



Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

WATCHING BRIEF: LAND ADJACENT TO STOCKING GREEN FARM HANSLOPE MILTON KEYNES

on behalf of Paul Sloyan



Nigel Wilson HND AIFA

August 2004

ASC: 593/HSG/01

Letchworth House
Chesney Wold, Bleak Hall,
Milton Keynes MK6 1NE
Tel: 01908 608989 Fax: 01908 605700
Email: office@archaeological-services.co.uk
Website: www.archaeological-services.co.uk



Site Data

<i>ASC site code:</i>	HSG	<i>Project no:</i>	593
<i>Milton Keynes Event No:</i>	908		
<i>Date of Fieldwork</i>	2 nd August 2004		
<i>Authority</i>	Milton Keynes		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Hanslope		
<i>Parish:</i>	Hanslope CP		
<i>NGR:</i>	SP 80140 47245		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	25 x 12m		
<i>Present land use:</i>	Derelict open site		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Erection of dwelling		
<i>Extent of development:</i>	7.5x 11.3m		
<i>Client:</i>	Mr Paul Sloyan Stocking Green Farm Hanslope Milton Keynes		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Paul Sloyan		
<i>Telephone</i>		<i>Fax:</i>	

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Nigel Wilson	<i>Date:</i>	19 th August 2004
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
<i>Revisions:</i>	Nigel Wilson	<i>Date:</i>	11 th January 2005
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	

© Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

No part of this document is to be copied in any way without prior written consent.

Every effort is made to provide detailed and accurate information. However, Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies within this report.

© Ordnance Survey maps reproduced with the sanction of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

ASC Licence No. AL 100015154

CONTENTS

Summary	4
1. Introduction	4
2. Aims & Methods	8
3. Results.	9
4. Conclusions	11
5. Acknowledgements	12
6. Archive	12
7. References	13

Appendices:

1. Field Monitoring Sheet.....	14
--------------------------------	----

Figures:

1. General location	3
2. Extract from the 1885 1 st edition 6” Ordnance Survey map (<i>not to scale</i>)	6
3. Site plan	7
4. General plan of the site.....	9

Plates:

Cover: General view of the site from Long Street Road

1. General view looking south.....	10
2. Detail of the brick footings in the north-eastern corner of the development	10
3. View south-westwards along the easternmost trench	10

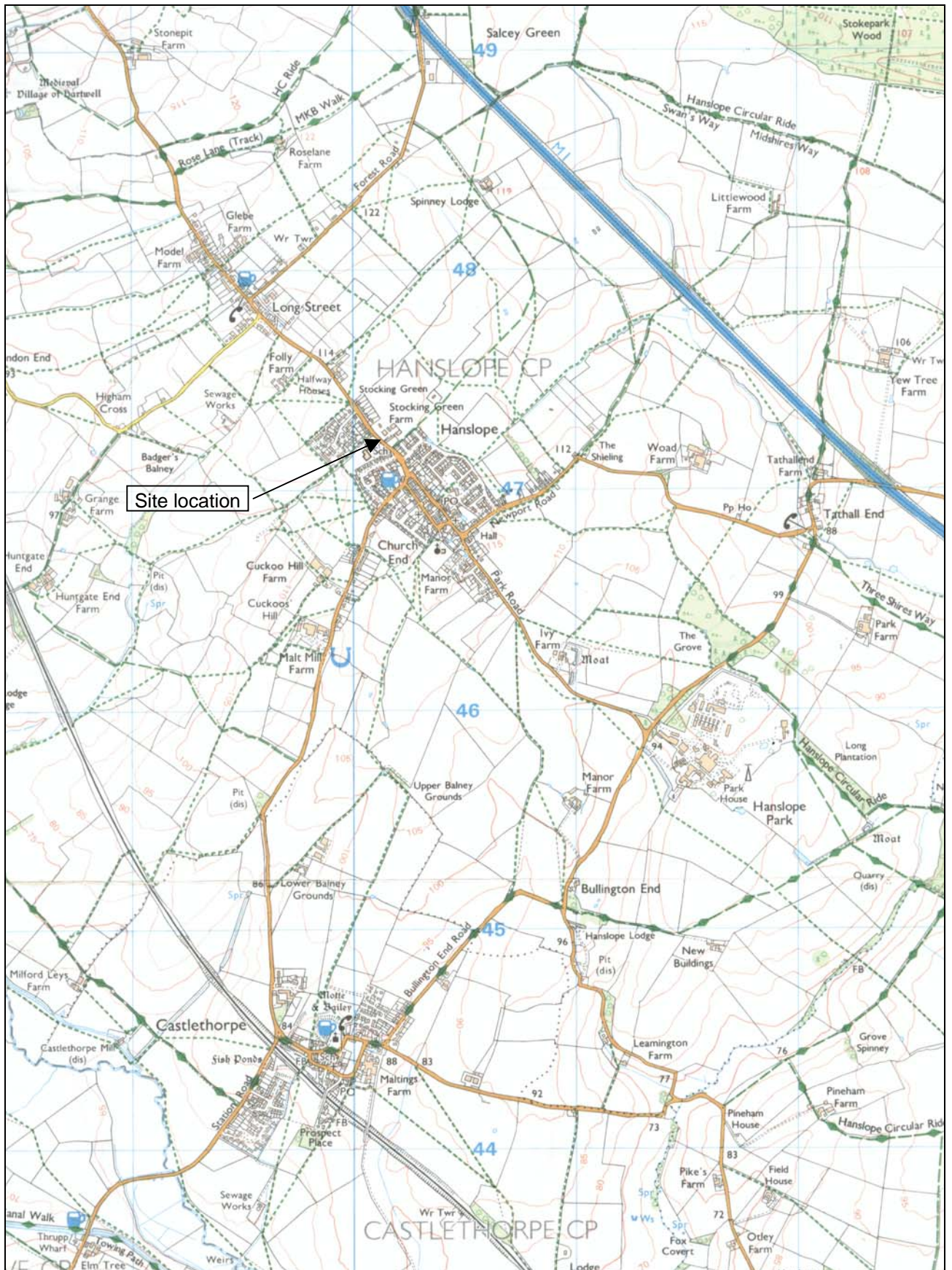


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

During August 2004 ASC Ltd undertook a watching brief during the excavation of the footings on a single infill plot off Long Street, Hanslope, Milton Keynes. The work was commissioned to fulfil a planning condition imposed by the local planning authority Milton Keynes Council. The shallow brick footings of a 19th century barn were observed. No evidence for earlier occupation of the site was identified during the watching brief.

1 Introduction

1.1 During August 2004 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief on a site off Long Street, Hanslope, Milton Keynes (NGR: SP 80140 47245 Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Paul Sloyan, 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 Notes 16 (PPG16), archaeology can be a material factor in deciding planning applications. Mr Sloyan has been granted planning consent to construct a new house on the site. As Stocking Green Farm is in 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 The site is located on the north-eastern side of Long Street Road opposite the Hanslope County Combined School, in the small hamlet of Stocking Green which today forms the northern part of Hanslope. The site stands in the grounds of the former farm known as Stocking Green Farm, which was demolished recently, prior to the erection of a new housing estate to the north and east of the present site. To the south of the site stands a stone-built cottage. This cottage is shown on the 1885 as part of a larger range of buildings forming part of Stocking Green Farm (Fig 2). The plot is rectangular in shape measuring c. 25 x 12m. The house will stand roughly central on the site, occupying most of the plots width (Fig 4).

1.3.2 The soils of the area have been mapped by the soil survey of Great Britain and have been designated as belonging to the Hanslope Association and are described as “slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils. Some slowly permeable non-calcareous clayey soils. Slight risk of water erosion” (Soil Survey 1983). The site stand on level ground at c. 114.5m.

1.3.3 No buildings are currently standing on the site but it is clear from the 1885 map that parts of Stocking Green Farm extended across the northern part of the site. Access to the site is gained off Long Street Road.

1.4 Historical Background

- 1.4.2 The earliest recorded mention of Hanslope is in the Domesday Survey of 1086 when the village is recorded as being held by Winemar the Fleming. At this time the village seems to have been a small settlement with woodland providing for a thousand swine (Morris 1978 46,1).
- 1.4.3 It appears that the land around Hanslope continued to be wooded throughout the medieval period, lying within Salcey Forest (Reed 1979, 125), which was not subjected to enclosure until 1825 (Pevsner & Williamson 1994, 51).
- 1.4.4 The growth of Hanslope towards the end of the medieval period can be shown by the rising status of its church, St James, which became the parish church for the area, superseding Castlethorpe, in the mid 13th century (Reed 1979, 136). In the 15th century a spire was constructed rising to an impressive 200 feet. This spire unfortunately collapsed in 1804 after being struck by lightning and was subsequently rebuild 20 feet lower, though it remains the tallest spire in the county (*op cit*, 159).
- 1.4.5 Between 1997 and 2000 Northamptonshire Archaeology undertook an excavation and watching brief during the development of the estate now standing on the site of Stocking Green Farm. This excavation revealed a number of poorly preserved medieval houses and plots, which formed the settlement of Stocking Green. Pottery recovered from the site ranged in date from the 13th to 17th centuries, as well a later material associated with the farm (NA 2001).



Figure 2: Extract from the 1885 1st edition 6" Ordnance Survey map (not to scale)

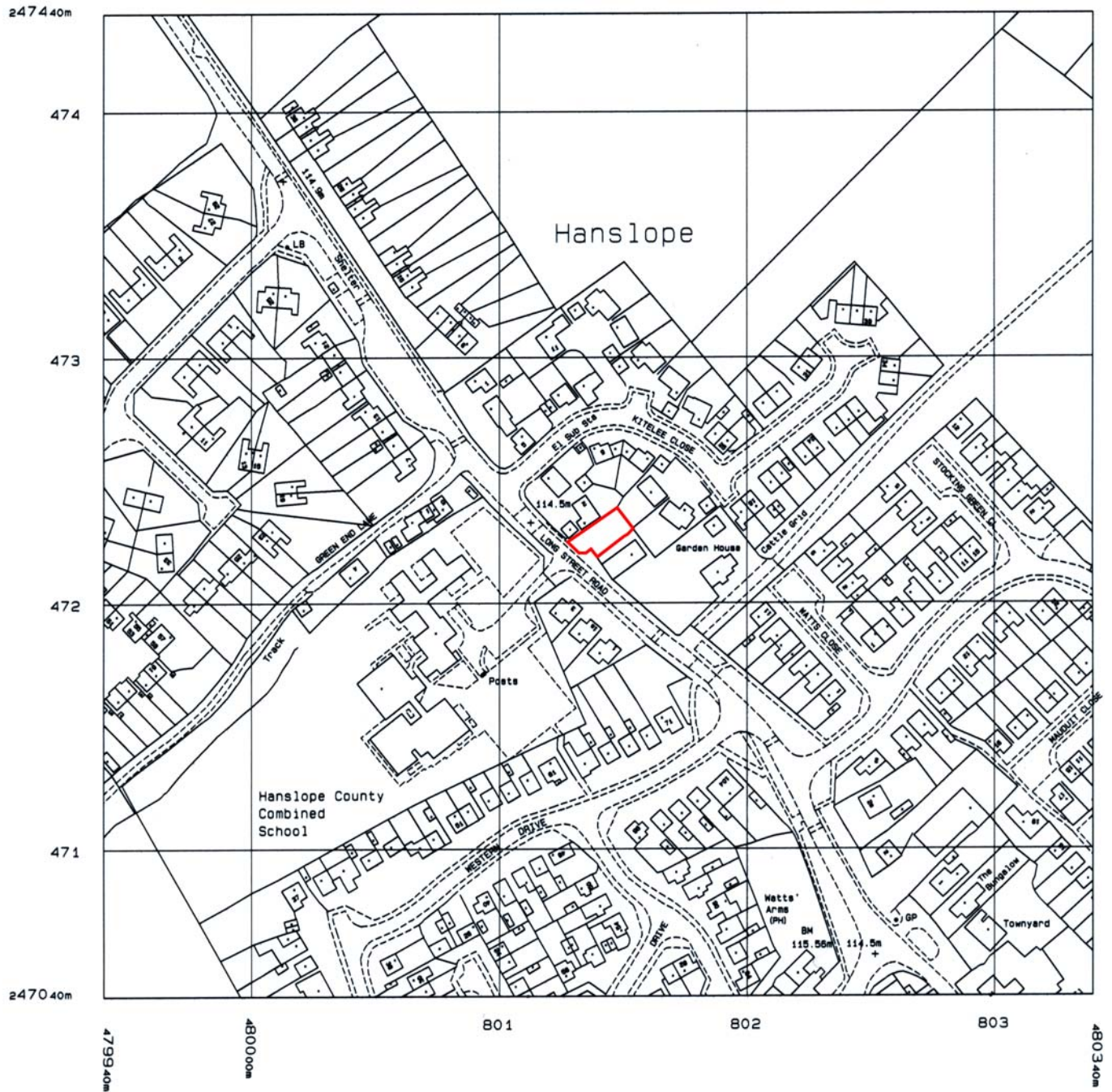


Figure 3: Site plan (scale 1:2500)

2 Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

As described in the method statement the aims of the watching brief were:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological deposits exposed during the groundworks.

2.2 Methods

The work was carried out in accordance with the method statement which required:

- a watching brief on groundworks.
- on completion of the watching brief, preparation of a report summarising and interpreting the results.

2.3 Standards

The work conforms to the project design, 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*.

3 Results

- 3.1 The footing trenches (Fig 4) were opened using a JCB fitted with a 0.6m bucket. Observations were made after the footing trenches had been opened prior to the concrete being poured.
- 3.2 The upper 0.4 - 0.8m of the site comprised highly disturbed ground below which lay the undisturbed natural yellowish clays. No remains or artefacts associated with the medieval settlement at Stocking Green were identified during the watching brief.
- 3.3 In the north eastern corner of the new building, the foundation courses of a highly disturbed NW-SE brick wall 0.2m wide were observed running across the footing trench. This wall almost certainly represents one of the walls shown on the 1885 Ordnance Survey map (Fig 2). The pale reddish bricks were machine made and measured 215x100x65mm. The upper course was *c.*0.2m below the existing ground level. Four mortar bonded courses survived of this footing giving a total foundation depth of *c.*0.4m.
- 3.4 A 0.9m diameter stone lined well was also disturbed during the excavation of the footings just outside the south eastern corner of the house. For safety reasons this well was filled with concrete before the commencement of the watching brief, but the builders said it was *c.*4.5m deep

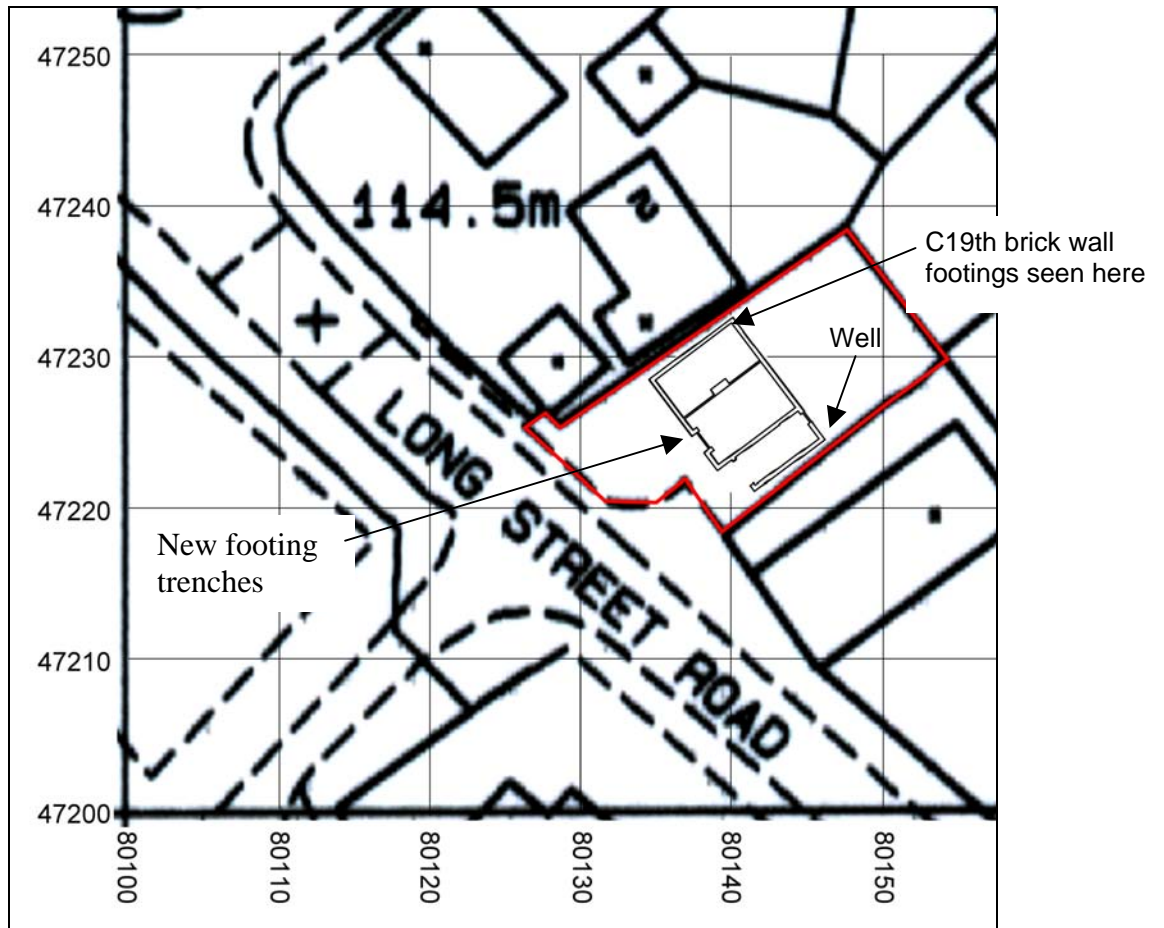


Figure 4: General plan of the site (scale 1:500)



Plate 1: General view looking south



Plate 2: Detail of the brick footings in the north-eastern corner of the development



Plate 3: View south-westwards along the easternmost trench

4. Conclusions

- 4.1 Stocking Green seems to have been a small hamlet to the north of Hanslope from at least the 13th century. The cartographic evidence demonstrates that up until the early 20th century the area around Stocking Green Farm continued to be a separate settlement from Hanslope. During the 20th century this separate identity was gradually lost as development proceeded up High Street and on to Long Street Road until today no distinction can be made between the two communities. The watching brief was required to investigate if any further deposits associated with the medieval settlement at Stocking Green examined by Northamptonshire Archaeology during the development of the adjoining housing estate extended onto the current site.
- 4.2 Though the brick footings for a 19th century building, probably a barn were observed it seems unlikely that any settlement associated with the medieval hamlet at Stocking Green survived within the confines of the development area.

5. Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to Paul Sloyan for commissioning and funding the watching brief. We would also like to thank David Nash of Nash's Groundworks for his assistance and interest during the monitoring visit. Brian Giggins (MKCA) ensured that the work was carried out to the required standards on behalf of the planning authority. Brian also maintains the Sites and Monuments Record. The information on the Northamptonshire Archaeology excavation at Stocking Green Farm was acquired from the online version of the SMR.

The Stocking Green watching brief was under the overall management of Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA, and Nigel Wilson undertook the field work.

6. Archive

6.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans
5. Site Monitoring Sheets
6. List of photographs/slides
7. Colour slides
8. B/W prints & negatives
9. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

6.2 The archive will be deposited with the Buckinghamshire County Museum

7. Bibliography

IFA 2000 Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.

IFA 2001 Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds)*.

Morris J (ed) 1978 *Domesday Book: A Survey of the Counties of England, Winchester 1086 13: Buckinghamshire*. Phillimore, Chichester.

NA 2001 *Archaeological Investigations at Stocking Green Farm, Hanslope*. Northants CC

Pevsner N & E Williamson 1994 (2nd edition) *The Buildings of England: Buckinghamshire*. Penguin, London

Reed, M 1979 *The Buckinghamshire Landscape*. Hodder and Stoughton, London.

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

Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

Project: Land Adjacent to Stocking Green Farm		Project No/Code: 593/HSG		Sheet: 1 of 1		
Hanslope, Milton Keynes		Date of visit: 2/8/2004				
Client/Developer Paul Sloyan						
Contact: David Nash (Site manager)			Phone:			
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 11.30		Finish: 1:00		
Completed by: Nigel Wilson						
Development Type:						
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: Dry, bright sun						
Observations: Trenches all open read for inspection. 0.6 x 0.7-1.3m Upper 0.4-0.5m disturbed, on northern side of the site 3-4 courses of machine made brick. Footings for a 19 th century barn, also 2 wooden posts (door frame?) Below 0.5m natural yellow clay Though not observed as it had already been filled with concrete a stone lined well 4.5m deep was noted at the south eastern corner of the trench layout. A considerable quantity of limestone lying around the site building material date unknown.						
Comments: No further visits will be required						