

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:
THE DELL
BROWN'S SPRING
POTTEN END
HERTFORDSHIRE**

on behalf of Mr. Neil Kelly



Elizabeth Gill BSc PgDip

March 2006

ASC: 772/PED/1

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Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	PED	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	772
<i>County:</i>	Hertfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Potten End		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Nettleden with Potten		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TL 02115 09199		
<i>Present use:</i>	Residential		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Side extensions to existing property.		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	4/2637/05		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Dacorum		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	21 st February 2006		
<i>Client:</i>	Neil Kelly 18 Dunstable Road Toddington Bedfordshire LU5 6DR		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Elizabeth Gill	<i>Date:</i>	2 nd March 2006
<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	

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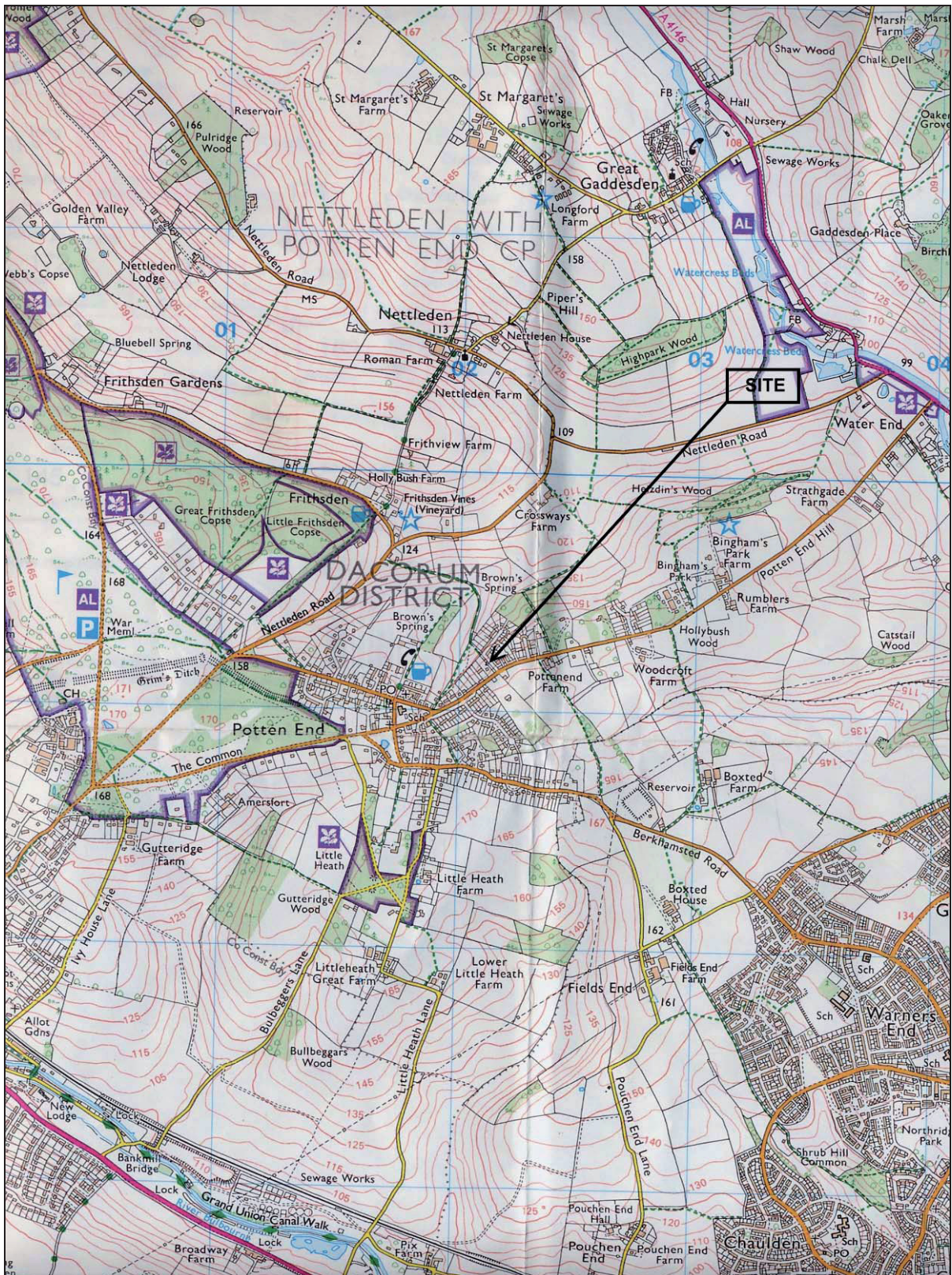


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In February 2006, Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd. (ASC) undertook a watching brief at The Dell, Brown's Spring, Potten End, Hertfordshire. The site was in proximity to previous finds of ceramic material, relating to the medieval ceramic industry in Potten End. The premature erection of wall footings noted during the first visit on 13th February 2006 meant that a revised strategy was implemented on a subsequent visit of 21st February 2006, with a klargester pit and connecting service trench observed for archaeological deposits. Despite an examination of spoil from the excavation of the footing trenches and observation of the pit and service trench, no archaeological deposits were seen.

1 Introduction

1.1 In February 2006 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief at The Dell, Brown's Spring (NGR TL 02115 09199: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Mr. Neil Kelly, and was carried out according to a brief (Batt 2006) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *Dacorum*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), *Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Office*. The relevant planning application reference is 4/2637/05.

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 extensions to the existing property

1.3 *Location and Description*

The site consists of a single house, located on Brown's Spring, Potten End. Access is via Brown's Spring. The development consists of extensions to the east, north and west of the existing property. The site is centred on grid reference TL 02115 09199.

1.5 *Geology & Topography*

The soils of the area are of the *Charity 2 Association*, and are defined as *well drained flinty fine silty soils in valley bottoms. Calcareous fine silty soils over chalk or chalk rubble on valley sides, sometimes shallow*. The underlying geology consists of flinty and chalky drift over chalk (Soil Survey, 1983, 571m).

1.6 *Archaeological and Historical Background*

The community of Potten End came into being around the beginning of the nineteenth century and was not mentioned in Kelly's Directory as a village separate from Little Potten End until 1874. The name 'Pottern End', meaning in old English a building used for storing pots and jars was first used in a document in 1726.

Sherds of medieval pottery have been found in two locations at Potten End, one at Bingham's Park *c.*900m northeast from the area of proposed development and another near Potten End Farm *c.*300m to the east, suggesting the possible existence of a kiln in the vicinity of the site. Medieval ceramic production in Potten End, producing not just

decorative tiles but tiles and bricks for building could be described as the 'forerunner' of the nineteenth century brickworks, which by 1871 was a flourishing industry. This boom was however short lived, as rising transport costs and competition from larger brickworks put an end to this industry at Potten End before the end of the nineteenth century (Hastie and Spain 1996 pp.178-79)

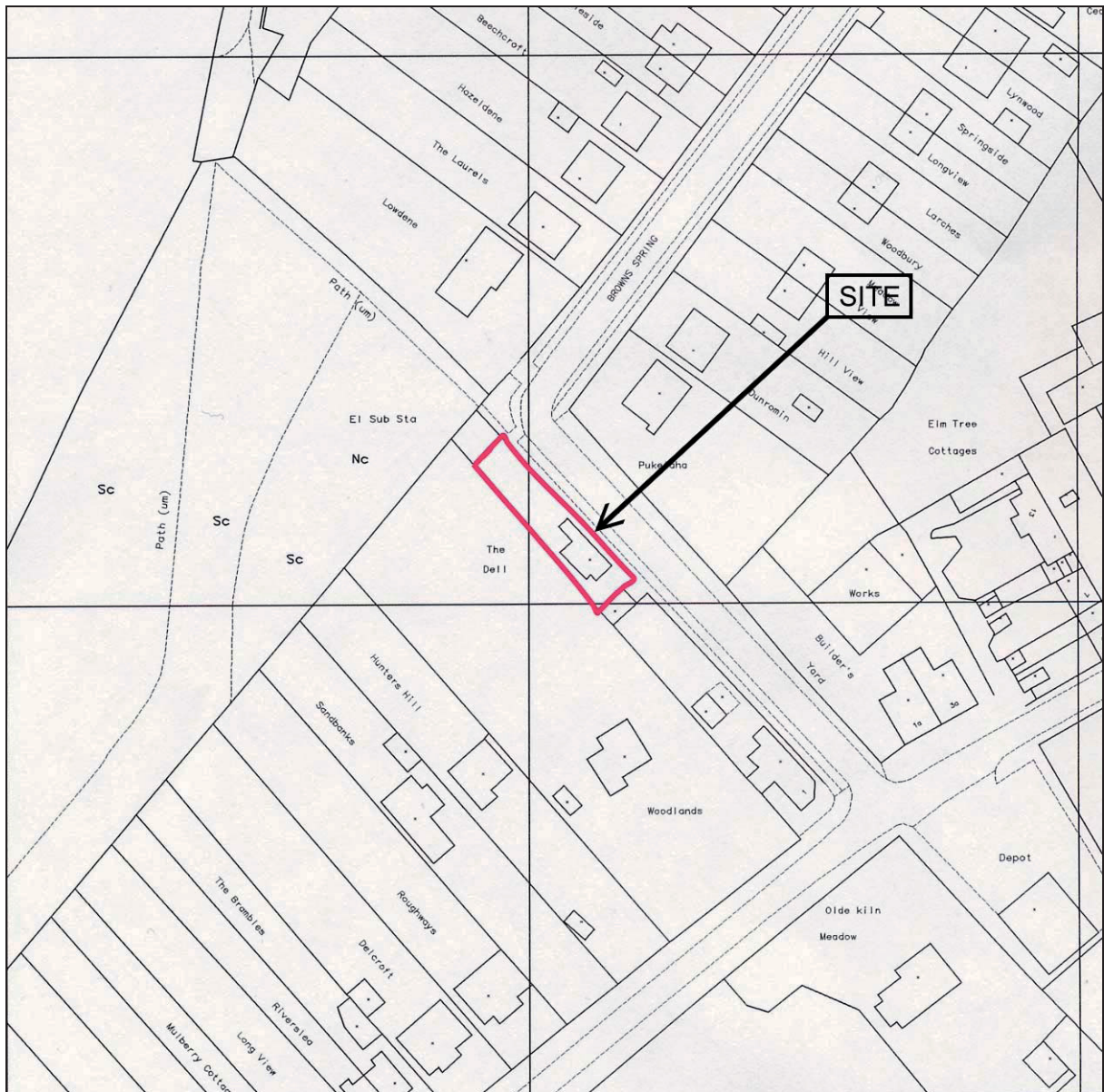


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

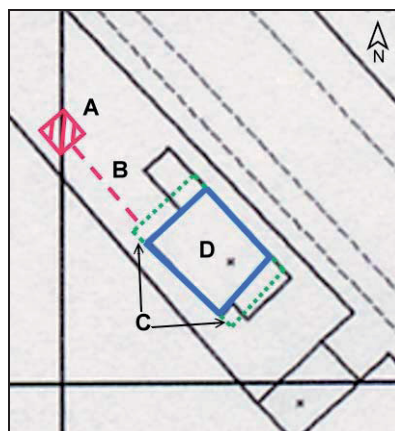


Figure 3: Plan of house (D), showing extensions (C), service trench (B) and klargester pit (A) (scale 1:500)

2 Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

As described in the brief (Section 1), the aims of the watching brief were:

- To ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect archaeological remains.
- 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.

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* (ALGEO 2003), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

2.3 Methods

The work was carried out according to the brief (Section 3), which required:

- The monitoring and recording on all stages of the development involving substantial ground disturbance, in this case the excavation of foundation trenches for both extensions to the existing property.

2.4 Constraints

The original object of the watching brief, to observe the excavation of the footing trenches for extensions to the west, east and north of the existing property could not be carried out, as these had already been dug and footings partially built at the time of the first monitoring visit.

As a result of this constraint, it was agreed with the Historic Environment Officer for Hertfordshire County Council to examine the klargester pit situated to the northwest of the house for archaeological deposits and to observe the excavation of the southeast-northwest aligned service trench connecting the pit to the house (Figure 3).

3 Results

3.1 Two visits were made to the site, on the 13th February and 21st February 2006. No archaeological deposits were observed on either occasion.

3.2 Although the footing trenches were not observed during the first visit, spoil heaps were examined and no pre-modern finds were recovered. During the second visit, a shallow southeast-northwest aligned service trench measuring *c.*6m in length and *c.*0.37m in depth, bottomed in brownish, pebbly subsoil, and a klargester pit of *c.*1.8m square and *c.*1.4m deep, dug into the natural yellowish brown pebbly clay were observed and found to be negative for archaeological deposits.

3.3 *Archaeological Impact of the Development*

From the results obtained from the watching brief, it is possible to surmise that there is unlikely to have been a significant level of past human activity on the site, and that the archaeological impact of the development has been minimal.

3.4 *Confidence Rating*

The weather during both monitoring visits was dry and despite the premature erection of the extension footings, cooperation during implementation of the revised brief was received. The confidence rating for the results of this watching brief is high.



Plate 1: View of the development from the southeast



Plate 2: View of the north western end of the house



Plate 3: Detail of the constructed footings for the northwestern extension



Plate 4: View of the southeast-northwest aligned service trench



Plate 5: Detail of the service trench



Plate 6: View of the southern corner of the largest pit

4. Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to Mr. Neil Kelly for commissioning ASC to carry out an archaeological watching brief on his behalf.

The input of Kate Batt, Archaeological Officer for Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Office is also gratefully acknowledged. The monitoring visits were carried out by Jonathan Hunn BA PHD MIFA and Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA. The project was managed by Bob Zeepvat, who also edited this report.

5. Archive

5.1 The project archive will comprise:

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

5.2 The archive will be deposited with Dacorum Heritage Trust.

6. References

Standards & Specifications

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

Batt, K. 2006 *Design Brief for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at The Dell, Brown's Spring, Potten End, Hertfordshire* Hertfordshire County Council Environment Office

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

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

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


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

Secondary Sources

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

Hastie, S. & Spain, D 1996 *A Hertfordshire Valley* Alpine Press (Kings Langley)

Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

 A.S.C. LTD		SITE VISIT RECORD			
Project: The Dell, Browns Spring, Potten End			Project No/Code: PED		
			Date of visit: 13 th Feb 2006		
Client/Developer Neil Kelly, 18 Dunstable Road, Toddington, Beds LU5 6DR			Tel: 07970 946772		
Owner/Tenant: ditto			Tel:		
Purpose of visit: Examine building work carried out in breach of WB condition, and advise on remedial action					
Visit made by: Bob Z					
SITE DETAILS (circle whichever apply)					
TERRAIN	Slope	Gentle slope	Steep slope	Other	
	Level	Undulating	Cut terrace	Built terrace	
LAND USE	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Educational	Recreational
	Quarrying	Military	Agricultural	Transport	Other
	Managed	Natural	Urban	Suburban	Rural
VEGETATION	Wild	Overgrown	Grass (imp)	Grass (unimp)	Arable
	Shrubs	Wood (decid)	Wood (con)	Wood (mixed)	Waste (none)
EARTH-WORKS	R & F	Lynchets	Bank & ditch	Pond	
	Hollow way	House platform	Moat	Fishpond	
	Motte / bailey	Mill mound	Pillow mound	Tumulus	
	Water meadow	Cress bed	Mill stream/pond	Other	
	Military	Transport	Industrial	None	
CONSTRAINTS	O/H cables	Buried services	Structures	Function	Other
BOUNDARIES (describe)	Hedge to rear. Front open to road				
ACCESS (describe)	Site adjacent to road				
OTHER DESCRIPTION / COMMENTS					
<p>Small detached house, c.1920, occupying near full width of site. Terraced into slope at west end. Owner has permission for small extensions to west, east and north. Requirement for WB made at late stage: builders jumped the gun and built footings for all extensions. Also excavated klargester pit to east (downslope).</p> <p>Site is small: not really any room for trenching in lieu of WB. From visit it seems likely that terracing for the house probably knackered much of the area of the west extension. Extensions are small, so small likelihood of significant archaeology. Could look at klargester pit (was covered when I visited).</p> <p>Discuss with KB.</p>					

For sketch plan, use reverse

©ASC, 2003



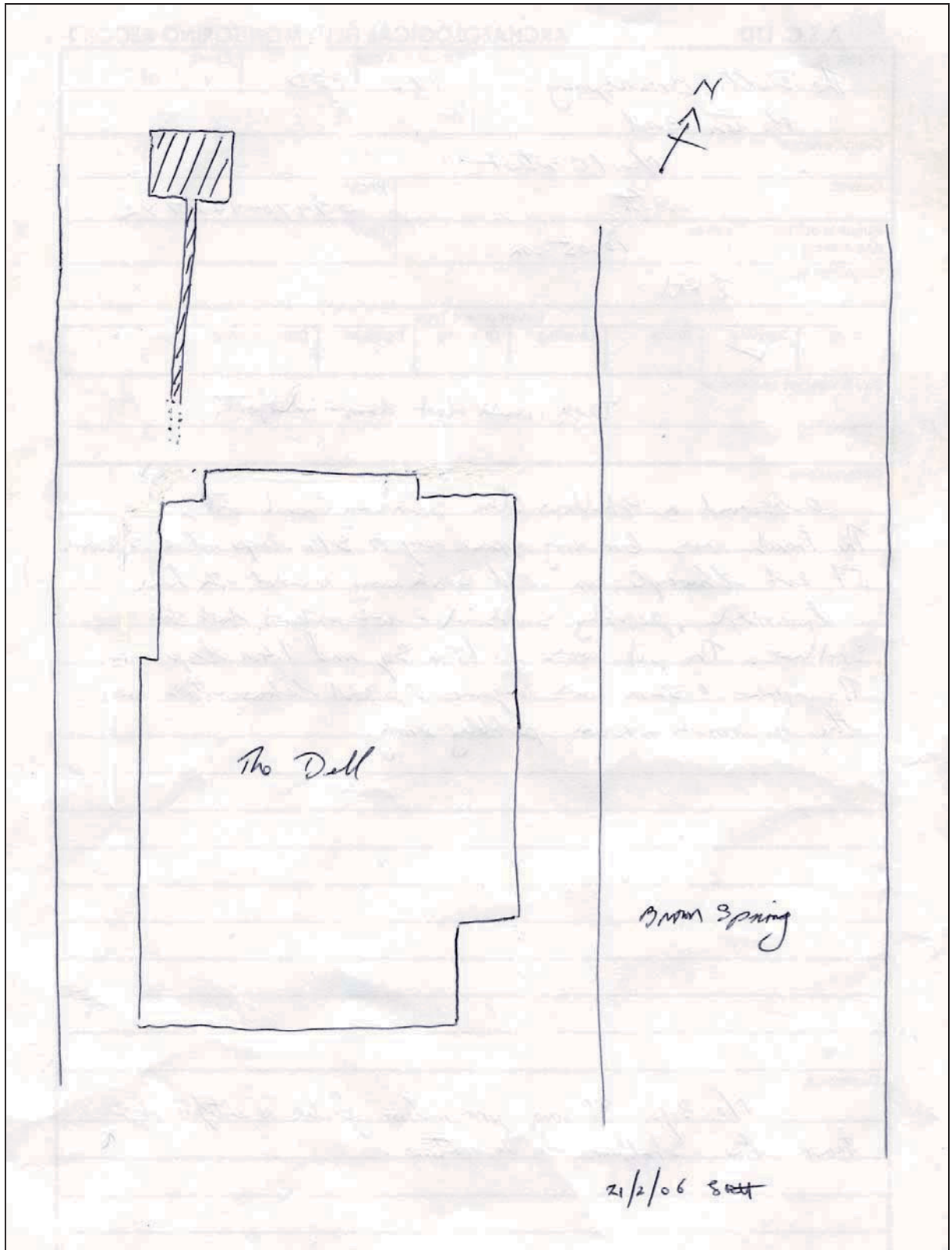
A.S.C. LTD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: <i>The Dell, Brownspring Potten End</i>		Project No/Code: <i>772 I PED</i>	Sheet: <i>1 of</i>
Client/Developer <i>Hed Contract</i>		Date of visit:	
Contact: <i>with</i>		Phone: <i>07970-946772</i>	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: <i>10.05 am</i>	Finish:	
Completed by: <i>SRA</i>			
Development Type:			
Footings	Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roads	Levelling
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: <i>Dry, dull but damp underfoot.</i>			
Observations: <i>Observed a shallow thin soakaway trench and pit. The trench was 6m long approx by 0.37m deep and 0.29m wide. It cut through an old soakaway nearest the house a kerbside, pebbly subsoil - not retained but was shallow. The pit was c. 1.8m sq and 1.4m deep. The upper 0.32m was organic top soil below this was the yellowish brown, pebbly clay.</i>			
Comments: <i>No signs of any pre-modern features or artefacts but trench too shallow to be certain.</i>			

For sketch plan, use reverse

©ASC, 2003



Appendix 2 List of Photographs

SITE NAME: The Dell, Brown's Spring, Potten End, Hertfordshire				SITE NO/CODE: 772/PED
Shot	B&W	Slide	Digital	Subject
1			■	General view of house (21/02/06)
2	■		■	Shot of southeast-northwest aligned service trench (21/02/06)
3			■	Closer view of service trench (21/02/06)
4	■		■	View of southern corner of klargester pit (21/02/06)
5			■	General view of house (13/02/06)
6			■	View of house (13/02/06)
7			■	View of construction work (13/02/06)
8			■	View of construction work (13/02/06)
9			■	View of construction work (13/02/06)
10			■	Close up of wall footings for extensions to the north and west of the property (13/02/06)

Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS						
Project Name:	The Dell, Brown's springs, Potten End, Hertfordshire					
Short Description:	<i>In February 2006, Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd. (ASC) undertook a watching brief at The Dell, Brown's Spring, Potten End, Hertfordshire. The site was in proximity to previous finds of ceramic material, relating to the medieval ceramic industry in Potten End. The premature erection of wall footings noted during the first visit on 13th February 2006 meant that a revised strategy was implemented on a subsequent visit of 21st February 2006, with a klargester pit and connecting service trench observed for archaeological deposits. Despite an examination of spoil from the excavation of the footing trenches and observation of the pit and service trench, no archaeological deposits were seen.</i>					
Project Type: (indicate all that apply)	DBA	FW	Geophys	Survey	Bldg Rec	Post-Exc
	WB	Strip&Rec	Trenching	Test pits	Exc	Other
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	none		Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)		-	
Current land use:	residential		Future work: (yes / no / unknown)		unknown	
Monument type:	-		Monument period:		-	
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	-					
PROJECT LOCATION						
County:	Hertfordshire		OS reference: (to at least 8 figures)		TL 02115 09199	
District:	Dacorum		Parish:		Nettledden with Potten	
Site address: (with postcode if known)	The Dell, Brown's Springs, Potten End, Hertfordshire					
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	-		Height OD: (metres)		-	
PROJECT CREATORS						
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd					
Project brief originator:	Hertfordshire County Council		Project design originator:		-	
Project Manager:	Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA		Director/Supervisor:		Jonathan Hunn BA PHD MIFA	
Sponsor / funding body:	Mr Neil Kelly					
PROJECT DATE						
Start date:	13 th February 2206		End date:		21 st February 2006	
PROJECT ARCHIVES						
	Location (Accession no.)		Content (eg. Pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)			
Physical:	-		-			
Paper:	Dacorum Heritage Trust		Brief and report, site records, photographs			

Digital:	Dacorum Heritage Trust	report, photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Archaeological watching brief at The Dell, Brown's Spring, Potten End, Hertfordshire		
Serial title & volume:	Archaeological Services and Consultancy Report 772/PED		
Author(s):	Elizabeth Gill Bsc PgDip		
Page nos		Date:	

Appendix 4: SMR Summary Sheet

Site name and address: The Dell, Brown's Spring, Potten End, Hertfordshire		
County: Hertfordshire		District: Dacorum
Village/Town: Potten End		Parish: Nettleden with Potten
Planning application reference: 4/2637/05		
Client name, address, & tel. no: Neil Kelly, 18 Dunstable Road, Toddington, Bedfordshire LU5 6DR		
Nature of application: extension of existing property to the north, east and west		
Present land use: Residential		
Size of application area: n/a		Size of area investigated: n/a
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 02115 09199		Site code: 772/PED
Site director/Organization: Jonathan Hunn / ASC Ltd		
Type of work: Watching Brief		
Date of work:	Start: 13 th February 2006	Finish: 21 st February 2006
Curating museum Dacorum Heritage Trust:		
Related SMR nos: -		Periods represented: -
Relevant previous summaries/reports -		
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p><i>In February 2006, Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd. (ASC) undertook a watching brief at The Dell, Brown's Spring, Potten End, Hertfordshire. The site was in proximity to previous finds of ceramic material, relating to the medieval ceramic industry in Potten End. The premature erection of wall footings noted during the first visit on 13th February 2006 meant that a revised strategy was implemented on a subsequent visit of 21st February 2006, with a klargester pit and connecting service trench observed for archaeological deposits. Despite an examination of spoil from the excavation of the footing trenches and observation of the pit and service trench, no archaeological deposits were seen.</i></p>		
Author: Elizabeth Gill		Date: 2 nd March 2006