

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

WATCHING BRIEF: BELL AND SHEARS PH HIGH STREET REDBOURN HERTFORDSHIRE

NGR: TL 10709 12454

on behalf of Jarvis Homes



Gareth Shane BSc (Hons)

August 2011

ASC: 1415/RHS/1



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Site Data

ASC project code:	RHS		ASC Project No:	1415
OASIS ref:	Archaeol2-	105915	Event/Accession no:	n/a
County:		Hertford	shire	
Village/Town:		Redbour	n	
Civil Parish:		Redbour	n	
NGR (to 8 figs):		TL 1070	912454	
Extent of site:		1760 sq 1	m	
Present use:		Former p	oublic house and ground	ls
Planning proposal:		Construc	tion of four houses on	car park
Planning application	ref/date:	5/10/086	2: 5/10/0828	
Local Planning Author	ority:	St Alban	s District Council (SAE	OC)
Date of fieldwork:		4 th -18 th A	April 2011	
Client:		Jarvis Ho	omes Ltd	
		1 The Fo	rresters	
		High Str	eet	
		Harpend	en	
		AL5 2FE	3	
Contact name:		Mr Bob	Mann	

Internal Quality Check

Primary Author:	Gareth Shane	Date:	15 th August 2011
Revisions:		Date:	
Edited/Checked By:	20	Date:	15 th August 2011

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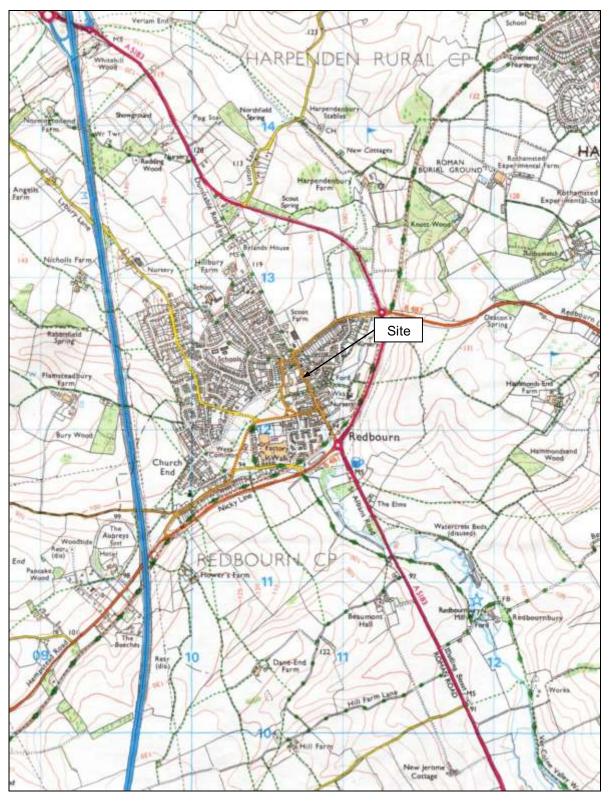


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In April 2011 a watching brief was undertaken at The 'Bell and Shears' public house, High Street, Redbourn, Hertfordshire, in advance of the construction of four new houses to the rear of the pub. Intensive monitoring of ground reduction and excavation of footings revealed a post medieval pit and a treebole. No further archaeological features or artefacts were observed or recovered

1. Introduction

1.1 In April 2011 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out a watching brief at The Bell and Shears public house, High Street, Redbourn, Hertfordshire. The project was commissioned by Jarvis Homes, and carried out according to a standard method statement, approved on behalf of the local planning authority, St Albans District Council, by their Archaeological Officer (SDCAO). The relevant planning application references are 5/10/0862 and 5/10/0828.

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 in the historic core of the village of Redbourn within the administrative district of St Albans TL 10706 12447 (Fig. 1)

The site comprises a roughly oblong shaped plot of land to the rear of the former Bell and Shears Public House, formerly a car park and garden, and is accessed from the High Street (Fig. 2).

1.4.2 Geology & Topography

The site lies in the valley of the river Ver at an elevation of c.100m OD. Soils in the site area belong to the Charity 2 association, described as 'Well drained flinty fine silty soils in valley bottoms' (Soil Survey 1983, 571m). The underlying geology comprises Upper Chalk (BGS 1991, ktkc).

1.4.3 Proposed Development

The proposed development comprises the construction of four houses (Fig. 3).



Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

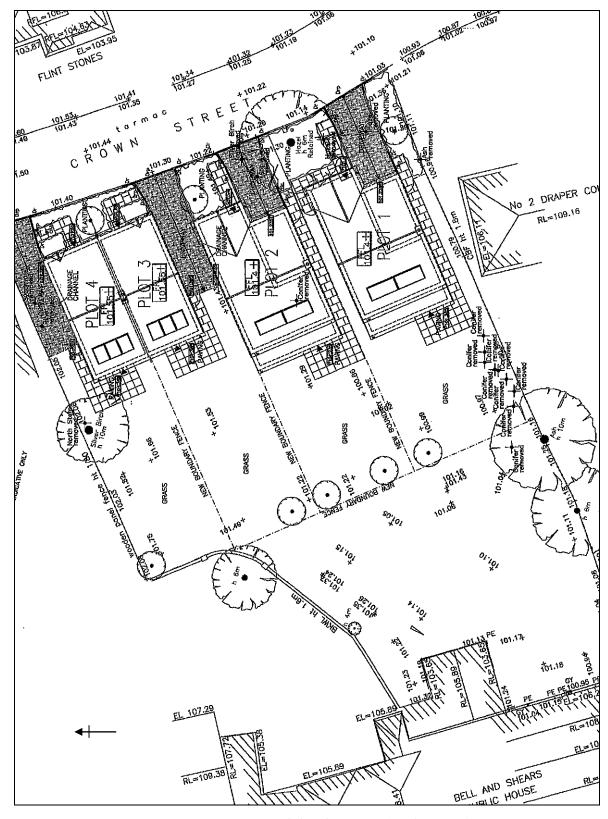


Figure 3: Proposed development: (scale 1:400)

2. Aims & 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 liable to be threatened by the development.
- To produce an accurate and full record of the archaeology present, so that a permanent record will be made and the results presented in such a way that they may be reexamined and interpreted in the future.

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 following methodology:

- Monitoring of soil and overburden stripping
- Inspection of subsoil deposits for archaeological features
- Rapid investigation and recording of any archaeological features/deposits
- Subsoil 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
- A programme of post-excavation analysis, archiving and, if necessary, publication

2.4 Constraints

There were no departures from the outlined methodology.

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 readily available sources, including Hertfordshire's Historic Environment Record (HER) and the Redbourn Extensive Urban Survey (Thompson 2002).

3.2 **Prehistoric** (before 600BC)

During an excavation of the Redbourn High Street medieval street frontage, a collection of Mesolithic flints was recovered close to the development site at the Punch Bowl. All the flints were found in contexts that contained later material, but were all in a 'fresh' condition, suggesting a single industry in the area in the later Mesolithic period (HER 6495). A Neolithic flint axe was found near Church End (HER 0559; Stageman 1968), and some of the flints from behind the Punch Bowl are Neolithic. Aerial photography has recorded cropmarks around Redbourn; these include three ring ditches, which are probably Bronze Age Burials, two of which overlook the river. Two other cropmarks are curvilinear enclosures and are likely to be prehistoric (Thompson 2002).

3.3 *Iron Age* (600BC-AD43)

The Aubreys is a probable Iron Age hillfort, located c2km to the southwest of the development site. It has been suggested as the possible site of the main stronghold of British resistance during the Roman invasion in 54 BC, but no direct evidence has been found to confirm this theory (Niblett 1995).

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

The Roman city of Verulamium, and its late Iron Age predecessor founded at the beginning of the 1st century AD, dominated South-West Hertfordshire for four centuries. Redbourn appears to have belonged throughout to the rural hinterland, and does not emerge as a place in its own right. The Roman highway from St Albans and London to Chester, now known as *Watling Street*, was constructed *c*.AD 50 and this is still the major feature in the landscape of the period. Villa estates were established in the vicinity of the site at Gorhambury, Chidwickbury and Rothamsted, but Redbourn's Roman sites are of lower status (Thompson 2002). Roman pottery and hobnails were found in the fill of a ditch north of Cumberland House Garden in the centre of Redbourn (HER 6496, Saunders & Havercroft 1978), maybe an example of a low-status native site (Thompson 2002).

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

A possible Anglo-Saxon cemetery is recorded c250m west of the development site. Two barrows known as the 'Mounds of the Banners' were excavated by Benedictine monks in 1178, and were found to contain ten inhumations, some of which were accompanied by iron weapons, suggesting an Anglo-Saxon date for the burials. Another Saxon spearhead was found in the churchyard by the tributary stream.

3.6 *Medieval* (1066-1500)

In the Domesday Survey (1086) it is recorded that the manor of Redbourn was held by the abbey of St Albans prior to the Conquest (Williams & Martin 2003, 376). At this time it is likely that the parish was largely wooded, and that settlement was located in clearings in the woodland, represented today by a number of 'ends' within the parish (Munby 1977, 88-90). A small Benedictine cell was established by the Abbot of St Albans in 1178, on part of the Common where the remains of St Amphibalus were allegedly discovered. At this time the focus of the village appears to have moved away from the parish church, towards Watling Street. A priory was subsequently established, and maintained until at least 1492. However, by 1535 the building appears to have been abandoned. The manor at Redbourn was held by the abbey until the Dissolution (1539).

3.7 **Post-Medieval - Modern** (1500-present)

By the 16th century, settlement at Redbourn on its present Watling Street focus was well established, only the distant church and the common providing an indication of its previous layout (*ibid*, 106). During the 17th and 18th centuries, the status of Watling Street as a major communication route further encouraged development of Redbourn: timebills for 1797 show that coaches to Birmingham, Carlisle and Liverpool all stopped in Redbourn, and that over seventy coaches passed through the settlement every day (*ibid*, 202). The Extensive Urban Survey for Redbourn (Thompson 2002) details the sites of 19 inns of 16th and 17th century date, nearly all on the High Street (Watling Street). The Priory had been rebuilt in the early 18th century as a seven bay, two storey, brick-built building, complete with frontage onto Watling Street.

In the 19th century Redbourn suffered a setback in its fortunes, following the opening of the London & Birmingham Railway, which bypassed the town, in 1837. In 1842 it was noted that "Barnet, Redbourn, and other towns …are mere shadows of the past" (Thompson 2002, 16). Consequently the town, which had almost doubled in size between 1801 and 1831, saw no further growth for the following century (*ibid.*).

During the 19th century various small-scale industries grew up to provide employment in Redbourn. The making of straw plait, watercress growing, a silk mill, brewing and malting, and the manufacture of jam and brushes, all provided employment in the locality (*ibid*, 18). In 1877 Redbourn was linked to the railway system by the opening of the Harpenden to Hemel Hempstead branch of the Midland Railway, a single-track branch line constructed to the east and south of Redbourn, along a similar line to the modern bypass. The line of the railway still marks the extent of the settlement on that side.

4. Results

4.1 General

The site was stripped of topsoil and subsoil with a machine equipped with a toothless bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Archaeological features, where found, were cleaned sufficiently to determine their extent, hand excavated, recorded and planned on ASC's pro-forma record sheets, and a photographic log was maintained.

The site was divided into four areas, assigned the letters A, B, C and D by the client. Areas C and D at the north end of the site (Fig. 4) were subject to the archaeological watching brief. Ten site visits were made over a period of three weeks (Appendix 1).

4.2 *Area C*

Area C comprised the beer garden of the former public house.

The topsoil and part of the subsoil was removed, and no archaeological features or artefacts were observed or recovered. In a small area at the southern extent a soakaway was excavated under constant supervision. A section was recorded (Fig. 4, Plate 1) but no archaeology was observed. Footings for Plot 1 (Plate 2) and half of Plot 2 were excavated in Area C under archaeological supervision. A photographic record was maintained but no archaeology was observed. This area appeared to contain less modern contaminates than Area D.

Area C Stratigraphy

Context	Type	Description	Width	Depth	Thickness
			(mm)	(mm)	(mm)
100	Layer	Dark grey- brown clay-silt, soft, occasional small rounded stones. Top soil.	-	000	300-400
101	Layer	Mid grey- brown silt-sand, soft, occasional small stones and CBM. subsoil slight contamination	-	300-400	200-300
102	Layer	Mid yellow-orange clay, firm with gravel inclusions. Natural	-	500-700	700-900

4.3 *Area D*

Area D comprised the car park for the former public house. This area had been subjected to levelling and modern backfilling. The tarmac surface was removed to reveal a layer of hoggin above made ground (Plate 3). Below this lay natural. Two archaeological features were revealed in this area: a treebole [105] (Figs 4 & 5, Plate 4) and a possible pit [111] (Figs 4 & 5, Plate 5) and are recorded in the table below.

As Area D was stripped to the natural clay, and all features were investigated and recorded, the excavation of footing trenches for Plots 3 and 4 was not observed.

Area D Stratigraphy

Contex	Type	Description	Width	Length	Depth/thicknes
t			(mm)	(mm)	s (mm)
105	Cut	Treebole. Oval in plan, U shaped in section, rounded base.	500	1000	330
106	Fill	Fill of treebole			500
107	Layer	Tarmac			50
108	Layer	Hoggin			250
109	Layer	Dark grey, abundant ash, occasional cbm, made ground.			400
110	Layer	Mid orange yellow clay with abundant flints, soft. Natural			100
111	Cut	Pit, partially exposed and excavated in footings of plot 2	2000	Beyond limits of excavation	1100
112	Fill	Dark grey- brown silty clay with occasional small flint. Lower fill of pit.		Beyond limits of excavation	250
113	Fill	Light grey/ brown clay. Chalk and frequent peg tile and small/medium flint.	1350	Beyond limits of excavation	300



Plate 1: Area C, soakaway



Plate 2: Area C, Plot 1 footings



Plate 3: Area D, Stratigraphy



Plate 4: Area D, treebole [105]



Plate 5: Area D, post medieval pit [111]

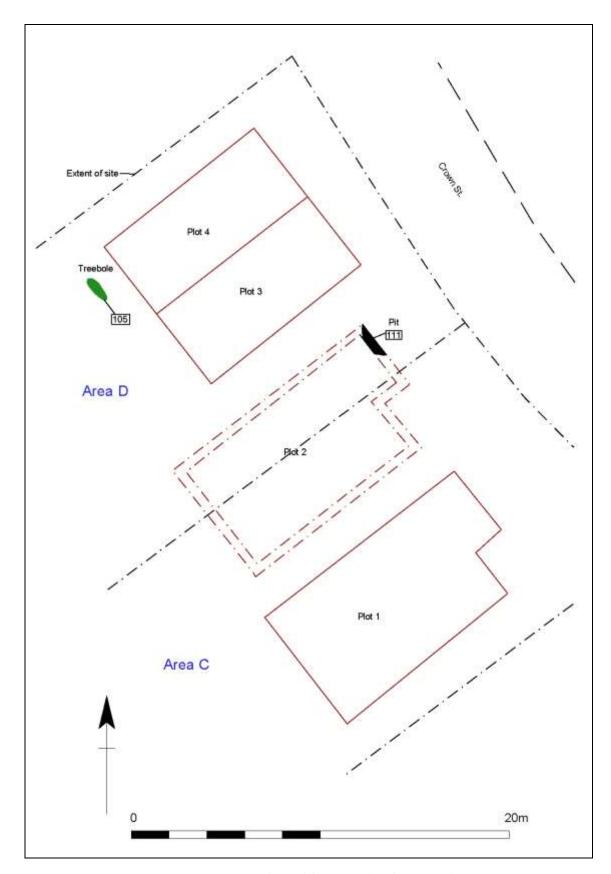


Figure 4: Location of features (scale: 1:200)

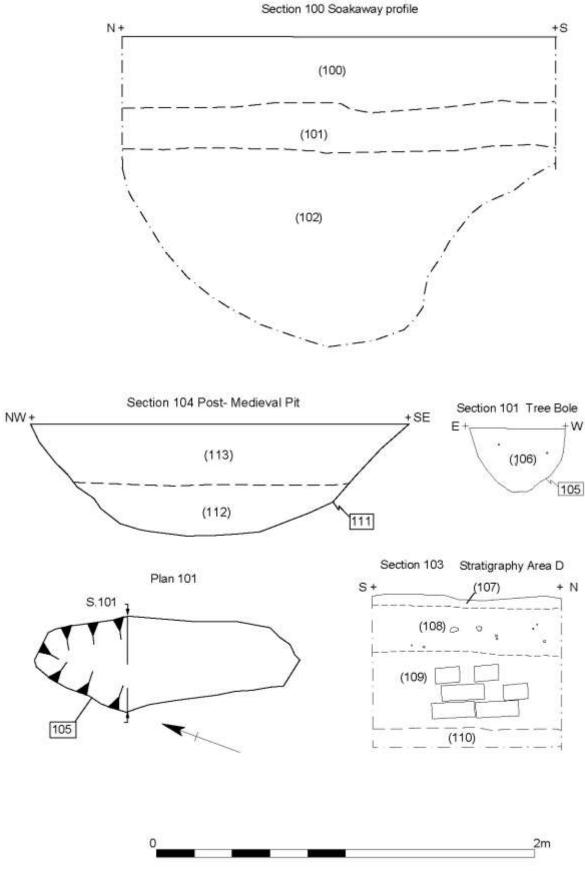


Figure 5: Sections and Plan (scale 1:20)

5. Conclusions

The watching brief at the 'Bell and Shears' revealed only two archaeological features: a treebole, which was undated, and a possible pit of post-medieval date. A significant area of the site was stripped down to natural during the development, so it is possible to state with some confidence that these features were a fair representation of the archaeology of the site. Consequently the development is not considered likely to have a significant impact on the archaeology present.

Confidence Rating

Observations were carried out in fine weather with fair light conditions and full cooperation was received from client and machining contractors. Accordingly, a high confidence rating is attached to the results of the watching brief.

6. Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Jarvis Homes. The writer is grateful to Bob Mann of Jarvis Homes for His assistance. Simon West of St Albans District Council monitored the project on behalf of the local planning authority.

The project was managed for ASC by Karin Semmelmann BA MA MIfA. Fieldwork was carried out by David Kaye BA AifA, Calli Rouse BA PifA and Gareth Shane BSc (Hons). The report was prepared by Gareth Shane and edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIfA.

7. Archive

- 7.1 The project archive will comprise:
 - 1. Report
 - 2. Clients site plans
 - 3. Site Monitoring Sheets
 - 4. Finds records
 - 5. Finds
 - 6. Site record drawings
 - 7. List of photographs
 - 8. B/W prints & negatives
 - 9. CDROM with copies of all digital files.
- 7.2 The archive will be deposited with *St Albans Museum*.

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).

Secondary Sources

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

Soil Survey 1983 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend (Harpenden). Munby L 1977 The Hertfordshire Landscape. Hodder & Staughton (London).

Niblett, R 1995 Roman Hertfordshire Dovecote Press

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

Thompson I 2002 Redbourn: Extensive Urban Survey Project Assessment Report. Herts County Council.

Williams A & Martin GH (eds) 2002 Domesday Book: a Complete Translation. Penguin (London).

Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

A.S.C. LTD			WATCHIN	G BRIEF RECORD
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@ASC 2011

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Contact: Eddie Duye	Phone:	
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# **Appendix 2: List of Photographs**

SITE NAM	SITE NAME: Bell and Shears Public House, Redbourn SITE NO/CODE: 1415/RHS				
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject		
1-5	<b>√</b>		Soakaway area C		
6			General shot machining area C		
7		√	Modern soakaway area D		
8		√	Stratigraphy area D		
9-13		√	Area D post Machining		
14		√	Treebole [105] area D		
15		√	Treebole [105] area D		
16			Treebole [105] area D fully excavated		
17	<b>√</b>		Treebole [105] area D fully excavated		
18-19			Area D post Machining		
20-23		√	Area C during vegetation strip		
24-25			Area D prior to machining		
26	<b>√</b>		Area C removal of topsoil		
27			Excavation of soakaway		
28			Area C prior to excavation of footings plot 1		
29		$\sqrt{}$	Excavating footings plot 1		
30-39	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	Plot 1 footing sections		
40-41	<b>√</b>		[111] Post medieval pit area D		
42-45		$\sqrt{}$	13/04 excavating footings plot 1		
46-47		$\sqrt{}$	14/04 excavating footings plot 1		
48-50		$\sqrt{}$	15/04 excavating footings plot 2		
51-53			18/04 excavating footings plot 2		

# **Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form**

PROJECT DETAILS							
Project Name:	Bell and Shears, Public House, Redbourn		OASIS reference:	Archaeol2-105915			
Short Description:	In April 2011 a watching brief was undertaken at The Bell and Shears Public House, Redbourn, Hertfordshire, in advance of the construction of four new houses. Intensive monitoring of ground reduction and excavation of footings revealed a post medieval pit and a treebole. No further archaeological features or artefacts were observed or recovered						
Project Type:	Watching Brief						
Previous work: (eg. HER refs)	None Site status: (eq. none, SAM, listed)			None			
Current land use:	Former Public House		Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	Unknown			
Monument type:	n/a		Monument period:	n/a			
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	None						
	PROJECT LOCATION						
County:	Hertfordshire OS reference: (8 figs min)		TL 1070912454				
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	Bell and Shears Public House, High Street, Redbourn, Hertfordshire.						
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	1760sq M Height OD: (metres)		100				
	PROJECT (	CREATO	RS				
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consu	Itancy Ltd	I				
Project brief originator:	Simon West	Project design originator: ASC Ltd					
Project Manager:	Karin Semmelmann	Director/Supervisor:		Gareth Shane			
Sponsor / funding body:	Sponsor / funding body: Jarvis Homes						
	PROJEC	T DATE					
Start date:	04/04/2011	End dat	e:	18/04/2011			
	PROJECT ARCHIVES						
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)					
Physical:		None					
Paper:	St Albans Museum  Site plans, site records, site record draw			ecord drawings			
Digital:		CD containing digital images, list of photographs, B/W prints & negatives, report					
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)							
Title:							
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1415/RHS/1						
Author(s):	Gareth Shane						
Page nos	29	Date: 15/08/11					