

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:
WHITE HEDGE DRIVE GARAGES
ST ALBANS
HERTFORDSHIRE**

NGR: TL 1408 0799

on behalf of Hightown Praetorian Housing Association



Ralph Stewart Brown BSC Hons

June 2013

ASC: 1452/SWH/2




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>	SWH	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	1452
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	archaeol2-151944	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	tbc
<i>County:</i>	Hertfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	St Albans		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	St Albans		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TL 1408 0799		
<i>Extent of watching brief:</i>	c.400sqm		
<i>Present use:</i>	Garages		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Demolition of existing garages and erection of two semi detached dwellings with associated parking and landscaping		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	St Albans District Council		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	5/11/1054		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	05/11/12 – 17/04/13		
<i>Client:</i>	Hightown Praetorian Housing Association Hightown House Maylands Avenue Hemel Hempstead HP2 4XH		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Michelle Tsvakai		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Ralph Brown	<i>Date:</i>	5 th June 2013
<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	5 th June 2013

© 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	7
3. Archaeological & Historical Background	8
4. Results.	10
5. Conclusions	16
6. Acknowledgements	17
7. Archive	17
8. References	18

Appendices:

1. ASC Watching Brief Monitoring Sheets	19
2. Finds	25
3. Photo List.....	26
4. ASC OASIS Form	28

Figures:

1. General location.....	3
2. Site plan	5
3. Proposed development.....	6
4. Plan of excavated areas and the archaeological features	12
5. Sections 1-3	13
6. Plan showing the Folly Lane excavations and the possible route of the Iron Age ditch....	15

Plates:

Cover: Foundation trench for plots 3 and 4

1. Pit [103] with Service Trench/Geotechnical Pit [106] cutting	14
2. Plots 1 and 2	14
3. Ditch [108] and Pit [111].....	14
4. Plots 3 and 4	14
5. Ditch [114] cut by [103] and 106]	14



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

Summary

Between November 2012 and April 2013 an archaeological watching brief was carried out at White Hedge Drive Gardens, St Albans prior to the erection of two dwellings with associated parking and landscaping. The excavations of the foundation and service trenches as well as two soakaways were monitored. A large late Iron Age ditch and two Roman pits were revealed towards the northwest corner of site. These show a continuation of the archaeological activity seen in the adjacent site of the Folly Lane excavations from 1991-1993. The position and alignment of the Iron Age ditch suggests it is the same Iron Age boundary ditch that cuts across the middle of the Folly Lane excavations.

1. Introduction

1.1 Between November 2012 and April 2013 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief at White Hedge Drive Garages, St Albans, Hertfordshire. The project was commissioned by *Hightown Praetorian Housing Association*, and was carried out according to a project design prepared by ASC (Rouse 2011), and approved by the District Archaeological Officer (DAO) for the local planning authority (LPA), *St. Albans District Council*. The relevant planning application reference is 5/11/1054.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This watching brief was required under the terms of *Planning Policy Statement 5* (PPS5) subsequently replaced by the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF), 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 within the district, parish and town of St Albans, to the west of the modern town centre at NGR TL 1408 0799 (Fig. 1)

The site comprises an irregularly shaped piece of land located on the eastern side of White Hedge Drive, and bounded to the east by Everlasting Lane. The site is surrounded by residential development (Fig. 2).

1.4.2 *Topography & Geology*

The site lies at an elevation of c.100mAOD. The natural soils of the site comprise the *Charity Association*, namely well drained flinty fine silty soils over chalky drift (Soil Survey 1983, 571m). The underlying geology comprises alluvial deposits of the river Ver, over Upper Chalk (BGS, Sheet 239).

1.4.3 Proposed Development

The proposed development comprises the demolition of existing garages and erection of two semi detached dwellings with associated parking and landscaping (Fig. 3).



Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

As described in the project design, 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' *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IfA 2008a & b) and *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010), to current English Heritage guidelines (EH 1991; EH 2006), 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 *Operations Manual*.

2.3 Methods

The work was carried out according to the project design, which described:

- Removal of existing surfaces under archaeological supervision.
- Soil and overburden stripping under archaeological supervision.
- The inspection of the subsoil for archaeological features, deposits, and artefacts.
- The rapid investigation and recording of archaeological features or deposits present, including adequate provision of both drawn and photographic records.
- Subsoil stripping under archaeological supervision.
- The examination of service and foundation trenches and the subsequent recording of any exposed archaeological remains, including adequate provision of both drawn and photographic records.
- Rapid examination of spoil-heaps for archaeological material.

A programme of post-fieldwork analysis, archiving, and publication

2.4 Constraints

No constraints were encountered during undertaking of this watching brief.

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 ASC's library, and other readily available sources.

3.2 *Prehistoric* (before AD43)

The area was of considerable importance during the late Iron Age and a number of major sites of this period are located in the area. The principle evidence of prehistoric remains in the immediate vicinity of the development site derives from the excavations at Folly Lane 50m to the west of site. During these excavations it was found that 'the site was sporadically occupied in the first millennium B.C, and by the early first century A.D. it formed part of the late, pre-Roman Iron Age oppidum of Verlamion' (Niblett 1999). Features included a large ditch transecting the site, 'traces of domestic occupation and a possible ritual focus' (*ibid.*). Other Late Iron Age activity includes a settlement at Prae Wood, c.2km west of the site (Wheeler & Wheeler 1936), occupation at Gorhambury (Neal *et al* 1990), and activity at Folly Lane, c.50m west of the site (Niblett 1999).

3.3 *Roman* (AD43-c.450)

Following the Roman conquest there was a shift in settlement and an important Roman city, known as *Verulamium*, was laid out on the south side of the river Ver. It developed into the third largest city in Roman Britain and is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Niblett 2001; Wheeler & Wheeler 1936). The development site is located c.0.5km to the north-east of the Roman city, on the opposite side of the Ver. Communications in the area were dominated by a major Roman road, now known as *Watling Street*, which ran from *Londinium* (London) to *Verulamium* and on to Wroxeter.

The early phase of buildings in the town was constructed of timber, and many were destroyed during the Boudiccan Revolt in AD60-61 (Frere 1972). The town was subsequently rebuilt and expanded and was later encircled by gated walls (Niblett 2001). St Alban, the first British Christian martyr, was executed in AD209 within the city walls (*ibid.* 137-139).

The Folly Lane excavation (Niblett 1999), c.50m west of the site, uncovered an important religious centre with its origins in the mid first century BC. Here a large rectangular enclosure was found within which an elaborate funerary chamber had been constructed, along with a pyre and a cremation. A Romano-Celtic temple was subsequently erected over the pyre probably dating to the early Flavian period. During the second and third centuries a large number of deep shafts, many of them apparently votive in character, were dug on the lower slope of the valley side.

A number of cemeteries are recorded outside the city walls notably on King Harry Lane to the south west of the city (Stead & Rigby 1989). Further burials are recorded on the east side of the city, c.400-500m southeast of the site (Anthony 1968).

St Albans began to decline after the departure of the Roman army from the province. Many of its buildings fell into disuse, and by the 5th century much of the population had relocated (Niblett 2001, 127-146).

A 1st or 2nd century Roman pot thought to represent a cremation was discovered outside 21 Kings Road, c.0.5km to the south of the development site, complete apart from a ploughed-off rim (Niblett & Thompson 2005).

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

The focus of the settlement shifted to the north side of the river during the Saxon period, where a new site known as Kingsbury developed (Niblett 2001, fig. 75). King Offa of Mercia founded an Abbey dedicated to the martyred Christian Saint Alban. The present cathedral occupies the site of the Saxon abbey, c.500m southeast of the development site. A market was established in the town during the 10th century.

3.5 **Medieval** (1066-1500)

St Albans is mentioned in the Domesday Survey (1086), when the abbot was the principal landholder (Williams & Martin 2002). The town developed considerably during the medieval period, when settlement became focused around the abbey and its precinct. The site is located to the west of this area, outside the line of the Tonman Ditch, which defined the medieval town.

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

Antiquarian maps (*e.g.* Hare 1634; Goodman 1822) show the area as open land, as does the first edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1879. This appears to have been the case until White Hedge Drive was constructed in the mid-20th century.

4. Results

4.1 General

The project entailed the mechanical excavation of two footing trenches to accommodate the construction of four dwellings (Plots 1+2 & 3+4). Two soakaways and two service trenches were also monitored during excavation (Fig. 4).

The general site stratigraphy comprised:

0-350mm max below ground level (BGL) of tarmac and modern make-up (100);
350-550mm max BGL of topsoil and construction related deposits (101) prior to tarmac having been laid;
550mm+ BGL of natural (102) comprising firm red brown clay with flint inclusions overlying solid chalk.

No archaeology was observed within the excavations of Plots 3+4, the soakaways and the service trenches.

4.2 Plots 1+2 Footing Trench

The footing trench for Plots 1+2 was situated towards the north western end of the site. A number of features were present cutting into the natural:

Pit/Ditch [103] (Fig. 5, Section 1) was found at the northern end of the trench, orientated NE-SW. It measured >4.36m wide and >1.02m deep. It had moderately sloping sides: its base was unexposed. It contained two fills, (104) and (105). Fill (104) comprised soft mid orange brown clay silt with 20% sub-angular chalk inclusions, 0.01-0.08m in length. It contained finds of Roman pottery and ceramic building material. Fill (105) consisted of soft mid grey brown sandy silt with 3% chalk inclusions, 0.01-0.05m in length, and 3% flint inclusions, 0.01-0.09m in length. Finds consisted of a small amount of CBM and 1st to 2nd-century Roman pottery.

Service Trench/Geotechnical Trench [106] (Fig. 5, Section 1) cut pit/ditch [103] and ditch [114]. It was orientated E-W. The feature was straight sided and its base was unexposed. It contained a single fill (107) consisting of loose white and grey brown chalk and sand silt; a mixture of natural chalk and ditch fill (105). It contained no finds.

Ditch [108] (Fig. 5, Section 2) was located at the eastern end of the trench, and was cut by Pit [111]. It measured >1.7m wide and 1.2m deep. It was convex sided with a concave base, and contained two fills (109) and (110). Fill (109) was friable mid brown grey clay silt with 5% sub-rounded stone inclusions, 0.01-0.05m in length. It contained one small sherd of probable Late Iron Age pottery. Fill (110) was firm mid orange brown sandy clay with 20% angular flint inclusions, 0.01-0.20m in length, and 20% chalk inclusions, 0.01-0.08m in length. This ditch continued to the western end of the trench as ditch [114].

Pit [111] (Fig. 5, Section 2) was found at the eastern end of the trench, cutting Ditch [108]. It measured 1.35m wide and 0.90m deep. It was fairly straight sided with a flattish base, and contained two deliberately deposited fills (112) and (113). Fill (112) was soft mid grey brown sandy silt with 20% of sub-rounded stones, 0.01-0.10m in

length, and 40% larger flint nodule inclusions, 0.12-0.2m in length. It contained Roman pottery and animal bone. Fill (113) was soft dark brown grey sandy silt with 5% sub-angular stone inclusions, 0.01-0.08m in length. It contained CBM and pottery probably dating to the 3rd century.

Ditch [114] (Fig. 5, Section 3) was the continuation of Ditch [108] and was heavily truncated by [103] and [106]. It measured >1.80m wide by >1.00m deep. Its full depth could not be seen here owing to this truncation. It contained one fill, (115), which corresponded to fill (110) within Ditch [108]. No finds were recovered from this section of ditch.

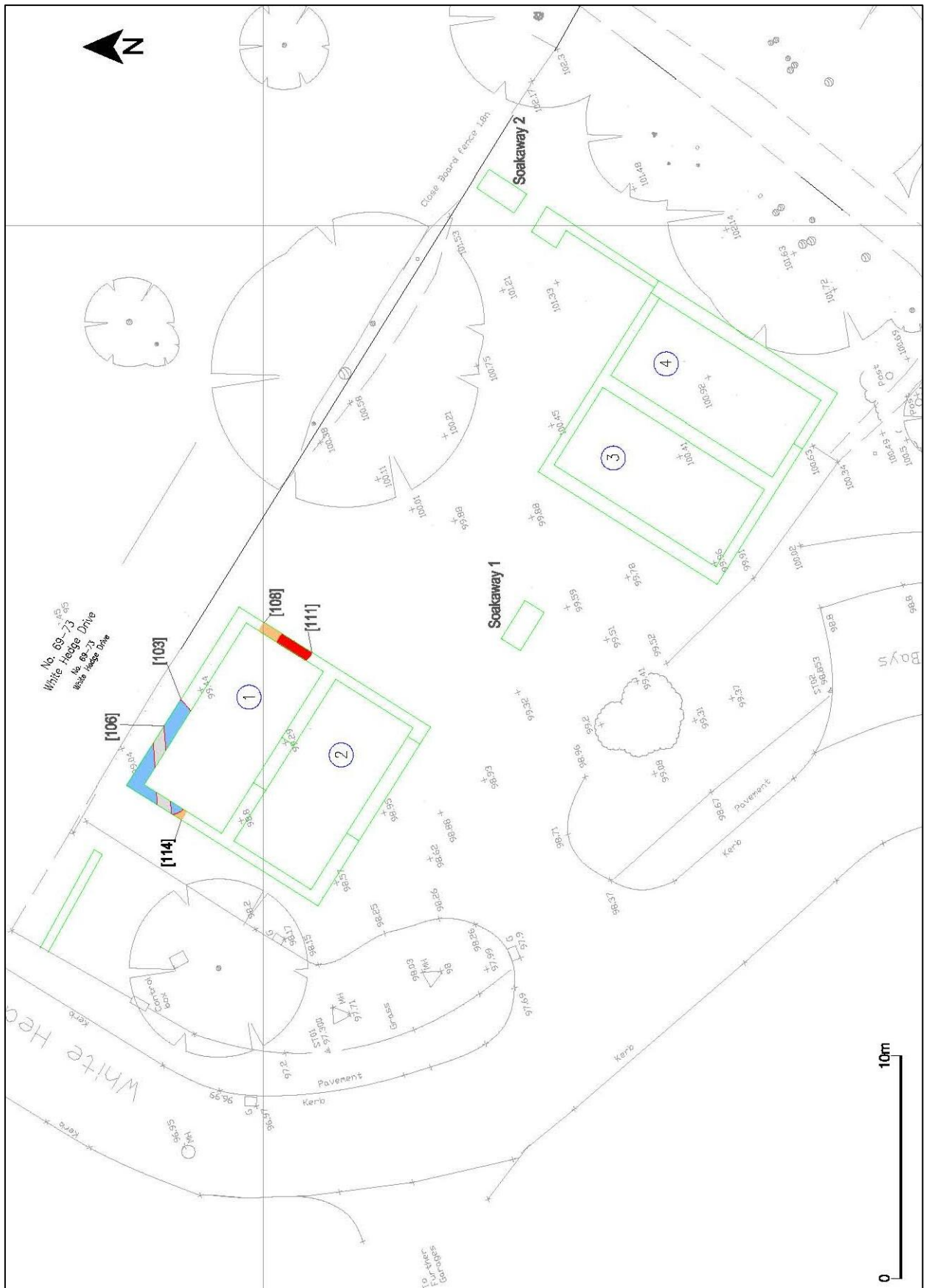


Figure 4: Plan of excavated areas (green) and archaeological features (1:250)

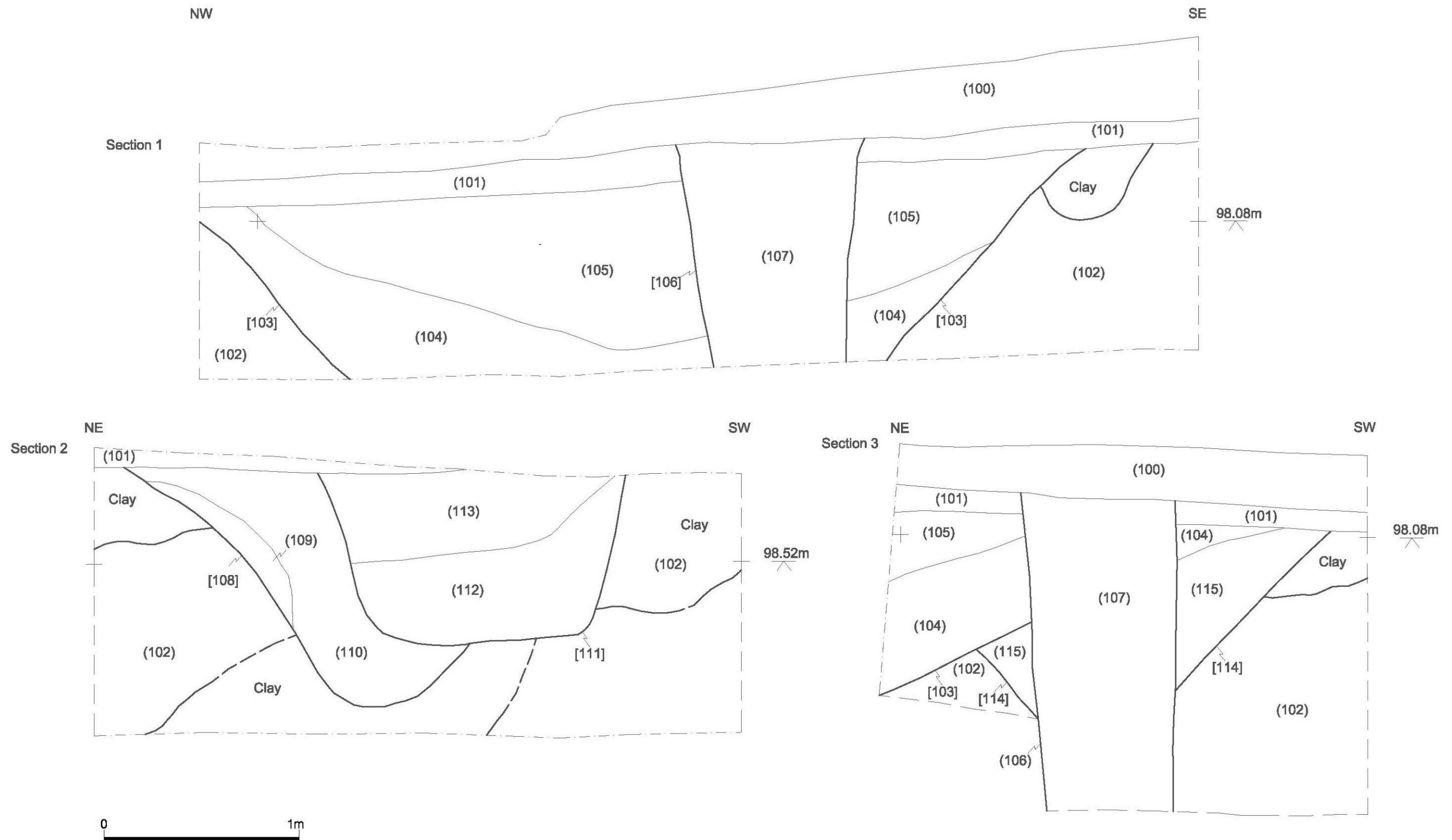


Figure 5: Sections 1-3 (Scale 1:20)



Plate 1: Pit [103] with Service Trench/Geotechnical Pit [106] cutting



Plate 2: Plots 1 and 2



Plate 3: Ditch [108] and Pit [111]



Plate 4: Plots 3 and 4



Plate 5: Ditch [114] cut by [103] and [106]

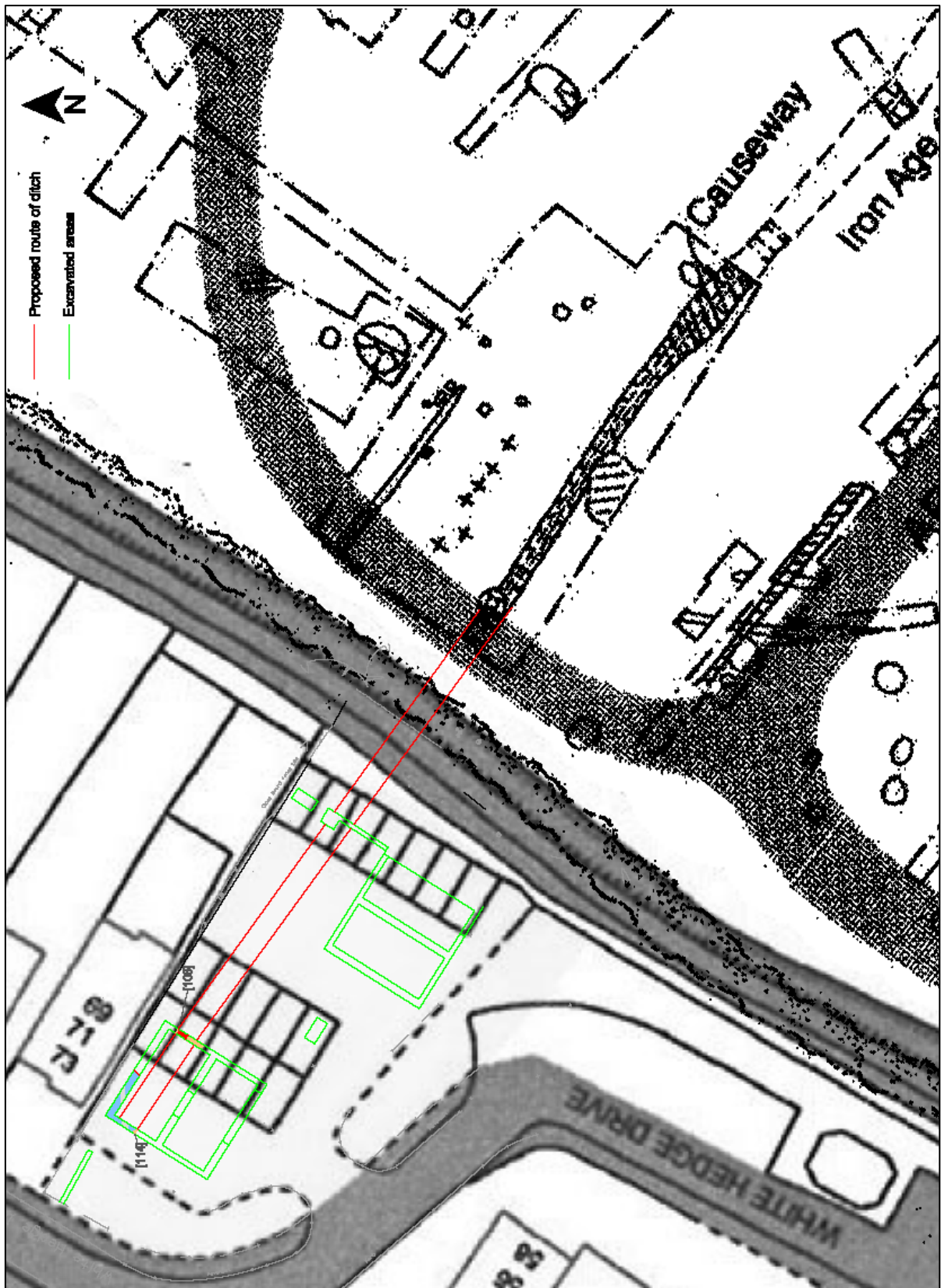


Figure 6: Plan showing the Folly Lane excavations and the possible route of the Iron Age ditch (Scale 1:500)

5. Conclusions

The excavation of the foundation trenches of four new dwellings and associated services were archaeologically monitored. The only archaeology found was concentrated within Plot 1 in the northern corner of site. This consisted of one Late Iron Age ditch which was subsequently cut by two Roman pits.

Placing this site in the wider context, it seems highly likely that ditch [108/114] is a continuation of the large Late Iron Age boundary ditch cutting across the middle of the adjacent Folly Lane excavations of 1991-1993 (Niblett 1999). This ditch was also found in evaluation excavations close to St Albans City Hospital (Hurley 1997), and as such it can be traced over a distance of 330m. It has been suggested that it ran between two dry river valleys now occupied by Batchwood Drive and Normandy Road (Niblett 1999). The Folly Lane excavations showed evidence for occupation contemporary to this ditch on the higher ground to the north.

It is difficult to interpret and place the two Roman pits in a wider context owing to the limited circumstances of their discovery. However it is highly likely that they are part of the extensive Folly Lane funerary and ritual site. In the later second and third centuries the Folly Lane site formed part of a larger ceremonial complex which included the Branch Road bath house, the Verulamium theatre and the Romano-Celtic temple in insula XVI of Verulamium (Niblett 1999).

Although no archaeology was observed elsewhere on site it is possible that further archaeological remains do exist within the site boundaries. The narrow nature of the footing and service trenches does cause problems when monitoring for archaeology and a medium confidence rating should be put on this project.

6. Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by *Hightown Praetorian Housing Association*. The writer is grateful to Julian Heffron for his assistance. The project was monitored by the Simon West, SADC 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 Ralph Brown BSc Hons, Martin Cuthbert BA Hons AIFA and Jonathan Hunn BA PhD FSA MIfA. The report was prepared by Ralph Brown 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. Original specialist reports and supporting information
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).
- 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*).
- Rouse C 2011 *White Hedge Drive, St. Albans, Hertfordshire: Project Design for Archaeological Watching Brief* ASC Ltd, doc. ref. 1452/SWH/1

Secondary Sources

- Anthony I E 1968 'Excavations in Verulam Hills Field, St Albans 1963-4'. *Hertfordshire Archaeol.* **1**, 9-50.
- BGS *British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology*.
- Frere S 1972 *Verulamium Excavations Vol 1*. Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquities of London **28**.
- Goodman T 1822 *Map of St Albans*
- Hare B 1634 *A Plan of the Town of St Alban*
- Hurley T 1997 Review of archaeological projects in Hertfordshire for 1994 *Hertfordshire Archaeology* **12**, 135-142
- Neal D S, Wardle A & Hunn J 1990 *Excavation of the Iron Age, Roman and Medieval Settlement at Gorhambury, St Albans*. English Heritage Archaeol. Rep. **14**
- Niblett R 1999 *The Excavation of a ceremonial Site at Folly Lane, Verulamium*. Britannia Monograph Series **14**
- Niblett R 2001 *Verulamium. The Roman City of St Albans*. Tempus
- Niblett R & Thompson I 2005 *Alban's Buried Towns. An Assessment of St Albans Archaeology up to AD1600*. Oxbow Books
- Saunders C & Havercroft A B 1978 'Excavations in the City and District of St Albans 1974-76' *Hertfordshire Archaeol.* **6**, 1-77
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).
- Stead I M & Rigby V 1989 *Verulamium The King Harry Lane Site*. English Heritage Archaeol. Rep. **12**.
- Wheeler R E M & Wheeler T V 1936 *Verulamium A Belgic and Two Roman Cities*. Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquities London.
- Williams A & Martin G H 2002 *Domesday Book: A Complete Translation*. Penguin (London).



A.S.C. LTD

WATCHING BRIEF RECORD

Project: WHITE HEDGE DRIVE GARAGES		Project No/Code: 1452 / SWH	Sheet: 2 of
		Date of visit: 6/11/12	
Client/Developer BORRAS CONSTRUCTION			
Contact: SULIAN HOFFMAN		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: MARCH 8-20	Finish: 15.00	
Completed by:			
Development Type:			
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: OVERCAST DAY			
Observations: RECORDED PASS DITCH [108] AND PIT [111] MACHINE EXCAVATED ALONG THE NW AND SW EDGES OF PLOT 1. PIT [103] SEEN EXTENDING THROUGH AND ALSO [106] WHICH I NOW THINK IS A GEO TECHNICAL PIT. ALSO A FEATURE [114] WHICH SEEMS TO BE CONTINUATION OF [108].			
<pre> 100 107 [106] 101 ┌───┬───┐ 105 113 104 112 [103] [111] └───┬───┘ 110 115 = 109 [114] = [108] 102 </pre>			
Comments: SWOOLKENDEN@BORRAS.CONSTRUCTION.CO.UK			



A.S.C. LTD

WATCHING BRIEF RECORD

Project: WHITE HEDGE DRIVE GARAGES		Project No/Code: 1452 / SWH	Sheet: 3 of
		Date of visit: 9/11/12	
Client/Developer BORRAS CONSTRUCTIONS			
Contact: SULLIAN HOFFMAN		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 8.00	Finish: 11.00	
Completed by: RSB			
Development Type:			
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: DRY SUNNY			
Observations: NO DIGGING THE MACHINE DRIVER ILL			
Comments:			



A.S.C. LTD

WATCHING BRIEF RECORD

Project: WHITE HEDGE DRIVE GARAGES		Project No/Code: 1452 / SWH		Sheet: 4 of		
		Date of visit: 6/11/12				
Client/Developer BORRAS CONSTRUCTION						
Contact: JULIAN HOFFMAN			Phone:			
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 8.12		Finish:		
Completed by: RSB						
Development Type:						
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: SHOWERS						
Observations: DIGGING FOOTINGS ON PLOT 2, N 2.30 DEEP AT SW of SITE TO N 1.75m DEEP AT NE						
NO ARCHAEOLOGY FOUND						
STRAT. OF:						
(100) - 0.30m						
(101) - 0.20m						
(102) - UNDULATING CHALK AND STONY ORANS & BROWN CLM						
Comments:						



A.S.C. LTD

WATCHING BRIEF RECORD

Project: <i>White Hedge, St Albans</i>		Project No/Code: <i>1452 1</i>	Sheet: <i>6 of 6</i>
Client/Developer: <i>High Town Protection</i>		Date of visit: <i>17/4/13</i>	
Contact: <i>Julian Hafforn</i>	Phone: <i>07863-599178</i>		
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: <i>2.10pm</i>	Finish: <i>3.55pm</i>	
Completed by:			
Development Type:			
Footings	Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roads	Levelling
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: <i>Dry & mild - 17c.</i>			
Observations: <i>A variety of service runs were observed. Some had been back filled due to the restricted space. Those on the ^{west} south side were 5m + 17 SW (uphill) c. 0.4m wide x 0.8m deep. Topsoil was 0.35 thick lying directly over the natural chalk. On the East side one N-S run c. 6m x 0.4m wide etc a deep way c. 1.3m sq. Observed to depth of 1.2m only natural clays & chalk observed.</i>			
Comments: <i>Due to the city, checked up nature of the site w further visits are proposed.</i>			

Appendix 2: Finds

Context	Pottery		Bone		Flint (no)	CBM		Other Finds	
	(no)	(g)	(no)	(g)		(no)	(g)	Type	(no)
104	2	12				4	88	CBM	4
105	1	5							
109	1	2							
112	3	15	1	4					
113	1	183				4	324	Fe nail	1

A Note on the Finds

Jonathan Hunn

A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from five contexts in four features (Appendix 2). Four of these (104,105, 112 & 113) were from pits and one (109) from a ditch. The CBM consisted of Roman building material in the form of brick fragments (104 & 113) amounting 412g. The pottery assemblage consisted of 8 sherds (217g) from all five contexts dating from the LPRIA to 3rd/4th century. These were as follows:

104 (probable pit fill)

1 rim fragment of a decorated Samian bowl 160mm in diameter of late 1st early 2nd century.
1 bodysherd of a gritty pinkish buff fabric; probably local ware (undated).

105 (probable pit fill)

1 small fragment of an incomplete rim in a very hard fabric. The exterior was black (Mun 5YR 2/1) while the interior was reddish brown (Mun 5YR 5/4).

109 Ditch fill

This consisted of 1 small abraded sherd of a shell gritted fabric with occasional flint tempering. It ranged in colour from very dark grey (Mun 7.5YR 2.5/1) to dark brown (Mun 7.5YR 3/2). Late Iron Age, possibly earlier.

112 Pit fill

This consisted of 3 sherds, one of which was a gritty pinkish buff fabric and the other two were from a Colour Coated indented beaker. These had a black exterior (Mun 10YR 2/1) while the interior was a light brown fine grained fabric (Mun 7.5YR 6/4). 3rd/4th-century date.

113 Pit fill

1 37mm diameter handle in a hard, very pale brown fabric with occasional micaceous and calcite inclusions (Mun 10YR 7/3). This came from an imported amphora handle, probably for oil from Spain (Dressel Form 20) dated to the 1st -3rd century AD.

JRH 4.6.13

Appendix 3: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: White Hedge Drive Garages			SITE NO/CODE: 1452/SWH
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	✓	✓	Section 1 Pit/Ditch [103] +[106] looking E
2	✓		Section 1 Pit/Ditch [103] +[106] looking E
3	✓		Section 1 Pit/Ditch [103] +[106] looking E
4	✓		Section 1 Pit/Ditch [103] +[106] looking E
5	✓	✓	Section 1 Pit/Ditch [103] +[106] looking N
6	✓		SE end of Section 1 looking E
7	✓		Section 1 Pit/Ditch [103] +[106] looking NE
8	✓		Section 1 Pit/Ditch [103] +[106] looking NE
9	✓		Section 1 Pit/Ditch [103] +[106] looking NE
10	✓	✓	Section 2 Ditch [108] and Pit [111] looking NE
11	✓		Section 2 Ditch [108] and Pit [111] looking NE
12	✓	✓	Ditch [108] and Pit [111] the opposite side of trench
13	✓		Ditch [108] and Pit [111] the opposite side of trench
14	✓		Ditch [108] and Pit [111] the opposite side of trench
15	✓	✓	Section 3 [103], [106] and [114] looking NE
16	✓		Section 3 [103], [106] and [114] looking NE
17	✓		Section 3 [103], [106] and [114] looking NE
18	✓		Section 3 [103], [106] and [114] looking NE
19	✓	✓	General shots of the foundations for plots 1 and 2
20	✓	✓	General shots of the foundations for plots 1 and 2
21	✓	✓	General shots of the foundations for plots 1 and 2
22	✓	✓	General shots of the foundations for plots 1 and 2
23	✓	✓	General shots of the foundations for plots 1 and 2
24	✓	✓	General shots of the foundations for plots 3 and 4
25	✓	✓	General shots of the foundations for plots 3 and 4
26	✓	✓	General shots of the foundations for plots 3 and 4
27	✓	✓	General shots of the foundations for plots 3 and 4
28	✓	✓	General shots of the foundations for plots 3 and 4
29	✓	✓	General shots of the foundations for plots 3 and 4
30	✓	✓	General shots of the foundations for plots 3 and 4
31	✓	✓	General shots of the foundations for plots 3 and 4
32	✓	✓	General shots of the foundations for plots 3 and 4
33	✓	✓	General shots of the foundations for plots 3 and 4
34	✓		Soakaway 1, looking NW
35	✓		Soakaway 1, looking NW
36	✓		Soakaway 1, looking NW
37	✓		Soakaway 2, looking NW
38	✓		Soakaway 2, looking NW
39	✓		General site shot looking N
40	✓		General site shot looking N
41	✓		Service trench for plots 1 and 2
42	✓		Service trench for plots 1 and 2
43	✓		Service trench for plots 1 and 2
44	✓		Service trench for plots 3 and 4
45	✓		Service trench for plots 1 and 2

Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
46	✓		Service trench for plots 1 and 2
47	✓		Service trench for plots 1 and 2
48	✓		Service trench for plots 3 and 4
49	✓		Service trench for plots 3 and 4
50	✓		Service trench for plots 3 and 4
51	✓		Service trench for plots 3 and 4
52	✓		General shots of concreted plots 3 and 4
53	✓		General shots of concreted plots 3 and 4
54	✓		General shots of concreted plots 3 and 4
55	✓		General shots of concreted plots 3 and 4

Appendix 5: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	White Hedge Drive Garages, St Albans	OASIS reference:	archaeol2-151944
Short Description:	Between November 2012 and April 2013 an archaeological watching brief was carried out at White Hedge Drive Gardens, St Albans prior to the erection of two dwellings with associated parking and landscaping. The excavations of the foundation and service trenches as well as two soakaways were monitored. A large late Iron Age ditch and two Roman pits were revealed towards the northwest corner of site. These show a continuation of the archaeological activity seen in the adjacent site of the Folly Lane excavations from 1991-1993. The position and alignment of the Iron Age ditch suggests it is the same Iron Age boundary ditch that cuts across the middle of the Folly Lane excavations.		
Project Type:	Watching Brief		
Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	none	Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	none
Current land use:	Garages & parking	Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	unknown
Monument type:	None	Monument period:	n/a
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Hertfordshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	TL 1408 0799
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	White Hedge Drive, St Albans, Herts, AL3		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	400 sq m	Height OD: (metres)	c.100mAOD
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	Simon West, SADC	Project design originator:	Calli Rouse, ASC
Project Manager:	Bob Zeepvat, ASC	Director/Supervisor:	Ralph Brown, ASC
Sponsor / funding body:	Hightown Praetorian Housing Association		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	05/11/12	End date:	17/04/13
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	St Albans Museum	none	
Paper:		WSI, site records, drawings, photos, report	
Digital:		CD with all digital files	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Watching Brief: White Hedge Drive Garages, St Albans, Hertfordshire		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1452/SWH/2		
Author(s):	Ralph Brown BA Hons		
Page nos	28	Date:	5 th June 2013