

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:
LITTLE HAMSTEAD
LITTLE HADHAM
HERTFORDSHIRE**

on behalf of Cowper Griffith Architects



Calli Rouse BA PIFA

May 2006

ASC: 784/LHH/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>	LHH	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	784
<i>Event No:</i>	-	<i>Accession No:</i>	-
<i>County:</i>	Hertfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Little Hadham		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Little Hadham		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TL 44178 21283		
<i>Present use:</i>	Gardens		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Construction of an all weather tennis court & garden		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	3/05/0818 & 3/05/2457		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	East Hertfordshire District Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	3/05/0818 & 3/05/2457		
<i>Client:</i>	Cowper Griffith Architects 15 High Street Whittlesford Cambridge CB2 4LT		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Mandy Latimer		
<i>Telephone</i>	01223 835998	<i>Fax:</i>	01223 837327

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Calli Rouse	<i>Date:</i>	15/05/2006
<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	

© 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. Results and Conclusions..... 8

4. Acknowledgements 10

5. Archive 10

6. References 11

Appendices:

1. Monitoring Sheets 12

2. Photo List..... 15

3. ASC OASIS Form 16

4. SMR Summary Sheet 17

Figures:

1. General location 3

2. Site plan 6

Plates:

Cover: General view of site, looking south

1. View west of site before stripping 9

2. General view north of stripped area 9

3. Detail of linear feature, looking NNW 9

4. Detail of sub-circular feature, looking south..... 9

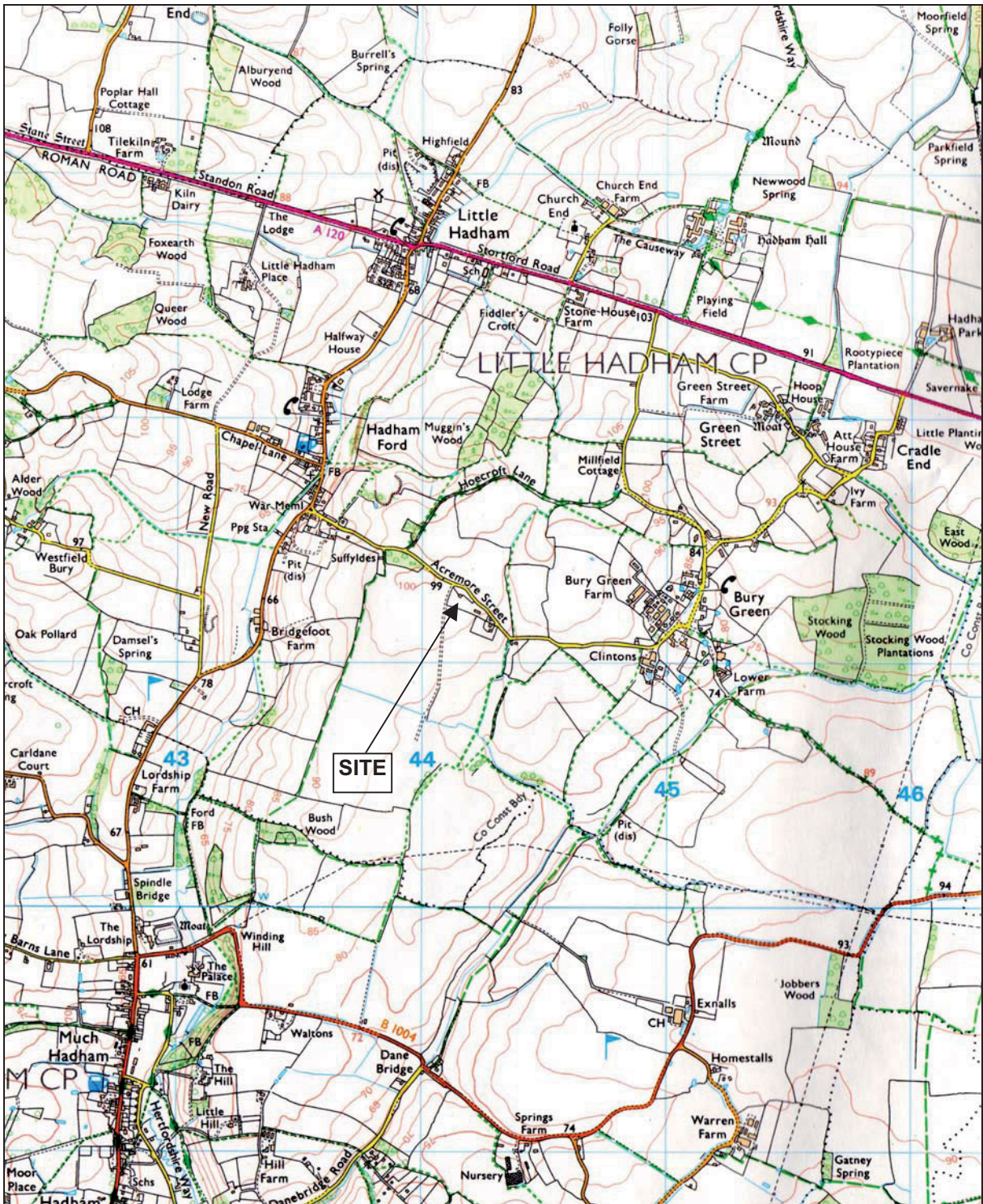


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

During May 2006, Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) undertook a watching brief at Little Hamstead, Little Hadham, Hertfordshire. The watching brief was required in advance of the construction of an all-weather tennis court and garden shed. Two visits were made to the site during which two archaeological features were observed.

1 Introduction

1.1 In May 2006 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC)* carried out a watching brief at Little Hamstead, Little Hadham, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 44178 21283; Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by *Cowper Griffiths Architects*, and was carried out according to a project design prepared by ASC (Simmelmann, 2006), and a brief (Tinniswood, 2006) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *East Hertfordshire District Council*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), *Hertfordshire County Archaeology Office*. The relevant planning application reference is 3/05/0818 & 3/05/2457.

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 an all-weather sports surface/tennis court and a garden shed.

1.3 *Location*

The site lies on the south side of Acreman Street, which is located southeast of the village of Little Hadham, and links Hadham Ford and Bury Green.

1.4 *Description*

The site is bounded on the south and the east by fields and by a track to the west. There is a dwelling to the southeast of the site with a driveway from Acreman Street leading up to it. The development area lies to the northwest of the site, away from any buildings where there is less likelihood of encountering services.

1.5 *Geology & Topography*

The soils in the area belong to the *Melford Series*. They are described as *deep well-drained fine loamy over clayey, coarse loamy over clayey and fine loamy soils, some with calcareous clayey subsoils* (Soils Survey 1983). The site lies at an elevation c.97m AOD.

1.6 *Archaeological & Historical Background*

The site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 106 as designated in the Local Plan. This notes that there is evidence for Roman-British occupation in the area. Indeed, a Roman pottery kiln site is known at Clinton Farm to the east of the Little Hamstead (HER 1155), a possible farm has been identified to the southwest (HER 1396) and Romano-British coins and pottery have been found in the immediate area (HER 1394).

The Domesday Survey of 1086 records that William held 2 hides worth £4 at Little Hadham of the Bishop of London. The Abbot of Ely also held lands there, but instead of them lying within the Hundred of Odsey, as William's land did, his 4 hides lay in the Edwinstree Hundred. Ely Abbey had already held the lands prior to the Norman Conquest and saw their value rise from £12 in the reign of King Edward to £15 in 1086 (Williams & Martin 2002, 371, 375).

A castle is known to have stood in Caley Wood, to the west of Little Hamstead (HER 0797), and Clintons, which lies to the east, was a manorial site belonging to the Bishop of Ely (HER 2823).



Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

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* (ALGAO 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:

- Soil and overburden stripping under archaeological supervision
- Inspection of sub-soil deposits for archaeological features
- The rapid investigation 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
- A programme of post-fieldwork analysis, archiving and publication

3 Results and Conclusions

- 4.1 The footprint of the tennis court measures *c.*18m x *c.*38m, and slopes gently from north to south (Plate 1). The soil was removed to a depth of 0.6m at the northern end of the area, and 0.2m at the southern end. The natural subsoil consisted of a yellowish brown clay (Plate 2).
- 4.2 Two features were observed within the footprint of the proposed tennis court. The first was a sub-circular feature *c.*1.1m in diameter with a pale greyish brown fill that was located to the north of the court (Plate 4). The second comprised a thin L-shaped linear feature *c.*0.2m wide and *c.*14m in length, filled with greyish brown clay and located on the eastern side of the court. There is some burning located within the southern end of the linear feature (Plate 3).
- 4.3 No archaeological finds were made during the watching brief.
- 4.4 *Archaeological impact of the development*

The archaeological impact of this development is considered to be minimal. This is due to the fact that the archaeological remains are not extensive, and that the foundations of the court will not impact them in any way that will cause their destruction.

4.5 *Confidence Rating*

A high degree of confidence is attached to this watching brief. The weather conditions on the day of the site visit were overcast but wet, which will have resulted in any additional features present within the footprint of the tennis court being highly visible.



Plate 1: View west of site before stripping



Plate 2: General view north of stripped area



Plate 3: Detail of linear feature, looking NNW



Plate 4: Detail of sub-circular feature, looking south

5. Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to Cowper Griffiths Architects for commissioning this work. The project was monitored by Alison Tinniswood of Hertfordshire County Archaeology Office. The fieldwork was undertaken for ASC by Dr Jonathan Hunn BA PhD MIFA. This report was prepared by Calli Rouse, and edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

6. Archive

6.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans
5. Site Monitoring Sheets
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 Bishops Stortford Museum.

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*.

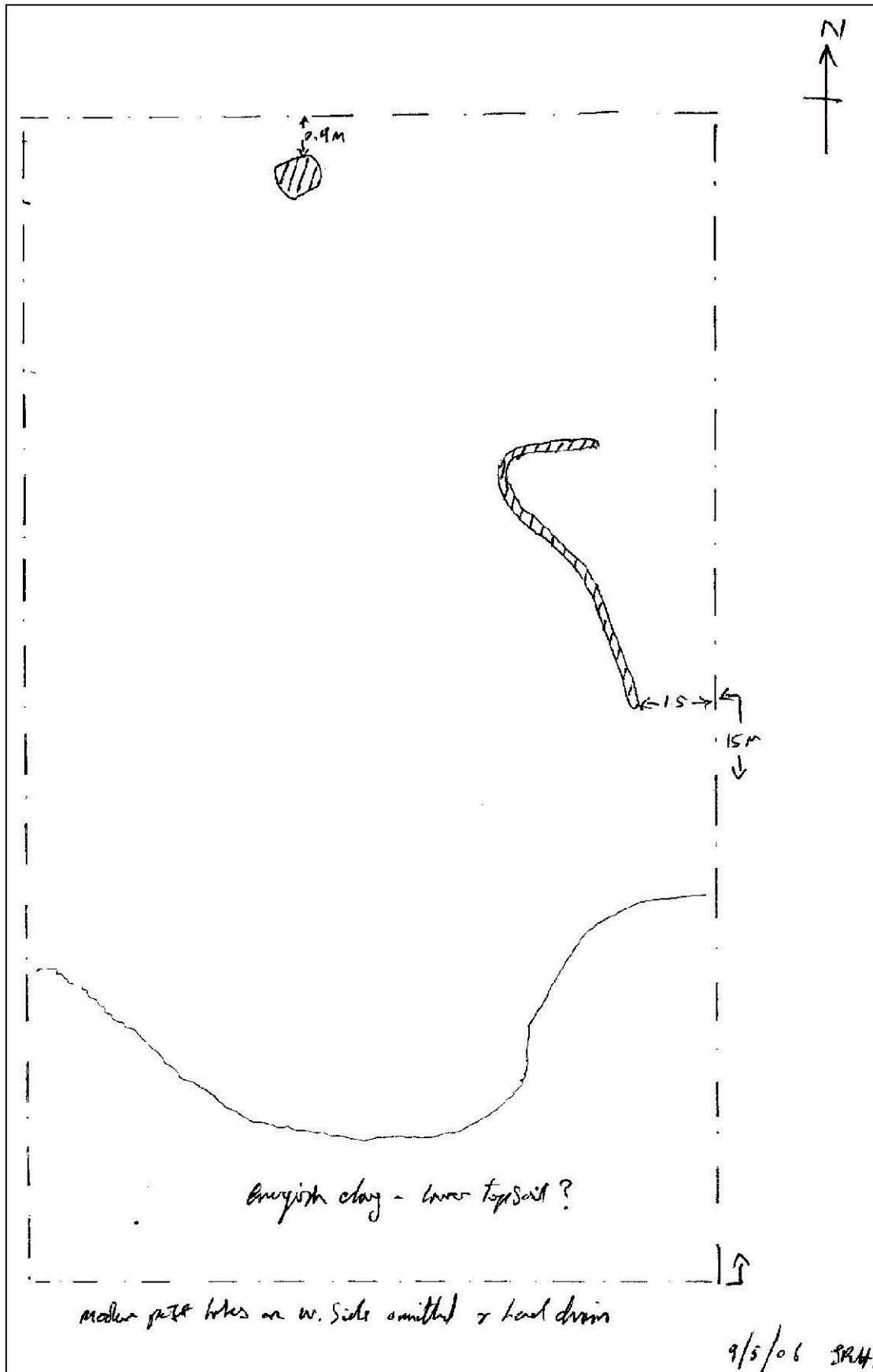
IFA 2001 Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds)*.

Secondary Sources

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

Williams, A. & Martin, G.H. 2002 *Domesday Book* Penguin (London)

 A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD	
Project: <i>Little Hamstead</i> <i>Little Hadham</i>		Project No/Code: 784 1LHH	Sheet: 2 of 2
		Date of visit: 9/5/06	
Client/Developer: <i>Cowper Griffiths Architects</i>			
Contact: <i>Benny Rosabluke</i>		Phone: 07799 115201	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 6.55	Finish:	
Completed by: JRAA			
Development Type:			
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify): <i>tennis court feature</i>
Site & weather conditions: <i>Dull and wet.</i>			
Observations: <p> <i>Observed eastern corner of the footprint of the tennis court (ie 18m x 33m approx). The terrain slopes v gently from N/S. At north end the depth was 0.6m and at south end barely topped? depth is 0.2m deep. Most of the revealed residual ground consists of a yellowish-brown clay. There are several possible features. There is a subcircular feature at N end of tennis court. Pale greyish-brown 1.1m dia. A second feature consists of a thin linear trench towards the western side of site c. 0.2m wide, 1:1 sloped & c. 14m in length - See notes for sketch. Some churning at S. end. Full is a greyish brown clay.</i> </p>			
Comments: <p> <i>No further visits required</i> <i>Feature not excavated.</i> </p>			
For sketch plan, use reverse			
©ASC, 2003			



Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME:				SITE NO/CODE:
Shot	B&W	Slide	Digital	Subject
1			✓	General view S 05/05/06
2			✓	General view SSW 05/05/06
3			✓	Landscape W 05/05/06
4			✓	Stripping of area 05/05/06
5			✓	General view S 05/05/06
6			✓	General view of site N 09/05/06
7			✓	General view S 09/05/06
8			✓	Detail of site S 09/05/06
9			✓	Linear NNW 09/05/06
10			✓	Detail of linear NNW 09/05/06
11			✓	Sub circular feature S 09/05/06
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
21				
22				
23				
24				
25				
26				
27				
28				
29				
30				
31				
32				
33				
34				
35				
36				
37				
38				
39				
40				

Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS						
Project Name:	Watching Brief at Little Hamstead, Little Hadham, Hertfordshire					
Short Description:	<i>During May 2006, Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) undertook a watching brief at Little Hamstead, Little Hadham, Hertfordshire. The watching brief was required in advance of the construction of an all-weather tennis court and garden shed. Two visits were made to the site during which two archaeological features were observed.</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:	Agricultural		Future work: (yes / no / unknown)		No	
Monument type:	N/A		Monument period:		N/A	
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	None					
PROJECT LOCATION						
County:	Hertfordshire		OS reference: (to at least 8 figures)		TL 44178 21283	
District:	East Hertfordshire		Parish:		Little Hadham	
Site address: (with postcode if known)	Little Hamstead, Little Hadham, Hertfordshire					
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	-		Height OD: (metres)		c.97	
PROJECT CREATORS						
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd					
Project brief originator:	Alison Tinniswood		Project design originator:		Karin Semmelmann	
Project Manager:	David Fell		Director/Supervisor:		Bob Zeepvat	
Sponsor / funding body:	Cowper Griffiths Architects					
PROJECT DATE						
Start date:	05/05/2006		End date:		09/05/2006	
PROJECT ARCHIVES						
	Location (Accession no.)		Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)			
Physical:	Bishops Stortford Museum		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 Little Hamstead, Little Hadham, Hertfordshire					
Serial title & volume:	ASC Report, 784/LHH/2					
Author(s):	Calli Rouse BA PIFA					
Page nos	1-17		Date:		15/05/2006	

Appendix 4: SMR Summary Sheet

Site name and address: Little Hamstead, Little Hadham, Hertfordshire		
County: Hertfordshire	District: East Hertfordshire	
Village/Town: Little Hadham	Parish: Little Hadham	
Planning application reference: 3/05/0818 & 3/05/2457		
Client name, address, & tel. no: Cowper Griffith Architects 15 High Street Whittlesford Cambridge CB2 4LT 01223 835998		
Nature of application: Construction of an all weather tennis court & garden shed		
Present land use: Agricultural		
Size of application area: n/a	Size of area investigated: n/a	
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 44178 21283	Site code: ASC/784/LHH/2	
Site director/Organization: Bob Zeepvat / ASC Ltd		
Type of work: Watching Brief		
Date of work:	Start: 05/05/2006	Finish: 09/05/2006
Curating museum: Bishops Stortford Museum		
Related SMR nos: None	Periods represented: Unknown	
Relevant previous summaries/reports ASC/784/LHH/1		
Summary of fieldwork results: During May 2006, Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) undertook a watching brief at Little Hamstead, Little Hadham, Hertfordshire. The watching brief was required in advance of the construction of an all-weather tennis court and garden shed. Two visits were made to the site during which two archaeological features were observed.		
Author: Calli Rouse	Date: 15/05/2006	