



Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**SUMMARY REPORT:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
17 ALYNGTON, NORTHCHURCH,
BERKHAMSTED, HERTFORDSHIRE**

on behalf of Mr & Mrs B. Jones

By
David Fell BA MA MIFA

September 2006

ASC: 837/NSA/01

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Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	NSA	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	837
<i>County:</i>	Hertfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Northchurch		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Northchurch		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 972 092		
<i>Present use:</i>	House and garden		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	House extension		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	Not known		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Dacorum District Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	5 th September 2006		
<i>Client:</i>	Mr & Mrs B Jones C/o Peter Bradford Partnership 9 High Street Tring Hertfordshire HP23 5AH		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Peter Bradford		
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Internal Quality Check

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Summary

In September 2006 Archaeological Services & Consultancy undertook a watching brief at 17 Alyngton, Northchurch, Hertfordshire during the groundworks phase of a house extension. The purpose of the visit was to establish the presence of and, if necessary, to record any archaeological remains within the footprint of the new extension. The site lies in close proximity to a Romano-British structure but no archaeological remains were observed.

1 Introduction

1.1 In September 2006 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief at 17 Alyngton, Northchurch, Hertfordshire. The project was commissioned by *Peter Radford Chartered Architects*, on behalf of the clients, Mr & Mrs B Jones, and was carried out according to a standard method statement, prepared by ASC (ASC 2006) and approved on behalf of *Dacorum Borough Council*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), *Mrs Kate Batt* of *Hertfordshire County Council*.

1.2 Aims

In line with the method statement, 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.

1.3 Standards

The work conformed to the method statement, 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*.

1.4 Methods

The work was carried out according to section 3 of the method statement which required:

- 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

1.5 Location and Topography

The site is situated in Northchurch, in the administrative district of Dacorum, Hertfordshire. It is situated on the north side of the village, adjacent to the river Bulbourne and is situated at Ordnance Survey national grid reference SP 972 092. The site is at the base of the river valley and lies at an elevation of c.115m OD.

2. Results and Conclusions

2.1 Results

- 2.1.1 A single visit was made to the site on 5th September 2006 in dry and overcast weather conditions.
- 2.1.2 The footprint of the extension measured c.2.95m by c.8.25m and the ground was reduced to a depth of c.0.7m (Plate 1). The modern ground surface comprised paving slabs with dark, mixed garden soil below. The removal of the topsoil was monitored and it was seen to overlay dark greyish brown natural subsoil. The underlying natural strata was not reached.



Plate 1: The building footing, after excavation (*Scale = 1m*)

2.2 Conclusions

- 2.2.1 Archaeological features and artefacts were not observed during the works and it is unlikely that any archaeological remains were significantly affected by the development.
- 2.2.2 A number of archaeological sites are known in the Northchurch area, including a substantial Roman villa (Neal 1976). In general, the area is considered to be one of high archaeological potential but the results of the watching brief indicate that archaeological remains are unlikely to be present in this specific site.

3. Acknowledgements

- 3.1 The author is grateful to Peter Bradford Dip Arch (Hons) RIBA, of *Peter Bradford Partnership* Chartered Architects for commissioning the work on behalf of Mr and Mrs B Jones. Thanks are also extended to Mrs Kate Batt, Archaeological Officer of *Hertfordshire County Council*, who acted as curatorial monitor.
- 3.2 The fieldwork was undertaken for *ASC Ltd* by Jonathan Hunn BA PhD MIFA. This summary was prepared by David Fell BA MA MIFA and edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

4. Archive

- 4.1 In line with the requirements of the AA, as archaeological remains were not found, a formal archive is not required to be deposited with *Dacorum Heritage Trust*. A copy of this report will be deposited with the *Hertfordshire Sites and Monuments Record* and additional copy submitted to the *National Monuments Record*, Swindon.

5. References

Standards & Specifications

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

ASC 2006 *Method Statement for Archaeological Watching Brief 17: Alyngton, Northchurch Herts*. Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd

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

Neal D S, 1976. 'Three Roman Buildings in the Bulbourne Valley' *Hertfordshire Archaeology* 4, 1-135

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

Appendix 1: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS						
Project Name:	17 Alyngton, Northchurch, Hertfordshire					
Short Description:	<i>In September 2006 Archaeological Services & Consultancy undertook a watching brief at 17 Alyngton, Northchurch, Hertfordshire during the groundworks phase of a house extension. The purpose of the visit was to establish the presence of and, if necessary, to record any archaeological remains within the footprint of the new extension. The site lies in close proximity to a Romano-British structure but no archaeological remains were observed.</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)		none	
Current land use:	House and garden		Future work: (yes / no / unknown)		no	
Monument type:	none		Monument period:			
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	none					
PROJECT LOCATION						
County:	Hertfordshire		OS reference: (to at least 8 figures)		SP 9720 0920	
District:	Dacorum		Parish:		Northchurch	
Site address: (with postcode if known)	17 Alyngton, Northchurch, Hertfordshire					
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	3m x 8.25m		Height OD (metres)		c.115m OD	
PROJECT CREATORS						
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd					
Project brief originator:	N/a		Project design originator:		N/a	
Project Manager:	Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA		Director/Supervisor:		J Hunn BA PhD MIFA	
Sponsor / funding body:	Mr & Mrs B Jones					
PROJECT DATE						
Start date:	5 Sept 2005		End date:		N/a	
PROJECT ARCHIVES						
	Location no archive submitted		Content None			
Physical:	None					
Paper:	Summary report at SMR & NMR					
Digital:						
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)						
Title:	N/a					
Serial title & volume:						
Author(s):	17 Alyngton, Northchurch, Hertfordshire					
Page nos			Date:		25 th September 2006	

Appendix 2: SMR Summary Sheet

Site name and address: 17 Alyngton, Hertfordshire		
County: Hertfordshire		District: Dacorum
Village/Town: Northchurch		Parish: Northchurch
Planning application reference: Not known		
Client name, address, & tel. no: Mr & Mrs B Jones, c/o Peter Bradford Partnership, 9 High Street, Tring, HP23 5AH		
Nature of application: House extension		
Present land use: Domestic garden		
Size of application area: n/a		Size of area investigated: c.3m x 8m
NGR (to 8 figures): SP 9720 0920		Site code:
Site director/Organization: Bob Zeepvat / ASC Ltd		
Type of work: Watching Bried		
Date of work:	Start: 5 September 2006	Finish: n/a
Curating museum: n/a		
Related SMR nos:		Periods represented: None
Relevant previous summaries/reports: N/A		
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p><i>In September 2006 Archaeological Services & Consultancy undertook a watching brief at 17 Alyngton, Northchurch, Hertfordshire during the groundworks phase of a house extension. The purpose of the visit was to establish the presence of and, if necessary, to record any archaeological remains within the footprint of the new extension. The site lies in close proximity to a Romano-British structure but no archaeological remains were observed.</i></p>		
Author: D Fell		Date: 25 Sept 2006