



Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:
THE BURY
TURVEY ROAD
ASTWOOD**

on behalf of Mr T Harris & Mr N Russel



Calli Rouse BA

October 2005

ASC: 668/ATR/1

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Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	668	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	ATR
<i>Event No:</i>	970	<i>Accession No:</i>	To be obtained
<i>County:</i>	Milton Keynes (Unitary Authority)		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Astwood		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Astwood		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 9474 4856		
<i>Present use:</i>	Cottages, yard and garden		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Extension to existing buildings		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	Not known		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Milton Keynes Unitary Authority		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	6 th and 7 th October 2005		
<i>Client:</i>	Nigel Russel Caldecote Mill Caldecote Lane Newport Pagnell MK16 0HA		
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Internal Quality Check

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<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	

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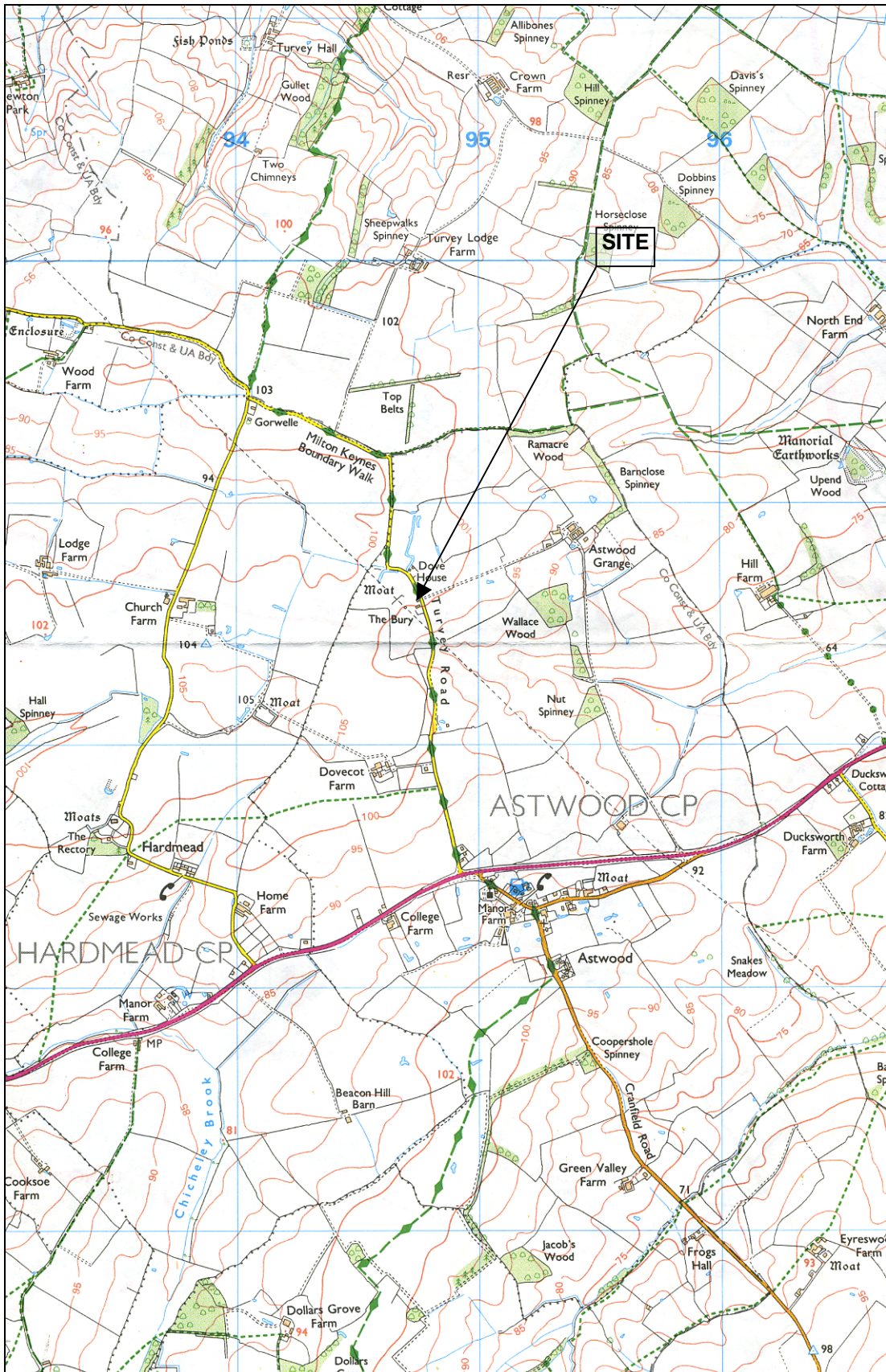


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

On 6th and 7th October 2005 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken at The Bury, Turvey Road, Astwood. The site is situated close to a moated site, and it was considered possible that remains from the medieval or post medieval period could be uncovered. The watching brief focused on the excavation of footing trenches for an extension to the eastern end of the cottages and the excavation of a Klargester pit. All the trenches were inspected after they had been excavated to their full depths into the natural undisturbed subsoil. Other than the base of a 19th century extension, no archaeologically significant ground disturbance was identified.

1 Introduction

1.1 In October 2005 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief at The Bury, Turvey Road, Astwood (NGR SP 9474 4856: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Mr T Harris and Mr N Russel, and was carried out according to a standard method statement prepared by ASC and approved by the Milton Keynes Council Archaeological Officer.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This watching brief has been required as a planning condition under the terms of *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (PPG16), in response to proposals for the conversion of the existing buildings into two separate dwellings.

1.3 *Location*

The site is located to the north of the village of Astwood, on the western side of Turvey Road (Fig. 1). There are two moated sites in the area, one c.600m to the south west of the site, and one considerably closer, at c.200m to the north west of the site.

1.4 *Description*

The site of The Bury comprises a row of cottages, part timber framed, part stone, which have been empty for several decades, and an associated stone barn. The site covers an area c.100m by c.60m (Fig. 2).

1.5 *Geology & Topography*

The soils of the area are of the *Hanslope Association*, comprising slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils. Some slowly permeable non-calcareous clayey soils. Slight risk of water erosion. The underlying geology consists of chalky till (Soil Survey, 1983, 411d). The site lies at an elevation of c.100m AOD, on ground that slopes gently towards the south of the site.

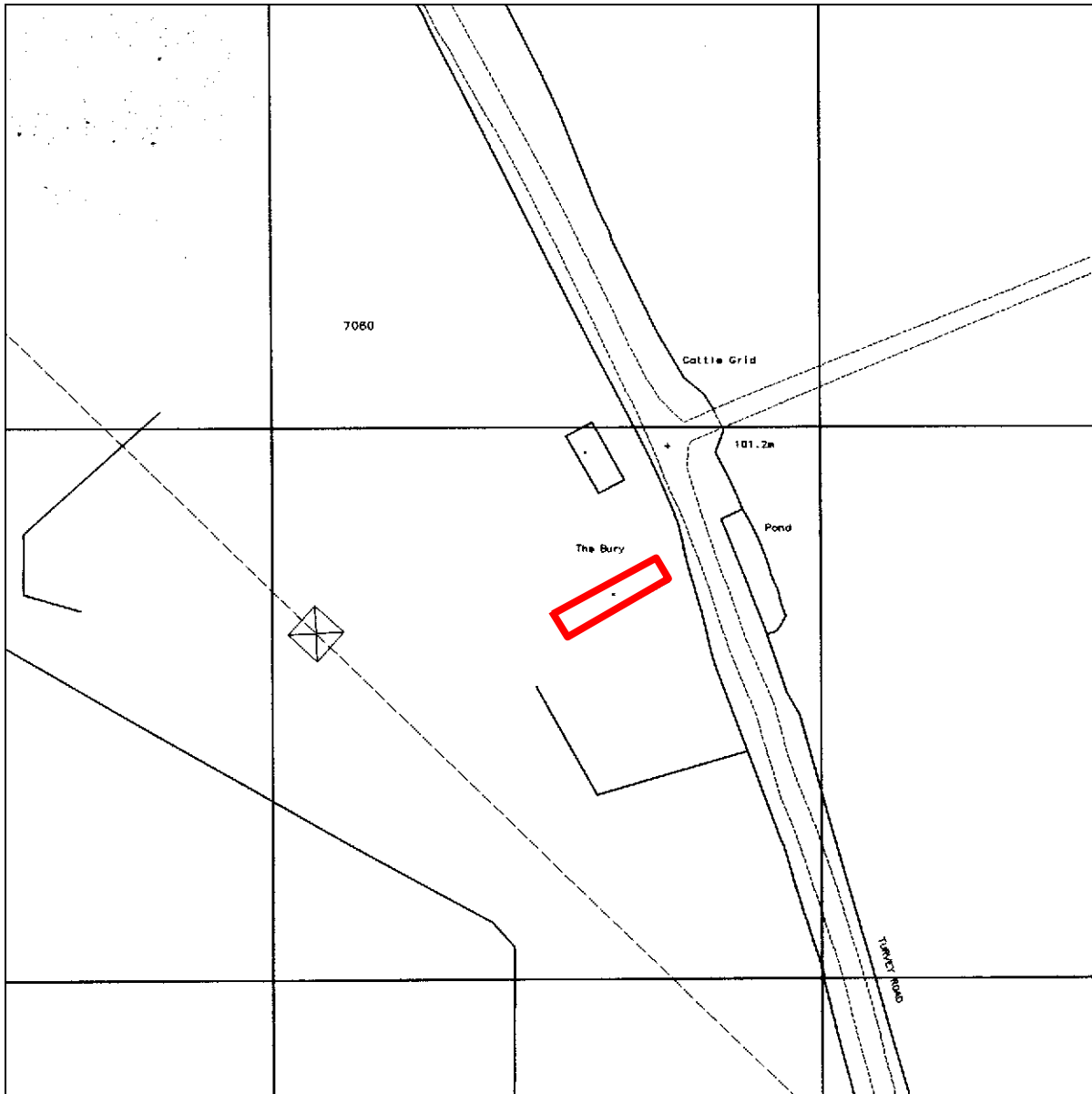


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

2 Aims and Methods

2.1 Aims

The aims of the watching brief were:

- To consider the location, extension, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains revealed by the development
- To produce an accurate and full record of any archaeological remains present, such that a permanent record will be made and the results presented in such a way that they can be re-examined and interpreted in the future

2.2 Methods

The work was carried out according to the ASC's standard method statement for archaeological watching briefs, which required:

- Observation of soil and overburden stripping under archaeological supervision, on an intermittent basis;
- Inspection of sub-soil for archaeological features;
- The excavation and recording of any archaeological features/deposits;
- Sub-soil 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;

2.3 Standards

The work conforms to the to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

3 Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 Prehistoric *(before AD43)*

Little is known of the site and its surrounding area in the prehistoric period.

3.2 Roman *(AD43-c.450)*

Roman pottery sherds have been found on the surface, to the south west of the village of Astwood (Recs of Bucks, Vol 40, 109), while a ditch containing pottery sherds was recorded during topsoil stripping for the Astwood bypass (Recs of Bucks, Vol 25, 170).

3.3 Saxon and Medieval *(c.450-1500)*

The village of Astwood is not mentioned in the Domesday survey, so it is reasonable to assume that the area was unoccupied during the Saxon and early medieval periods. St Peter's Church, Astwood, has parts that date to the 14th century, so it is likely that the settlement was in existence by the middle of the medieval period (Pevsner, 1960, 147).

3.5 Post-Medieval *(1500-1900)*

A building recording of the cottages to be converted was recently carried out. The timber phase of the building was dated to the 17th century, and Pevsner suggests that the timbers may have come from the Dovehouse, located further along Turvey Road (Pevsner, 1960, 147). The two stone cottages were added some time before 1881, while the lean-to building was in place before 1900, and required alterations and blocking of windows (Recs of Bucks, Vol 45, 222).

3.6 Modern *(1900-present)*

Little has changed on the site since the construction of the pre-1900 lean-to.

4 Results

4.1 The stripping of the site entrance area was monitored. No archaeological features or finds were observed during this process. The area of the extension adjacent to the stone end of the building was roughly stripped, but the underlying ground was too dirty for any conclusive observations to be made. A surviving area of brick floor from the former extension was observed adjacent to the cottage wall (Appendix 1, sheet 1).

4.2 The excavation of the footing trench for the extension was observed. The extension itself measures 6m by 5.5m, and the footing trenches were c.0.9m wide by 1.8m deep. The remaining overburden varied between c.300mm and c.500mm in depth. Immediately below that was the natural soil, which consisted of stiff grey clay (Appendix 1, sheet 2).

The footing trench removed the surviving footing of the western wall of the 19th century extension. The northern wall of the 19th century extension was visible in the trench, 3.1m from the wall of the building (Appendix 1, sketch 1). No finds or features of archaeological significance were observed.

4.3 The excavation of the Klargestier pit just outside the garden to the rear of the house was also observed (Appendix 1, sketch 2). The pit was 2m by 1.5m, and 1.5m in depth. The topsoil in this area was up to 300mm deep. Below this was a subsoil 400mm deep and comprising a yellow grey clay. Below this was the natural, which consisted of the same stiff grey clay as in the other areas of the site. The area in which the pit is situated appears to comprise an area of degraded ridge and furrow. No archaeological finds or features were observed (Appendix 1, sheet 3).

4.4 *Archaeological impact of the development*

It is unlikely that archaeological remains survive within the area of the new build and consequently the archaeological impact of the development has been minimal.

4.5 *Confidence Rating*

The watching brief was undertaken in overcast dry conditions. Full co-operation was received from the contractors and developer and a high confidence rating is attached to the results of the watching brief.



Plate 1: View of cottages, looking southwest



Plate 2: Extension area, looking south



Plate 3: View of cottages, looking southeast



Plate 4: Western footing trench of extension



Plate 5: Klargester pit



Plate 6: View of cottages, looking north

6. Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to *Mr T Harris and Mr N Russel* for commissioning the watching brief. We would also like to acknowledge the co-operation of the groundwork contractors. Thanks are also due to Mr Brian Giggins, Archaeological Officer of *Milton Keynes Council* who acted as curatorial monitor.

The project was under the overall management of Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA. The fieldwork was undertaken for ASC Ltd by Bob Zeepvat. The report was prepared by Calli Rouse BA and edited by Bob Zeepvat

7. Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Initial Report
2. Clients site plans
3. Site Monitoring Sheets
4. Site record drawings
5. List of photographs/slides
6. Colour slides
7. B/W prints & negatives
8. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum. Accession number 2006.192.

8. References

Standards & Specifications

EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition. English Heritage (London).

IFA 2000a Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.

IFA 2001 Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance* documents (*Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds*).


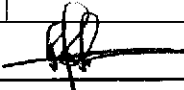
Secondary Sources


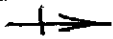
Pevsner, N. 1960. *The Buildings of England: Buckinghamshire*. (Penguin)

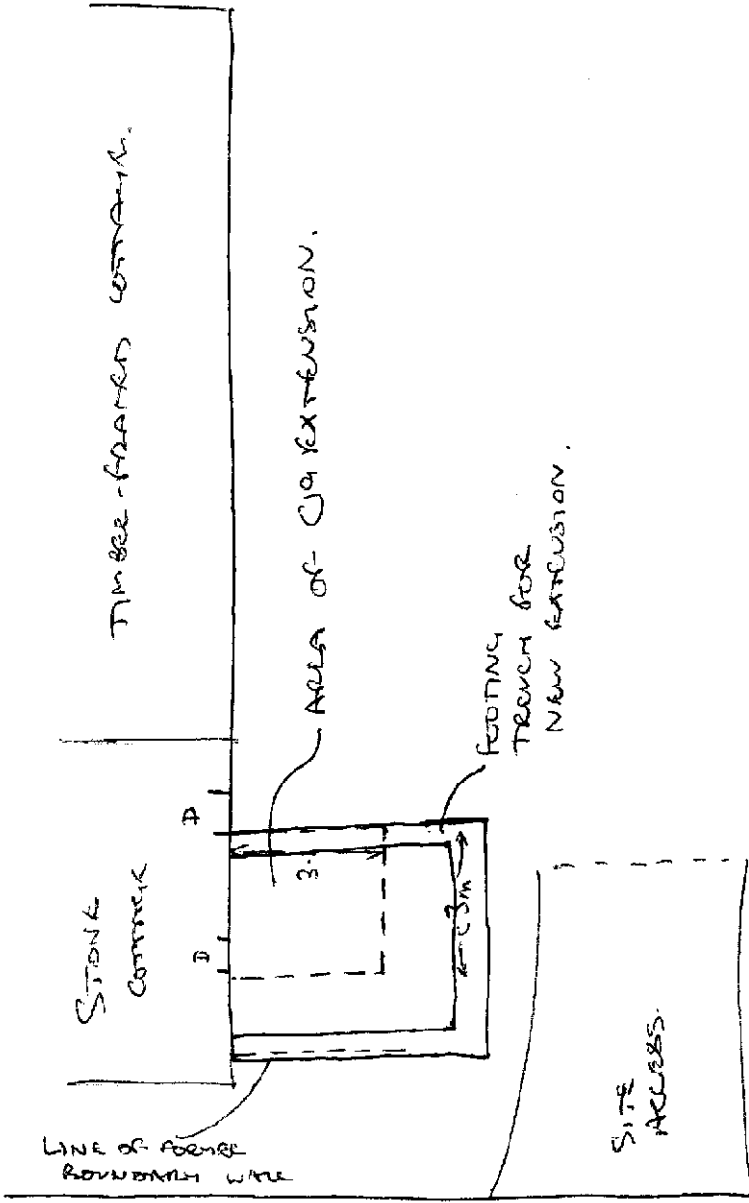
Records of Buckinghamshire: Vols 25, 40 & 45.

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

Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

 A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD				
Project: THE BURY, TURVEY RD ASTWOOD		Project No/Code: 668 / ATR		Sheet: 1 of 3		
		Date of visit: 6/10/05				
Client/Developer: N RUSSELL						
Contact:			Phone:			
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 9.30		Finish: 10.30		
Completed by: 						
Development Type:						
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services <input type="checkbox"/>	Roads <input type="checkbox"/>	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Quarrying <input type="checkbox"/>	Pipelines <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: DRY, OVERCAST.						
Observations:						
<p> SITE ENTRANCE STRIPPED - NO FINDS. PARTS OF EXTENSION ADJACENT TO STONE END OF BUILDING ROUGHLY STRIPPED - TOO DIRTY TO MAKE CONCLUSIVE OBSERVATIONS. AREA OF BACK FLOOR OF POLICE EXTENSION SURVIVING ADJACENT TO CONCRETE WALL. </p>						
Comments:						
<p> DISCUSSED PROGRAMME OF WORKS WITH CLIENT. FOOTINGS FOR EXTENSION TO BE DUG LATER TODAY. AGREED NEXT VISIT FRIDAY AM. </p>						

 A.S.C. LTD		SKETCH SHEET	
Site Name:	BURY, ASTWOOD	Site Code:	668/ATR-
Context:	SHEET 1 A.	Orientation:	



TIMBER-FRAMED WINDOW.

AREA OF CIA EXTENSION.

FOOTING FOR TRENCH FOR NEW EXTENSION.

STONE CHIMNEY


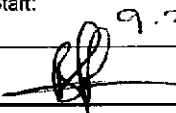
3.1


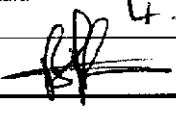
3.3m

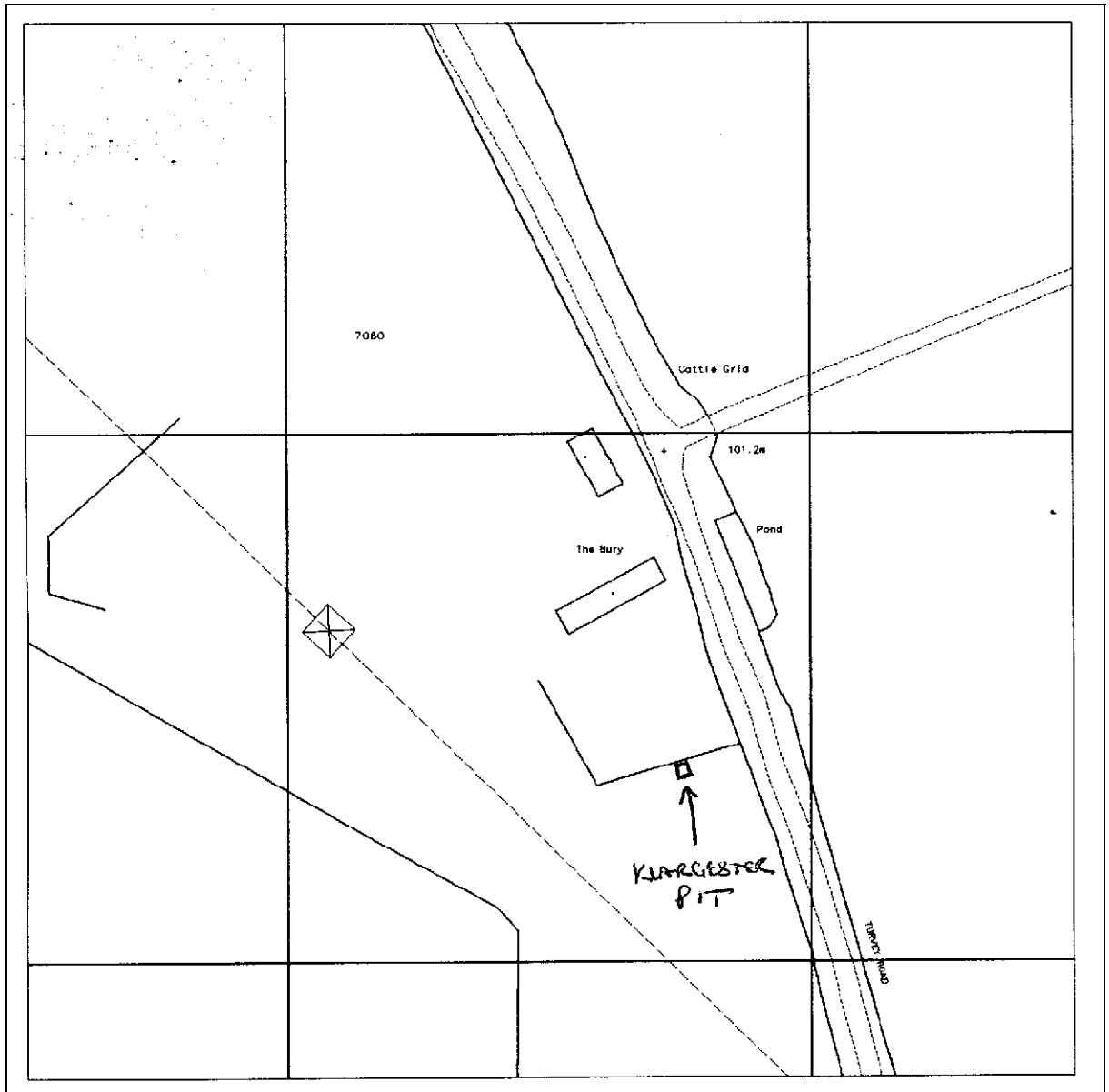
LINE OF FORMER ROUND BATH WALL

SITE ACCESS.

RECORDING NOTES				
Recorded by:	Date:	Digitised by:	Date:	Sheet number: of

 A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD	
Project: THE BURY, TURVEY RD ASTWOOD		Project No/Code: 668 1 ATR	Sheet: 2 of 3
Client/Developer: N. RUSSELL		Date of visit: 7/10/05	
Contact:		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 9.30	Finish: 10.45	
Completed by: 			
Development Type:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Footings	<input type="checkbox"/> Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Roads	<input type="checkbox"/> Levelling
			<input type="checkbox"/> Quarrying
			<input type="checkbox"/> Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: DRY, OVERCAST			
Observations:			
<p>FOOTING TRENCH FOR EXTENSION c 6x5.5m EXCAVATED AGAINST STONE WALL. TRENCHES c 0.9m WIDE, 1.8m DEEP.</p>			
<p><u>SOILS:</u> REMAINING TOPSOIL / OVERBURDEN 300-500mm NAT - STIFF GREY CLAY 500mm +</p>			
<p><u>ARCHAEOLOGY:</u> FOOTING OF NORTH WALL OF C19 EXTENSION VISIBLE IN TRENCH, 3.1m FROM HALL OF BUILDING. REMAIN FOOTINGS BURIED AWAY IN MODERN FOOTING TRENCH. (SEE SKETCH) NO FINDS OR FEATURES OF ARCH SIGNIFICANCE</p>			
Comments:			
<p>TOOK PHOTOGRAPHS + MEASUREMENTS. NEXT VISIT 4.00pm TODAY TO VIEW KLARUSTER PIT.</p>			

 A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD	
Project: THE BURY, TURVEY ROAD ASTWOOD		Project No./Code: 668 1 ARE	Sheet: 3 of 3
Client/Developer: N. RUSSELL		Date of visit: 7/10/05	
Contact:		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (Inc. travel):	Start: 4.30	Finish: 5.30	
Completed by: 			
Development Type:			
Footings	Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roads	Levelling
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: DRY, OVERCAST.			
Observations:			
<p style="text-align: center;"> PIT EXCAVATED FOR KILN/CRISTER JUST OUTSIDE GARDEN TO REAR OF HOUSE. (SKETCH) PIT 2x1.5m, 1.5m DEEP. </p>			
<p style="text-align: center;"> <u>SOILS:</u> TOPSOIL 0-200mm SUBSOIL - YELLOW CLAY 300-700mm NATURAL - STRATIFIED CLAY 700+ </p>			
<p style="text-align: center;">NO ARCH FEATURES OR FINDS.</p>			
<p style="text-align: center;">AREA LOOKS LIKE DEGRADED R+G -</p>			
Comments:			
<p style="text-align: center;">FINAL VISIT? CHECK WITH BRIAN.</p>			
<p style="text-align: center;">NB. CLIENT IS NOT BUILDING OTHER TWO EXTENSIONS TO NORTH OF COTTAGES AT THIS STAGE. ONLY OTHER DISTURBANCES LIKELY TO BE SERVICE RUNS.</p>			



Appendix 1: Method Statement for Archaeological Watching Brief

1 *Definition*

An archaeological watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any earth-moving operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons (IFA 1999, 2). It normally involves the monitoring by an experienced archaeologist of ground disturbance on a development (eg. footing and service trenches, reduction of levels, landscaping).

2 *Standards*

All work will conform to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance Notes* and *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000), to current English Heritage guidelines (EH 1991), to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*, and to any specific requirements of the Planning Archaeologist (PA).

3 *General Methodology: Observation & Recording*

- 3.1 Archaeological observation and recording normally involves visits when groundworks are under way, and requires close co-operation and communication between contractor and archaeologist. In many cases only regular, relatively brief visits are required (an *intermittent* watching brief). In certain circumstances (e.g. where archaeological features are known or strongly suspected to exist), the archaeologist's continuous presence may be required (an *intensive* watching brief). In the absence of specific instruction, professional judgement will be exercised to determine the level of monitoring.
- 3.2 Each site visit will be recorded on ASC's *Site Monitoring Sheet* (example attached). These sheets should record what is observed, including sketches where appropriate. A photographic record (see 4.4, below) will also be maintained throughout the watching brief. Plans of the development provided by the client will normally form the basis for recording the location of archaeological features and finds.
- 3.3 If significant archaeological remains are identified during the watching brief, a meeting will be arranged between ASC, the client, and the PA in order to agree an appropriate investigation. Provision to cover this has been made in the project estimates. Detailed investigation will follow the methods set out in the following section.

4 *General Methodology: Investigation (if required)*

- 4.1 Excavation will be carried out by hand. Maximum depths of excavation will conform to current Health & Safety regulations.
- 4.2 At the start of fieldwork temporary bench marks will be established, to be tied in subsequently to an appropriate Ordnance Survey bench mark. All plans and section drawings will be annotated with relative heights derived from these benchmarks. Plans will be related to the OS National Grid. Overall site plans will normally be drawn to a scale of 1:100 or 1:50: detailed plans of specific areas or features may be drawn to 1:20 or 1:10: burials will always be drawn at the latter scale. Sections will be drawn at 1:20 or 1:10, depending upon size and complexity.
- 4.3 A detailed record of all archaeological contexts will be maintained on individual pro-forma record sheets, designed to meet current professional standards. Each context will be individually numbered in a single sequence, and will be described in terms of dimensions, shape, fill type and inclusions, artefact content, samples and

interpretation. A register of contexts will be maintained, and context records will be cross-referenced to all other records.

- 4.4 The primary photographic record will normally be compiled in 35mm black & white print format, supplemented by 35mm colour slide and/or digital photography, illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. A photographic register will be maintained on ASC's *Photographic Record Sheet*, fully cross-referenced. Digital photographs will be used to illustrate the report. Metric scales will be used in all photographs.
- 4.5 All finds relating to the archaeological record of the site will be collected with reference to context and location. Finds of particular significance (small finds) will be recorded three-dimensionally on site, and described on individual pro-forma record sheets. A register will be kept of all finds. Finds processing may take place during or after fieldwork, and will entail cleaning, marking, packaging, quantification and initial classification. Conservation of artefacts will normally take place after processing, but primary conservation of delicate artefacts may be required on site.
- 4.6 Provision will be made for the sampling and analysis of environmental data by appropriate specialists. Sampling will be carried out in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (EH 2002). All samples will be recorded on individual pro-forma record sheets, and a register of samples will be maintained. Specialists will be required to submit copies of the base data from environmental analysis for inclusion in the site archive.
- 4.7 Any human remains encountered will normally be recorded and left *in situ*. The removal of human remains in consecrated ground requires a Home Office licence, and investigation or removal of remains must be agreed between ASC, the client, and other appropriate authorities. For the excavation and recording of human remains, current IFA guidelines will be followed (McKinley & Roberts 1993). In general, due care and respect will be accorded to any human remains, and site staff are required not to discuss their discovery in public, so as not to attract undesirable interest.
- 4.8 Due concern will be given to the physical security of all archaeological features, deposits, artefacts and records, both on and off site. All reasonable measures will be taken to secure their protection before, during and after excavation.

5 Reporting

- 5.1 Upon completion of the watching brief, an initial report on its findings will normally prepared within four weeks, subject to specialist input. This will typically include:
 - a concise non-technical summary of the results
 - information relating to the circumstances of the project
 - background information about the site
 - a summary of the aims of the project and the methods used
 - a description of the results, supported by appropriate illustrative material
 - a conclusion, summarising the results and examining their significance
 - a confidence rating
 - the contents and location of the archive
 - appendices (record sheets, specialist reports, reference works etc.)
 - an SMR summary sheet, if required
- 5.2 Copies of the report will be provided as required to the client, to the PA, and to other bodies as required. Eight copies are normally produced: a charge may be made for providing any additional copies. Interim reports will be submitted to the relevant period and/or regional journals within one year of the project's completion.

- 5.3 Once the final report has been accepted by the AA, an OASIS fieldwork summary form will be completed and submitted to the Archaeology Data Service.

6 *Archive*

- 6.1 All archaeological projects generate a quantity of records and related material. Together, these constitute the *project archive*. While the report may describe the project's findings in some detail, the archive contains the evidence on which the report is based, and its importance cannot be too highly stressed. By its nature, archaeological fieldwork cannot normally be repeated, so the archive often constitutes the only surviving evidence for past activity on a site, and arrangements must therefore be made for its deposition and long-term storage.
- 6.2 At the start of a project, ASC will initiate arrangements for archive deposition. On completion of the reporting stages of the project, the archive will be prepared for long-term storage. If arrangements for deposition cannot be concluded, ASC will store the archive until deposition can be arranged.

7 *Staffing*

- 7.1 The project will be under the overall direction of **Bob Zeepvat** BA MIFA, an established archaeologist with extensive experience in managing archaeological projects, of a wide range of fieldwork in both rural and urban environments, of post-excavation, publication and presentation projects, and of work on a wide range of historic buildings and structures.
- 7.2 Staff undertaking watching briefs will all be experienced archaeologists, of at least Assistant Project Officer grade. Less experienced staff may assist with any detailed investigation, under supervision.

References

- EH 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects* (2nd edition). English Heritage (London).
- EH 2002 *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-Excavation*. English Heritage (London).
- IFA 1999a *Standards & Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*. Institute of Field Archaeologists (Reading).
- IFA 1999b *Code of Conduct*. Institute of Field Archaeologists (Reading).
- McKinley J.I. & Roberts C. 1993 *Excavation and Post-Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains*. Institute of Field Archaeologists Technical Paper **13**.