

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

WATCHING BRIEF: 35 CASTLE ROAD, LAVENDON MILTON KEYNES

on behalf of Mr P Monaghan



by

Nigel Wilson HND AIFA

December 2004

ASC: 615/CRL/1

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Site Data

ASC site code:	CRL	Project no:	615
Date of fieldwork	Garage plot 24/9/2004 House plot 15/12/2004		
MK Event No:	924		
County:	Buckinghamshire (historic county)		
District:	Milton Keynes Unitary Authority		
Village/Town:	Lavendon		
Parish:	Lavendon CP		
NGR:	SP 91674 53854 (centre of site)		
Present land use:	Garden		
Planning proposal:	Erection of garage attached to existing, and new house		
Extent of development:	4x7m garage 20x10m house		
Planning application ref/date:	Not known		
Client:	Mr & Mrs P Monaghan 35 Castle Road Lavendon Milton Keynes MK46 4JE		
Contact name:	Patrick Monaghan		
Telephone	n/a	Fax:	n/a

Internal Quality Check

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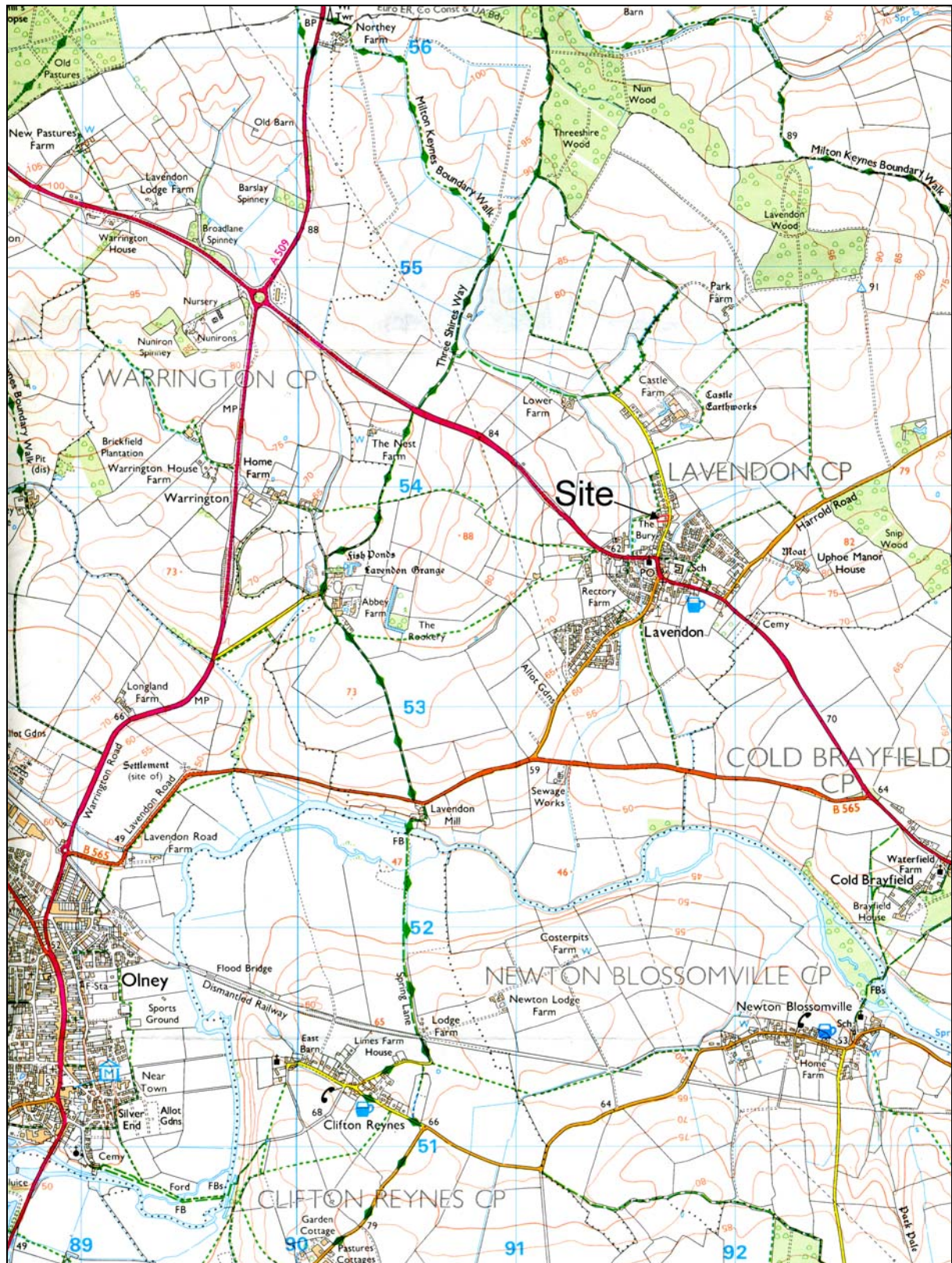


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

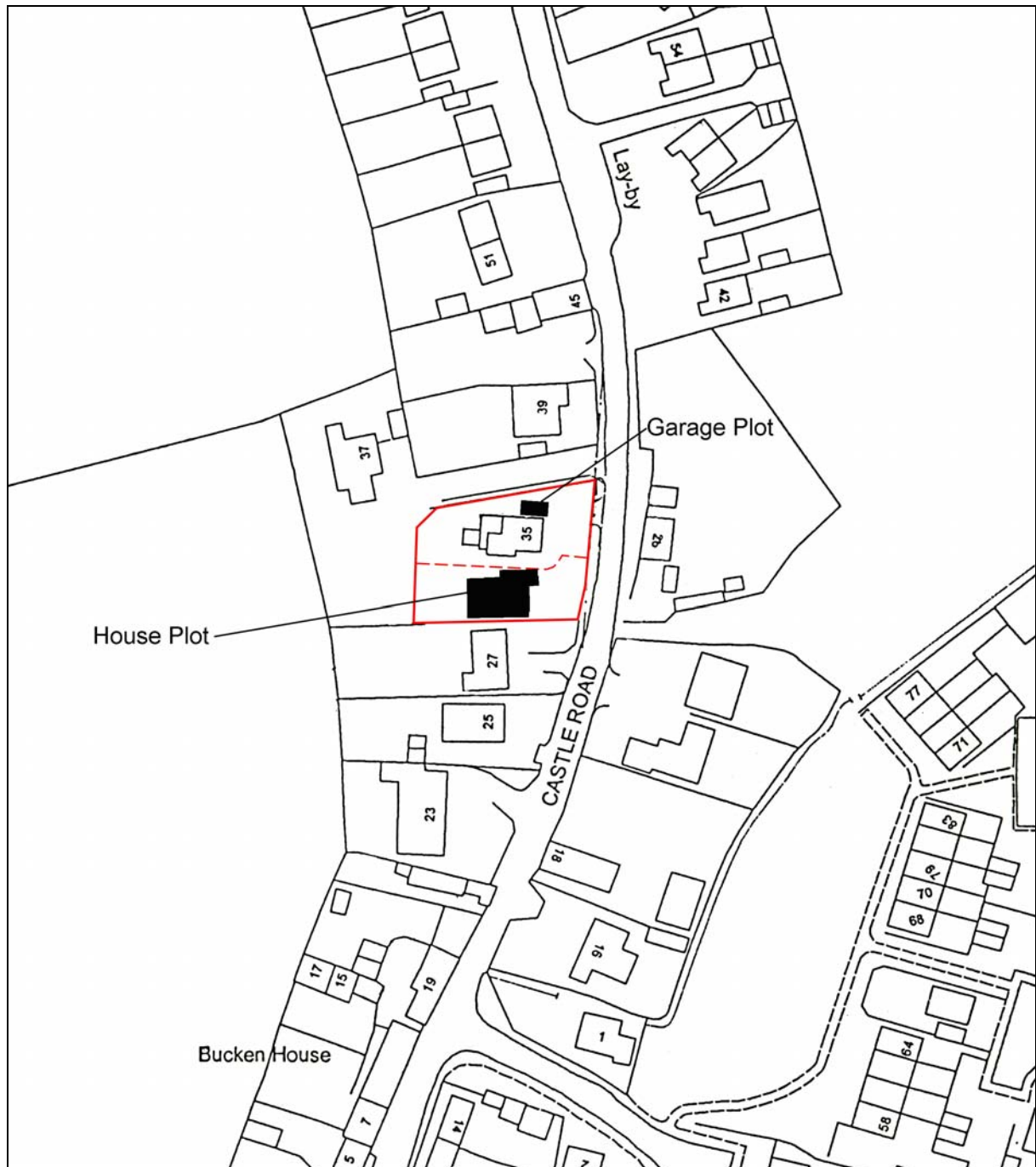


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

Summary

On 24th September and 15th October 2004 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken at 35 Castle Road, Lavendon. The site was within the historic area of Lavendon, and it was considered possible that remains from the medieval or post medieval period could be uncovered. The watching brief focused on the excavation of footing trenches in two areas of the plot in preparation for the construction of a new garage, and a new house. All the trenches were inspected after they had been excavated to their full depths into the natural undisturbed subsoil. Other than the base of a modern earlier garage and services, no archaeologically significant ground disturbance was identified.

1 Introduction

1.1 Between September and December 2004 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief on a site at 35 Castle Road, Lavendon (NGR: SP 91674 53854 Fig. 1). Mr P Monaghan the owner of the property commissioned the project. In the absence of a brief the work was carried out according to a standard method statement prepared by ASC and agreed with the Milton Keynes Council Archaeologist (MKCA).

1.2 Reason for Work

Under current planning guidelines, specifically Planning Guidance Note 16 (PPG16), archaeology can be a material factor in deciding planning applications. Mr Monaghan has been granted planning consent to construct a new garage attached to the existing house and a new house in the grounds of 35 Castle Road. As Lavendon is an area of known archaeological potential, the MKCA acting as archaeological advisor to Milton Keynes Council recommended that a watching brief should be commissioned, to enable archaeological monitoring of the groundworks. This advice was accepted and a condition requiring a watching brief to be commissioned was placed on the development.

1.3 Setting

1.3.1 Location and extent

The site is situated in Lavendon, in the administrative district of Milton Keynes. It lies to the north of the village centre, on the western side of Castle Road. The development took place in the grounds of the house known as 35 Castle Road.

1.3.2 Geology and topography

The soils of the area comprise the *Moreton Association*, namely well-drained calcareous clayey soils, over Jurassic clay and limestone (Soil Survey 1983, 511b). The site is flat and lies at an elevation of c.67m OD some four to five metres above the road.

1.3.3 *Archaeological and Historical Background*

Lavendon is an area of considerable archaeological and historical interest.

St Michael's Parish Church was originally St Mary the Church Virgin, parts of which date from the 11th Century. The dedication was changed in 1923 (<http://clutch.open.ac.uk/schools/lavendon01/churches.html>).

A motte or ringwork and bailey castle at Lavendon was mentioned in a pipe roll of 1192-3. The motte was destroyed in 1944 when much 12th century pottery was found. A 17th century farmhouse and garden terracing have effectively destroyed the former mound, but vague slopes and a section of water-filled ditch survive on the north west side of the farmhouse (<http://homepage.mac.com/philipdavis/English%20sites/1921.html>).

Archaeological remains from a variety of periods have been found in the area but the focus of interest for the current project lay in the medieval and post medieval periods.

2 Aims and Methods

2.1 Aims

The aims of the watching brief were:

- To consider the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains revealed by the development
- To produce an accurate and full record of any archaeological remains present, such that a permanent record will be made and the results presented in such a way that they can be re-examined and interpreted in the future

2.2 Methods

The work was carried out according to the ASC's standard method statement for archaeological watching briefs, which required:

- Examination of any service and foundation trenches and the subsequent recording of any exposed archaeological deposits;
- Rapid examination of spoil heaps for archaeological material;

2.3 Standards

The work conforms to the to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

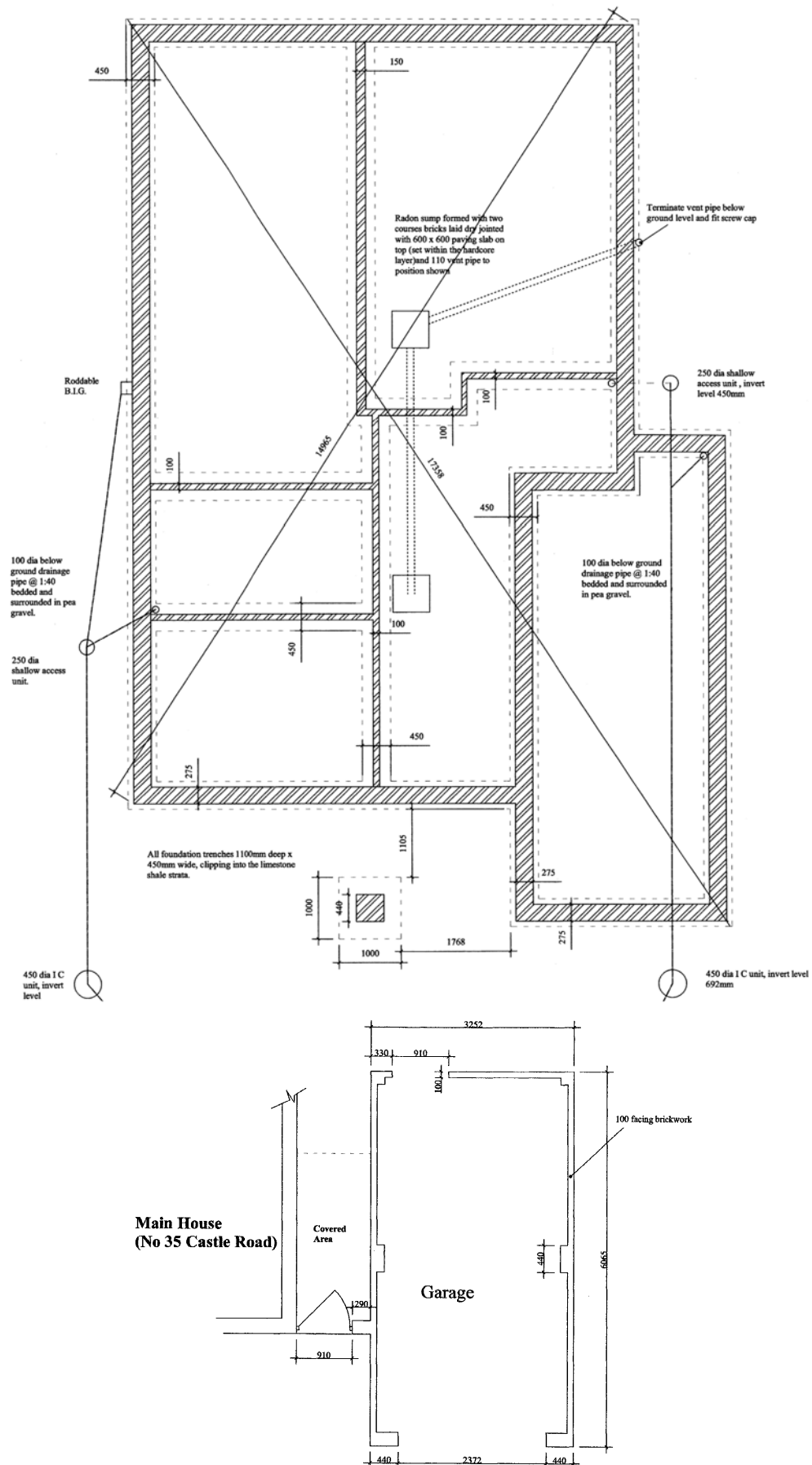


Figure 3: Plan of the house footings (above) Plan of the garage footings (below) (scale 1:100)

3 Results

- 3.1 Two visits were made to the site. The initial visit on the 24th September observed the garage footings whilst the second visit on the 15th December concentrated on the house footings. No archaeological features pre dating the second half of the 20th century were identified during either of the watching brief visits.
- 3.2 The development is in the grounds of 35 Castle Road (Fig 3). In the area of the garage no previous ground disturbance had taken place and the natural grey-blue clay continued to c.1500mm below the surface whereupon natural limestone was encountered. The area of the new house was much more disturbed. A now demolished garage had stood on the southern part of site. Several service runs were also observed. The natural profile was similar to that identified in the area of the garage.
- 3.3 *Archaeological impact of the development*
- It is unlikely that archaeological remains survive within the area of the new build and consequently the archaeological impact of the development has been minimal.



Plate 1: View of the garage footing trench



Plate 2: View of the house plot showing the disturbed nature of the ground

3.4 *Confidence Rating*

The watching brief was undertaken in overcast lighting and conditions for the watching brief were good. Full co-operation was received from the contractors and developer and a high confidence rating is attached to the results of the watching brief.

4. **Acknowledgements**

The writer is grateful to *Patrick Monaghan* for commissioning the watching brief. We would also like to acknowledge the co-operation of the groundwork contractors. Thanks are also due to Mr Brian Giggins, Archaeological Officer of *Milton Keynes Council* who acted as curatorial monitor.

The project was under the overall management of Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA. The fieldwork was undertaken for ASC Ltd by Nigel Wilson. The report was prepared by Nigel Wilson and edited by Bob Zeepvat

5. Archive

No formal archive will be prepared for this project, but a copy of the report and a CD containing the report and digital images will be lodged with the Milton Keynes SMR.

6. Bibliography

Allen J L & Holt A St J, 1986 (with later updates) *Health & Safety in Field Archaeology*. Standing Conference of Unit Managers (London).

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)*.

Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).

Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: 35 Castle Road, Lavendon		Project No/Code 615/CRL		Sheet: 1 of 2	
		Date of visit: 24/9/2004			
Client/Developer Patrick Monaghan					
Contact: Patrick Monaghan				Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 11.30		Finish: 12.40	
Completed by: N J Wilson					
Development Type:					
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines
Other (specify):					
Site & weather conditions: Dry overcast					
Observations: 4 sides of garage excavated no archaeology 0-250mm turf/ topsoil 250-1500mm bands of natural clay >1500mm limestone					
Comments: Patrick will give us about 1 weeks notice when the house footings are going in. 4 digital photographs taken					

For sketch plan, use reverse

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**A.S.C. LTD****ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD**

Project: 35 Castle Road, Lavendon		Project No/Code 615/CRL		Sheet: 1 of 2	
		Date of visit: 15/12/2004			
Client/Developer Patrick Monaghan					
Contact: Patrick Monaghan				Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 10.15		Finish: 11.30	
Completed by: N J Wilson					
Development Type:					
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines
Other (specify):					
Site & weather conditions: Dry overcast					
Observations: Soakaway SW corner of plot SP 91669/53842 1.5x1.5m Trenches .600mm wide 0-250mm turf/ topsoil 250-1500mm blue grey clay >1500mm limestone Very disturbed ground, old garage footings and services seen in the trenches.					
Comments: Footings all open. Layout as shown on the plan. 8 digital photos taken No further work required					

For sketch plan, use reverse

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