

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:
LAND ADJACENT TO 6 EGERTON GATE
SHENLEY BROOK END
MILTON KEYNES**

NGR: SP 8346 3580

on behalf of Anthea Farrow



Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc AIFA

May 2012

ASC: 1412/SBE/1



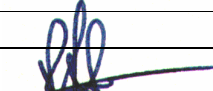
Letchworth House
Chesney Wold, Bleak Hall
Milton Keynes MK6 1NE
Tel: 01908 608989 Fax: 01908 605700
Email: office@archaeological-services.co.uk
Website: www.archaeological-services.co.uk



Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	SBE	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	1412
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	archaeol2-114209	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	1296/AYBCM:2011.267
<i>County:</i>	Buckinghamshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Milton Keynes		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Shenley Brook End		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 8346 3580		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c.324 sq m		
<i>Present use:</i>	Garden		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	The construction of a two storey dwelling		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	06/00141/FUL		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Milton Keynes Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	17/11/11-09/05/12		
<i>Client:</i>	Anthea Farrow 15 Bremen Grove Shenley Brook End Milton Keynes MK5 7FJ		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Anthea Farrow		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Carina Summerfield-Hill	<i>Date:</i>	11/05/2012
<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	11/05/2012

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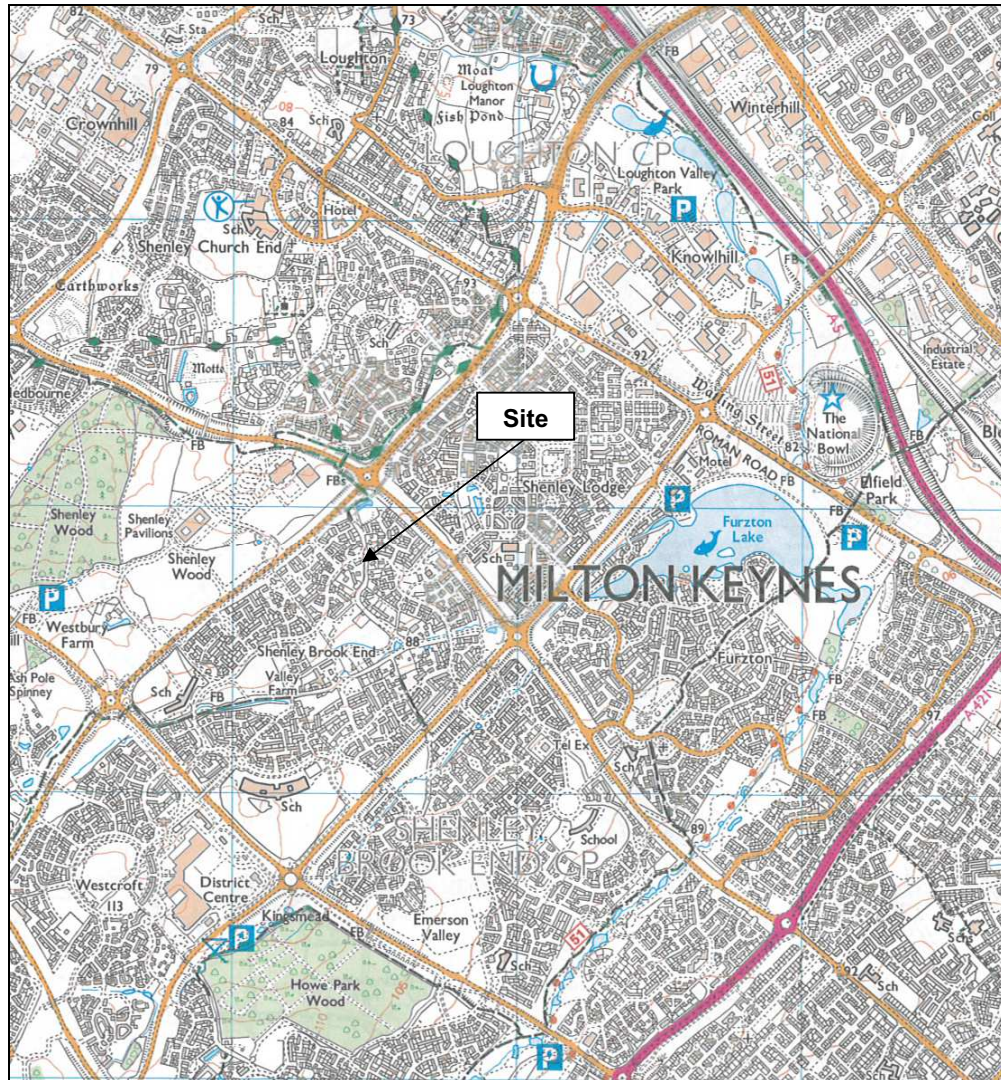


Figure 1: General location (*scale 1:25,000*)

Summary

Between November 2011 and May 2012 a watching brief was carried on land adjacent to 6 Egerton Gate, Shenley Brook End, Milton Keynes, during the construction of a new dwelling. The ground was initially reduced exposing the natural strata, into which the footing trench was excavated. The made-ground contained sherds of 20th pottery, slag, and fragments of brick and slate. Two sewer trenches were excavated out into the road, revealing a series of made-ground deposits. No significant archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed.

1. Introduction

1.1 Between November 2011 and May 2012 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief on land adjacent to 6 Egerton Gate, Shenley Brook End, Milton Keynes. The project was commissioned by Anthea Farrow, and was carried out according to the requirements of the *Milton Keynes Council Archaeological Officer*, archaeological advisor (AA) to the local planning authority, and a general method statement prepared by ASC.

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 situated in Shenley Brook End, Milton Keynes, centred on Ordnance National Grid Reference (NGR) SP 8346 3580 (Fig. 1). It comprises a triangular plot of land immediately to the east of 6 Egerton Gate (Fig. 2). To the north is Egerton Gate which provides access to the site, while to the east and south is Church End Road.

1.4.2 *Geology & Topography*

The natural soils of the site belong to the *Hanslope Association*, namely slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils (Soil Survey 1983, 411d). The underlying geology comprises till drift deposits (BGS, Sheet 220).

1.4.3 *Proposed Development*

The proposed development comprises the construction of a two storey dwelling (Fig. 3).



Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

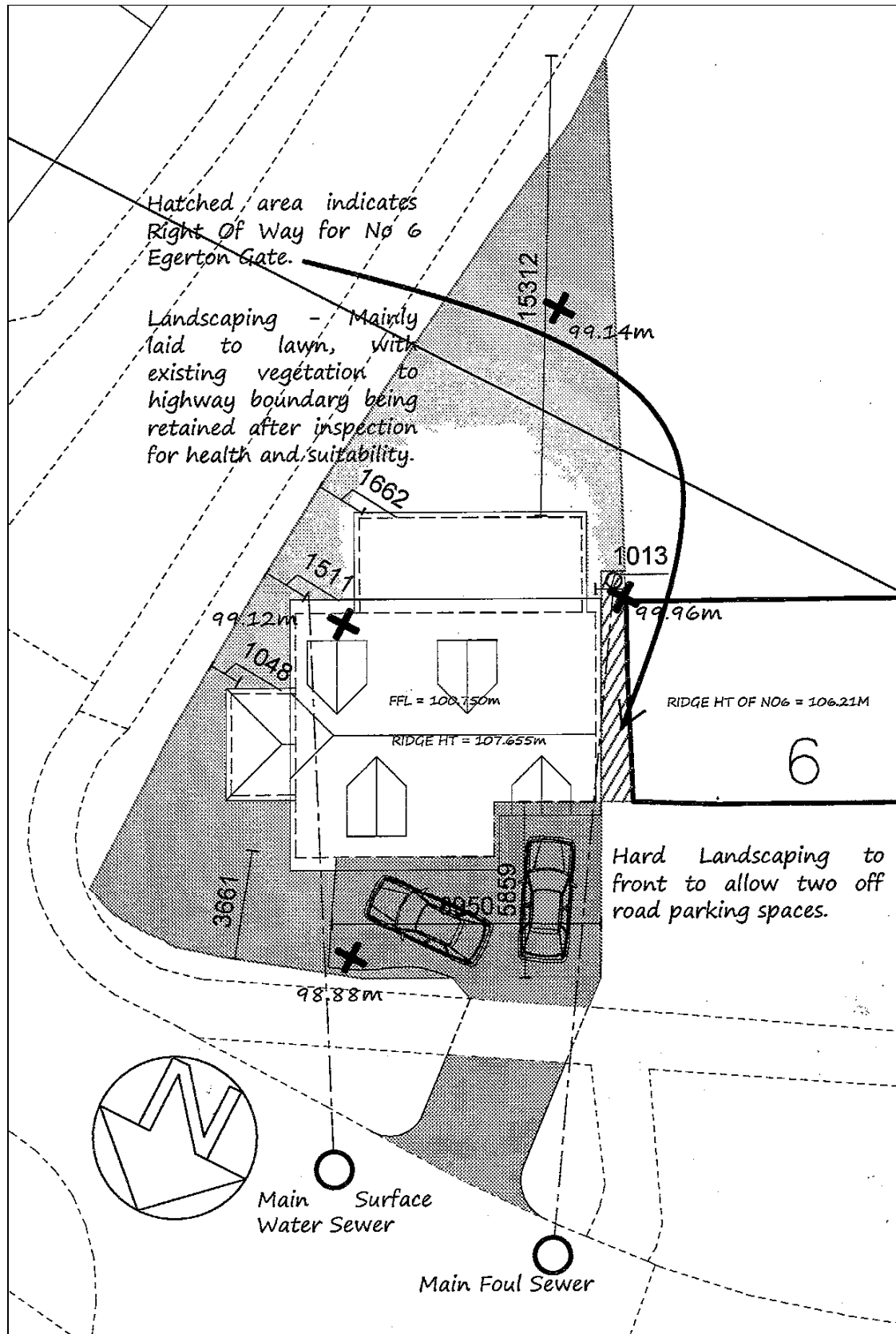


Figure 3: Development plan (scale 1:200)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 *Aims*

The aims of the watching brief were:

- To archaeologically monitor all aspects of the development programme likely to affect archaeological remains.
- To record any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme.
- To analyse, conserve and secure the 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' *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IfA 2008a & b) and *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010), to current English Heritage guidelines (EH 1991; EH 2006), and to the relevant sections of ASC's *Operations Manual*.

2.3 *Methods*

The work was carried out according to a method statement, which required:

- The presence of a qualified and experienced archaeologist during works that could affect buried archaeology.

2.4 *Constraints*

The works were carried out with full co-operation of the client and in line with the method statement and no constraints were encountered.

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 is within the deserted medieval village of Westbury-by- Shenley.

This section has been compiled with information from the Milton Keynes Historic Environment Record and ASC's library.

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

Little evidence for prehistoric activity is known within the vicinity of the site. Scatters of prehistoric artefacts have been recorded around the Shenley area, for instance a Bronze Age palstave (MK370) and a tanged bronze arrowhead (MK375).

A number of more substantial archaeological remains have been discovered from the late Iron Age. For instance, at North Furzton, c.1.5km east of the site, a first century BC stock farmer's habitation site was excavated (MK1772) (Ivens 1993:131-134). Iron Age activity has also been discovered beneath the later medieval settlement at Westbury-by-Shenley (MK636) (Zeepvat 1991:49-63; Williams 1993:5-10).

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

In the Roman period the Milton Keynes area fell within the *civitas* (tribal area) of the *Catuvellauni*. The nearest towns were *Magiovinium* (near Fenny Stratford) to the southeast and *Lactodorum* (Towcester) to the northwest. The road linking them follows the present alignment of V4 Watling Street, c.1.1km northeast of the site (Mynard 1987:24; MK77).

Traces of Roman activity have been found throughout Shenley parish. An extensive series of field-systems have been discovered at Westbury, which may indicate a settlement within the area. A tessellated pavement was also uncovered at Dovecote Farm, c.60m south of the site, (RCHM 1914:245; Ivens 1993:134), suggesting the possible existence of a villa (MK1422). Excavations at Egerton Gate, c.80m east of the site, uncovered a Roman site that contained two timber buildings, gullies, ditches and pits (MK1202), and a watching brief carried out at 22 Dovecote Cottage, c.100m south of the site, uncovered evidence of a high status Roman building dating to the 3rd-4th century AD (MK873).

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

Little is known in Shenley between the roman period and the Norman Conquest. The name Shenley (*Scienan-liage*, i.e. 'bright clearing') could indicate a new Saxon settlement in a wooded area (Ivens 1993:134). Saxon artefacts have been revealed around Shenley Church End, the deserted village of Westbury (Ivens *et al* 1995:1-5), and to the south of Shenley Brook End. Excavations adjacent to Westbury Farm, c.900m south-west of the site uncovered a group of 7th century Saxon burials and two wells underlying the medieval settlement (Ivens *et al* 1995, 71-78; MK 392).

3.5 **Medieval** (1066-1500)

The Domesday Survey (1086) records four separate holdings in Shenley, two in Church End and two in Brook End (Ivens *et al* 1993:134). Settlement in the area was dominated by two villages, Westbury-by-Shenley (MK636), in which the site is located, and Tattenhoe to the south (MK2730; Ivens *et al* 1995:1-5).

Westbury-by Shenley was represented by a series of well-preserved earthworks that originally extended along a single street between the medieval moated sites of Westbury Farm (MK682), c.800m southwest of the site, and East Green (MK637), c.100m north of the site, on the line of what is now H6 Childs Way. The village's main period of occupation was between the 13th and 14th centuries: it continued to be occupied in a reduced form through the 15th century, and was virtually deserted by the 16th century.

Medieval ridge-and-furrow ploughing formerly covered most of the parish and surrounding area. An evaluation at Shenley Brook End Middle School, Garthwaite Crescent, c.800m south-west of the development, uncovered medieval ridge-and-furrow ploughing (Zeepvat 2000).

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

The village of Shenley Brook End likely comprised a loosely linked group of farms that included Shenley Lodge. This was formerly known as East Green and dates to c.1600.

The site is situated between Dovecote Farm, c.60m to the south, and the earthwork complex known as Shenley Brook End Moat (MK637), immediately north of the development.

The present house at Dovecote Farm dates to the early 20th century. However, it is on the site of an earlier farmhouse believed to date from the medieval period. Dovecote Farm is marked on the 1599 Salden Map and the 1698 survey. The 1698 survey also shows a large house on the Shenley Brook End Moat. It is likely that the post-medieval house and garden shown on the survey may only be a re-use of a medieval moated site (Ivan 1993:137).

The 1698 estate map of Shenley Brook End shows a row of cottages along the lane to Tattenhoe, and around its junction with the lane to Church End. The site is within the enclosed field named Dogget's (Croft & Mynard 1993, L7). Historical maps dating from 1881 to 1992 also show the site as an enclosed field. It was not until the mid 1990's that the area was further developed to accommodate the residential properties that can be seen today. The site was part of the garden area to 6 Egerton Gate.

4. Results and Conclusions

4.1 Results

A total of four site visits were made, full details of which are presented in Appendix 1. The initial ground reduction for the new dwelling, the excavation of the footing trench and associated services were observed (Fig. 3; Plates 1-3).

The general site stratigraphy comprised (Plate 1):

0-0.2m max of topsoil that consisted of mid-dark, loose silty material;
c.0.2-0.5m max of made-ground that consisted of mid-dark brown, loose, silty clay with moderate small sub-angular stones and finds of 20th century pottery sherds, slag, fragments of red brick and slate;
c.0.7m+ of natural strata that consisted of light beige brown mottled with light grey, firm but malleable clay.

The reduced area measured c.236 sq m. It was excavated to a maximum depth of c.1.4m BGL (below ground level). No archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed.

As the reduced area penetrated the natural clay the footing trenches were excavated within the natural strata; and no archaeology was observed (Plate 2).

Trenches for the surface water and foul sewers were excavated from the new dwelling and out into Egerton Gate (Fig.3). The stratigraphy of the trenches consisted of a number of made-ground deposits overlying the natural strata (Plate 3):

0-0.3m max of path/road made-ground;
0.3-0.6m max of a dark grey soft peaty clay layer;
0.6-0.9m max of mid brownish orange soft clay layer;
0.9m+ of natural strata consisting of light yellow/grey, firm clay with frequent small chalk inclusions.

No archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed.

4.2 Conclusion

The site lies in an area of archaeological significance comprising the deserted medieval village of Westbury, and in close proximity to a medieval moated site. The watching brief revealed no archaeological finds, features or deposits relating to the deserted medieval village or moated site. The development site appears to have been disturbed in more recent times as a made-ground deposit containing 20th century pottery sherds, slag, fragments of red brick and slate was uncovered. The sewer trenches also revealed a series of made-ground deposits that contained no finds.

4.3 Confidence Rating

The works were carried out in good site conditions with full co-operation of the client; as such the results are given a high confidence rating.



Plate 1: Site stratigraphy, looking SW (*scale 2×1m*)



Plate 2: Ground reduced area and footing trench, looking NE (*scale 1m*)



Plate 3: Stratigraphy of main surface water sewer, looking SE (*scale 1m*)

5. Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Andrea Farrow to whom the writer is grateful for her assistance. The project was monitored by the *Milton Keynes Council Archaeological Officer* on behalf of the local planning authority.

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

6. Archive

6.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Method Statement
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.

6.2 The archive will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum AYBCM:
2011.267

7. References

Standards & Specifications

- EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition. English Heritage (London).
- EH 2006 *The Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*. English Heritage (London).
- IFA 2010 Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.
- IFA 2008 Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*.
- IFA (various dates) Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance* documents (*Desk-Based Assessments 2011, Watching Briefs 2008, Evaluations 2009, Excavations 2008, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings 2008, Finds 2008, Archiving 2009*).

Secondary Sources

- BGS *British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology*.
- Croft, R. A. & Mynard, D. C. 1993 *The Changing Landscape of Milton Keynes*. Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society Monograph 5 (Aylesbury).
- Ivens, R. J. 1993 *The Shenleys* in R A Croft & D C Mynard, 131-143.
- Ivens, R.J., Busby, P. and Shepherd, N.J. 1995 *Westbury and Tattenhoe*, Buckinghamshire Archaeology Society Monograph Series 8 (Aylesbury).
- Mynard, D. C. (ed) 1987 *Roman Milton Keynes*. Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society Monograph Series 1 (Aylesbury).
- Page, W (ed) 1927 *The Victoria History of the County of Buckingham*, vol 4. Dawsons of Pall Mall (London).
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).
- Williams, R. J. 1993 *Prehistoric Landscape* in R A Croft & D C Mynard, 5-10.
- Zeepvat, R. J. 1991 'The Milton Keynes Project', *Records of Buckinghamshire* 33, 49-63.
- Zeepvat, R. J. 2000 *Archaeological Evaluation: Shenley Brook End Middle School, Garthwaite Crescent, Shenley Brook End, Milton Keynes*. ASC/M/SBS00/2.

Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

A.S.C. LTD		WATCHING BRIEF RECORD	
Project: 6 EGERTON GATE, SHENLEY BROOK END		Project No/Code: 1412/SBE	Sheet: 1 of 5
Client/Developer		Date of visit: 17/11/11	
Contact:		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 9.00	Finish: 11.00	
Completed by: CB / EB			
Development Type:			
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: GOOD SITE CONDITIONS, OVERCAST WEATHER.			
Observations: OBSERVED THE TERMINATION OF THE REDUCED GROUND (LEVELLING FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT). EXCAVATED TO A MINIMUM DEPTH OF c. 1.4m. STRATIGRAPHY:- Topsoil: c. 0.2m (D) MID-DARK BROWN, LOOSE, SATY. MADE-GROUND: c. 0.5m (D) MID-DARK BROWN, LOOSE, SATY CLAY, MODERATE SMALL SUB-HORIZ STONES, ROOTING - SHAG, 20m POTTERY, RED BRICKS, SLATE DEPOSITS NATURAL: LIGHT BEIGE YELLOWY BROWN MOTTLED LIGHT GREY, FIRM BUT MALLIABLE CLAY.			
Comments: NO ARCHAEOLOGY. WILL RETURN TOMORROW TO OBSERVE THE FULL EXTENT OF THE GROUND REDUCED AREA.			



A.S.C. LTD

WATCHING BRIEF RECORD

Project: LAND ADJACENT TO 6 EGERTON GATE		Project No/Code: 1412 SBE	Sheet: 2 of 5
Client/Developer		Date of visit: 18/11/11	
Contact:		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 9:00	Finish: 9:35	
Completed by: CS			
Development Type:			
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Quarrying		Pipelines	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: GOOD SITE CONDITIONS + SUNNY WEATHER			
Observations: OBSERVED FURTHER GROUND REDUCTION EXPOSING THE NATURAL CLAY, AND FOOTING TRENCH INTO THE NATURAL NO ARCHAEOLOGY C. 2.3m MAX DEPTH - GROUND REDUCTION + FOOTINGS			
Comments: WILL RETURN LOTION THERE REPLY TO EXCAVATE THE SEWERAGE TRUNCIES OUT INTO THE ROAD.			

A.S.C. LTD		WATCHING BRIEF RECORD	
Project: 6 EGERTON GATE,		Project No/Code: 1412/SBE	Sheet: 3 of 5
SHENLEY BROOK END		Date of visit: 01/05/12	
Client/Developer			
Contact:		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 13:15	Finish: 14:15	
Completed by: CS			
Development Type:			
Footings	Services ✓	Roads	Levelling
		Quarrying	Pipelines
		Other (specify):	
Site & weather conditions: GOOD SITE CONDITIONS. RAINY WEATHER			
Observations:			
OBSERVED EXCAVATION OF TRENCH FOR SEWERAGE STUNNING FROM THE NEW DEVELOPMENT CUT INTO THE ROADWAY.			
TRENCH C. 3 m LENGTH C. 0.75 m WIDE C. 2.6 m DEEP = MAIN SURFACE WATER SEWER			
STRATIGRAPHY :-			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MADE - GROUND - ROAD MAKE-UP C. 0.3m (D) LAYER OF DARK GREY SOFT FATTY CLAY C. 0.3m (D) MID BROWNISH ORANGE SOFT CLAY C. 0.3m (D) LIGHT - MID YELLOW GREY CLAY WITH FREQUENT CHALK INCLUSIONS - NATURAL 			
Comments:			
NO ARCHAEOLOGY OBSERVED.			
WILL RETURN ONCE FURTHER SEWERAGE TRENCH HAS BEEN EXCAVATED.			

A.S.C. LTD		WATCHING BRIEF RECORD	
Project: 6 EGERTON GATE, SHENLEY BROOK END		Project No/Code: 1412 / SBE	Sheet: 5 of 5
Client/Developer		Date of visit: 09/05/12	
Contact:		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 14:30	Finish: 15:00	
Completed by:			
Development Type:			
Footings	Services ✓	Roads	Levelling
		Quarrying	Pipelines
Other (specify):			
Site & weather conditions: GOOD SITE CONDITIONS, RAINY WEATHER			
Observations: EXCAVATION OF MAIN Foul SEWER TRENCH STARTING FROM NEW Foul OUT INTO ROAD. MEASURED C. 8m LENGTH, C. 0.75m WIDE, C. 2.45m DEEP. STRATIGRAPHY THE SAME AS MAIN SURFACE WATER SEWER TRENCH. NO ARCHAEOLOGY			
Comments: WORKS FINISHED NO MORE SITE VISITS REQUIRED			

Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: Land Adjacent to 6 Egerton Gate, Shenley Brook End			SITE NO/CODE: 1412/SBE
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	√	√	Ground reduction, stratigraphy, looking SW (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
2		√	Ground reduction, stratigraphy, looking SW (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
3		√	Ground reduction, stratigraphy, looking SW (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
4	√	√	Ground reduced area, looking NE (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
5	√	√	Ground reduced area, looking NW (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
6		√	General site shot, looking SE
7		√	Footing trench, looking NW
8		√	Footing trench, looking SW
9		√	Footing trench, looking NE
10		√	Main surface water sewer trench, looking SE
11		√	Excavation of main surface water sewer trench, looking E
12		√	General shot of new development, looking SE
13		√	Excavation of surface water sewer trench, looking NE
14		√	Main surface water sewer trench, stratigraphy, looking SE (<i>scale 1m</i>)
15		√	Excavation of main surface water sewer trench, looking E (<i>scale 1m</i>)
16		√	Excavation of main foul sewer trench, looking SE (<i>scale 1m</i>)

Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	Land Adjacent to 6 Egerton Gate, Shenley Brook End	OASIS reference:	archaeol2-114209
Short Description:	Between November 2011 and May 2012 a watching brief was carried on land adjacent to 6 Egerton Gate, Shenley Brook End, Milton Keynes, during the construction of a new dwelling. The ground was initially reduced exposing the natural strata, into which the footing trench was excavated. The made-ground contained sherds of 20 th pottery, slag, and fragments of brick and slate. Two sewer trenches were excavated out into the road, revealing a series of made-ground deposits. No significant archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed.		
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:	N/a	Monument period:	N/a
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Milton Keynes	OS reference: (8 figs min)	SP 8346 3580
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	Land Adjacent to 6 Egerton Gate, Shenley Brook End, Milton Keynes, MK5 7HH		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	c.324 sq. m	Height OD: (metres)	c.99.8m
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	Nick Crank	Method Statement originator:	ASC Ltd
Project Manager:	Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA	Supervisor:	Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc
Sponsor / funding body:	Land Owner – Mrs A Farrow		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	17/11/11	End date:	09/05/12
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Buckinghamshire County Museum (AYBCM: 2011.267)	None	
Paper:		Method statement, report, site records, b&w photographs	
Digital:		CD containing all digital files including digital photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Watching Brief: Land Adjacent to 6 Egerton Gate, Shenley Brook End		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1412/SBE		
Author(s):	Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc AIFA		
Page nos	20	Date:	11/05/12