



Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:
50 HIGH STREET, LAVENDON
MILTON KEYNES**

on behalf of Mark Padbury



by

Nigel Wilson HND AIFA

October 2004

ASC: 618/LHS/1

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Site Data

<i>ASC site code:</i>	LHS	<i>Project no:</i>	618
<i>Date of fieldwork</i>	11 th October 2004		
<i>MK Event No:</i>	926		
<i>County:</i>	Buckinghamshire (historic county)		
<i>District:</i>	Milton Keynes Unitary Authority		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Lavendon		
<i>Parish:</i>	Lavendon CP		
<i>NGR:</i>	SP 91940 53468 (centre of site)		
<i>Present land use:</i>	Garden		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Erection of garage, greenhouse and workshop		
<i>Extent of development:</i>	20.0 x 20.0m		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	Not known		
<i>Client:</i>	Mark Padbury 50 High Street Lavendon Milton Keynes MK46 4HA		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Mark Padbury		
<i>Telephone</i>	n/a	<i>Fax:</i>	n/a

Internal Quality Check

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CONTENTS

Summary	5
1. Introduction	5
2. Aims and Methods	6
3. Results.	8
4. Acknowledgements	9
5. Archive	9
6. Bibliography	9

Appendices:

1. Site monitoring sheet	10
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Figures:

1. General location	3
2. Site plan	4
3. General plan of the development.....	7

Plates:

Cover: 50 High Street, Lavendon

1. View of the trench on completion of the excavation.....	8
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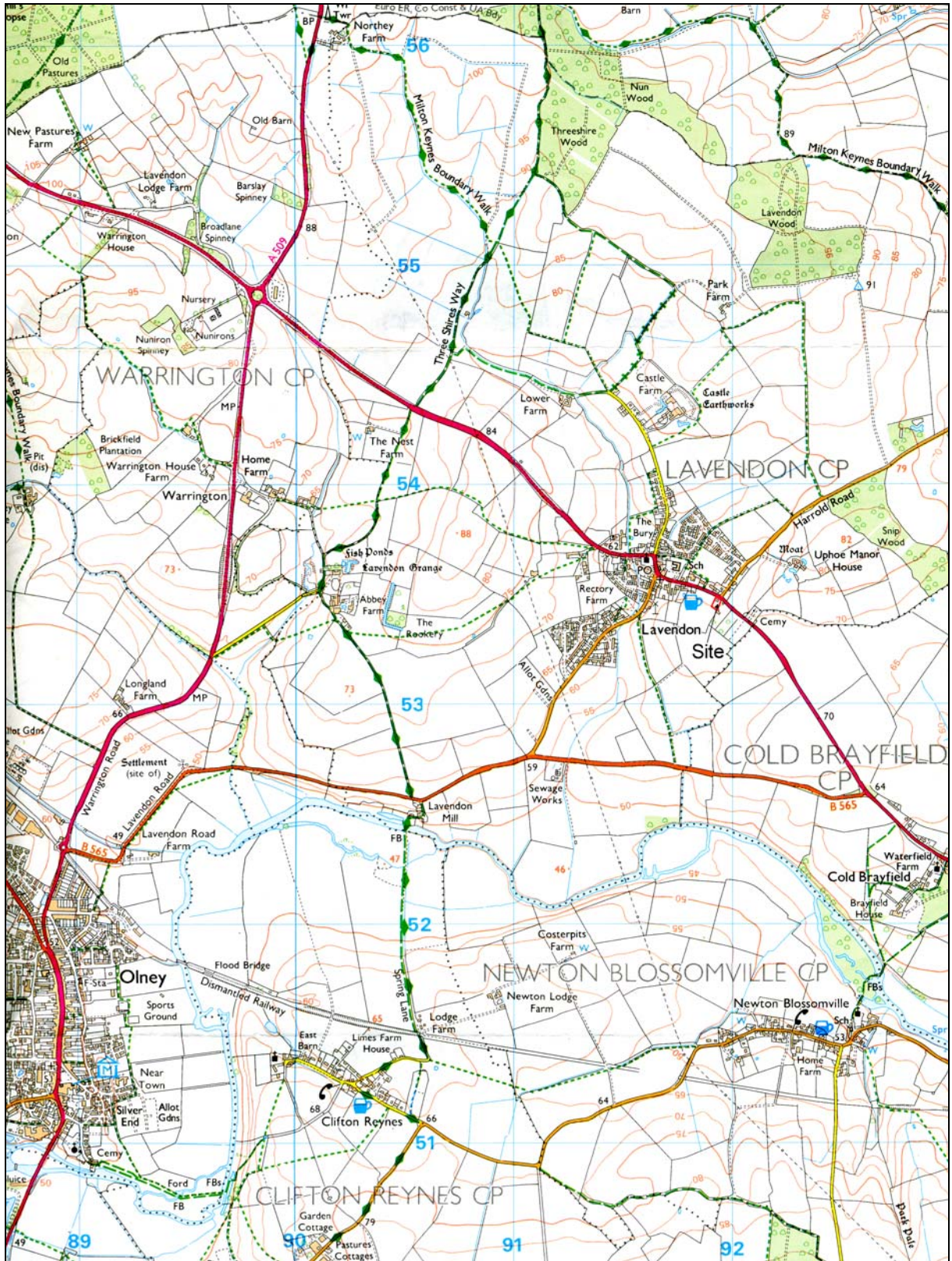


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

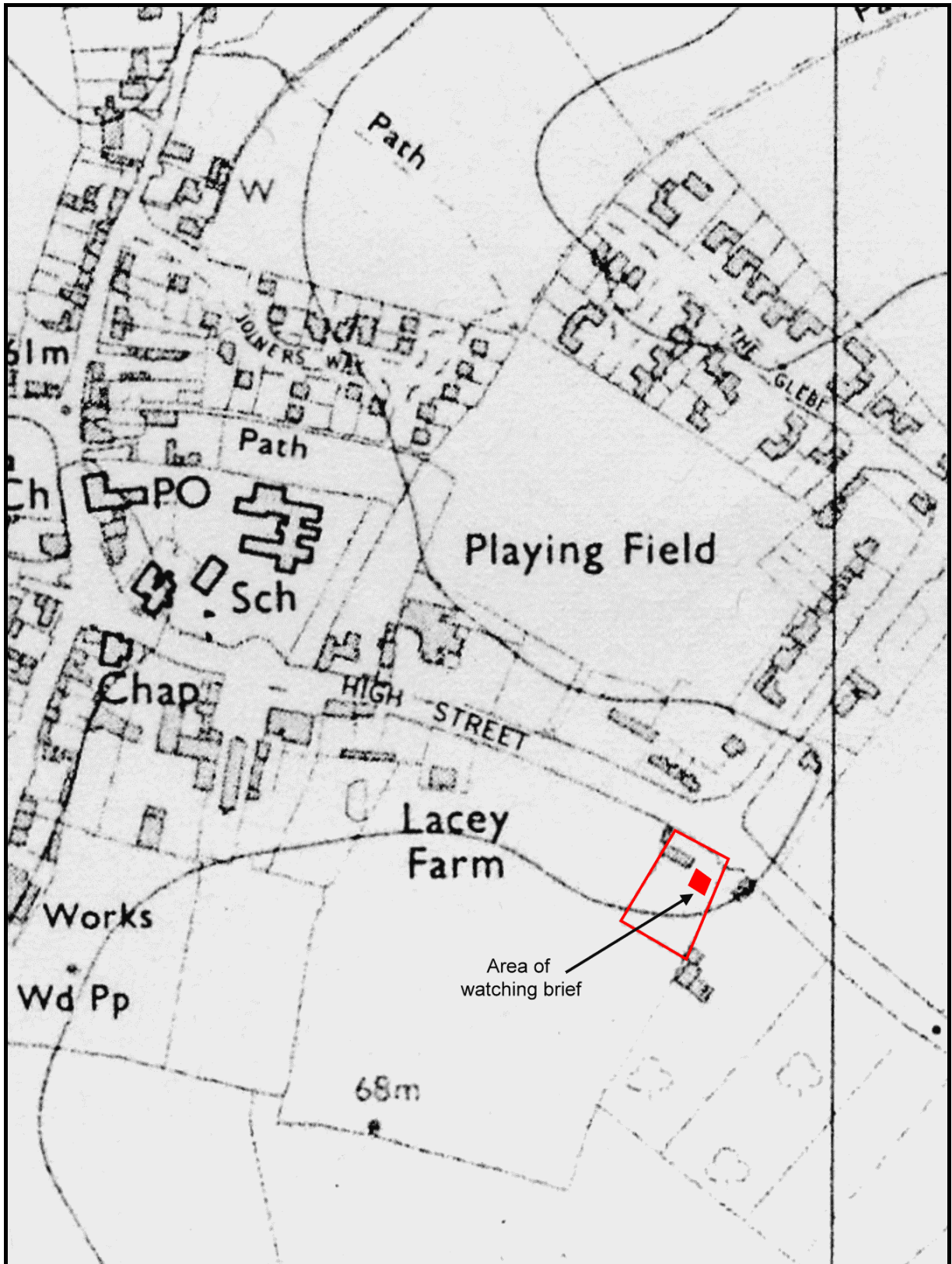


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:2,500)

Summary

On 11th October 2004 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken at 50 High Street, 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 levelling of the site in preparation for the construction of a new garage, greenhouse and workshop. All groundworks were observed until natural undisturbed subsoil was reached across the whole site. Other than the base of an earlier garage, which had been demolished by the developer immediately prior to the watching brief no ground disturbance was identified.

1 Introduction

1.1 During October 2004 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief on a site at 50 High Street, Lavendon (NGR: SP 91940 53468 Fig. 1). Mark Padbury 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 Padbury has been granted planning consent to construct a new detached garage, greenhouse and workshop. As Lavendon is an area of known archaeological potential, the MKCA acting as archaeological advisors 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 south-east of the village centre, on the south-west side of High Street, the main road through the village. The development took place in the grounds of the cottage known as number 50 High Street. The area striped lay to the south east of the house and measured 20.0 x 20.0m.

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.70m OD.

1.3.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

Lavendon is an area of considerable archaeological and historical interest. 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, extension, 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:

- Observation of soil and overburden stripping under archaeological supervision, on an intermittent basis;
- Inspection of sub-soil for archaeological features;
- The excavation and recording of any archaeological features/deposits;
- Sub-soil stripping under archaeological supervision;
- 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*.

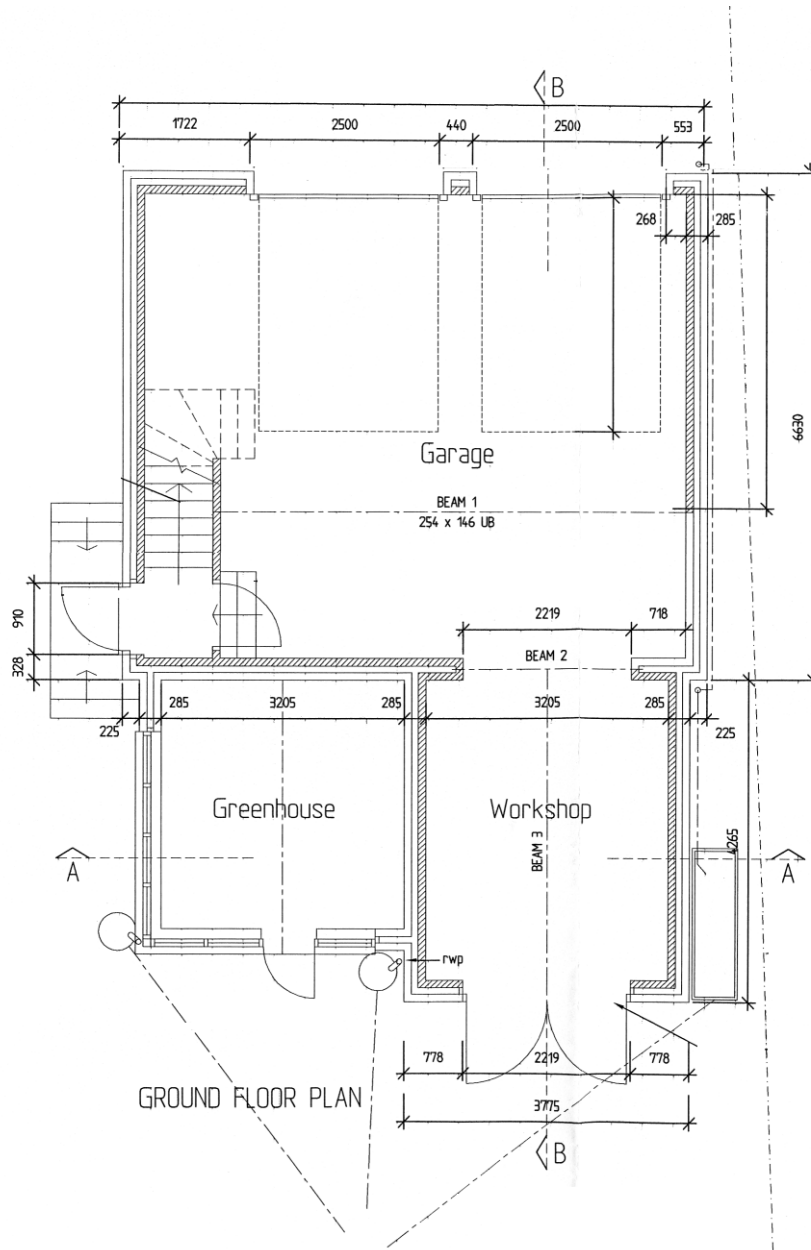


Figure 3: General plan of the development (not to scale)

3 Results

3.1 A single visit was made to the site on 11th October 2004 in order to monitor the reduction of the ground level. Archaeological remains were not observed during the works.

3.2 The development is in the grounds of 50 High Street, on part of the lawn. Turf and topsoil accounted for the upper 250mm of deposits. Below the topsoil the ground comprised orangey red natural undisturbed sandy clay, which became gradually more clayey with depth. By about 1000mm below the surface pure blue clay was observed.

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 site after the removal of the topsoil

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 *Mark Padbury* for commissioning the watching brief. We would also like to acknowledge the co-operation of the groundwork contractors from Green Plant Ltd. Thanks are also due to the staff of the Milton Keynes library and 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



A.S.C. LTD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: 50 High Street, Lavendon		Project No/Code: 618/LHS	Sheet: 1 of 1
		Date of visit: 11 th October 2004	
Client/Developer Mark Padbury			
Contact: Mark Padbury		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 8.45	Finish: 10.40	
Completed by: N J Wilson			
Development Type:			
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: Dry overcast			
Observations:			
<p>Area to south-east of house being reduced. Lawn and topsoil c.250mm onto natural undisturbed soil, which becomes more clayey with depth.</p> <p>No archaeology.</p> <p>Co-ordinates</p> <p>Start of drive: SP 91946 53478 (centre) Western end of cut SP 91934 53458 (centre)</p>			
Comments: Levelling for greenhouse, garage, and workshop. No further visits required			

For sketch plan, use reverse

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