

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:
2 DELLFIELD AVENUE
BERKHAMSTED
HERTFORDSHIRE**

on behalf of Dr Jon Gingell



Calli Rouse BA PIFA

October 2007

ASC: 891/BDA/2

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Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	BDA	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	891
<i>County:</i>	Hertfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Berkhamsted		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Berkhamsted		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 9806 0808		
<i>Present use:</i>	Residential		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Extension to property		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	4/01258/06		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Dacorum Borough Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	24/09/07 – 26/09/07		
<i>Client:</i>	Dr J Gingell 2 Dellfield Avenue Berkhamsted Herts HP4 1DY		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Dr Jon Gingell		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Calli Rouse	<i>Date:</i>	16/10/07
<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	

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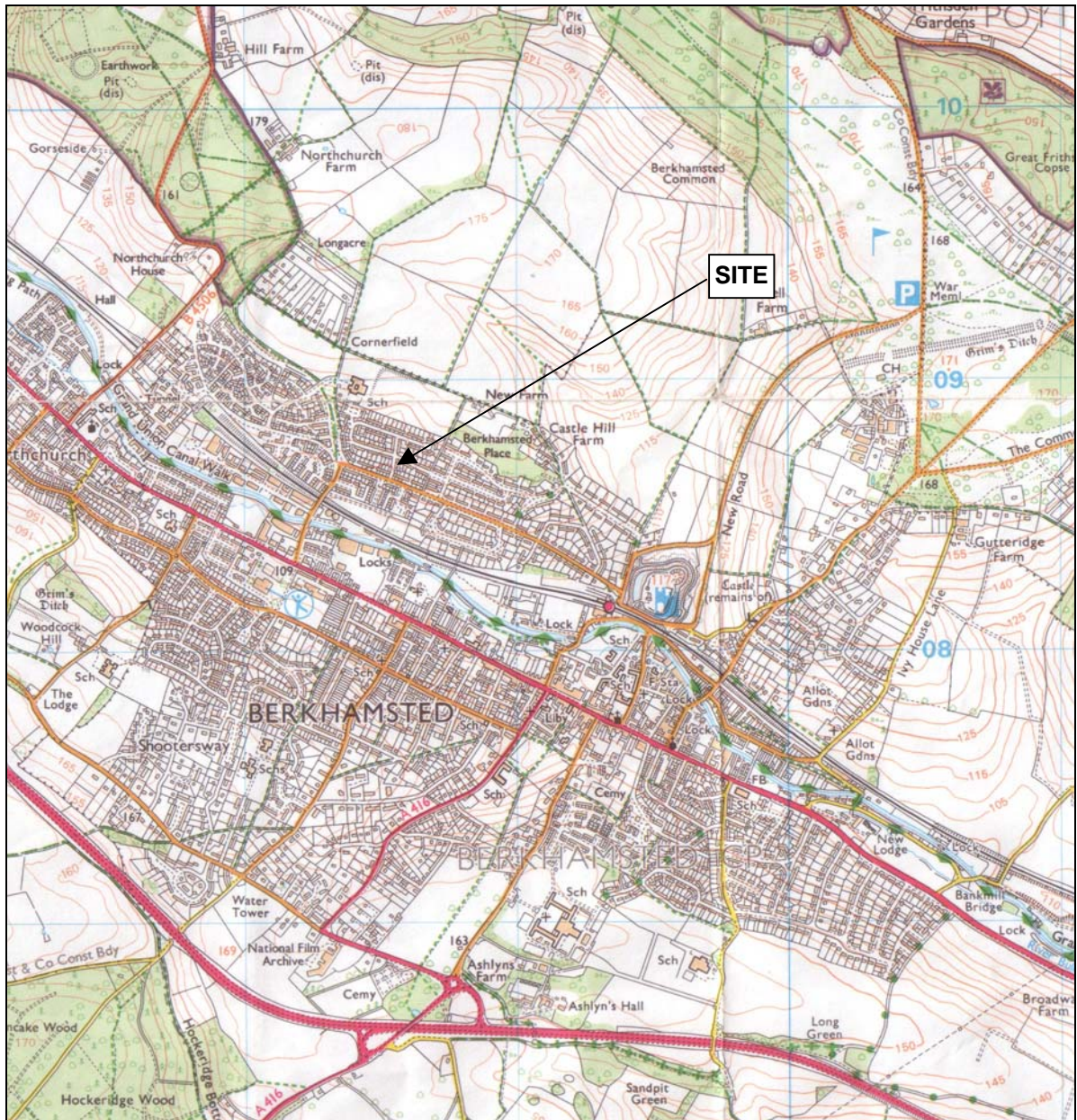


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In September 2007 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of footing trenches for a new garage at 2 Dellfield Avenue, Berkhamsted. Archaeological remains of the Roman and medieval periods have been recorded in the area but on this occasion no archaeological remains or artefacts were observed. The archaeological impact of the development is considered to be negligible.

1 Introduction

1.1 In September 2007 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief at 2 Dellfield Avenue, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire (NGR SP 9806 0808: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Dr Jon Gingell, and was carried out on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *Dacorum District Council*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), the Historic Environment Unit of *Hertfordshire County Council*, and a project design prepared by ASC (Barclay 2007). The relevant planning application reference is 4/01258/06.

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 an extension to the existing property.

1.3 *Location & Description*

The site is in Berkhamsted, in the administrative district of Dacorum, Hertfordshire (Fig. 1). It is on the northern side of the town, close to the junction of Dellfield Avenue and Bridgewater Road, and is centred on Ordnance Survey NGR SP 9806 0808 (Fig. 2). Access to the site was from Dellfield Avenue.

1.5 *Geology & Topography*

The soils of the area comprise the *Charity 2 Association*: namely flinty fine silty soils over chalk (Soil Survey, 1983, 571m). The site is on the north side of the valley of the river Bulbourne, and lies at an elevation of *c.* 130m OD.

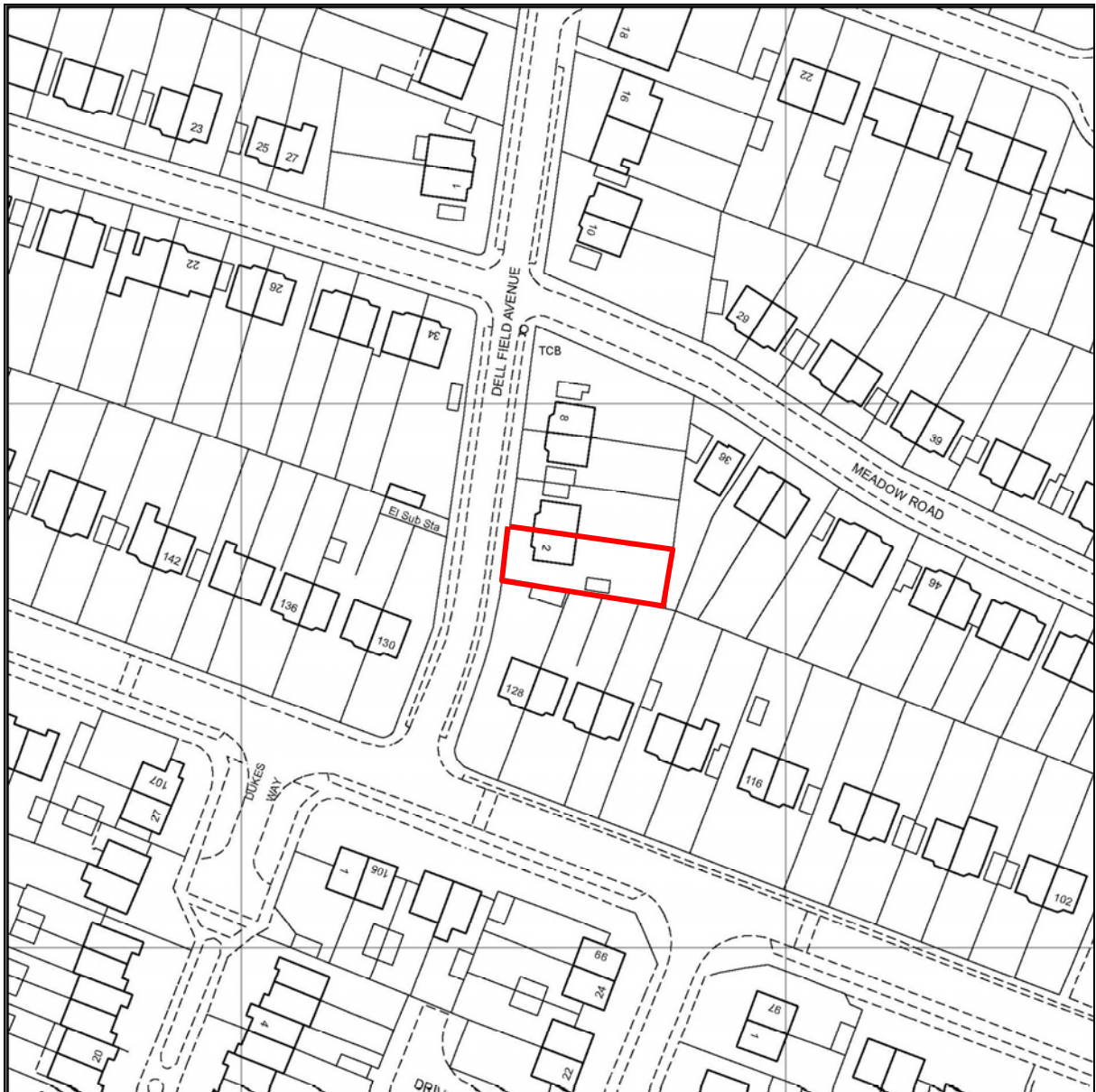


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

2 Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

In line with the requirements of the AA and the standard ASC 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.

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

In line with the requirements of the AA and the standard ASC method statement, the methods to be adopted for this project were:

- 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.

3 Archaeological & Historical Background

SMR = Sites and Monuments Record

- 3.1 Berkhamsted is an area of considerable archaeological and historical importance (Birtchnell 1960; HCC 2004; Page (ed), 1908) and this has been recognised by *Hertfordshire County Council* by the designation of much of the town as an *Area of Archaeological Importance*. The site has the potential to reveal evidence of a variety of periods, but the focus of interest is likely to lie in the Roman and medieval periods.
- 2.2 The present town of Berkhamsted developed in the valley bottom along the line of a Roman road, now known as *Akeman Street*, which linked the Roman settlement of *Verulamium* (St Albans) with *Corinium Dobunorum* (Cirencester). The site is away from the main area of Roman and medieval settlement, but remains of the Iron Age and Roman period are known along Castle Hill Avenue and Bridgewater Road, close to the site.
- 2.3 A significant site lay *c.*200m to the south-west of the site near the railway line (SMR 6437). There is evidence for industrial activity in the form of furnaces at Bridgewater School (SMR 4904: Thompson & Holland 1977). Evidence for pottery kilns has been recorded at the east end of Bridgewater Road (SMR 6803) and also further along Bridgewater Road, *c.*700m south-east of the site (SMR 6071). The remaining evidence all comprises isolated finds. For example, several Roman coins were found at the castle (SMR 1336), and from Dellfield *c.*400m south-west of the site (SMR 6076).
- 2.4 Berkhamsted was of considerable importance during the medieval period, notably due to the presence of the castle and medieval settlement on the south side of the river (HCC 2004). The site is *c.*600m west of the castle, but also offers limited potential for the discovery of medieval remains.
- 3.5 The site lies beyond the extent of the medieval and early medieval town, and probably remained open ground until the mid-20th century. The 1897 Ordnance Survey map shows the site as part of an irregular-shaped field west of a substantial building and estate known as Berkhamsted Place.

4 Results

- 4.1 The entire footprint (10m x 11m) of the development was observed during the watching brief, including the foundation trenches to the rear of the property. The ground reduction on the western side of the site was not more than *c.*0.1m (Plate 2), while on the eastern side of the site, further up the slope, the ground reduction measured between 0.35m and 0.75m (Plate 1).
- 4.2 The topsoil throughout the site was *c.*0.3m thick and overlay a reddish brown pebbly sub-soil. The foundation trenches were 0.65m wide, and varied in depth between 0.6m on the garden side of the development, and 1.1m on the lower, south side, below reduced level. The trenches were cut through the subsoil down onto the semi-dissolved chalk.
- 4.3 On the western side of the site, the southern side of the foundation trench showed an area of more disturbed soil, and showed evidence of a chalky tip line (Context 3), which was not visible on the northern side of the trench. This is interpreted as a modern dump layer and is not archaeologically significant (Plate 3). Some natural striations were also visible on the eastern side of the site (Plate 4).



Plate 1: View of ground reduction and foundation trench, looking north (2x 1m scales)



Plate 2: View of western end of foundation trench, looking south west (2m scale)



Plate 3: Detail of chalky tip line (3) at western end of foundation trench, looking south (2m scale)

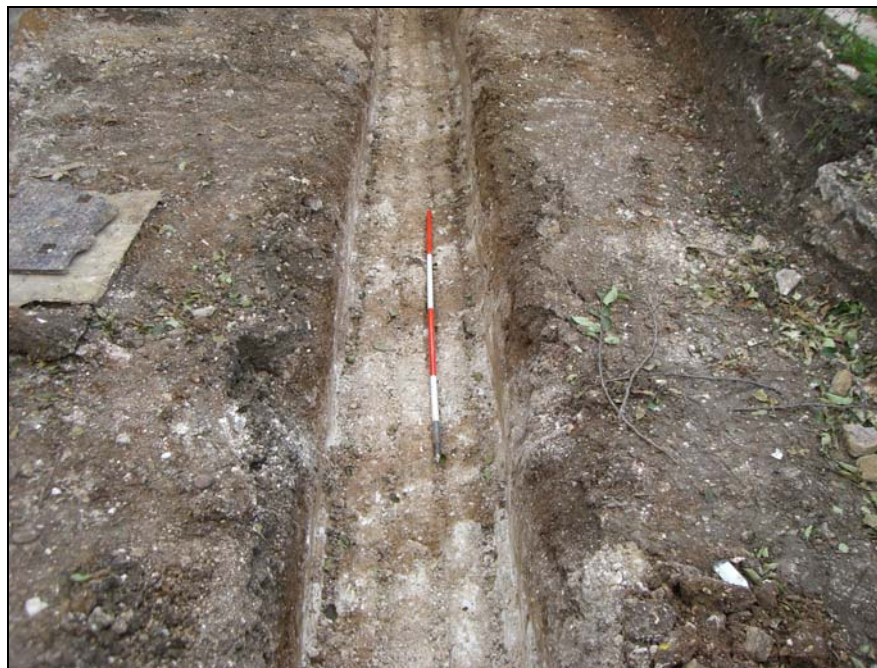


Plate 4: Striated natural, looking north (2m scale)

5. Conclusions

5.1 Archaeological remains were not observed during the watching brief and it is unlikely that large quantities of significant archaeological features or artefacts are present in this location. The development itself took place over a limited area and is unlikely to have had a significant impact on any such archaeological remains.

5.2 *Confidence Rating*

The watching brief was undertaken in dry and sunny 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.

6. Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to Dr Jon Gingell for commissioning the watching brief and Mr 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 David Fell MA MIFA.

7. Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

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

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Dacorum Heritage Trust

8. References

Standards & Specifications

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

Barclay, C 2007 *Project Design for an Archaeological Watching Brief at 2 Dellfield Avenue, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire* ASC/891/BDA/2

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

Birtchnell P C., 1960 *A Short History of Berkhamsted*. Clunbury Press


HCC 2004 *Berkhamsted: Extensive Urban Survey Project Assessment*. Hertfordshire County Council


Page W, 1908 *The Victoria History of the County of Berkhamsted*. Dawsons of Pall Mall

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

Thompson A & Holland E 1977 'Excavation of an Iron Age Site at Dellfield, Berkhamsted' *Hertfordshire Archaeology* **4** pp137-148

Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

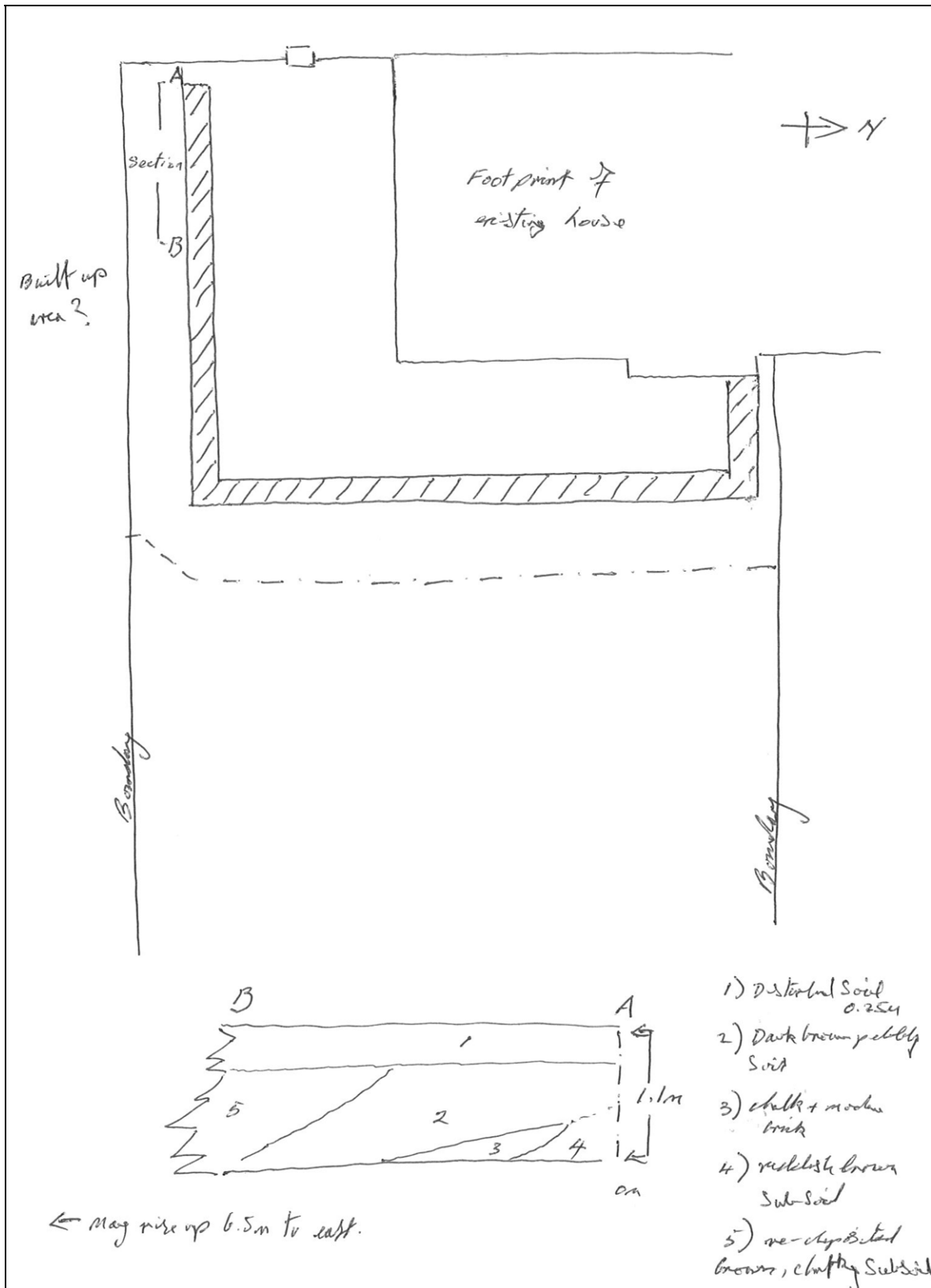
 A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD				
Project: 2 Dellfield Ave BERKHAMSTED		Project No/Code: 891 / BDA		Sheet: 1 of 3		
Client/Developer: Jon Gingell - 01442 871 758		Date of visit: 24/09/07				
Contact: Mr Wingrove (BUILDER)		Phone: 07976 689 859				
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 10.30		Finish: 1.15		
Completed by: CR						
Development Type:						
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: overcast, windy						
Observations: Arrived on site around 11.15. Mr Gingell was waiting for the builders to arrive after it had been raining. Rary builder (Mr Wingrove) who said they would start excavating tomorrow.						
Comments:						

 A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD				
Project:		Project No/Code:		Sheet:		
2 DELLFIELD AVE		891 / BDA		2 of 3		
BERKHAMSTED		Date of visit:		25/09/07		
Client/Developer: Jon Gingell - 01442 871758						
Contact: Mr Wingrove (BUILDER)			Phone: 07976 689 859			
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 10.20		Finish: 12.15		
Completed by: CR						
Development Type:						
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: Sunny, dry, windy						
Observations: Arrived on site. Shippy had started, but not to a significant level. Mr Wingrove was not on site. Arranged for Jonathan to call in towards the end of the day to see what's happening						
Comments:						

For sketch plan, use reverse

©ASC, 2003

A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD		
Project: Dellfield Ave, Berkhamsted, Herts		Project No/Code: 891 1BDA		Sheet: 3 of 3
Client/Developer: Mr Wingrove		Date of visit: 26/9/07		
Contact:		Phone: —		
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 12.10 pm	Finish: 2.20 pm		
Completed by: JRH				
Development Type:				
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying
				Pipelines
				Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: Sun + Showers, cool (9C)				
Observations: <p>Observed the entire footprint of development including the foundation trenches to the rear of the property (10m x 11m L-shaped). The ground reduction on the western or Dellfield Ave side was at much more than 0.1m but on the eastern or garden side (up slope) the reduction was between 0.35m (S) and 0.75m (N). The topsoil was 0.3m thick and overlay a reddish brown pebbly sub-soil. There were no obvious features in the ground surface but too 'dirty' to see clearly. The foundation trenches were 0.65m wide and varied between 0.6m on the up slope side and 1.1m at the lower (S) side, below reduced level. The trenches were cut through the brown subsoil (of uneven depth c.0.3m) down onto the semi-disintegrated chalk. On the eastern side, at the base of the trench six parallel striations were noted. These varied between 0.3m to 0.48m wide and set about at irregular spacing apart (average 0.4m). All were orientated ENE/WSW. On the South side the west of trench looked more disturbed with what looks like a chalky tip line (didn't show on north side of trench) so whatever it was the foundation trench just clipped it other than the disturbed ground on the S. side no other ground features (other than Services) noted.</p>				
For sketch plan, use reverse				
©ASC, 2003				



Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: 2 Dellfield Avenue, Bekhamsted, Hertfordshire			SITE NO/CODE: 891/BDA
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1			General site view, looking west
2			Southern arm of foundation trench, looking west
3			Detail of southern arm of foundation trench, looking west
4			Detail of chalky tip line at western end of foundation trench, looking south
5			Detail of southern arm of foundation trench, looking south west
6			Detail of southern arm of foundation trench, looking east
7			View of ground reduction and foundation trench, looking north
8			View of ground reduction and foundation trench, looking north
9			Detail of northern end of foundation trench, looking east
10			Detail of northern end of foundation trench, looking north
11			Detail of south eastern corner of foundation trench, looking north west
12			Rear of 2 Dellfield Avenue, looking north west
13			Front of 2 Dellfield Avenue, looking south east
14			Striated natural, looking north
15			Detail of striated natural, looking west

Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	2 Dellfield Avenue, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire		
Short Description:	In September 2007 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of footing trenches for a new garage at 2 Dellfield Avenue, Berkhamsted. Archaeological remains of the Roman and medieval periods have been recorded in the area but on this occasion no archaeological remains or artefacts were observed. The archaeological impact of the development is considered to be negligible.		
Project Type: (indicate all that apply)	Watching Brief		
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	None	Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	-
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: (8 figs min)	SP 9806 0808
District:	Dacorum	Parish:	Berkhamsted
Site address: (with postcode if known)	2 Dellfield Avenue, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, HP4 1DY		
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)		Height OD: (metres)	c.130
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	-	Project design originator:	Caroline Barclay
Project Manager:	Jonathan Hunn	Director/Supervisor:	Jonathan Hunn
Sponsor / funding body:	Dr Jon Gingell		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	24/09/07	End date:	26/09/07
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Dacorum Heritage Trust	-	
Paper:		Archive box	
Digital:		CD in archive box	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	An Archaeological Watching Brief at 2 Dellfield Avenue, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire		
Serial title & volume:	ASC/891/BDA/2		
Author(s):	Calli Rouse		
Page nos	1-19	Date:	10/10/07

Appendix 4: SMR Summary Sheet

Site name and address: 2 Dellfield Avenue, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, HP4 1DY		
County: HERTFORDSHIRE	District: Dacorum	
Village/Town: Berkhamsted	Parish: Berkhamsted	
Planning application reference: 4/01258/06		
Client name, address, & tel. no: Dr Jon Gingell 2 Dellfield Avenue, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, HP4 1DY		
Nature of application: Extension		
Present land use: Residential		
Size of application area: n/a	Size of area investigated: n/a	
NGR (to 8 figures): SP 9806 0808	Site code: 891/BDA	
Site director/Organization: Bob Zeepvat / ASC Ltd		
Type of work: Watching Brief		
Date of work:	Start: 24/09/07	Finish: 26/09/07
Curating museum: Dacorum Heritage Trust		
Related SMR nos: -	Periods represented: -	
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -		
Summary of fieldwork results: In September 2007 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of footing trenches for a new garage at 2 Dellfield Avenue, Berkhamsted. Archaeological remains of the Roman and medieval periods have been recorded in the area but on this occasion no archaeological remains or artefacts were observed. The archaeological impact of the development is considered to be negligible.		
Author: Calli Rouse	Date: 10/10/07	