three days, and the ground reduction for both developments was carried out as one continuous process. The ground was reduced across both development sites by 0.3m, through 0.1-0.3m of topsoil and up to 0.2m of mid-brown loamy subsoil. The interface between subsoil and natural was only exposed in patches, and the natural comprised a mid-brown silty clay.
- 4.2 An area of burning was partially exposed along the southeastern edge of the driveway (Fig. 3, Plates 2 & 4). This area contained pieces of animal bone, modern brick and tile. Close to this was a large spread of rubble (Fig. 3, Plates 3 & 4). This was observed continuing into the area of the field shelter (Plate 5).
- 4.3 No finds or features were observed within the area of the earthworks (Plate 1).

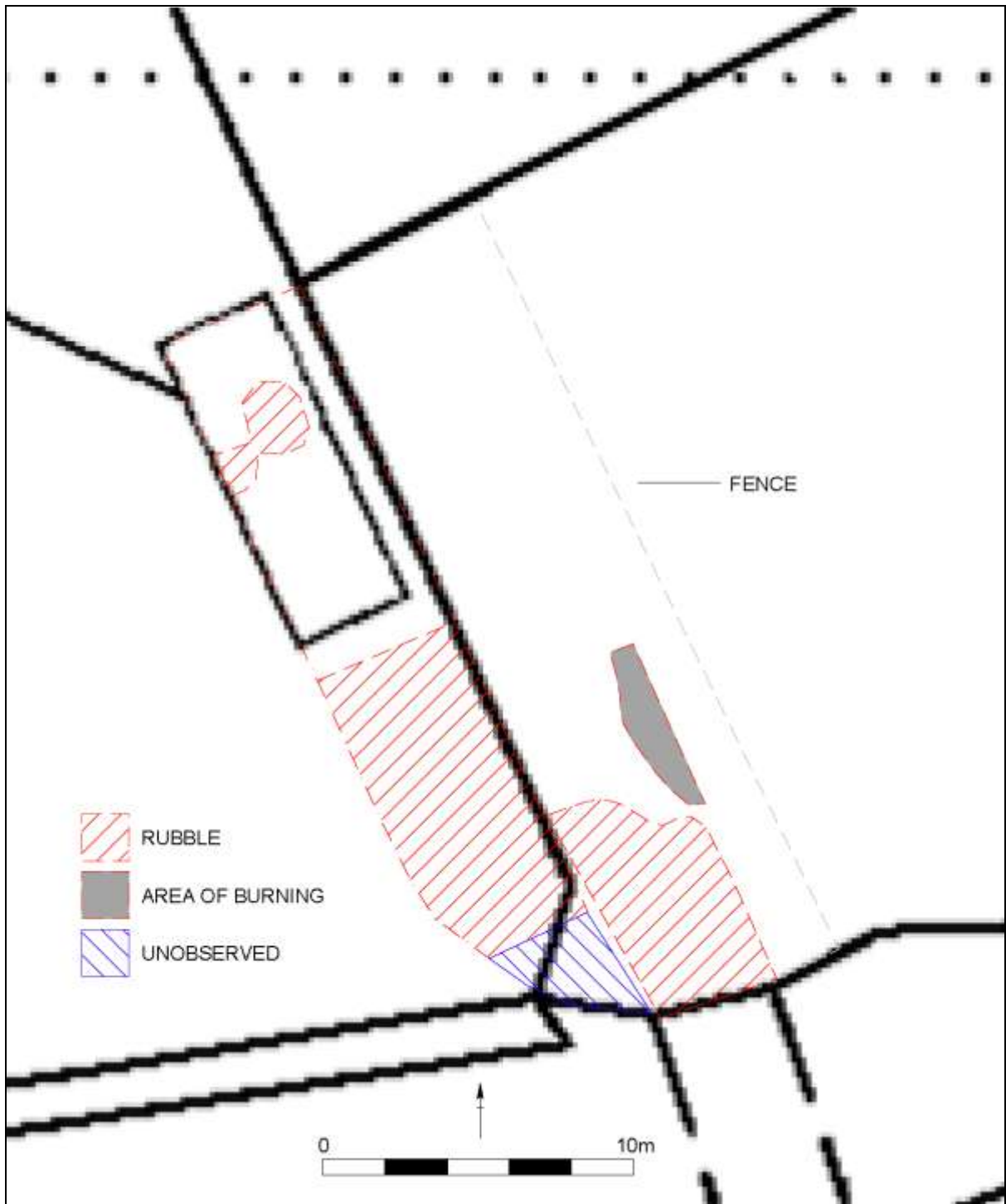


Figure 3: Site plan showing watching brief observations (scale 1:200)



Plate 1: Driveway in the area of linear earthworks, looking southwest



Plate 2: Area of burning along southeastern edge of driveway, looking south, 1m scale



Plate 3: Spread of rubble at southern end of driveway, looking north, 1m scale



Plate 4: Areas of burning and rubble at southern end of driveway, looking south, 1m scale



Plate 5: Rubble observed within area of field barn, looking southeast

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The new driveway passed directly through the area of undated linear earthworks mentioned in section 3.8, above. Although the earthworks were visible on the surface of the field due to a good growth of vegetation, no evidence for them was observed below ground level. This may be the result of ploughing over time, as the field containing the development area was part of a working farm until the mid-1980s (*pers.comm.* B. Cawley).
- 5.2 The area of burning and the spread of rubble observed at the southern end of the driveway and within area of the field barn contained post medieval and modern debris, as well as pieces of animal bone. The area of burning may be attributed to agricultural activity within the area, due to its close proximity to Church Farm, and the area's inclusion within a working farm until recent times.
- 5.3 A study of the readily available mapping of the area, dating back to the end of the 19th century, has not revealed any buildings within the vicinity of the rubble spread. This may be because the rubble was brought in from elsewhere, or that it was part of a building that was not recorded cartographically.
- 5.4 *Confidence Rating*
Both watching briefs were carried out in good conditions, and full cooperation was received from all parties involved. Therefore a high confidence rating is attached to the results of both watching briefs.

6. Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Brian Cawley. The writer is grateful to Mr Cawley for his assistance. The project was monitored by Nick Crank on behalf of the local planning authority.

The project was managed for ASC by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA. Fieldwork was carried out by Gareth Shane BSc and Calli Rouse BA PIFA. The report was prepared by Calli Rouse and edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

7. Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Project Design
2. Initial Report
3. Clients site plans
4. Site Monitoring Sheets
5. Sample records
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 Buckinghamshire County Museum, reference number: AYCBM 2010:117.

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)*.
- Zeepvat, B 2010 *Project Design for Archaeological Watching Briefs at Church Farm, Church End, Sherington* ASC/1307/SCF/1

Secondary Sources

- BGS *British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology*.
- Farley, M (ed) 2010 *An Illustrated History of Early Buckinghamshire*. Buckinghamshire Archaeol. Soc (Aylesbury)
- Markham, F. 1973 *A History of Milton Keynes and District*. White Crescent Press Limited, Luton.
- Scott, E 1993 *A Gazetteer of Roman Villas in Britain*. Leicester Archaeology Monographs 1 (Leicester).
- 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: Monitoring Sheets

A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD				
Project: <i>SHERINGTON</i>		Project No/Code: <i>13071 SCF</i>		Sheet: <i>1</i> of <i>1</i>		
		Date of visit: <i>09/09/10</i>				
Client/Developer: <i>Brian Cawley - BPS PROPERTIES LTD</i>						
Contact: <i>Brian Cawley</i>			Phone: <i>07785 227422</i>			
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: <i>9:30am</i>		Finish: <i>1:25pm</i>		
Completed by:						
Development Type:						
Footings	Services	Roads <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: <i>Fine, damp, sunny</i>						
Observations: <i>Machining down to 0.3m in vicinity of earthworks. Can be seen in plan due to good growth of grass. Nothing apparent once machined down except slight colour change in soil in area of earthworks.</i>						
<i>10:15am Machining down to 0.3m in area of earthworks. Various stops for flattening road putting down stones machined to level beyond position of earthworks at 1pm.</i>						
Comments: <i>Machining BEYOND EARTHWORKS AREA LAST</i> <i>Very thick topsoil UNDISURBLED / RARE FOR MANY YEARS LEAVE WITH CLEAR BROWN / NORMAN MORTAR SURFACE TO LET US KNOW IF ANYTHING</i>						

A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD		
Project: CHURCH FARM		Project No/Code: 1307 1 SCF		Sheet: 3 of
SHERINGTON		Date of visit: 15/9/10		
Client/Developer				
Contact: BRIAN CAWLEY			Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 7.40	Finish: 4.20	
Completed by: CR				
Development Type:				
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Quarrying
				Pipelines
				Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: OVERCAST, DAMP				
Observations: OBSERVED STRIPPING OF AREA CLOSEST TO HOUSE & AREA OF FIELD BARN. RAPRAIL ONLY REACHED IN PATCHES. AREA OF BURNING PARTIALLY EXPOSED ALONG SIDE OF DRIVE (SEE SKETCH) CONTAINED ANIMAL BONE, BRICK + TILE. AREAS OF RAPRAIL ALSO EXPOSED (SEE SKETCHES) GROUND REDUCTION = C. 30CM TOPOILK BETWEEN 0.1 + 0.3M				
Comments: AREA NEAR GATE UNOBSERVED - EXCAVATIONS EITHER SIDE OF THIS AREA DID NOT PENETRATE SUBSOIL.				

Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: Church Farm, Church End, Sherington			SITE NO/CODE: 1307/SCF
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	✓	✓	Area of earthworks, looking east
2	✓	✓	Area of earthworks, looking west
3	✓	✓	Driveway in area of earthworks, looking north east
4	✓	✓	Driveway in area of earthworks, looking south west
5	✓	✓	Soil strip at end of drive/beginning of parking area, looking south west
6	✓	✓	Soil strip in parking area, looking south east
7	✓	✓	Partially exposed area of burning in parking area, looking north west, 1m scale
8	✓	✓	Partially exposed area of burning in parking area, looking north west, 1m scale
9	✓	✓	Partially exposed area of burning in parking area, looking south east, 1m scale
10	✓	✓	Edge of burning, looking south west, 1m scale
11	✓	✓	Area of rubble in parking area, looking south west
12	✓	✓	Area of rubble in parking area, looking north west
13	✓	✓	Area of rubble in parking area, looking north west
14	✓	✓	Area of rubble in parking area, looking north west
15	✓	✓	South end of drive, looking south, 1m scale
16	✓	✓	West edge of parking area, looking north west
17	✓	✓	West edge of parking area, looking west
18	✓	✓	Western extent of parking area, looking north west
19	✓	✓	Area of field barn, looking south east
20	✓	✓	Area of field barn, looking south east
21	✓	✓	Rubble in area of field barn, looking south east

Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	Church Farm, Church End, Sherington	OASIS reference:	archaeol2-83303
Short Description:	During September 2010, two archaeological watching briefs were carried out during the groundworks for a new driveway and field barn at Church Farm, Church End, Sherington. An area of linear earthworks had previously been recorded along the route of the new driveway. Little evidence of these was recorded above ground, and no evidence was observed below ground level. An area of burning and a spread of rubble, both of which included fragments of post medieval and modern brick and tile as well as animal bone. These are both likely to be remnants of agricultural activity within the field.		
Project Type:	Watching Brief		
Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	-	Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	-
Current land use:	Field	Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	-
Monument type:	-	Monument period:	-
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	-		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Buckinghamshire (Historic County)	OS reference: (8 figs min)	SP 8903 4692 (farmhouse)
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	Church Farm, Church End, Sherington		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	Access road: c.1300 sq. m. Field barn: c.32 sq. m.	Height OD: (metres)	c.79
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	-	Project design originator:	B. Zeepvat
Project Manager:	B. Zeepvat	Director/Supervisor:	B. Zeepvat
Sponsor / funding body:	Brian Cawley		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	09/09/2010	End date:	03/09/2010
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Buckinghamshire County Museum (AYCBM 2010:117)	-	
Paper:		Archive Box	
Digital:		CD	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Archaeological Watching Briefs at Church Farm, Church End, Sherington		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1307/SCF/2		
Author(s):	Calli Rouse BA PIFA		
Page nos	1-20	Date:	