

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:
ROSE AND FOLLY COTTAGES
ASTROPE
LONG MARSTON
HERTFORDSHIRE**

on behalf of Prism Construction Ltd



Calli Rouse BA PIFA

June 2006

ASC: 765/LMR/2

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Site Data

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------|-----|
| ASC project code: | LMR | ASC Project No: | 765 |
| Event No: | | Accession No: | |
| County: | Hertfordshire | | |
| Village/Town: | Astrope | | |
| Civil Parish: | Tring Rural | | |
| NGR (to 8 figs): | SP 8953 1488 | | |
| Present use: | Residential | | |
| Planning proposal: | The construction of two houses and associated access | | |
| Planning application ref/date: | 4/0206/01 | | |
| Local Planning Authority: | Dacorum District Council | | |
| Date of fieldwork: | 1 st February 2006 & 9 th June 2006 | | |
| Client: | Prism Construction Ltd. 59 Tring Road Wilstone Tring Hertfordshire HP23 4PE | | |
| Contact name: | Paul Cairns | | |
| Telephone | 01442 823007 | Fax: | - |

Internal Quality Check

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|-------|------------|
| Primary Author: | Calli Rouse | Date: | 20/06/2006 |
| Revisions: | | Date: | |
| Edited/Checked By: | | Date: | |

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CONTENTS

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Summary | 4 |
| 1. Introduction | 4 |
| 2. Aims & Methods | 7 |
| 3. Results. | 8 |
| 4. Conclusions | 11 |
| 5. Acknowledgements | 12 |
| 6. Archive | 12 |
| 7. References | 13 |

Appendices:

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| 1. Monitoring Sheets | 14 |
| 2. Photo List..... | 18 |
| 3. ASC OASIS Form | 19 |
| 4. SMR Summary Sheet | 20 |

Figures:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| 1. General location | 3 |
| 2. Site plan | 6 |
| 3. Extract from 1877 OS Map | 10 |

Plates:

Cover: View towards Watery Lane showing development and trenching, looking east

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. General view of footprint of Plot 1, looking east | 9 |
| 2. View of soil build up on site, looking southwest | 9 |
| 3. Detail of eastern trench, looking north | 9 |
| 4. Detail of state of ground in Plot 2, looking west | 9 |
| 5. Detail of test pit adjacent to Plot 1, looking south | 9 |
| 6. View of adjacent field, looking north..... | 9 |

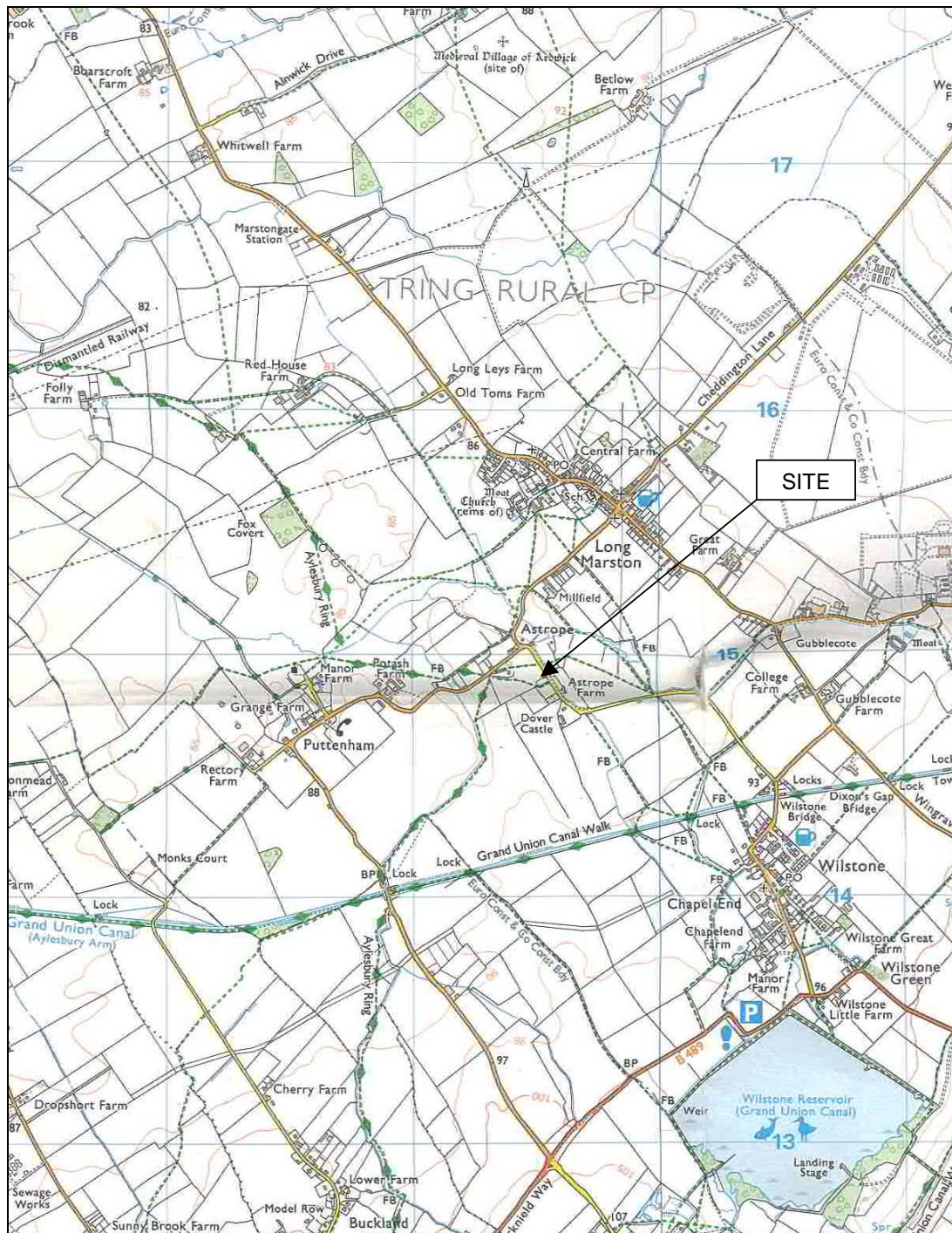


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

On 1st February 2006 and 9th June 2006 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ASC at Rose and Folly Cottages, Astrope, Long Marston, Hertfordshire, during groundworks for two new cottages on the site. A high degree of ground disturbance was noted on the site, and no pre-19th century finds or features were noted.

1 Introduction

1.1 Between February and June 2006 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief at Rose and Folly Cottages, Astrope, Long Marston, Hertfordshire (NGR SP 8953 1488: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Prism Construction Ltd, and was carried out according to a project design prepared by ASC (Rouse & Gill 2006), prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *Dacorum District Council*, following discussions between their archaeological advisor (AA), *Hertfordshire County Archaeology Office* and ASC. The relevant planning application reference is 4/0206/01.

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 construction of two houses and associated access.

1.3 *Location*

The site is located in the parish of Tring Rural, in the village of Astrope, at NGR SP 8953 1488.

1.4 *Description*

Two dilapidated cottages currently occupy the area of proposed development. Access to the site is via Astrope Lane, which runs adjacent to it.

1.5 *Geology & Topography*

Soils in the area belong to the Evesham association (Soil Survey 1983, 411b) described as 'Slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils. Some slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged non-calcareous clayey and fine loamy or fine silty over clayey soils. Landslips and associated irregular terrain locally.' The underlying geology comprises Jurassic and Cretaceous clay. The site lies at an elevation of c.90m AOD.

1.6 *Historical & Archaeological Background*

1.6.1 The origins of Long Marston, from *mersc tun* (marsh farm), (Gover *et al* 1970, 52) are difficult to discern, since it formed part of the manor of Tring, and was classified as a 'hamlet of Tring' along with Wilstone, Tiscot, Aldwick, Gubblecote, Miswell and Bledlow (Page 1971, 287-8). The precise extent of the medieval settlement of Long Marston is not known.

- 1.6.2 In the early medieval period the manor of Long Marston was held of the honour of Berkhamsted, and was valued at half a knight's fee (Page 1971, 287). In the 15th century it was held by the honour of Leicester, and by the 17th century by the manor of Tring (*ibid.*). In the Lay Subsidy of 1307 three individuals were associated with Long Marston. The richest was Walter de Mersshton who paid 6/8 1/4d and was almost certainly lord of the manor. The others were Robert son of Richard de Mersston, who paid 3/11/2d, and Philip de Mersston who paid 18 1/2d (Brooker and Flood 1998, 120-1). In 1337 the manor was granted by John de Merschtone of Tring to John Bisschop of Luton, chaplain, and John Germain, rector of Drayton. In 1370 Robert Stratford, parson, granted the manor to Christian Bardolfe for life with the remainder to Roger de Puttenham, knight. From then on Long Marston followed the descent of Puttenham until 1628 when it was sold by Thomas Sauders to Sir Arthur Wilmot (Page 1971, 287). From this family it passed to Thomas Bromley and in the 19th century to the Earls of Bridgewater and then the Rothschilds.
- 1.6.3 Long Marston was formed into an ecclesiastical parish in 1867 out of portions of Marsworth, Drayton Beauchamp and Tring. In 1894 the civil parish of Tring Rural was created out of Long Marston and Wilstone (Page 1971, 282).



2 Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

As agreed with the AA, the aims of the watching brief were:

- To identify and record any archaeological remains revealed by the groundworks

2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute of 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

As agreed with the AA the methodology for the watching brief was:

- The archaeological monitoring of all groundworks associated with the proposed development – including foundations and service trenches.

2.4 Constraints

During the monitoring of Plot 2, the decision was taken to excavate a test trench along the northern and eastern sides of the development footprint, to determine the level of ground disturbance in the area.

3 Results

- 6.1 Two visits were made to the site on 1st February 2006, when conditions were dry and overcast, and 9th June 2006, when conditions were dry and sunny.
- 6.2 The footprint of the most southerly building was monitored, and revealed a deep layer of topsoil and overburden (Plate 1). A ridge of darker soil running on a north-south alignment was observed, and was noted to contain an insignificant amount of post-medieval debris (Plate 2). Occasional patches of darker soil containing charcoal were also noted, and were likely to be late post-medieval in date.
- 3.2 Due to the disturbed nature of the ground, the decision was taken to excavate an L-shaped test trench (c.9m x c.8m) over the northern and eastern areas of the development footprint (Plates 3 & 4). The trench measured 1.1m in depth and 0.7m in width, apart from at the southern end, where the trench was taken down to a depth of c.1.4m (Plate 5). The overburden consisted of a dark organic deposit over natural grey clay. On the northern side of the trench, the upper ground had been disturbed by the earlier foundation of the pre-existing cottage.



Plate 1: General view of footprint of Plot 1, looking east



Plate 2: View of soil build up on site, looking southwest



Plate 3: Detail of eastern trench, looking north



Plate 4: Detail of state of ground in Plot 2, looking west



Plate 5: Detail of test pit adjacent to Plot 1, looking south



Plate 6: View of adjacent field, looking north

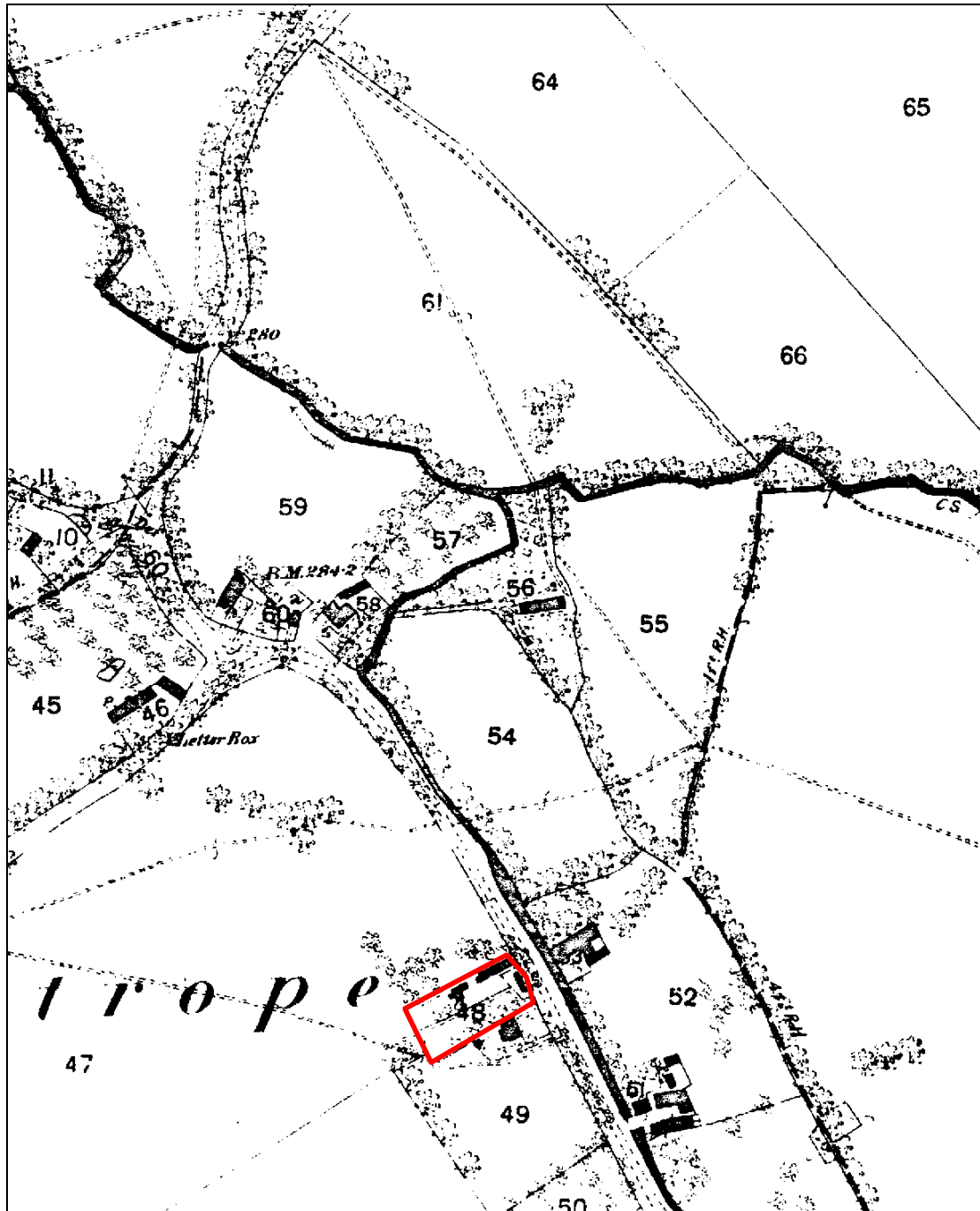


Figure 3: Extract from 1877 OS Map (*not to scale*)

4. Conclusions

4.1 Plate 6 shows the field adjacent to the development site, and indicates the presence of several hummocks beneath its surface. The 1877 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 3) shows buildings, both within the site boundaries and in the immediate surrounding area that have since been demolished. These both indicate that the area has been subject to development in relatively recent times, and that the developments are likely to have disturbed any associated archaeological remains.

4.2 No pre-19th century finds or features were observed during the watching brief. It was evident that the site had been subjected to a high degree of ground disturbance, and this is likely to have destroyed any earlier archaeological evidence.

4.3 *Confidence Rating*

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

5. Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to Prism Construction Ltd for commissioning the watching brief and Mrs Kate Batt of the *Hertfordshire County Council Archaeology Office* for acting as curatorial monitor.

The fieldwork was undertaken for *ASC Ltd* by Jonathan Hunn BA PhD MIFA. This report was prepared by Calli Rouse BA PIFA and edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

6. Archive

6.1 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/slides
7. Colour slides
8. B/W prints & negatives
9. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

6.2 The archive will be deposited with Dacorum Heritage Trust.

7. References

Standards & Specifications

ALGAO 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14.

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

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

IFA 2000b Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*.

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

Rouse, C & Gill, E 2006 *Project Design for a Watching Brief at Rose and Folly Cottages, Astrope, Long Marston, Hertfordshire* ASC Ltd

Secondary Sources


Brooker, J and Flood, S 1998 *Hertfordshire Lay Subsidy Rolls 1307 and 1334* Hertfordshire Record Society (Hertford)

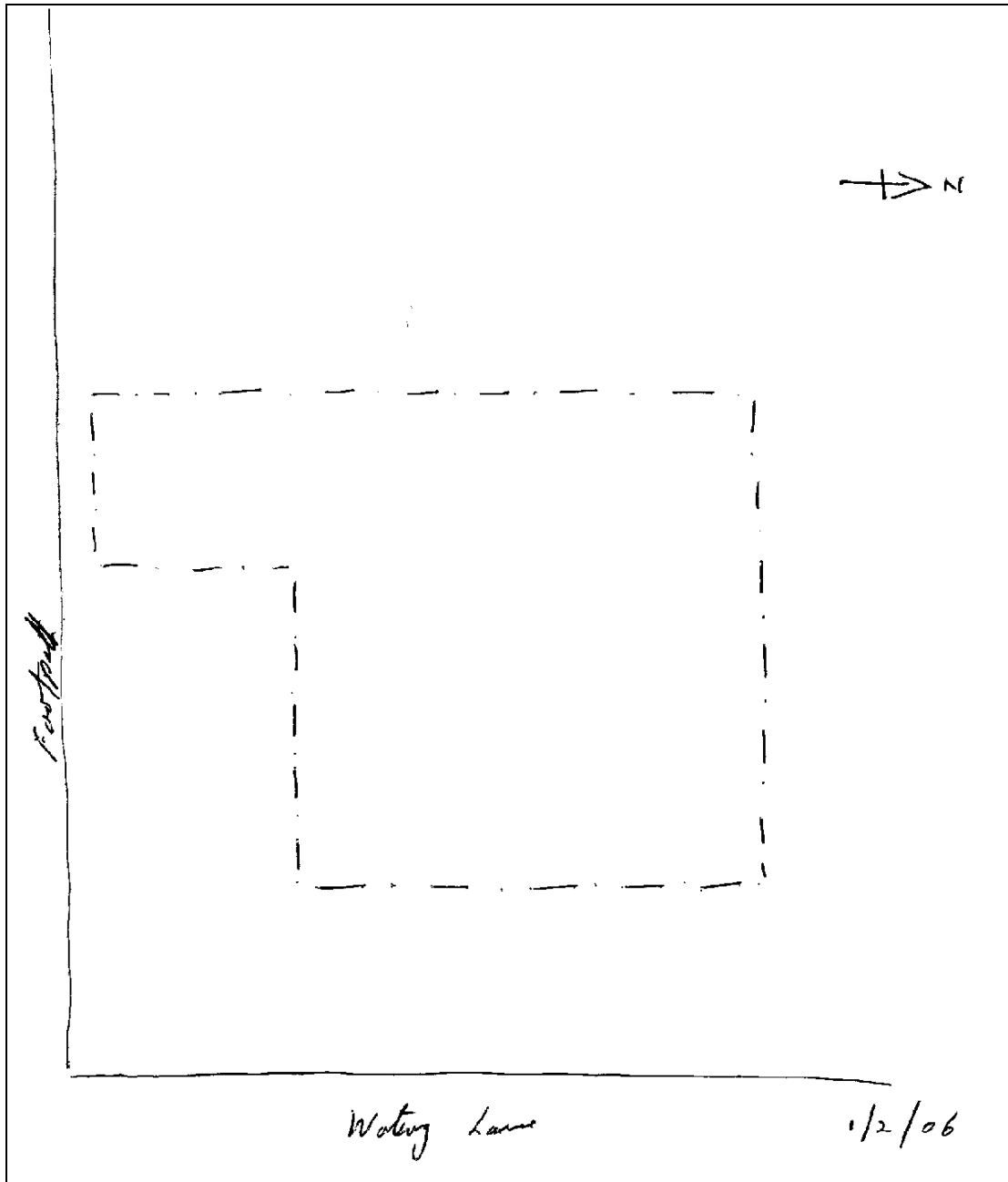
Gover, JEB, Mawer, A & Stenton, FM. 1970. *The Place Names of Hertfordshire* University Press, Cambridge

Page, W. (ed) 1971 (r). *The Victoria History of the Counties of England. Hertfordshire. Vol II*.

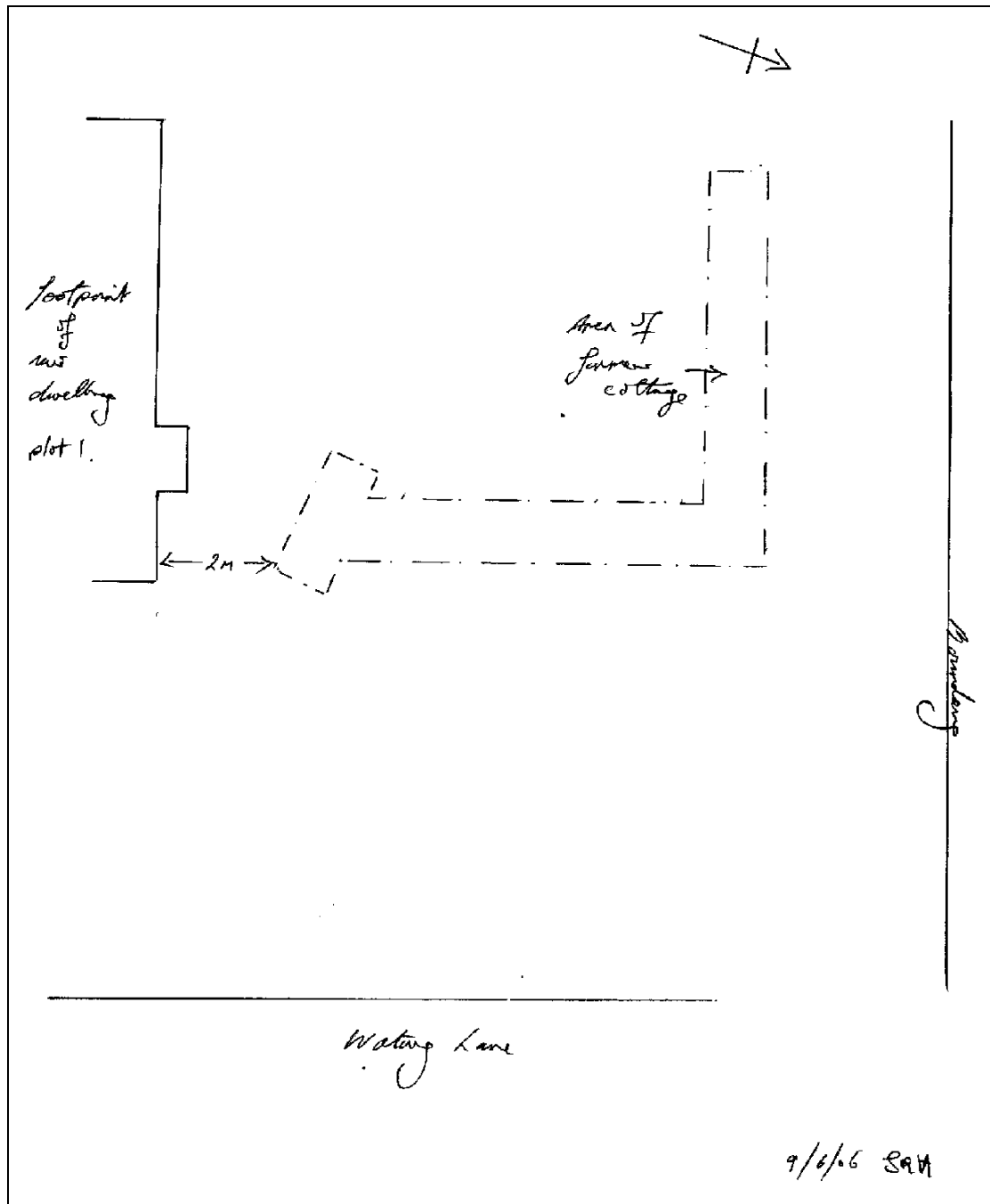
Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).

Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|
|  A.S.C. LTD | | ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD | |
| Project: <i>Rose & Folly Cottage</i> | | Project No/Code: <i>7651 LMR</i> | Sheet: <i>1</i> of <i>2</i> |
| <i>Astrop, Long Marston</i> | | Date of visit: <i>1/2/06</i> | |
| Client/Developer <i>Pirron Construction</i> | | | |
| Contact: <i>Nick Webb</i> | | Phone: | |
| Duration of Visit (inc. travel): | Start: <i>8.45</i> | Finish: | |
| Completed by: | | | |
| Development Type: | | | |
| Footings | Services | Roads | Levelling |
| | | | Quarrying |
| | | | Pipelines |
| | | | Other (specify): |
| Site & weather conditions: <i>Dry and overcast -</i> | | | |
| Observations: <i>Observed the entire footprint of the 1st plot is most southerly. The topsoil / overburden is quite deep and there appears to have been a N-S ridge of darker soil. This contains both post-medieval debris and though not significant there are occasional patches of pits(?) of darker soil but there are random and contain charcoal - note note.</i> | | | |
| Comments: | | | |
| For sketch plan, use reverse | | | |
| ©ASC, 2003 | | | |



| A.S.C. LTD | | ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD | |
|--|-------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Project: <i>Rose & Folly Cottages, Astrope</i> | | Project No/Code: <i>765 LMR</i> | Sheet: <i>2 of 2</i> |
| Client/Developer: <i>Long Marston Prison Construction</i> | | Date of visit: <i>9/6/06</i> | |
| Contact: <i>Mike Webb</i> | | Phone: | |
| Duration of Visit (inc. travel): | Start: <i>1pm</i> | Finish: <i>2.55pm</i> | |
| Completed by: <i>SRAT</i> | | | |
| Development Type: | | | |
| Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Services | Roads | Levelling |
| | | | Quarrying |
| | | | Pipelines |
| | | | Other (specify): <i>test trench</i> |
| Site & weather conditions: | | | |
| <i>Dry and Sunny</i> | | | |
| Observations: | | | |
| <p>Due to the disturbed appearance of the ground decided to do an L-shaped test trench over 2 of the 4 sides of the footprint of the new building (2nd plot) approx. 9m x 8m. Dia of trench 1.1m wide x 0.7m deep. However in the pump cut (see over) the trench went down c.1.4m. The overburden consisted of dark organic deposit (smelly topsoil) over the red clay. On the northern side the upper ground had been disturbed by the earlier foundation of the cottage. Apart from C19 building debris there were no finds or features to indicate the presence of earlier man-made features and/or activity.</p> | | | |
| Comments: | | | |
| <i>No evidence of pre-C19 activity observed.</i> | | | |
| For sketch plan, use reverse | | | |
| ©ASC, 2003 | | | |



Appendix 2: List of Photographs

| SITE NAME: Rose & Folly Cottages, Astrope, Long Marston | | | | SITE NO/CODE: 765/LMR |
|---|-----|-------|---------|--|
| Shot | B&W | Slide | Digital | Subject |
| 1 | | | ✓ | View of existing cottage, looking northeast |
| 2 | | | ✓ | East end of existing cottage, looking west |
| 3 | | | ✓ | External privy, looking southeast |
| 4 | | | ✓ | External privy, looking northwest |
| 5 | | | ✓ | View of existing cottage, looking southwest |
| 6 | | | ✓ | External privy, looking southwest |
| 7 | | | ✓ | Detail of privy door, looking east |
| 8 | | | ✓ | View along Watery Lane, looking north |
| 9 | | | ✓ | Detail of join between two cottages |
| 10 | | | ✓ | General view of footprint of Plot 1, looking east |
| 11 | | | ✓ | General view of footprint of Plot 1, looking north |
| 12 | | | ✓ | Detail of west side of Plot 1 footprint, looking north |
| 13 | | | ✓ | Detail of east side of Plot 1 footprint, looking south |
| 14 | | | ✓ | Detail of south side of Plot 1 footprint, looking west |
| 15 | | | ✓ | Rear of cottage, looking southeast |
| 16 | | | ✓ | View of soil build up on site, looking southwest |
| 17 | | | ✓ | Detail of soil build up on site, looking southwest |
| 18 | | | ✓ | Working shot |
| 19 | | | ✓ | View across location of trenches in Plot 2, looking northwest |
| 20 | | | ✓ | Detail of eastern trench, looking north |
| 21 | | | ✓ | View across trenches towards new build, looking south |
| 22 | | | ✓ | State of ground in Plot 2, looking south |
| 23 | | | ✓ | Detail of state of ground in Plot 2, looking west |
| 24 | | | ✓ | View of adjacent field, looking north |
| 25 | | | ✓ | Detail of test pit adjacent to Plot 1, looking south |
| 26 | | | ✓ | General shot showing location of trenches, looking eastsoutheast |
| 27 | | | ✓ | View towards Watery Lane showing development and trenching, looking east |
| 28 | | | | |
| 29 | | | | |
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Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

| PROJECT DETAILS | | | | | | |
|--|---|-----------|--|-----------|---------------------------|----------|
| Project Name: | Rose & Folly Cottages, Astrope, Long Marston, Hertfordshire | | | | | |
| Short Description: | <i>On 1st February 2006 and 9th June 2006 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ASC at Rose and Folly Cottages, Astrope, Long Marston, Hertfordshire, during groundworks for two new cottages on the site. a high degree of ground disturbance was noted on the site, and no pre-19th century finds or features were noted.</i> | | | | | |
| Project Type: (indicate all that apply) | DBA | FW | Geophys | Survey | Bldg Rec | Post-Exc |
| | <u>WB</u> | Strip&Rec | Trenching | Test pits | Exc | Other |
| Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed) | None | | Previous work: (eg. SMR refs) | | None | |
| Current land use: | Residential | | Future work: (yes / no / unknown) | | No | |
| Monument type: | - | | Monument period: | | - | |
| Significant finds: (artefact type & period) | - | | | | | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | | | | | | |
| County: | Hertfordshire | | OS reference: (to at least 8 figures) | | SP 8953 1488 | |
| District: | Dacorum | | Parish: | | Tring Rural | |
| Site address: (with postcode if known) | Rose & Folly Cottages, Astrope, Long Marston, Hertfordshire | | | | | |
| Study area: (sq. m. or ha) | - | | Height OD: (metres) | | c.90 | |
| PROJECT CREATORS | | | | | | |
| Organisation: | Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd | | | | | |
| Project brief originator: | - | | Project design originator: | | Calli Rouse & Lizzie Gill | |
| Project Manager: | Jonathan Hunn | | Director/Supervisor: | | Jonathan Hunn | |
| Sponsor / funding body: | Prism Construction Ltd | | | | | |
| PROJECT DATE | | | | | | |
| Start date: | 01/02/2006 | | End date: | | 09/06/2006 | |
| PROJECT ARCHIVES | | | | | | |
| | Location (Accession no.) | | Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets) | | | |
| Physical: | Dacorum Heritage Trust | | No Finds | | | |
| Paper: | | | Brief/PD/Report/Record Sheets/Plans | | | |
| Digital: | | | CD with all digital files | | | |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report) | | | | | | |
| Title: | Watching Brief at Rose and Folly Cottages, Astrope, Long Marston, Hertfordshire | | | | | |
| Serial title & volume: | ASC/765/LMR/2 | | | | | |
| Author(s): | Calli Rouse BA PIFA | | | | | |
| Page nos | 1-20 | | Date: | | 20/06/06 | |

Appendix 4: SMR Summary Sheet

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Site name and address: Rose & Folly Cottages, Astrope, Long Marston, Hertfordshire | | |
| County: Hertfordshire | District: Dacorum | |
| Village/Town: Long Marston | Parish: Tring Rural | |
| Planning application reference: 4/0206/01 | | |
| Client name, address, & tel. no: Prism Construction Ltd. 59 Tring Road Wilstone Tring Hertfordshire HP23 4PE 01442 823007 | | |
| Nature of application: The construction of two houses and associated access | | |
| Present land use: Residential | | |
| Size of application area: n/a | Size of area investigated: n/a | |
| NGR (to 8 figures): SP 8953 1488 | Site code: 765/LMR | |
| Site director/Organization: Bob Zeepvat / ASC Ltd | | |
| Type of work: Watching Brief | | |
| Date of work: | Start: 01/02/2006 | Finish: 09/06/2006 |
| Curating museum: decorum Heritage Trust | | |
| Related SMR nos: - | Periods represented: - | |
| Relevant previous summaries/reports - | | |
| Summary of fieldwork results: On 1 st February 2006 and 9 th June 2006 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ASC at Rose and Folly Cottages, Astrope, Long Marston, Hertfordshire, during groundworks for two new cottages on the site. a high degree of ground disturbance was noted on the site, and no pre-19 th century finds or features were noted. | | |
| Author: Calli Rouse | Date: 20/06/06 | |

