



Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:  
CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS  
DATCHWORTH  
HERTFORDSHIRE**

*on behalf of Datchworth Parochial Church Council*



**Mark Winter BSc PgDip**

**December 2006**

**ASC: 853/DAS/1**

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## Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	DAS	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	853
<i>County:</i>	Hertfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Datchworth		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Datchworth		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TL 2678 1926		
<i>Present use:</i>	Graveyard		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Drainage Works		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	n/a		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	n/a		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	23 November 2006		
<i>Client:</i>	Datchworth Parochial Church Council c/o Barry Roberts Chartered Architect 4 Wheelwrights High Street Kimpton Hitchin Herts SG4 8PW		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Barry Roberts		
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## Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Mark Winter	<i>Date:</i>	24 <sup>th</sup> November 2006
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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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**Figure 1:** General location (*scale 1:25000*)

## Summary

*In November 2006 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out a watching brief at All Saints Church, Datchworth, Hertfordshire in response to proposals for the installation of new drainage systems. No archaeological features or finds were observed, but a deposit revealed in Soakaway 1 is likely to represent a modern make up layer.*

## 1 Introduction

1.1 In November 2006 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief during the excavation of two soakaways and associated drainage trenches at All Saints Church, Datchworth, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 2678 1926: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Datchworth Parochial Church Council, and was carried out according to a method statement prepared by ASC (2006), and a brief (Baker, 2006) prepared on behalf of the commissioning parish of Datchworth, by their Diocesan archaeological advisor (DAA).

### 1.2 *Planning Background*

This watching brief was required by the diocesan council in response to the construction of new drainage.

### 1.3 *Location (Fig. 1)*

The village of Datchworth is located in East Hertfordshire, in the parish of Datchworth. The Church of All Saints is located at the northern edge of the village at NGR TL 2678 1926, to the east of Pound Farm (fig. 2).

### 1.4 *Description*

All Saints Church is a grade II listed building of late 12<sup>th</sup> or early 13<sup>th</sup> century origins. The church consists of a northern aisle, south porch, west tower and spire, vestry and organ bay. There is a 4 bay nave, and smaller 2 bay chancel (<http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk/search/details.aspx?pid=1&id=356131>).

### 1.5 *Geology & Topography*

Datchworth churchyard is on the top of a small hill at an elevation of approximately 120m OD. The soil association at the site comprises the Hornbeam 2 Association, which is described as “*deep fine loamy over clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging. Some well drained fine loamy and fine silty over clayey and clayey soils. Some soils very flinty. The underlying geology is plateau drift*” (Soil Survey 1986).



**Figure 2:** Site plan (scale 1:1250)

## **2 Aims & Methods**

### 2.1 *Aims*

As described in the brief (Section 2), the aims of the watching brief were:

- To record any structures, deposits or articulated human remains encountered in the course of the work
- To increase understanding of the church and churchyard for those who use it for worship, for all others with an interest in its architectural, historical and archaeological significance, and those responsible for its maintenance and repair.

### 2.2 *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*.

### 2.3 *Methods*

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

- Excavated drains and soakaways to be observed and recorded by a professional archaeologist.

### 2.4 *Constraints*

The full depth of soakaway 1 could not be observed due to approximately 0.10m of water which had accumulated in the bottom of the trench. It was also not possible to observe the drainage trenches as these had been backfilled prior to the arrival of an archaeologist on site.

### 3 Archaeological & Historical Background

Datchworth is an area of considerable archaeological and historical importance (Page (ed) 1971). The works undertaken in Datchworth had the potential to uncover evidence of a variety of periods. The main focus of the current works was on the later activity associated with the church.

#### 3.1 *Pre-Roman*

The earliest known period of activity in this area dates to the Late Neolithic/early Bronze Age period. Occupation of this date has been found *c.*0.9 km northwest of the site, near Bragbury End. Late Bronze Age occupation has been identified *c.*1.2km east of the site, and near Bragbury End *c.*1.28 km to the north. A ring ditch has been observed *c.*1.2 km south east of the site to the south of Hawkins Farm and probably represents the ploughed down remains of a prehistoric round barrow. Evidence of late Iron Age occupation has been recovered from Welches Farm *c.*2.1 km south west of the site while Late Pre Roman Iron Age ditched enclosures are known at Datchworth Common *c.*1 km north east and Great Humphrey *c.*1.1 km east

#### 3.2 *Roman*

Little evidence for Roman activity has been found in this area apart from a Romano-British cremation cemetery in Lower Rivers Field *c.*1.4 km to the east.

#### 3.3 *Medieval*

King Edgar, who reigned from 959 to 975, gave land in Datchworth to the church of St Peter of Westminster (<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.asp?compid=43584&strquery=datchworth>) and the Domesday survey (1086) later mentions it as being in the Broadwater Hundred. The survey states that land is held by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Abbey of Westminster, Geoffrey de Bec and Peter de Valognes (Williams and Martin (eds.) 2003).

Medieval earthworks have been noted in this area specifically at Bury Farm and Bulls Green. Bury Farm succeeded Bury manorhouse which was built in *c.*1723 and burnt down in 1870. This house succeeded a 16<sup>th</sup> century timber framed house, which stood north of the churchyard wall within the moat. The earthwork remains at Bulls Green represent a moated site enclosing the 16<sup>th</sup> century Moat House Farm.

All Saints Church has late 12<sup>th</sup> or early 13<sup>th</sup> century origins. In the late 13<sup>th</sup> century a north aisle was added and in the late 14<sup>th</sup> century a tower was added (Herts SMR record 4355). Pevsner notes that the church was restored in 1869-70 by Arthur Blomfield, when the tower was raised and the spire added. The church is enclosed by a moat (Baker, 2006; <http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk/search/details.aspx?pid=1&id=356131>).



## **4 Results**

### **4.1 *Soakaway 1* (Plate 1, fig. 3)**

Soakaway 1 was located to the north of the church and measured 4.50m by 1.10m with a depth of 1.20m. A 0.45m thick, light grey, silty clay topsoil layer (1) was observed beneath the turf and covered a 0.35m thick modern, mixture of make up layers (2, 3 and 4). Layer 2 was a dark orange mixture of gravel and silty clays, layer 3 was a mid grey silty clay and layer 4 was a light grey silty clay which contained frequent large stones. Beneath these was a dark grey, silty clay subsoil (5) of which the first 0.30m could be observed after which water obscured any further detail.

### **4.2 *Soakaway 2* (Plate 2, fig. 3)**

Soakaway 2 was located close to the south east corner of the church and measured 2.00m by 1.40m with a depth of 1.30m. It contained a topsoil layer (11), measuring 0.50m thick, and subsoil layer (12), measuring 0.60m thick. A mid yellowish brown silty clay layer (13) was also uncovered at a depth of 1.10m. This represents the natural strata.

### **4.3 *Drainage trenches***

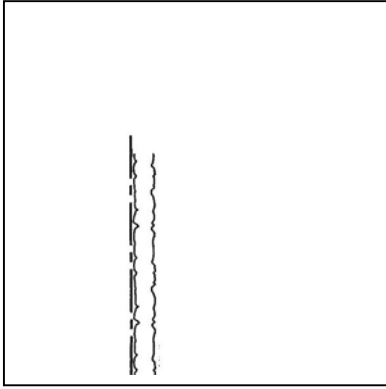
Drainage trenches were 0.40m deep. It was not possible to observe the drainage trenches as these had been backfilled prior to the site visit.



**Plate 1:** Soakaway 1 (Scale = 1 metre)



**Plate 2:** Soakaway 2 (Scale = 1 metre)



**Figure 3:** Soakaway location plan (Scale 1:1000)

## **5. Conclusions**

- 5.1 Soakaway 1 contained a mixture of modern make up layers (2, 3 and 4) beneath the topsoil (1). These make up layers covered a subsoil layer (5).
- 5.2 Soakaway 2 contained a topsoil and subsoil layer (11 and 12), which are the same as those observed in soakaway 1 (1 and 5). In addition to these the natural strata (13) was also exposed.
- 5.3 The investigation comprised a small part of the site and served to demonstrate that no archaeological remains were present in these particular areas.
- 5.4 Although it was not possible to observe the drainage trenches it seems unlikely that any archaeology would have been encountered as they would not have extended beyond the topsoil layer. The impact of the works on the church and graveyard deposits would appear to be negligible.

### 5.5 *Confidence Rating*

Conditions during the investigation were generally good despite low light hindering the taking of film photographs. It was not possible to fully observe soakaway 1 due to water, and drainage trenches were not available for observation. As such the level of confidence attached to the work is considered to be good.

## **6. Acknowledgements**

The writer is grateful to Barry Roberts Dip Arch RIBA AABC for commissioning the work on behalf of Datchworth Parochial Church Council, Diocesan Archaeological Adviser David Baker OBE MA FSA IHBC MIFA for acting as curatorial monitor and Lodge and Sons for undertaking the on site excavations.

The work was supervised for ASC Ltd by Mark Winter BSc, PgDip. Karin Semmelmann MA AIFA acted as project manager. The report was prepared by Mark Winter and edited by David Fell BA MA MIFA.

## **7. Archive**

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Method Statement
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans
5. Site Monitoring Sheets
6. List of photographs
7. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Welwyn Hatfield Museum.

## 8. 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*

Baker 2006 *Brief for Precautionary Archaeological Attendance and any Necessary Recording and Reporting at the Church of All Saints, Datchworth, Hertfordshire*

EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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*

Images of England <http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk/>

Page, W (ed), 1971 *The Victoria History of the County of Hertfordshire* vol 3, University of London

Pevsner 1953 *The Buildings of England, Hertfordshire* Yale University Press London

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

Victoria County History Online

<http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/webdav/harmonise?Page/@id=71>

Williams, A. and Martin GH (eds) 2003, *Domesday Book a Complete Translation*, Penguin

## Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD				
Project: <i>Datchworth</i>		Project No/Code: <i>853 1</i>		Sheet: <b>of</b>		
Client/Developer: <i>All Saint's church</i>		Date of visit: <i>23/11/06</i>				
Contact:		Phone:				
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: <i>8.00</i>	Finish: <i>10.00</i>				
Completed by: <i>MW</i>						
Development Type:						
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: <i>DMT clear</i>						
Observations:						
<i>Sealaway 1 - Water at 1.10M</i>						
<i>- Still depth 1.20M</i>						
<i>- already ex. over ground</i>						
<i>- trench has already been backfilled</i>						
<i>- trench approx 0.40M deep - not observed</i>						
<i>Sealaway 2 - ex. under supervision</i>						
<i>no further excavation to take place.</i>						
Comments:						

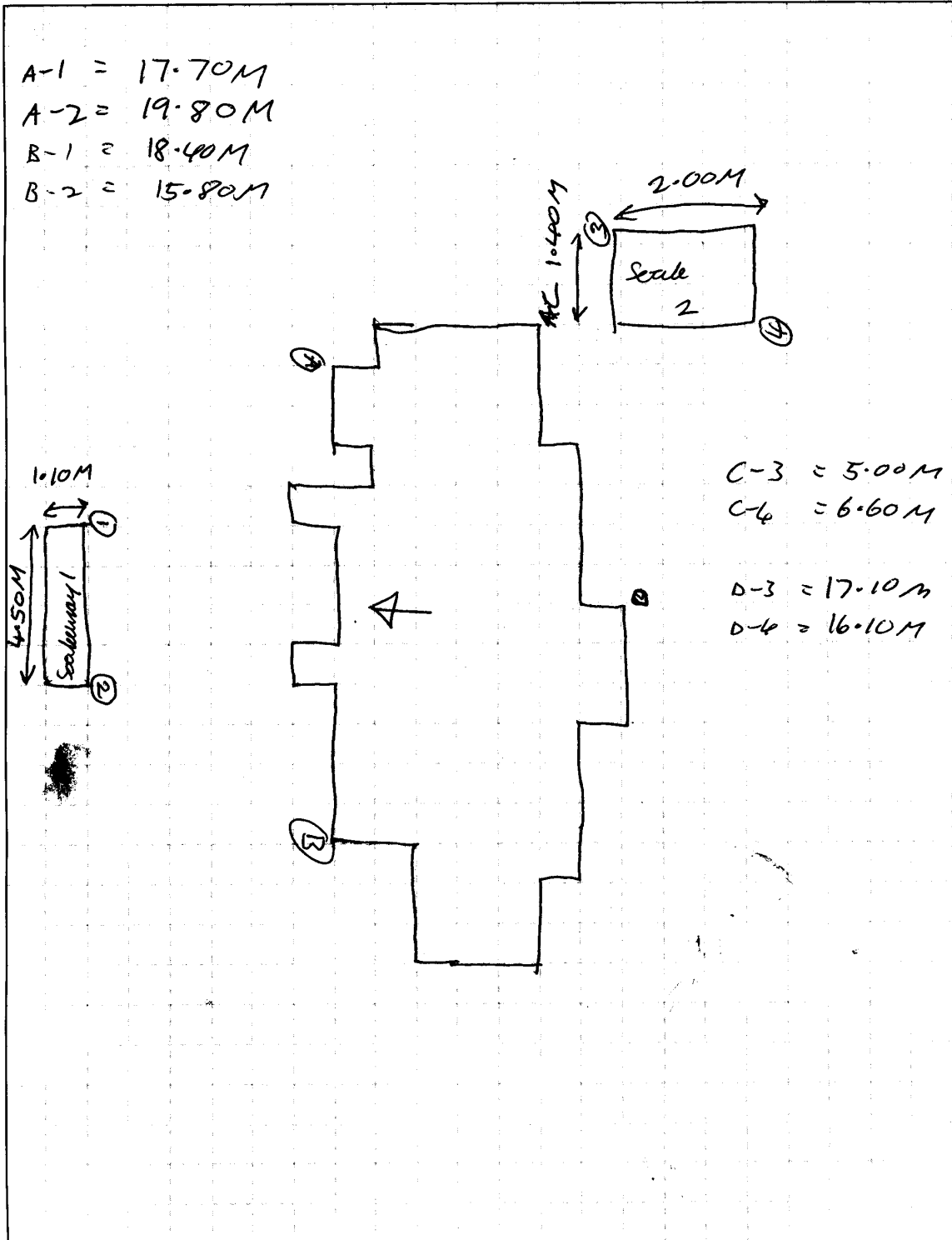
For sketch plan, use reverse

©ASC, 2003



SKETCH SHEET

Site Name: <i>Patchwobn</i>	Site Code: <i>853</i>	Orientation:
Context:		



RECORDING NOTES

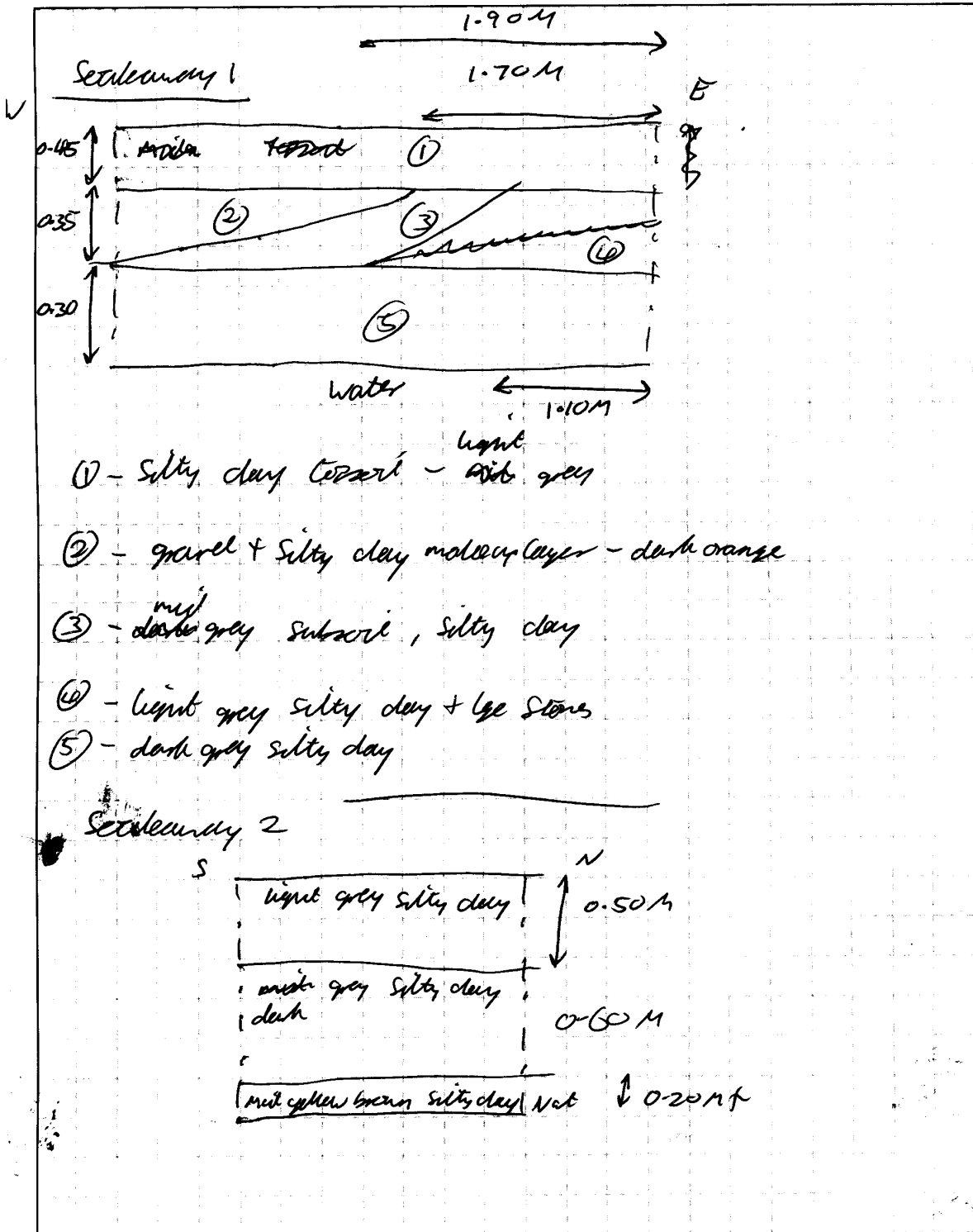
Recorded by: <i>MW</i>	Date: <i>23/4/06</i>	Digitised by:	Date:	Sheet number: <i>0</i> of
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SKETCH SHEET

Site Name: <i>Datchworth</i>	Site Code: <i>853</i>	Orientation:
Context:		



RECORDING NOTES

Recorded by: <i>W</i>	Date: <i>3/11/05</i>	Digitised by:	Date:	Sheet number: <i>of</i>
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## Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: All Saints Church, Datchworth				SITE NO/CODE: 853
Shot	B&W	Slide	Digital	Subject
1				Soakaway 1. Looking North.
2				Soakaway 2. Looking West.

### Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS						
Project Name:	Church of All Saints, Datchworth					
Short Description:	<i>In November 2006 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out a watching brief at All Saints Church, Datchworth, Hertfordshire in response to proposals for the installation of new drainage systems. No archaeological features or finds were observed, but a deposit revealed in Soakaway 1 is likely to represent a modern make up layer.</i>					
Project Type: (indicate all that apply)	DBA	FW	Geophys	Survey	Bldg Rec	Post-Exc
	<b>WB</b>	Strip&Rec	Trenching	Test pits	Exc	Other
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	Listed grade II		Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)		None	
Current land use:	Graveyard		Future work: (yes / no / unknown)		No	
Monument type:	Church		Monument period:		Medieval	
PROJECT LOCATION						
County:	Hertfordshire		OS reference: (to at least 8 figures)		TL 2678 1926	
District:	East Herts		Parish:		Datchworth	
Site address: (with postcode if known)	Church of All Saints Datchworth, Hertfordshire					
Study area: (sq. m.)	7.75		Height OD: (metres)		120	
PROJECT CREATORS						
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd					
Project brief originator:	Diocesan Archaeological Adviser		Project design originator:			
Project Manager:	Bob Zeepvat		Director/Supervisor:		Mark Winter BSc PgDip	
Sponsor / funding body:	Datchworth PCC					
PROJECT DATE						
Start date:	23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2006		End date:		23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2006	
PROJECT ARCHIVES						
	Location (Accession no.)		Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)			
Physical:	n/a		n/a			
Paper:	Welwyn Hatfield Museum		Brief, method statement, report, site records, plans			
Digital:	Welwyn Hatfield Museum		Brief, method statement, report, photographs			
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)						
Title:	WATCHING BRIEF: CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, DATCHWORTH, HERTFORDSHIRE					
Serial title & volume:	Archaeological Services and Consultancy Report 853/DAS/1					
Author(s):	Mark Winter BSc PgDip					
Page nos			Date:		24 <sup>th</sup> November 2006	

## Appendix 4: SMR Summary Sheet

### HERTS

Site name and address: All Saints Church Datchworth Hertfordshire		
County: Hertfordshire	District: East Herts	
Village/Town: Datchworth	Parish: Datchworth	
Planning application reference:		
Client name, address, & tel. no: Datchworth Parochial Church Council c/o Barry Roberts 4 Wheelwrights High Street Kimpton Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 8PW		
Nature of application: Drainage		
Present land use: Graveyard		
Size of application area: n/a	Size of area investigated: n/a	
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 2678 1926	Site code: 853	
Site director/Organization: Bob Zeepvat / ASC Ltd		
Type of work: Watching Brief		
Date of work:	Start: 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2006	Finish: 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2006
Curating museum: Welwyn Hatfield Museum		
Related SMR nos: n/a	Periods represented: Modern	
Relevant previous summaries/reports: None		
Summary of fieldwork results:  <i>In November 2006 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out a watching brief at All Saints Church, Datchworth, Hertfordshire in response to proposals for the installation of new drainage systems. No archaeological features or finds were observed, but a deposit revealed in Soakaway 1 is likely to represent a modern make up layer.</i>		
Author: Mark Winter	Date: 24 <sup>th</sup> November 2006	