

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION,
INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING:
MOGGERHANGER PARK,
MOGGERHANGER,
BEDFORDSHIRE**

NGR: TL 1343 4865

on behalf of the Moggerhanger House Preservation Trust



Martin Cuthbert BA (Hons) PIFA

March 2011

ASC: 1385/MPM/2



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Site Data

<i>ASC site code:</i>	MPM	<i>Project no:</i>	1385
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	Archaeol2-92128	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	BEDFM 2011.24
<i>County:</i>	Bedfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Moggerhanger		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Moggerhanger		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TL 1343 4865		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c. 10 ha		
<i>Present use:</i>	Historic grounds		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Construction of overflow car park & coach parking area		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	CB/08/01198/FULL		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Central Bedfordshire		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	March 2011		
<i>Commissioned by:</i>	Cain & Co The Water Tower Tainters Hill Kenilworth Warwickshire CV8 2GL		
<i>Client:</i>	Moggerhanger House Preservation Trust Moggerhanger Park Park Road Moggerhanger Bedfordshire MK44 3RW		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Gordon Cain FRICS		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Martin Cuthbert	<i>Date:</i>	18/03/2011
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<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	

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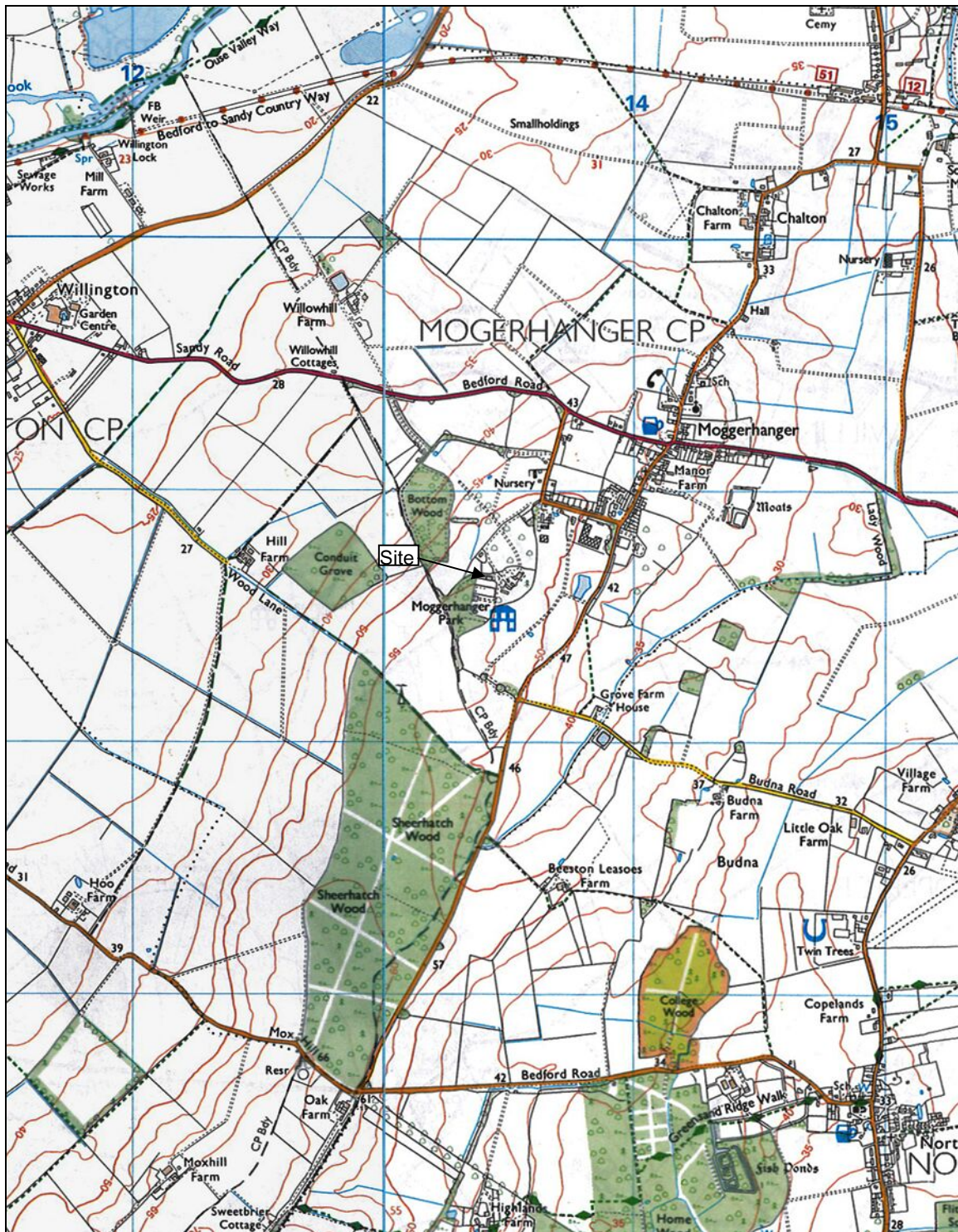


Figure 1: General location (Scale 1: 25,000)

Summary

In March 2011 a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording took place at Moggerhanger Park, Moggerhanger, Bedfordshire during ground reduction, in relation to the construction of a car park and coach park. No archaeological features were observed in either area, whilst one sherd of medieval pottery was discovered from the subsoil in the area of the car park. The car park area did not breach the subsoil therefore archaeological deposits may survive below this layer. As the ground works were limited in scope this does not preclude the presence of archaeological remains elsewhere on the site.

1. Introduction

1.1 In March 2011 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording at Moggerhanger Park. The project was commissioned by *Cain & Co*, on behalf of the *Moggerhanger House Preservation Trust*, and was carried out according to a brief (Oake 2011) prepared by the Archaeological Advisor (AA) of the local planning authority (LPA), *Central Bedfordshire Council*, and a project design prepared by ASC (Hunn 2011).

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. The relevant planning application reference is CB/08/01198/FULL.

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*

Moggerhanger Park is situated in the parish of Mogerhanger in the Unitary Authority of Central Bedfordshire (Fig. 1). The park lies *c.*8 km east of Bedford and 3 km west of Sandy and comprises an irregular shaped landholding of *c.*10ha centred on Moggerhanger House (Fig. 2).

The estate comprises parkland and woodland with a kitchen garden to the west of the house. Access is from the northern end of the estate and its boundaries comprise a mix of iron, post and wire fencing, hedges with a ha-ha to the east.

1.4.2 *Geology & Topography*

The site is situated *c.*4 km south of the confluence of the rivers Great Ouse and Ivel. It lies on gently undulating ground and has an elevation of *c.*50m OD. The natural soils comprise the *Evesham 3 Association* (Soil Survey of England & Wales 1983, 411c), are derived from Jurassic and Cretaceous clay and the soils

'are mostly slowly permeable clayey or fine loamy over clayey, usually calcareous and are seasonally waterlogged. They are formed in clay or mudstone bedrock which is patchily covered by thin drift' (Hodge et al 1984, 189). The underlying geology comprises chalky till (BGS 2001, 204).

1.4.3 Proposed Development

The proposal comprises the construction of a coach park and overflow car park (Fig.2)



Figure 2: Site plan with proposed development (Scale 1:2500)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

As described in the project design (Section 3.1), the aims of the watching brief were:

- To ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to have an impact upon archaeological deposits.
- To secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme.
- To secure the analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site.
- To provide an adequately detailed project report that will place the findings of the monitoring and recording of the development programme in their local and regional context, having made reference to the relevant regional research agendas, and through cartographic, documentary and other research.
- To establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation within the development area.
- To establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes.
- To recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.
- To establish the presence of the predicted Roman road in accordance with the research framework as set out by Oake *et al* 2007, 71-2.
- To identify possible medieval antecedents to Moggerhanger House in accordance with the research framework as set out by Oake *et al* 2007, 99-101.
- To identify parkland and garden features associated with Moggerhanger House in accordance with the research framework as set out by Oake *et al* 2007, 124-6

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 3.3), which required:

- Soil and overburden stripping under archaeological supervision
- A toothless ditching blade shall be attached and used in any areas of machine excavation;
- Inspection of subsoil deposits for archaeological features;
- The rapid investigation and recording of any archaeological features/deposits including environmental;
- Subsoil stripping under archaeological supervision;

- Examination of any service and foundation trenches and the subsequent recording/investigation of any exposed archaeological deposits including environmental;
- Examination of spoil-heaps for archaeological material;
- A programme of post-fieldwork analysis, archiving, and publication.

2.4 ***Constraints***

No constraints were identified prior to the fieldwork and none were encountered during the monitoring visits.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

- 3.1 The following section provides a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the development site and its environs. The site lies within an area of archaeological and historical interest (Page 1912; Inskip & Jenkins 1994; Oake *et al* 2007) and has the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods.

The following section is compiled from the Central Bedfordshire *Historic Environment Record* (HER) and ASC's reference collection.

3.2 **Early Prehistoric** (before 600BC)

Little is known of the prehistoric periods in Moggerhanger and the park is not known to contain sites of these periods. A number of archaeological sites have been recorded as cropmarks in the surrounding landscape but are undated.

3.3 **Iron Age** (600BC-AD43)

No sites of this period have been identified in the park but a cropmark, which may be an Iron Age or Roman enclosure, has been identified immediately to the south (HER 15092). Further cropmarks are present to the east (HER 15992, 16212 & 16771) and west (11392) which highlight the potential that the area offers for study of Iron Age and Roman settlement patterns.

3.4 **Roman** (AD43-c.450)

During the Roman period the area lay within the civitas territory of the *Catuvellauni* (Branigan 1987), with its capital of *Verulamium* (St Albans). The pattern of Roman settlement and communications in this area is not understood in detail but Moggerhanger is situated c.4km west of a Roman small town, now known as Sandy (Dawson 1995; anon 1997).

Archaeological work east of the park, in advance of the cutting of the Mox Hill to Sandy water main revealed the presence of the agger of an east to west aligned Roman road (Carlyle 2007). If projected to the west this road may pass through or close to the site of the proposed car park and may be continuous with a further length of road identified to the west in the Willington Cople cropmark complex (HER 738 & 11984).

3.5 **Saxon** (c.450-1066)

Little is known of the area during the Saxon period but a 6th century Saxon cremation urn has been recorded immediately north of the park (HER 423; Kennet 1972). Moggerhanger is not mentioned in the Domesday Survey (1086) and it is likely to have been included in the 10 hides belonging to the Chalton holding (Page 1912, 228-33).

3.6 **Medieval** (1066-1500)

The earliest record of the place name occurs in the early 13th century as *Mogarhangre* (Mawer & Stenton 1926, 91). The manor of Moggerhanger can be traced through a series of aristocratic families in the medieval period, most notably the Ferrers (Earls of Derby) and the de Groby family (*ibid.*).

The medieval village of Moggerhanger (HER 17120) developed along the Bedford to Sandy road and a medieval moated site is situated on the southeast side of the village (HER 424).

3.7 *Post-Medieval* (1500-1900)

In the later part of the 18th century the manor passed into the Thornton family in whose hands it remained through much of the 19th century (Inskip & Jenkins 1994). The present house, which is a Grade 1 Listed Building (HER 1094) was designed by Sir John Soane for Godfrey Thornton, a director of the Bank of England and later his son Stephen (Pevsner 1968, 127). Soane's building extended or replaced 'Moggerhanger Lodge which stood on the site (Baker 2010).

The gardens were designed by Sir Humphrey Repton (HER 6994; Woodward 2006, 83). They include a number of historic features, notably an ice house (HER 18230) and a walled kitchen garden (HER 18229). The garden features have recently been the subject of an archaeological walkover survey (Hunn 2008).

For much of its history Moggerhanger was a hamlet of Blunham and did not become a parish in its own right until 1860 (Youngs 1980, 9). The estate was owned by the Dawkin's family from 1857 to the end of the 1880s.

3.8 *Modern* (1900-present)

For a short time during the 1920s the house was converted to educational use and was known as *Godwin College*. It was later converted into an isolation and orthopaedic hospital and remained as such until 1987 (HER 6994; Woodward 2006, 82-6).

The Moggerhanger House Preservation Trust was established in 1997 (*ibid.*). The park has been featured in *Bedfordshire Magazine* (Boutwood 1956) and *Country Life* (Woodward 2006) and the history of the house summarised and illustrated towards the end of the 20th century (Inskip & Jenkins 1994).

4. Results

4.1 The development covers an area of *c.*1.2 hectares, and replaces part of the current estate gardens. Ground reduction between 0.2m-0.4m was carried out across two separate areas for the construction of a car park and coach park (Fig 3, Plates 1 & 2).

4.2 **Car park** (Fig. 3, Plate 1)

4.2.1 The car park area was reduced by *c.*0.2-0.4m. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of dark brown silty clay loam topsoil (001) and 0.2m of mid brown silty clay subsoil (002). The subsoil was rarely breached. The natural yellow clay with flint and chalk nodules (003) was only occasionally exposed. No archaeological features were seen cutting the subsoil or the areas of exposed natural clay.

4.2.2 One sherd of pottery (Plate 3) was discovered in the subsoil (002). The sherd is a body fragment and is similar to Olney Hyde 'A' ware (Milton Keynes type series MC3), a shelly fabric with buff brown to pink surfaces and grey core, dating to the early 13th-15th centuries (Mynard & Zeepvat 1991, 253).

4.3 **Coach Park** (Fig. 3, Plate 2)

The coach park was reduced by 0.4m. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of red-brown silty clay loam topsoil, 0.2m of mid brown silty clay subsoil and onto the natural yellow clay with flint and chalk nodules. There were no archaeological features or finds observed in the excavated area of the coach park and no pre-modern artefacts were recovered from the up-cast deposits.

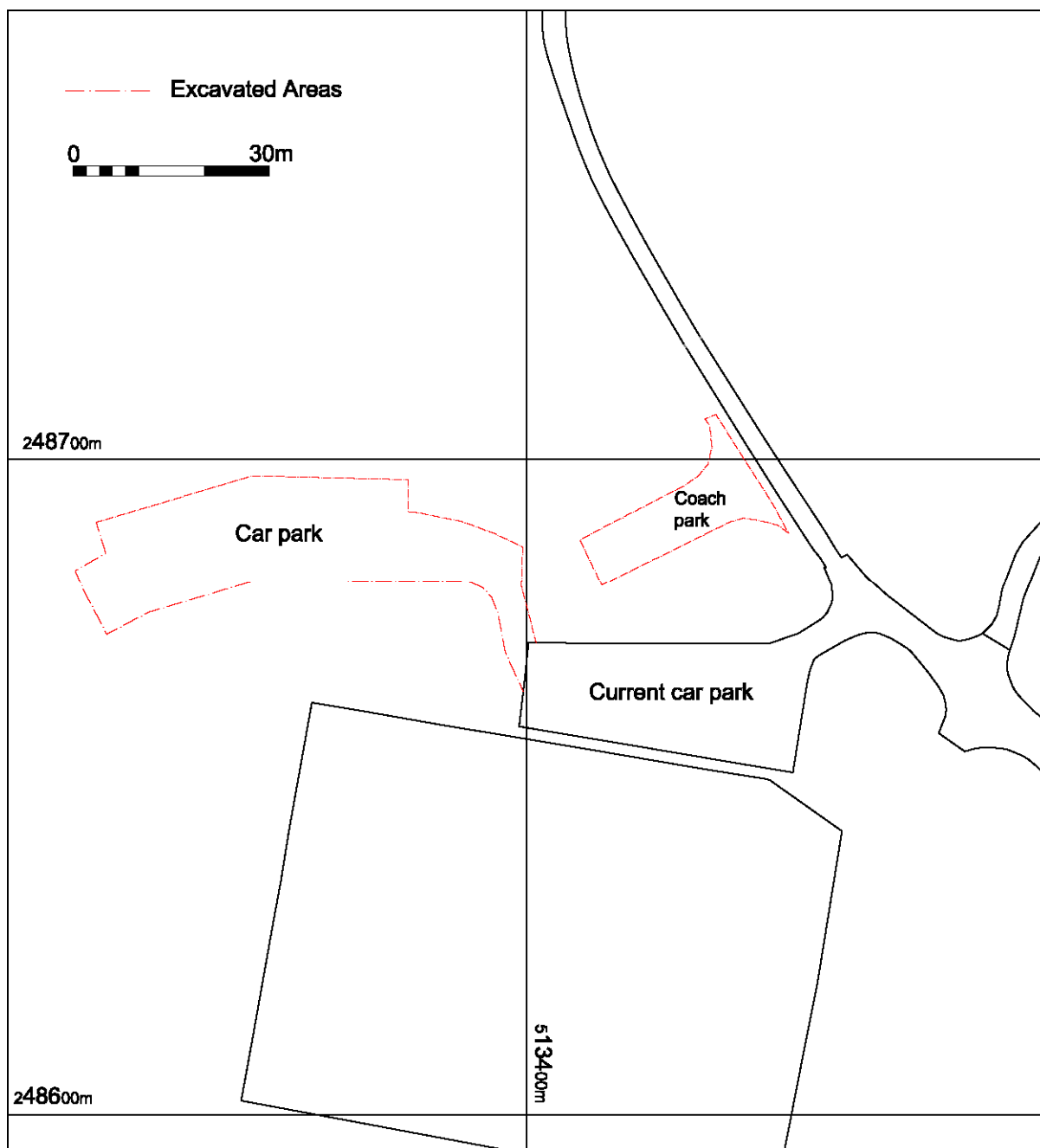


Figure 3: Excavated areas (*Scale 1:1000*)



Plate 1: Car park after ground reduction, looking west 1x2m scale



Plate 2: Coach park after ground reduction, looking east 1x2m scale



Plate 3: Sherd of pottery from subsoil (002), 1x5cm scale

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 No archaeological features were observed in excavated area of the new car park. However the subsoil layer was rarely breached and archaeological features could still be present below the subsoil layer. The single sherd of pottery discovered within the subsoil suggests medieval activity in the vicinity of the new car park development.
- 5.2 The coach park was excavated down to the natural clay and no archaeological features or finds were observed in the excavated area. While the existence of individual, isolated archaeological features, away from excavated areas cannot be entirely excluded, it is unlikely that large numbers of archaeological features or artefacts are present on the site. It is unlikely that the proposed development will have a significant impact on archaeological remains.
- 5.3 ***Confidence rating***
- On-site conditions for the archaeological works were good and the work took place in dry weather. Reasonable co-operation was received from the contractors and a high degree of confidence is attached to the results of the archaeological works.

6. Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by *Cain & Co*, on behalf of the *Moggerhanger House Preservation Trust*. The project was monitored by the *Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeology Team* on behalf of the local planning authority. Thanks are also due to the on site contractors. The project was managed for ASC by Jonathan Hunn BA MA MIFA. Fieldwork was carried out by Martin Cuthbert BA PIFA. The report was prepared by Martin Cuthbert and edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

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

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- Woodward C, 2006: Moggerhanger, Bedfordshire. *Country Life* November 23 2006, 82-86.
- Youngs, F. A. 1980: *Guide to the Administrative units of England*. Volume I: Southern
England. Offices of the Royal Historical Society (London)

Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

Project: Moggerhanger Park beds		Project No/Code: 13851 MPM		Sheet: 1 of 2	
Client/Developer Four Oaks		Date of visit: 14/3/11			
Contact: David Small		Phone: 07831 779 256			
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 09:00		Finish: 1630	
Completed by: M.C					
Development Type:					
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling ✓	Quarrying	Pipelines
Other (specify):					
Site & weather conditions: dry, overcast.					
Observations:					
levelling of an area for proposed car park.					
levelling breaches subsoil and into natural					
only on the odd occasion mainly just					
into subsoil. No ash seen.					
200mm - 400mm of reduction.					
Topsoil - 200mm dark brown organic					
silty clay loam					
Subsoil - 200mm mid brown silty clay					
with gravel.					
natural - yellow - clay with gravel + chalk					
nodules.					
Comments:					
continuing ground reduction (am) - 15/3/11					

 A.S.C. LTD		WATCHING BRIEF RECORD	
Project: Moggerhanger Park Beds		Project No/Code: 1385 / MPM	Sheet: 2 of 2
Client/Developer Four Oaks		Date of visit: 15/3/11	
Contact: D. Small		Phone: 07831 779256	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 0830	Finish: 12:30	
Completed by: M.C			
Development Type:			
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: overcast, dry			
Observations: coach park begins - 300mm of Top + Sub ground reduction, just about into the natural deep enough to make out cut features but no archaeology seen, modern gravel path seen circling tree			
Topsoil - mid-dark brown silty clay (200mm) Subsoil - light brown-orange silty clay (200mm) Natural - yellow clay with gravel + chalk nodules.			
Comments: no more visits required			

Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: Moggerhanger Park, Moggerhanger, Beds			SITE NO/CODE: 1385/MPM
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1		✓	Car park during ground reduction
2		✓	Car park during ground reduction
3		✓	Moggerhanger house
4		✓	Moggerhanger house
5		✓	Car park during ground reduction
6		✓	Earthworks within coppice to the west of development area, looking east
7		✓	Coach park during ground reduction 1x2m scale
8	✓	✓	Coach park during ground reduction 1x2m scale
9	✓	✓	Car park after ground reduction, looking west, 1x2m scale
10		✓	Coach park after ground reduction, looking east, 1x2m scale
11		✓	Sherd of pottery from subsoil (002), 5cm scale

Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	Moggerhanger Park, Moggerhanger, Beds	OASIS reference:	Archaeol2-92128
Short Description:	In March 2011 a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording took place at Moggerhanger Park, Moggerhanger, Bedfordshire during ground reduction, in relation to the construction of a car park and coach park. No archaeological features were observed in either area, whilst one sherd of medieval pottery was discovered from the subsoil in the area of the car park. The car park area did not breach the subsoil therefore archaeological deposits may survive below this layer. As the ground works were limited in scope this does not preclude the presence of archaeological remains elsewhere on the site.		
Project Type:	Watching brief		
Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	yes	Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	None
Current land use:	Gardens	Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	Unknown
Monument type:	None	Monument period:	None
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Bedfordshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	TL 1343 4865
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	Moggerhanger House Preservation Trust, Moggerhanger Park, Park Road, Moggerhanger, Bedfordshire, MK44 3RW		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	c. 10 ha	Height OD: (metres)	c.50m OD
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	Oake 2011	Project design originator:	ASC Ltd
Project Manager:	J Hunn	Director/Supervisor:	M Cuthbert
Sponsor / funding body:	Moggerhanger House Preservation Trust		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	14-03-2011	End date:	15-03-2011
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Bedford Museum BEDFM2011.24	1 sherd of pottery	
Paper:		Site records, report, photographs	
Digital:		CD-ROM with copies of all digital files	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Archaeological Observation, Investigation And Recording: Moggerhanger Park, Moggerhanger, Bedfordshire		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1385/MPM/2		
Author(s):	Martin Cuthbert BA (Hons) PIFA		
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