

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:
THE WOODMANS
192 HAMMOND STREET ROAD
WEST CHESHUNT
HERTFORDSHIRE**

on behalf of Ital Logics



Lizzie Gill BSc PgDip

FEBRUARY 2007

ASC: 851/WCW/02

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Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	WCW	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	851
<i>Event No:</i>		<i>Accession No:</i>	
<i>County:</i>	Hertfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	West Cheshunt		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Unparished		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TL 3329 0432		
<i>Present use:</i>	Disused condition		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Residential Development		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	06/0674		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Broxbourne District Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	26 th October 2006-29 th January 2007 intermittently		
<i>Client:</i>	Ital Logics 12 The Laurels Cheshunt Herts EN7 6NL		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Mr Lorenzo Bonura		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Lizzie Gill	<i>Date:</i>	5 th February 2007
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<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
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<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
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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. Watching Brief Monitoring Sheets.....	14
2. ASC OASIS Form	19
3. SMR Summary Sheet	20

Figures:

1. General location	3
2. Site plan.....	6
3. Development plan.....	9

Plates:

Cover: The Old Post Office, 192 Hammond Street Road

1. Site of access road looking SSW.....	10
2. Footings of Plots 1 and 2 looking NNW	10
3. View of probable modern ditch in Plot 2 footings, looking NNE.....	10
4. Completed plot 2 footings and excavated Plot 3 trenches looking SE.....	10
5. Detail of stratigraphy in Plot 3 footing trenches	10
6. Section of Plot 4 footing trenches	10



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

Summary

In October 2006 and January 2007, Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) undertook a watching brief on a site at The Woodmans, 192 Hammond Street Road, West Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, during the construction of four bungalows and an access road. The only feature revealed was a modern ditch crossing the northernmost building plots. This was possibly a land boundary or drainage ditch associated with the former Hammondstreet Farm, which stood in this location in the late 19th century.

1 Introduction

1.1 Between October 2006 and January 2007 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief at The Woodmans, 192 Hammond Street Road, West Cheshunt, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 3329 0432: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by the developers, *Ital Logics*, and was carried out according to a standard brief issued by the *Herts County Council Historic Environment Unit* (HEU) and a project design prepared by ASC (Barclay 2006). The relevant planning application reference is 06/0674.

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 four bungalows.

1.3 *Location and Description*

The site is located in Cheshunt, in the administrative district of Broxbourne, Hertfordshire (Fig. 1). It comprises a large rectangular plot of land to the rear of the old post office at 192 Hammond Street Road, and is centred on National Grid Reference TL 3329 0432 (Fig. 2).

1.4 *Geology & Topography*

The natural soils of the area comprise the *Windsor Association*, which comprise clay, with some loam or fine silty soil over the natural clay strata (Soil Survey 1983, 712c). The site is generally flat, and lies at an elevation of *c.*80.6m OD.

1.5 *Historical and Archaeological Background*

Cheshunt is an area of considerable archaeological and historical importance, but little large-scale excavation work has been undertaken in the area.

There is little evidence for human activity in the area of the site during the prehistoric periods. Settlement may have been concentrated in the valley of the river Lea, but the higher land to the west of the river may have been utilised for agriculture, and a coaxial field system has been recorded in the area.

During the Roman period communities were dominated by a major Roman road, now known as Ermine Street (the modern A10). This passed c.4km east of the site and linked *Londinium* (London) with the settlement at Ware. Almost 1km north-east of the site, finds of Roman artefacts and building debris (SMR 1353, 1354, 2293, 2759 etc) indicate a small settlement where the road crosses Turnford Brook. It has been suggested that the modern Hammond Street Road may follow the line of a minor Roman road (Margary 1955). A lead ingot has been found in Cheshunt, close to Ermine Street (SMR 1121; Niblett 1995; 96).

The village of Cheshunt, 2.5km to the south-east, probably originated during the Saxon period. The settlement was included in the Domesday Survey (1086) where it is referred to as *Cestrehont*. The land was held by Count Alan and was valued at 20 hides. There is only limited evidence for the site area during the medieval period, but rubbish or storage pits have been recorded in the vicinity (SMR 2890).

Hammond Street probably developed in the post-medieval period as a separate linear hamlet, like the neighbouring Appleby Street to the north, around a roadside farm. The First Edition Ordnance Survey map, compiled in the late 19th century, shows *Hammondstreet Farm* in the approximate location of the site. The surrounding area appears to have been open farmland and orchards at this time. Accordingly, any archaeological remains which may be present to the rear of the old post office may be undisturbed and in good condition.

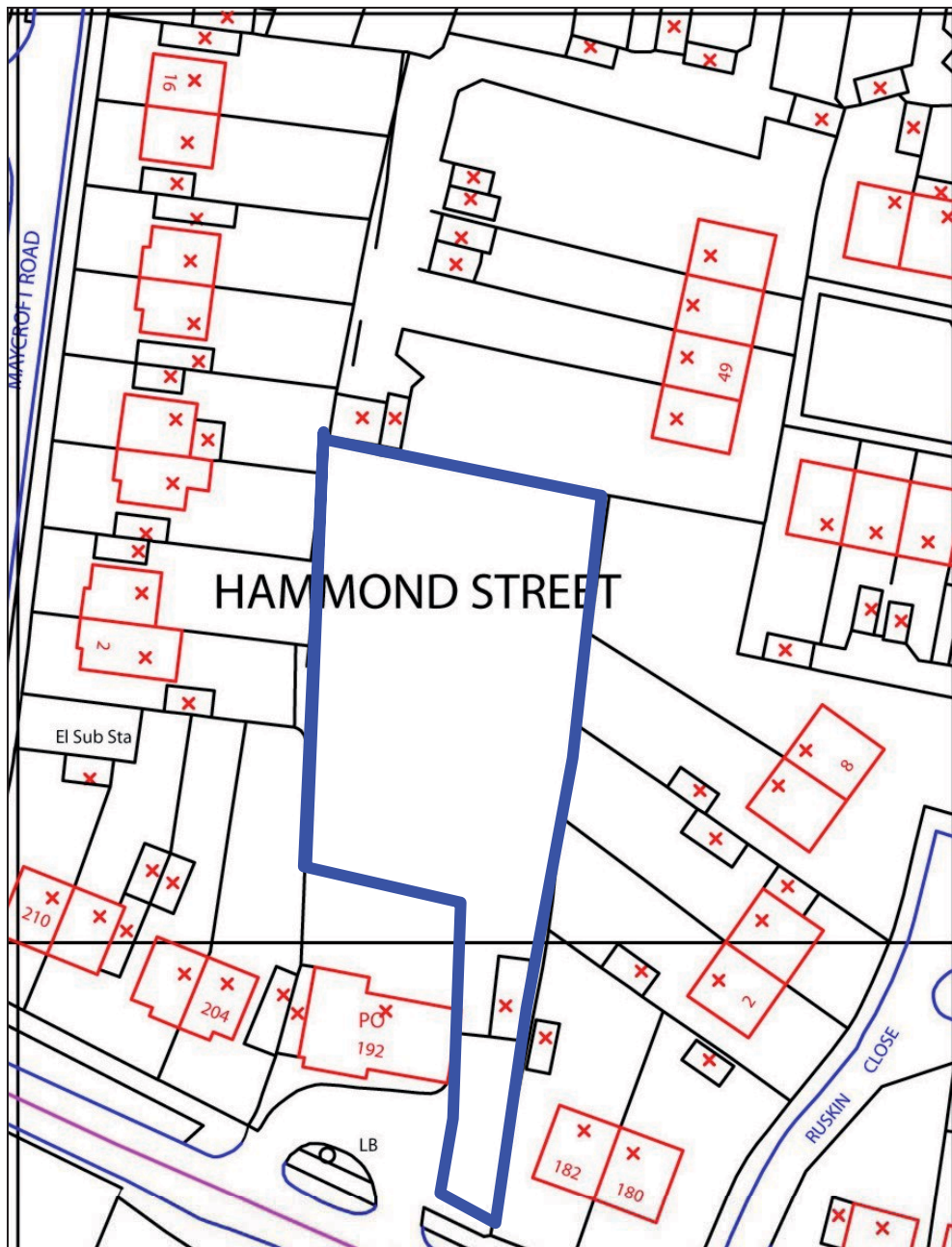


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

2 Aims & Methods

2.1 *Aims*

In accordance with the project design, 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 project design, which described the following actions:

- Soil and overburden stripping under archaeological supervision
- Inspection of sub-soil for archaeological features
- Excavation and recording of any archaeological features/deposits
- Examination of any service and foundation trenches and subsequent recording of any exposed archaeological deposits
- Rapid examination of spoil heaps for archaeological material
- The footprints of the proposed buildings will be stripped under archaeological supervision

2.4 *Constraints*

Observations were made of soil stripping for the access road, and excavation of foundation trenches for three of the four house plots. Communications with the client were sometimes difficult, so work on one plot was missed.

3 Results

- 3.1 Four visits were made to the site, one in October 2006 and three during January 2007.
- 3.2 The access road and building plots were stripped of *c.*0.2m depth of dark, loamy topsoil and *c.*0.1m depth of mid greyish brown silty subsoil, down to a natural layer comprising light greyish brown sandy clay. Excavated footing trenches were observed for all four building plots, cut to a maximum depth of *c.* 1.2m below the top of the natural clay.
- 3.3 A ditch of probable 19th or 20th-century date was observed running across Plots 1 & 2 on a NNE-SSW alignment. This feature was *c.*3m in width and cut through subsoil into the natural geology to a depth of *c.*1m. The fill of the ditch consisted of dark brown silty organic loam, within in which were found fragments of late 19th and early 20th-century pot, brick, tile, plastic and aluminium.
- 3.4 No earlier features or deposits of archaeological significance were revealed in the watching brief. Examination of spoil from the site failed to reveal any finds of earlier periods.

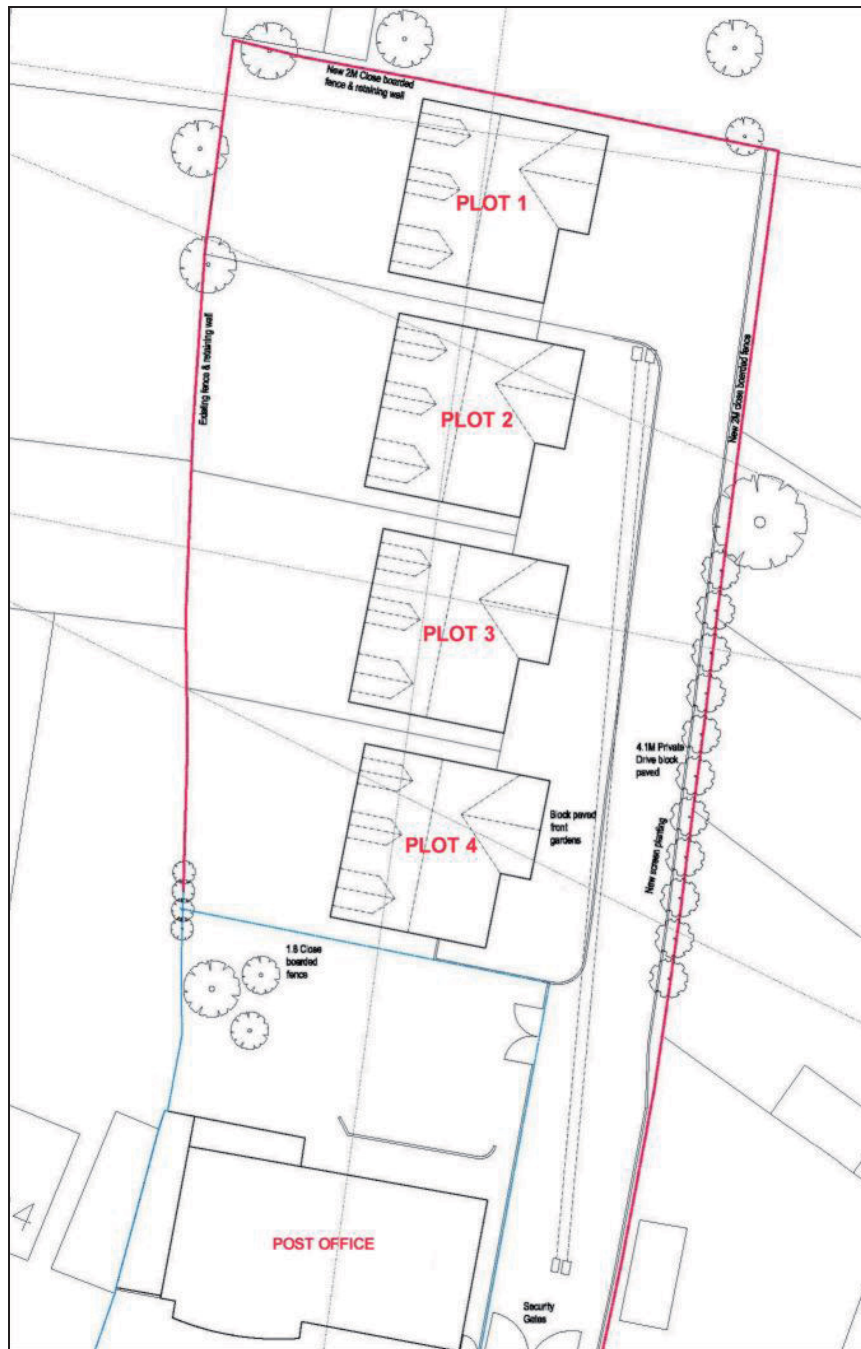


Figure 3: Development plan (scale 1:400)



Plate 1: Site of access road looking SSW



Plate 2: Footings of Plots 1 and 2 looking NNW



Plate 3: View of probable modern ditch in Plot 2 footings, looking NNE



Plate 4: Completed Plot 2 footings and excavated Plot 3 trenches looking SE



Plate 5: Detail of stratigraphy in Plot 3 footing trenches



Plate 6: Section of Plot 4 footing trenches

4. Conclusions

4.1 The watching brief did not reveal any features or finds of archaeological significance on the site.

4.2 It is possible that the NNE-SSW aligned ditch observed in the footing trench of Plot 2 could be a field boundary, visible on the first edition OS map. This is supported by the retrieval of a late 19th or early 20th century unfrosted brick from the base of the feature fill, suggesting that it may have been partially backfilled during this period. Finds of aluminium and plastic fragments from more upper layers in the ditch fill suggest that it continued to be backfilled up to the end of the 20th century.

4.3 No evidence to support or disprove that the modern Hammond Street Road overlies a minor Roman road was retrieved from the site of the development.

4.4 It is unlikely that any sustained past human activity has taken place in the area of the proposed development. The first edition Ordnance Survey map, compiled in the early 19th century, shows the site and surrounding area as farmland, and it is probable that land-use was also primarily agricultural prior to this.

4.5 *Confidence Rating*

The weather conditions during the site visits were mainly clear and bright, with a high proportion of all stripped and excavated areas observed during monitoring. Consequently, the confidence rating attached to this watching brief is high.

4.6 *Archaeological Impact of the Development*

The results obtained from this watching brief suggest that there have not been significant levels of past human activity on this site and consequently, the archaeological impact of the development is likely to be minimal.

5. Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to Ital Logistics, particularly Mr. Lorenzo Bonura, for commissioning ASC Ltd. to carry out the watching brief. The watching brief was monitored on behalf of the local planning authority by Andy Instone of the Herts CC Historic Environment Unit.

Watching brief visits were carried out by the writer, along with Alistair Hancock BSc PgDip and Jonathan Hunn BA PhD MIFA. The report was 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. List of photographs/slides
6. B/W prints & negatives
7. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

6.2 The archive will be deposited with Broxbourne Museum.

7. References

Standards & Specifications

- ALGAO 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper **14**.
- Barclay C 2006 Project Design for a Watching Brief: The Woodmans, 192 Hammond Street Road, West Cheshunt, Hertfordshire EN7 6PA. ASC Ref. 851/WCW/01
- 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

- Margary, I. D. 1955 *Roman Roads in Britain* Phoenix (London).
- Niblett, R. 1995 *Roman Hertfordshire* Dovecote Press ()
- OS 1979 *The Ordnance Survey Map of Roman Britain* (Southampton).
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpندن).

Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD				
Project: <u>Cheshunt</u>		Project No/Code: <u>WCW 1851</u>		Sheet: <u>1 of 4</u>		
		Date of visit: <u>26/10/06</u>				
Client/Developer: <u>Ital Logics.</u>						
Contact: <u>Lucrezio Berra</u>			Phone: <u>07860 631532</u>			
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: <u>7.30am</u>		Finish: <u>13.00pm.</u>		
Completed by: <u>LIZZIE GILL</u>						
Development Type:						
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: <u>Day + windy - Site U. wet + Soggy.</u>						
Observations: <u>Access road + site of Service trench have been stripped down to nat. loamy silt - approx depth c. 400mm. 2x large spoil heaps over the position of footings and will not be moved until Thursday 2nd November. There appear to be some misheard warnings surrounding what site works need to be monitored - have made it clear that we need to be contacted at in advance so we can observe footing trenches and/or stripped area. Observed machining of service trench c. 300mm below nat. loamy silt into clean mid yellowish brown silty clay. No archaeology observed.</u>						
Comments:						

For sketch plan, use reverse

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: 192 HAMMOND ST ROAD WEST CHESHUNT HERTS		Project No/Code: 851 1 WCW	Sheet: 2 of 4
Client/Developer ITAL LOGICS		Date of visit: 15/01/07	
Contact: LORENZO BONURIA		Phone: 07960 631533	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 9.30	Finish:	
Completed by: AJH			
Development Type:			
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: BUILDING PLOTS STRIPPED AND FOUNDATIONS OF CENTRE PLOT PARTIALLY DUG. COLD AND BRIGHT			
Observations: EXTERNAL FOUNDATIONS DUG FOR CENTRE PLOT, INTERNAL FOUNDATIONS DUG TOMORROW (15/01). OBSERVED STRAT: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) c. 0.2 M DARK ORGANIC (TOPSOIL) (2) c. 0.1 M MID GREYISH BROWN SILTY (SUBSOIL) (3) UNKNOWN DEPTH OF LIGHT GREYISH BROWN SANDY CLAY (NATURAL) 			
<p>NNE - SSW ALIGNED DITCH RUNS THROUGH CENTRE OF SITE U SHAPED c 3.0M WIDE, 1M DEEP, CUT THEN SUBSOIL FILLED WITH UNDIFFERENTIATED DARK BROWN SILTY ORGANIC LOAM. INCLUDES FREQ CHARCOAL FLECKS, MODERN ^{SLIGHTLY} CORRODED FERROUS OBJECTS, LATE (19) EARLY (20) POT SHEETS (EARTHENWARE), FRAGMENTS OF UNFROGLED IMPERIAL BRICK - FILL V. SMELLY IN PARTS - VICTORIAN DRAINAGE DITCH? LATER NOTED PLASTIC AND ALUMINIUM IN FILL ∴ (20) DITCH DEFINITELY PRESENT IN N LIMIT OF SITE AND RUNS THRU TWO NORTHERN PLOTS - SOUTHWESTERN EXTENT NOT OBSERVABLE</p>			
Comments: <p>FURTHER VISIT TOMORROW TO MONITOR INTERNAL FOUNDATIONS? *NB SOME INTERNAL FOUNDATIONS PULLED IN PM STRATA (3) c 1.0M DEEP - SEALS LIGHT GREY CLAY WITH FLINT NATURAL STRIPPED SURFACE, SPOIL HEAP, FOUNDATION TRENCHES EXAMINED FOR ARCH FINDS FEATURES - NONE OBSERVED EXCEPTING (19/20) DITCH SURFACE OF PLOT ALREADY STRIPPED PRIOR TO VISIT AND V DIRTY ∴ IMPOSSIBLE TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER ARCH PRESENT.</p>			


For sketch plan, use reverse

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A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD				
Project: 851 - West Cheshunt.		Project No/Code: 851 iwca		Sheet: 3 of 4		
		Date of visit: 24/01/07.				
Client/Developer: Ital Logistics						
Contact: Lorenzo Bonura			Phone:			
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 12 pm		Finish: 12.45		
Completed by: LIZZIE GILL						
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	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: Cold, clear + bright.						
Observations: Footings trenches c. 0.85m deep, through Subsoil into mid brownish orange silty clay. Boards in place for concrete pouring so only occasional glimpses of section visible - but these were devoid of archaeology + nothing observed in subsoil.						
Comments: 30th Jan Next lot of footings dig on Monday probably but Lorenzo will confirm on Friday.						

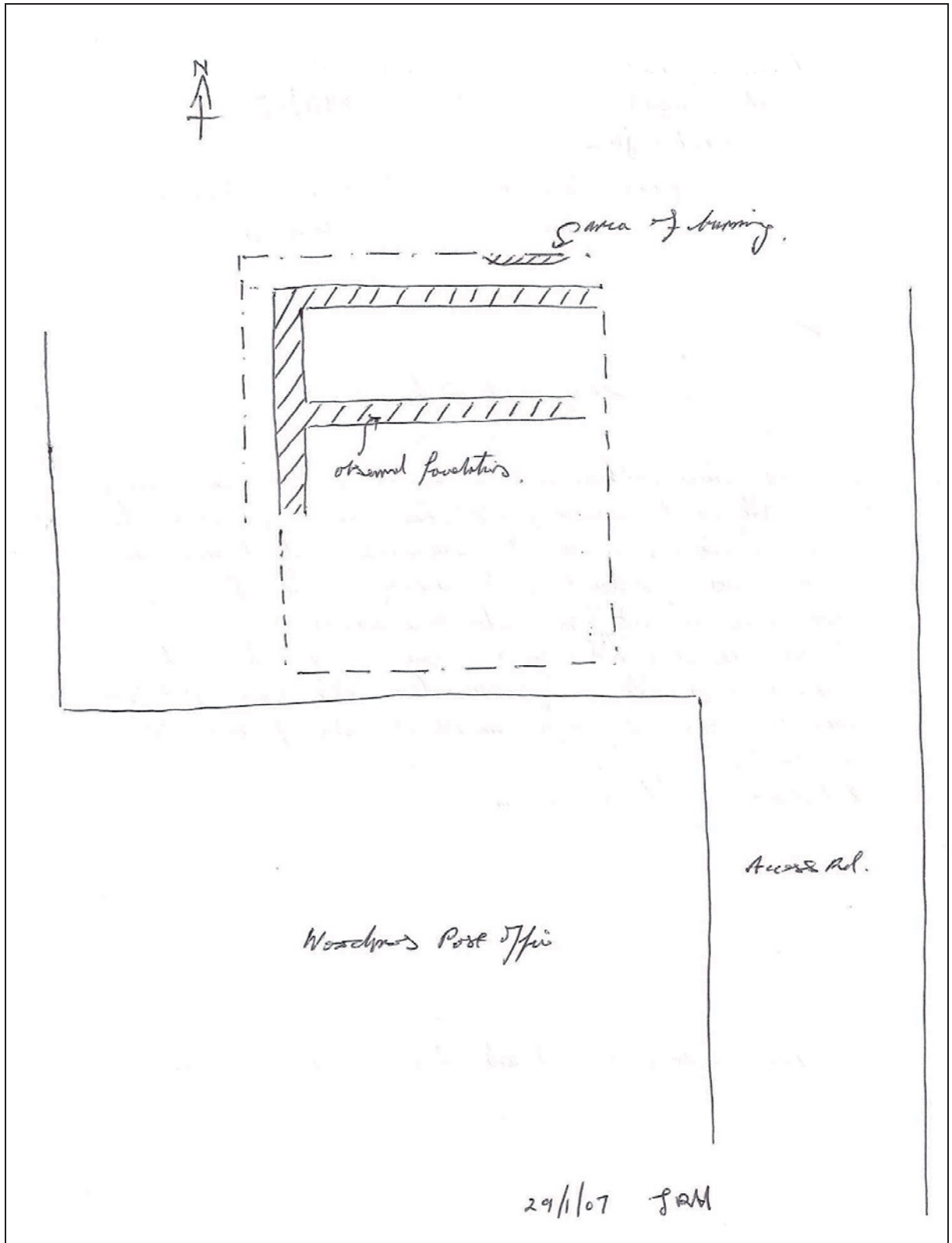
For sketch plan, use reverse

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 A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD	
Project: <i>Hammond Street</i> <i>W. Cheshunt</i>		Project No/Code: <i>851 1 WCW</i>	Sheet: <i>4 of 4</i>
Client/Developer: <i>Itol Logics</i>		Date of visit: <i>29/1/07</i>	
Contact: <i>Lorena Bonura</i>		Phone: <i>07860-631532</i>	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: <i>11.00 am</i>	Finish: <i>2 pm</i>	
Completed by:			
Development Type:			
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: <i>Dry, mild with occ. Sun</i>			
Observations: <i>The three northernmost house plots have been completed. The 4th, most southerly plot, has been 50% completed. The foundations were 0.65m wide and 1.2m down from secondary reduced ground (primary reduction of 0.6m). The trenches are cut into a Stone's greyish brown clay. Looks like there had been a baffle area on north side of trench, though probably fairly modern (see sketch over). Apart from the occasional clay pipe stem no artefacts of any note were observed.</i> <i>* Topsoil is a heavy clay loam</i>			
Comments: <i>No features or artefacts of any note were seen.</i>			

For sketch plan, use reverse

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Appendix 2: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	The Woodmans, 192 Hammondstreet Road, West Cheshunt, Herts EN7 6PA		
Short Description:	In October 2006 and January 2007, Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) undertook a watching brief on a site at The Woodmans, 192 Hammond Street Road, West Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, during the construction of four bungalows and an access road. The only feature revealed was a modern ditch crossing the northernmost building plots. This was possibly a land boundary or drainage ditch associated with the former Hammondstreet Farm, which stood in this location in the late 19 th century.		
Project Type:	WB		
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	none	Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	none
Current land use:	Derelict land	Future work: (yes / no / unknown)	none
Monument type:	N/a	Monument period:	N/a
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	none		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Hertfordshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	TL 3329 0432
District:	Broxbourne	Parish:	
Site address: (with postcode if known)	The Woodmans, 192 Hammondstreet Road, West Cheshunt, Herts EN7 6PA		
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	3600 sq. m.	Height OD: (metres)	81m OD
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	Andy Instone, Herts CC	Project design originator:	Caroline Barclay
Project Manager:	Jonathan Hunn	Director/Supervisor:	Lizzie Gill
Sponsor / funding body:	Ital Logics		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	Oct 2006	End date:	Jan 2007
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	none	none	
Paper:	Broxbourne Museum	1 box file – paper records, drawings & photos only	
Digital:	Broxbourne Museum	CD with all digital files	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Watching Brief: The Woodmans, 192 Hammondstreet Road, West Cheshunt, Herts. ASC ref 851/WCW/2		
Author(s):	Lizzie Gill	Date:	5 th February 2007

Appendix 3: SMR Summary Sheet

Site name and address: The Woodmans 192 Hammondstreet Road West Cheshunt, Herts EN7 6PA		
County: Hertfordshire		District: Broxbourne
Village/Town: West Cheshunt		Parish: unparished
Planning application reference: 06/0674		
Client name, address, & tel. no: Ital Logics 12 The Laurels Cheshunt Herts EN7 6NL		
Nature of application: Residential development		
Present land use: Disused		
Size of application area: n/a		Size of area investigated: n/a
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 3329 0432		Site code: 851/WCW
Site director/Organization: Bob Zeepvat / ASC Ltd		
Type of work: watching brief		
Date of work:	Start: Oct 2006	Finish: Jan 2007
Curating museum: Broxbourne		
Related SMR nos: n/a		Periods represented: Modern
Relevant previous summaries/reports none		
Summary of fieldwork results: In October 2006 and January 2007, Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) undertook a watching brief on a site at The Woodmans, 192 Hammond Street Road, West Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, during the construction of four bungalows and an access road. The only feature revealed was a modern ditch crossing the northernmost building plots. This was possibly a land boundary or drainage ditch associated with the former Hammondstreet Farm, which stood in this location in the late 19 th century		
Author: Lizzie Gill		Date: 5 th February 2007