

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:
3 CHURCH ROAD
FLAMSTEAD
HERTFORDSHIRE**

NGR: TL 0797 1457

on behalf of Mr S. Miller



Calli Rouse BA PIFA

July 2011

ASC: 1429/FCR/2



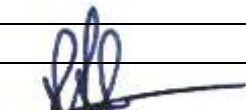
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Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	FCR	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	1429
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	103568	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	DACHT: 4421
<i>County:</i>	Hertfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Flamstead		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Flamstead		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TL 0797 1457		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c.150sqm		
<i>Present use:</i>	House and garden		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Extension to existing property		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	4/00086/10/FHA		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Dacorum Borough Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	30/06/2011		
<i>Client:</i>	Mr S. Miller 3 Church Road Flamstead Hertfordshire AL3 8BN		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Mr S. Miller		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Calli Rouse	<i>Date:</i>	08/07/2011
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<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	08/07/2011

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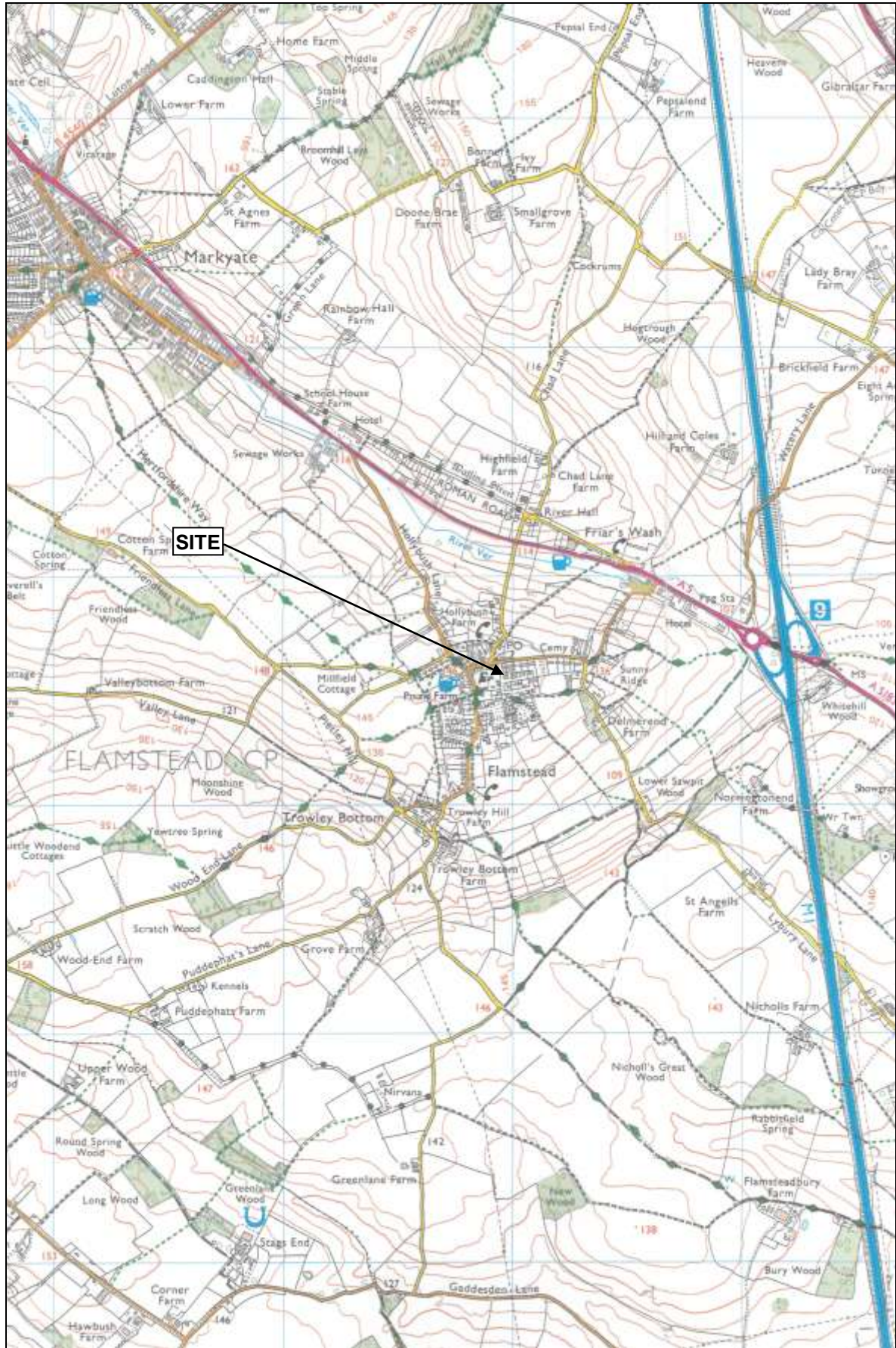


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In June 2011, Archaeological Services & Consultancy carried out an archaeological watching brief at 3 Church Road, Flamstead, Hertfordshire, during groundworks for a rear extension to the existing building. The development site is located within the historic core of the village, and had the potential to reveal archaeological remains dating from the medieval period through to the 19th century.

No archaeological finds or features were observed during the watching brief. The site was devoid of topsoil, and was covered by made ground, which included a large amount of modern material. This suggested that modern development had truncated any archaeological remains within the development area.

1. Introduction

1.1 In June 2011 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief at 3 Church Road, Flamstead, Hertfordshire. The project was commissioned by *Mr S. Miller*, and has been defined in discussions with the *Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit*, archaeological advisors (AA) to the local planning authority (LPA), *Dacorum Borough Council*, and a project design prepared by ASC (Rouse 2011). The relevant planning application reference is 4/00086/10/FHA.

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 site is located within the Hertfordshire district of Dacorum, within the village and parish of Flamstead, at NGR TL 0797 1457 (Fig. 1).

The site comprises a roughly rectangular area of ground, located on the eastern side of Church Road. Immediately to the north of the site is a driveway, and the site is surrounded by residential development to the east & south (Fig. 2).

1.4.2 *Geology & Topography*

The soils of the area belong to the Batcombe Association, which are characterised as *Fine silty over clayey and fine loamy over clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging. Some well drained clayey soils over chalk. Variably flinty over plateau drift and clay-*

with-flints (Soil Survey 1983, 582a). The underlying geology comprises recent and Pleistocene clay-with-flints (BGS, Sheet 238). The site lies at an elevation of c.142mAOD.

1.4.3 Proposed Development

The proposed development comprises a single storey rear extension to the existing property (Fig. 3).

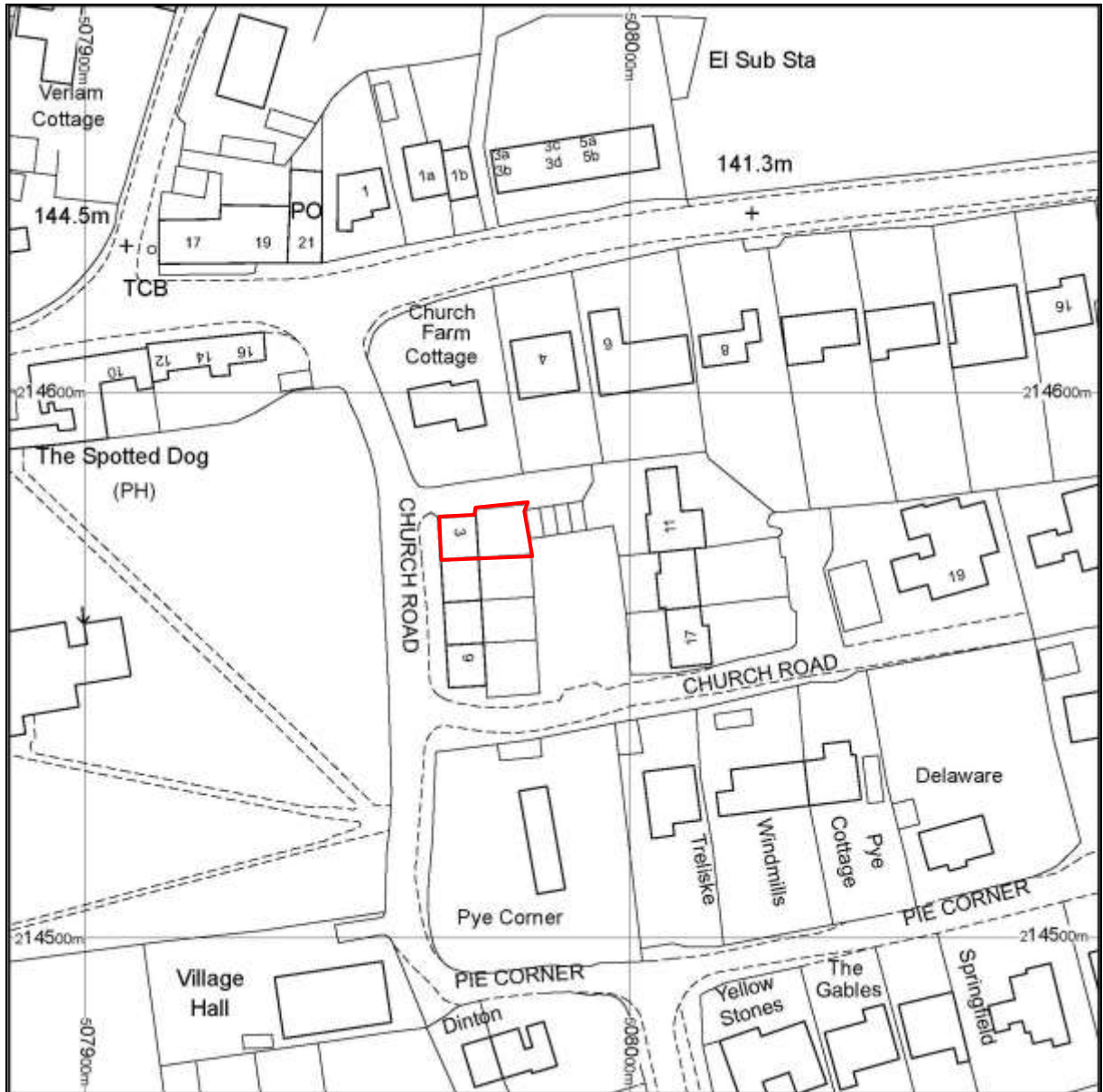


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

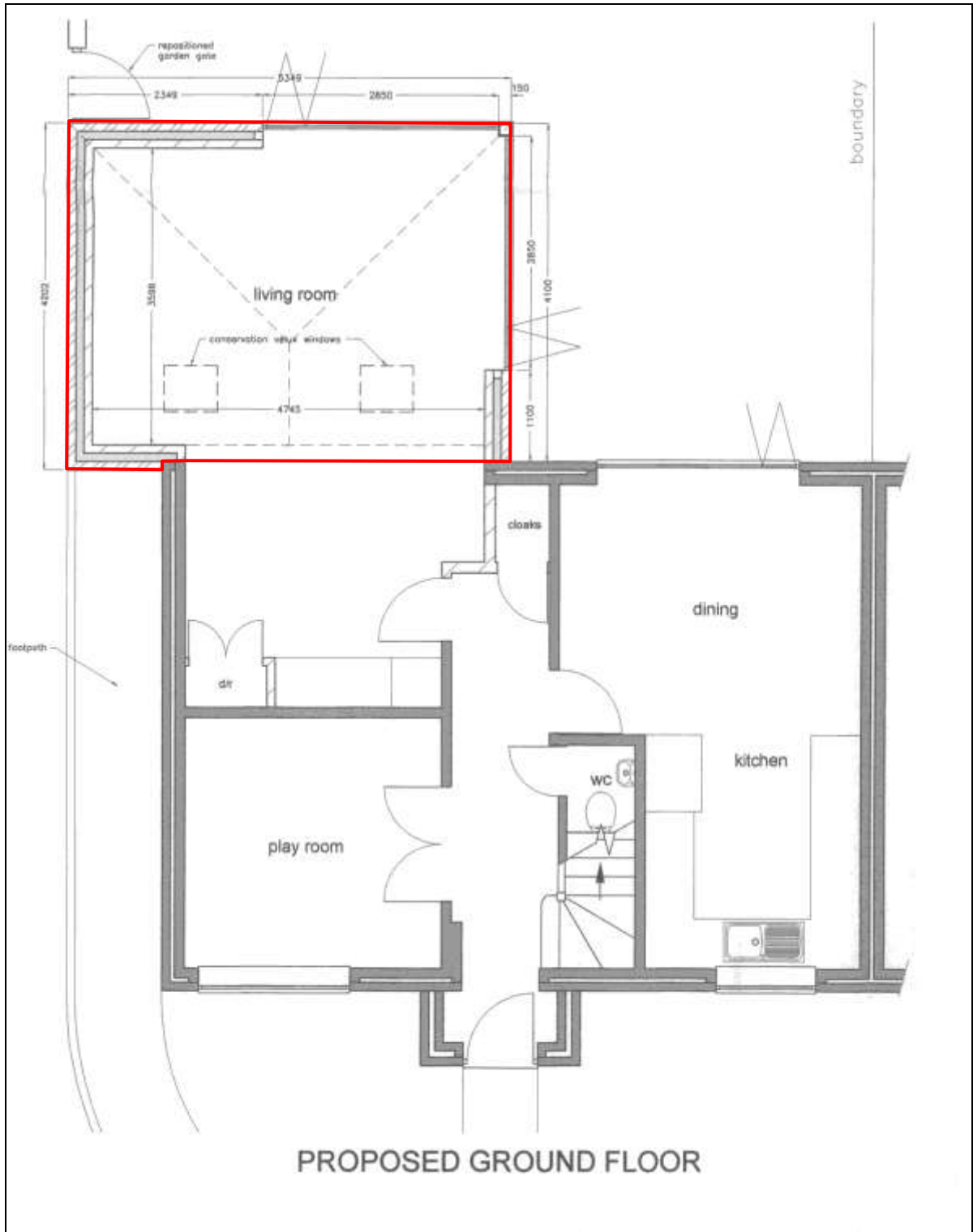


Figure 3: Proposed development (*not to scale*)

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 affect archaeological remains
- 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

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:

- The archaeological monitoring of footing trenches and associated services
- The rapid investigation and recording of any archaeological features/deposits
- Examination of spoil-heaps for archaeological material

2.4 Constraints

The excavation of the northern footing trench was not observed, as it followed the line of a previous modern wall.

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 Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER, search no. 90/11) and other readily available sources, including ASC's own library.

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

Located c.0.8km to the north east of the development site is a circular cropmark, c.25m in diameter, which probably represent the remains of a Neolithic-Bronze Age round barrow, which has been ploughed out over time (HER9048).

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

Located c.0.75km to the north of the development site is the major Roman road known as Watling Street (HER9525), which connected *Verulamium* (St Albans) and *Dvrocobrivis* (Dunstable), and ultimately *Deva Victrix* (Chester). Now bypassed, the section of road within Flamstead parish has never gone out of use (HER4606).

St Leonard's Church is located c.0.1km to the west of the development site. The church itself dates to the medieval period (see section 3.5), but incorporated into the church tower are bricks dating to the Roman period (HER1372).

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

During much of this period, west Hertfordshire, in which Flamstead is situated, was ruled by the Mercian kings, and the westernmost hundred of the county became known as the Danish hundred (Dacorun) (Gover *et al* 1938). There are no records of activity in the Flamstead area during the Saxon period. However, this may be due to a lack of fieldwork in the area, rather than a lack of occupation.

3.5 **Medieval** (1066-1500)

The church of St Leonard is built of flint and stone, with brick patches. Parts of the church date back to the 13th century, although it was added to in the following centuries, and restored in 1898 (Pevsner 1977). It is said to contain the 'second most important wall paintings in the county' (HER864). The village of Flamstead itself is thought to have its origins in the medieval period (HER2637).

Documentary evidence dating to 1309 records a windmill, located c.0.8km to the west of the development site. The windmill appears on Seller's map of the area, which dates to 1676, and was last mentioned in 1766. It seems likely that it was located in the vicinity of the present Millfield Cottage (HER5895).

Medieval occupation has been identified at Friars Wash, c.0.8km to the north west of the development site. Four areas of burning, possibly hearths, were recorded during

machining. These areas were associated with 13th-14th century Hertfordshire Grey Ware pot sherds. Also recovered in the same investigation were fifty unabraded sherds of 11th century gritty ware, which seemed to have been deposited by flooding, but undamaged by ploughing (HER9650).

3.6 *Post-Medieval* (1500-present)

A hoard of post-medieval coins, including gold guineas, half guineas, silver crowns and half crowns dating between Charles II (1668) to George II & John V of Portugal (1745) was discovered c.1km to the south west of the development site (HER977).

Bryant's map of 1822 records a windmill, located c.1km to the north of the development site. The windmill blew down in 1838, and the site is now covered by a farmyard (HER5986). Cropmarks of linear features and a possible rectangular enclosure with internal maculae have been identified c.0.9km to the west of the development site. Research has shown that these are likely to represent field boundaries dating to the post-medieval period or earlier, which are shown on the 1838 Tithe map. The boundaries had been ploughed out by the publication of the 1898 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map (HER6016).

There are several areas of registered common land in the vicinity of the development site, such as Friar's Wash (HER12519), Sunny Ridge (HER12520), Jacks Dell (HER12521) and the Old Pound (HER12538). It is not certain when these areas became common land, but they may have been registered during the post medieval period.

The village of Flamstead has expanded during recent years, but still retains several post medieval buildings, such as Flintstone Cottage, a 17th century brick and flint house on Chapel Road (HER13745), and Delmerend Farm, a 16th century timber-framed farmhouse (HER15613). The earliest readily available map of the area is the 1878-9 Ordnance Survey (OS) map, which shows a cluster of buildings centred around a square courtyard, labelled Churchend Farm, in the vicinity of the development site.

4. Results

- 4.1 Prior to the excavation of any footing trenches, the site was covered by concrete and brick rubble. No topsoil was observed across the site. The footing trenches were 0.4m wide, and *c.*1.2m deep throughout. The stratigraphy comprised 0.4-0.5m of mixed organic black soil with frequent modern brick and metal inclusions, and modern made ground. This overlay orange clay with moderate large flint inclusions.
- 4.2 No archaeological finds or features were observed during the watching brief.



Plate 1: Footing trench, looking east, 2m scale



Plate 2: General view of stratigraphy, looking south, 2m scale



Plate 3: Footing trench, looking south, 2m scale

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 Flamstead is a village with a considerable amount of archaeological and historical potential. As discussed in section 3.5, above, it has its origins in the medieval period, and the development site is located c.0.1km to the east of the church, on the opposite side of Church Road. The site is likely to have lain within the historic core of the village, and had the potential to reveal remains dating from at least the medieval period onwards. Cartographic evidence suggested that the site was in the vicinity of a farm that dates to at least the latter part of the 19th century, implying the potential for the survival of remains from this period.
- 5.2 As previously stated, no archaeological finds or features were observed during the watching brief. Given the proximity of the site to the church, it is unlikely that the site was undeveloped during the early stages of the Flamstead's growth. It is more likely that the subsequent development of the site has removed any traces of earlier occupation. This may also explain the lack of topsoil across the site. While the potential for the survival of isolated, individual features away from the development cannot be dismissed, it is unlikely that the extension will have any direct affect on any archaeological remains.
- 5.3 *Confidence Rating*
The watching brief was carried out in good conditions, and full cooperation was received from all parties involved. As a result, a high confidence rating is attached to the results of the watching brief.

6. Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Mr S. Miller. The writer is grateful to Mr Miller for his assistance. The project was monitored by Kate Batt of *Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit* on behalf of the local planning authority.

The project was managed for ASC by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA. Fieldwork was carried out by Calli Rouse BA PIFA. The report was prepared by Calli Rouse and edited by Bob Zeepvat.

7. Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Project Design
2. Initial Report
3. Clients site plans
4. Site Monitoring Sheets
5. Site record drawings
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 the Dacorum Heritage Trust.

8. References

Standards & Specifications

- ALGAO 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper **14**.
- 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 2011 *Project Design for an Archaeological Watching Brief at 3 Church Road, Flamstead, Hertfordshire* ASC/1429/FCR/1

Secondary Sources

- BGS *British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology*.
- Gover, Mower & Stenton 1938 *The Placenames of Hertfordshire* Cambridge University Press
- Pevsner, N & Cherry, B 1977 *The Buildings of England: Hertfordshire* 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		WATCHING BRIEF RECORD	
Project: 3 CHURCH RD, FLAMSTEAD		Project No/Code: 1429 1 FCR	Sheet: 1 of 1
		Date of visit: 30/6/11	
Client/Developer			
Contact:		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 7.30 AM	Finish: 11.30 AM	
Completed by: CR			
Development Type:			
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify): #
Site & weather conditions: SUNNY			
Observations: OBSERVED EXCAVATION OF FOOTING TRENCHES STRAT: 0.6 - 0.5m MIXED MADE GROUND - BLACK ORGANIC SOIL WITH FREQ MOD INCLUSIONS MIXED WITH SANDY, RUSSLY MADE GROUND 0.7 - 0.8m ORANGE CLAY WITH FEINTS - NAT NO ARCH FINDS / FEATURES OBSERVED.			
Comments:			
For sketch plan, use separate sheet			
©ASC 2011			

Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: 3 Church Road, Flamstead, Hertfordshire			SITE NO/CODE: 1429/FCR
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	✓	✓	Footing trench, looking east, 2m scale
2	✓	✓	Footing trench section, looking south, 2m scale
3	✓	✓	Footing trench, looking south, 2m scale
4		✓	General shot, looking northwest

Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	3 Church Road, Flamstead, Hertfordshire	OASIS reference:	
Short Description:	<p>In June 2011, Archaeological Services & Consultancy carried out an archaeological watching brief at 3 Church Road, Flamstead, Hertfordshire, during groundworks for a rear extension to the existing building. The development site is located within the historic core of the village, and had the potential to reveal archaeological remains dating from the medieval period through to the 19th century.</p> <p>No archaeological finds or features were observed during the watching brief. The site was devoid of topsoil, and was covered by made ground, which included a large amount of modern material. This suggested that modern development had truncated any archaeological remains within the development area.</p>		
Project Type:	Watching brief		
Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	None	Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	None
Current land use:	Garden	Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	No
Monument type:	-	Monument period:	-
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	-		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Hertfordshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	TL 0797 1457
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	3 Church Road, Flamstead, Hertfordshire		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	c.150sqm	Height OD: (metres)	c.142m
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	-	Project design originator:	C.Rouse
Project Manager:	B.Zeepvat	Director/Supervisor:	B.Zeepvat
Sponsor / funding body:	Mr S. Miller		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	30/06/2011	End date:	30/06/2011
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Dacorum Heritage Trust	-	
Paper:		Archive box	
Digital:		CD	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Archaeological Watching Brief at 3 Church Road, Flamstead, Hertfordshire		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1429/FCR/2		
Author(s):	Calli Rouse BA PIFA		
Page nos	1-17	Date:	08/07/2011