

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

WATCHING BRIEF: SALDEN MANOR COOKS LANE MURSLEY BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

NGR: SP 82509 29708

on behalf of Mrs E. Gill



Carina Summerfield-Hill BA MSc

March 2011

ASC: 1375/MSM/2



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Site Data

ASC project code:	MSM		ASC Project No:	1375		
OASIS ref:	archaeol2-95325		Event/Accession no:	AYBCM:2011.142		
County:		Buckinghamshire				
Village/Town:		Mursley				
Civil Parish:		Mursley				
NGR (to 8 figs):		SP 82509	9 29708			
Extent of site:		<i>c</i> .650 sq	m			
Present use:		Grasslan	d			
Planning proposal:		Construction of tennis court				
Planning application	ref/date:	10/01455/APP				
Local Planning Author	ority:	Aylesbury Vale District Council				
Date of fieldwork:		01/03/11-04/03/11				
Client:		Mrs E. Gill				
		Salden Manor				
		Cooks Lane				
		Mursley				
		Milton Keynes				
		MK17 0HX				
Contact name:		Mrs E. Gill				

Internal Quality Check

Primary Author: Carina Summerfield-Hill		Date:	09/03/11
Revisions:	Δ	Date:	
	<u>N</u> N		
Edited/Checked By:	YAK -	Date:	09/03/2011
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CONTENTS

Su	mmary	4
1.	Introduction	4
2.	Aims & Methods	6
3.	Archaeological & Historical Background	7
4.	Results.	9
5.	Conclusions	11
6.	Acknowledgements	12
7.	Archive	12
8.	References	13

Appendices:

1.	ASC Watching Brief Monitoring Sheets	14
2.	Photo List	18
3.	ASC OASIS Form	19

Figures:

1.	General location	3
2.	Site plan and development	5

Plates:

Cover: Salden House Farm, looking west

1.	Bank, looking south	10
2.	East facing southern section of bank	10
3.	Large limestone blocks uncovered from the southern end of bank	10
4.	East facing central section of bank	10
5.	East facing northern section of bank	10
6.	Bank fully excavated and sloped, looking south	10

Salden Manor, Cooks Lane, Mursley, Bucks 1375/MSM

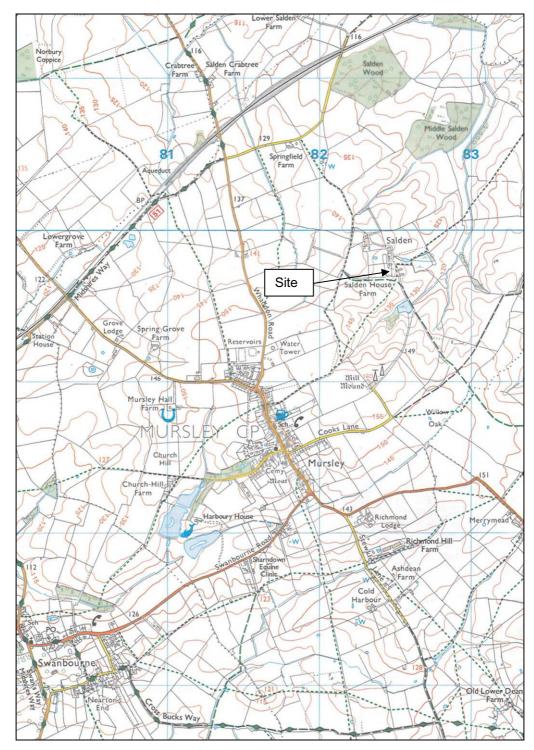


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In March 2011 an archaeological watching brief was carried out at Salden Manor, Cooks Lane, Mursley, Buckinghamshire during the construction of a tennis court. The topography of the site consisted of a banked area along the western side of the site. Upon excavation the bank comprised made-up ground containing significant quantities of dumped orange bricks and tile, also a number of large limestone blocks were uncovered that may possibly be linked to either Salden Manor or the large 16th century house that once stood immediately north of the development.

1. Introduction

1.1 In March 2011 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out a watching brief at Salden Manor, Cooks Lane, Mursley, Buckinghamshire. The project was commissioned by client Mrs E. Gill, and was carried out according to a brief (Alqassar 2010) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), Aylesbury Vale District Council, by their archaeological advisor (AA), Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service, and a project design prepared by ASC (Rouse 2010). The relevant planning application reference is 10/01455/APP.

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

The development site is located in the district of Aylesbury Vale, in the parish of and to the north west of the village of Mursley, at NGR SP 82509 29708 (Fig. 1).

The site comprises an irregular piece of land, accessed from Cooks Lane, which forms the easternmost boundary of the site. The site is surrounded by both gardens and farmland (Fig. 2)

1.4.2 Geology & Topography

The soils of the area belong to the Sutton 1 Association, which are characterised as *well drained fine and coarse loamy soils locally calcareous and in places shallow over limestone gravel, over river terrace gravel* (Soil Survey 1983, 571u). The underlying geology comprises Quaternary till (BGS, Sheet 220).

1.4.3 Proposed Development

The proposed development comprises the construction of a tennis court (Fig. 2).

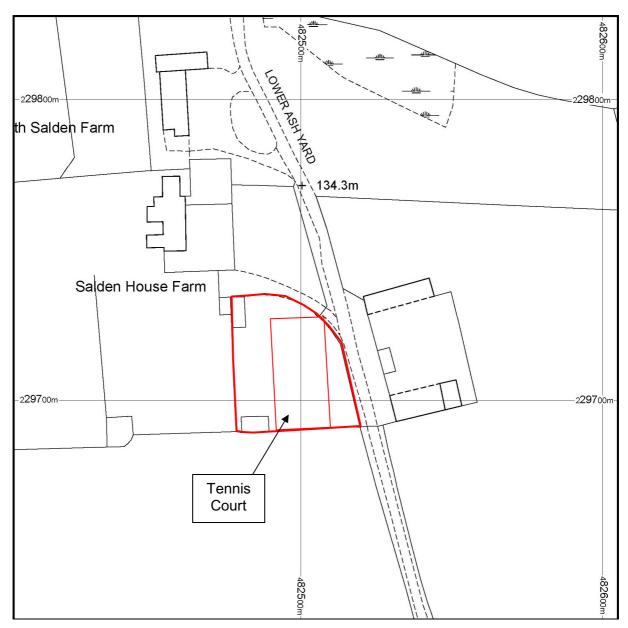


Figure 2: Site plan and development (scale 1:1250)

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.

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 3.3), which required:

• A continuous watching brief (*i.e.* archaeologist present during all works which may affect archaeological remains) was undertaken during groundworks (footing and service trenches, reduction of levels, landscaping).

2.4 *Constraints*

The work was carried out in line with the project design and with full cooperation of the client. Therefore no constraints were placed on the project.

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, and has the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods.

This section has been compiled with information from the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and other readily available sources.

3.2 **Prehistoric** (before 600BC-AD43)

No systematic large scale archaeological work has taken place in Mursley and evidence for the prehistoric periods is largely confined to chance discoveries of isolated artefacts. A Neolithic flint axe has been found *c*.500m east of the site (HER 4125) and a second example has been found to the south of Mursley village. Further evidence for prehistoric activity comprises a group of ditches which contained prehistoric pottery sherds *c*.1.5km west of the site (King 2001, 10). The area to the northwest of Mursley is of considerable importance for the study of the Iron Age as an Iron Age enclosure and a coin hoard of national importance has was discovered to the west of Stearthill Farm (Fell 2002b; Markham 1973, 1).

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

There is limited evidence for Mursley and Salden during the Roman period. A scatter of pottery sherds was recovered from the ploughed surface of the fields immediately to the south of the development (HER 5700). A Roman villa was situated c.500m north of the site (HER 1651) and quantities of 2nd-century box flue tiles have recently been found to the south of the site, as well as several sherds of pottery, including one fragment of Samian ware (HER 6584, 1071). Further scatters of Roman debris have been recorded at a several locations close to the site, probably indicating the presence of Roman buildings ($e \ g \$ HER 5700, 1650). Sherds of 2nd to 3rd-century pottery, as well as roof and floor tile were brought to the surface as a result of deep ploughing c.0.4km east of the development site (HER 1730).

3.4 Saxon (c.450-1066)

A small settlement probably developed at the site during the late Saxon and early medieval periods. The village was included in the Domesday Survey (1086), where it is referred to as *Sceldene*. The land was held by *Leofwin of Nuneham* and the *Count of Mortain* and was valued at £3 (Morris 1978). The settlement subsequently contracted, and a census of 1563 lists only a single household (Markham 1973, 175).

The settlement at Salden developed independently of Mursley during the medieval period and, administratively, was a separate manor. The manor house is thought to have been situated at the site of North Salden Farm, immediately north of the development site. A chantry chapel dedicated to St Nicholas was founded in 1253 (HER 1532), but had gone out of use by 1350. A number of house platforms and earthworks, which may be of medieval date (HER1653 & 1654) are present in the area.

3.5 *Medieval* (1066-1500)

An area of possible settlement has been identified c.0.1km southeast of the development site, where areas of cobbling, building material and moulded stone were identified in a ploughed field, along with sherds of 13^{th} to 15^{th} -century pottery (HER 1072). A possible windmill mound has also been identified c.0.75km to the south of the site, and is shown on OS mapping (HER 1075: Fig. 1). A piece of millstone was found when the mound was excavated in the mid 20^{th} century. Another windmill is known to have existed c.0.75km to the southeast of the development site, although no mill mound survives (HER5256).

An area of possible house platforms has been identified c.0.2km to the east of the development site (HER1653), and a similar distance away to the west, along with 12th to 13th-century pottery (HER1654).

The medieval village and manor of Hyde has now disappeared, but it is thought to have been located c.0.5km to the north of the development site, in a field known as Hyde Meadow (HER1879).

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

The manor of Salden was purchased by Sir John Fortescue in c.1565. John Fortescue was a favourite of Elizabeth I and MP for Buckinghamshire and built a large house on or adjacent to the manor house in 1566 (HER 1532; Markham 1973, 175). The house was a large and ornate building and parts of the east wing of the house survive, incorporated into Salden House (Pevsner & Williamson 1994, 573). The house had formal gardens and parts of these may survive as earthwork terraces to the rear of the present buildings at North Salden Farm. Small-scale excavations were undertaken at the site and revealed part of a winged brick building, a garderobe and a row of brick clamps, which may have produced the bricks for the house (HER 1533).

An archaeological watching brief carried out in 2003 during groundworks for an extension at North Salden Farm, immediately north of the development site, recovered an assemblage of architectural fragments. The assemblage comprised fragments of window/door frames, which may have formed part of the Tudor mansion or an associated building. A single fragment from a possible earlier building was also found (Fell 2003).

A small gravel or sand pit is shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map, less than 0.1km to the north of the development site (HER 06944). A further old gravel pit is shown c.0.2km to the south of the site (HER 6946).

3.7 Modern (1900-present)

Located c.0.75km to the southwest of the development site is the Mursley water tower. Built in 1938, in 1943 it was the site of an aircraft crash during a training exercise at Little Horwood airfield (HER9451).

4. **Results**

4.1 The site area measured *c*.650 sq m (Fig. 3) and was archaeologically monitored over four half days during the mechanical excavation of the site (Appendix 1).

The site stratigraphy comprised:

c.0-200mm Topsoil: Mid brown, soft, silty clay with fragments of orange brick; flecks of charcoal, and small rounded/sub-angular stone inclusions;

c.200mm-1.4m Made-ground: Deposits of mid brown, soft, silty clay and light mottled orangey yellow gravely sand. Both deposits contain high levels of orange brick and tile fragments;

c.340mm+ Natural: Light yellowy orange sand (only visible towards the northern end of the site).

The topography of the site comprised a moderately sloping bank along the western side of the development area (Plate 1 & 6). The bank slopes down towards the east where the ground seems to level out towards the sites boundary.

Initially a topsoil strip was carried out over the site, to a depth of c.0.15m.

The bank along the west end of the site was excavated and the spoil used to level the remaining site area. At the southern end of the bank it measured a maximum height of c.1.6m and consisted of mid brown, soft, silty clay, made-up ground that contained frequent orange brick fragments, metal wiring, cloth, wood and a number of large limestone blocks (Plates 2 & 3). Towards the centre of the bank there was a made-up ground deposit that consisted of light mottled orangey yellow gravely sand with frequent orange brick and tile fragments (Plate 4). At the northern end of the bank it measured a maximum height of c.1m and consisted of c.200mm of topsoil overlying c.140mm of mid brown silty clay made-ground with traces of orange brick fragments. Underlying this was the natural yellowy orange sand (Plate 5).

The significant quantities of orange brick fragments, tile and the large limestones may possibly be linked to either Salden Manor which once stood north of the development or the 16th century house that has now mostly been demolished, again to the north of the site.



Plate 1: Bank, looking south



Plate 2: East facing southern section of bank *(scale 1m)*



Plate 3: Large limestone blocks uncovered from the southern end of bank (scale 1m)

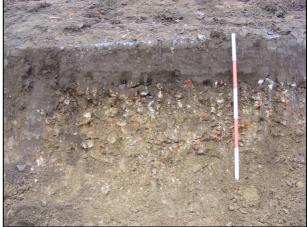


Plate 4: East facing central section of bank (scale 1m)



Plate 5: East facing northern section of bank (scale 1m)



Plate 6: Bank fully excavated and sloped, looking south

5. Conclusions

5.1 The site had the potential to uncover evidence relating primarily to the garden area of Salden Manor that once stood north of the site, and a large 16th century house, now partly incorporated into Salden House.

The works revealed that the area had been significantly made-up with a bank along the western side of the site. The bank contained large quantities of orange brick and tile fragments, as well as a number of large limestone blocks a result of dumping, that may possibly be linked to the above buildings.

The site is also in close proximity to a number of medieval housing platforms both to the east and west of the development. No further evidence for such activity was observed. This may however, be due to the shallow depth to which the majority of the work was excavated, as the deeper excavation was concentrated along the built-up bank.

5.2 *Confidence Rating*

The work was carried in line with the project design and with full cooperation of the client. Therefore the results are given a high confidence rating.

6. Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by client Mrs E. Gill, in which the writer is grateful to for her assistance. The project was monitored by *Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service* on behalf of the local planning authority. Thanks are also due to machine operative Ray.

The project was managed for ASC by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA. Fieldwork was carried out by Carina Summerfield-Hill BA MSc. The report was prepared by Carina Summerfield-Hill and edited by Bob Zeepvat.

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. List of photographs
 - 7. B/W prints & negatives
 - 8. CDROM with copies of all digital files.
- 7.2 The archive will be deposited with *Buckinghamshire County Museum*.

8. References

Standards & Specifications

- Alqassar, E 2010 *Generic Brief for Archaeological Watching Brief* Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service.
- 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).
- Rouse, C 2010 Project Design for Archaeological Watching Brief at Salden Manor, Cooks Lane, Mursley, Buckinghamshire. Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd, ASC:1375/MSM/1.

Secondary Sources

BGS British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology.

- Fell, D., 2002b Land at Stearthill Farm, Little Horwood, Buckinghamshire. Archaeological Services and Consultancy Report LHS02/2.
- Fell, D 2003 Watching Brief: North Salden Farm, Mursley, Buckinghamshire ASC/MSF03/2.
- King, N.A., 2001. Winslow Zone Water Main Renewal Projects 7-10. Swanbourne to Wing, Buckinghamshire. Archaeological Watching Brief. Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd.
- Markham, F., 1973 A History of Milton Keynes and District. Vol 1- To 1830. White Crescent Press. Luton.
- Morris, J (editor) 1978 Domesday Book: Buckinghamshire. Philimore & Co Ltd, London and Chichester.
- Pevsner N & Williamson E., 1994 The Buildings of England. Buckinghamshire. Penguin.
- Soil Survey 1983 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend (Harpenden).

Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

A.S.C. LTD ARCHAE	OLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD		
Project:	Project No/Code: Sheet:		
SALDEN MANCE, COOKS	1375 / M3M / of 4		
(ANE, MURSLEY Visit: 07/03/10			
Client/Developer MRS E Gill			
Contact	Phone:		
Duration of Visit Start: (inc. travel):	Finish: 14: 👁		
Completed by:			
Developm	ent Type:		
Footings Services Roads Levelling Qua	anying Pipelines Other (specify):		
Site & weather conditions:			
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Date of	5 1 MBM 2 of 4			
LANE, MURSLEY Visit	02/03/11			
Client/Daveloper MRS E Gill				
Contact:	Phone:			
Duration of Visit Start: (inc. travel): 9:30	Finish: 12:30			
Completed by:				
Development Type:				
Footings Services Roads Levelling Quarrying	Pipelines Other (specify):			
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Project:	Project No/Code: 1375 / MSM 3 of 4			
SALDEN MANOR, COOKS	Date of			
Client/Developer	visit: 03/03/11			
MRS E. Gill	Phone:			
Contact:				
Duration of Visit Start: (inc. travel): 10:30	Finish: 12:15			
Completed by:				
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A.S.C. LTD ARCHAE	OLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD			
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LANE, NURSLEY Client/Developer	Visit: 04 103 111			
MRS E. Gill				
Contact:	Phone:			
Duration of Visit (Inc. travel):	Finish: 14:45			
Completed by:				
Developm	ent Type:			
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Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAM	ME: Salde	en Manor,	Crooks Lane, Mursley, Buckinghamshire	SITE NO/CODE: 1375/MSM	
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject		
1		V	Topsoil strip of site area, looking northea	ast (01/03/11)	
2		V	Bank along the western side of the site,	looking southwest (01/03/11)	
3		\checkmark	Topsoil strip and bank along the westerr (01/03/11)	n side of the site, looking south	
4		\checkmark	Bank along the western side of site, look	ting south (01/03/03)	
5		\checkmark	Salden Manor, looking west (01/03/11)		
6	V	V	East facing section of bank towards the	southern end (02/03/11)	
7		V	East facing section of bank towards the	southern end (02/03/11)	
8	V	V	East facing section of bank towards the	northern end (02/03/11)	
9		\checkmark	East facing section of bank towards the	northern end (02/03/11)	
10		V	Excavation of bank area, looking south (03/03/11)		
11		V	East facing section of bank towards the centre (03/03/11)		
12		V	East facing section of bank towards the southern end (03/03/11)		
13		V	Excavation of bank area, looking northw	est (03/03/11)	
14		V	Excavation of bank area, looking northw	est (03/03/11)	
15		V	Excavation of bank area, looking west (0	03/03/11)	
16		V	Large limestone blocks derived from bar	nk area (03/03/11)	
17		V	Detail of limestone blocks (03/03/11)		
18		V	Detail of limestone blocks (03/03/11)		
19		V	East facing section of bank towards the centre (03/03/11)		
20	V	V	Bank fully excavated and sloped, looking south (04/03/11)		
21		V	Bank fully excavated and sloped, looking southeast (04/03/11)		
22	V	V	Bank fully excavated and sloped, looking west (04/03/11)		
23	23 $\sqrt{\sqrt{3}}$ Bank fully excavated and sloped, looking southwest (04/03/11)				

Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS					
Project Name:	Salden Manor, Cooks Lane, Murs Bucks	sley,	OASIS reference:	archaeol2-95325	
Short Description: In March 2011 an archaeological watching brief was carried out at Salden Manor, Cooks Lane, Mursley, Buckinghamshire during the construction of a tennis court. The topography of the site consisted of a banked area along the western side of the site. Upon excavation the bank comprised made-up ground containing significant quantities of dumped orange bricks and tile, also a number of large limestone blocks were uncovered that may possibly be linked to either Salden Manor or the large 16 th century house that once stood immediately north of the development.					
Project Type:	Watching Brief				
Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	Watching brief at North Salden H (2003): ASC/MSF03/2	ouse	Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	Grade II* (IOE Ref 399090)	
Current land use:	Grassland		Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	Unknown	
Monument type:	Saldon House incorporates part of east wing of a large 16 th century l		Monument period:	16th-20th century	
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	None				
	PROJECT	LOCATIO	DN		
County:	Buckinghamshire	OS refe	rence: (8 figs min)	SP 82509 29708	
Site address: Salden Manor, Cooks Lane, Mursley, Buckinghamshire MK17 0HX (+ postcode if known)					
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	<i>c</i> .650 sq m	Height (OD: (metres)	<i>c</i> .134.3 OD m	
	PROJECT CREATORS				
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consu	Itancy Ltd			
Project brief originator:	E Alqassar	Project design originator: Calli Rouse BA PIFA		Calli Rouse BA PIFA	
Project Manager:	Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA Supervisor:		Carina Summerfield-Hill BA MSc		
Sponsor / funding body:	Landowner: Mrs E. Gill				
		CT DATE			
Fieldwork start date:	01/03/11	Fieldwo	rk end date:	04/03/11	
	PROJECT	ARCHIVE	ES		
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)			
Physical:	Duckinghomobius County	None	None		
Paper:	Buckinghamshire County Museum Pd, report, site monitoring sheets, b& w photos and negs				
Digital:		Cd containing all digital files including digital photos			
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)					
Title:	Watching Brief: Salden Manor, C	ooks Lane)		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1375/MSM/2				
Author(s):	Carina Summerfield-Hill BA MSc				
Page nos	19	Date: 09/03/11			