

# Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

# WATCHING BRIEF: 9A WHADDON ROAD SHENLEY BROOK END MILTON KEYNES

NGR: SP 8348 3541

on behalf of G T Homes Ltd



Carina Summerfield-Hill BA MSc

September 2008

ASC: 1080/SWR/1r

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# Site Data

ASC project code:	SWR		ASC Project No:	1080				
OASIS ref:	archeol2-48	3164	Event/Accession no: N/a					
County:		Buckingl	namshire					
Village/Town:		Milton K	eynes					
Civil Parish:		Shenley I	Brook End					
NGR (to 8 figs):		SP 8348	3541					
Extent of site:		<i>c</i> .28 x 46	m					
Present use:		House an	id garden					
Planning proposal:		House alteration, extension and erection of garage						
Planning application	ref/date:	08/00161/FUL 28/01/08						
Local Planning Autho	ority:	Milton Keynes Council						
Date of fieldwork:		May & June 2008						
Client:		G T Homes Ltd						
		c/o R A Hollowood						
		The Pool House						
		School Lane						
		Loughton						
		Milton Keynes						
		MK5 8AT						
Contact name:		Mr Alex Gerra						

## **Internal Quality Check**

Primary Author:	Carina Summerfield-Hill	Date:	12 <sup>th</sup> September 2008
Revisions:	Bob Zeepvat	Date:	29 <sup>th</sup> September 2008
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Edited/Checked By:		Date:	

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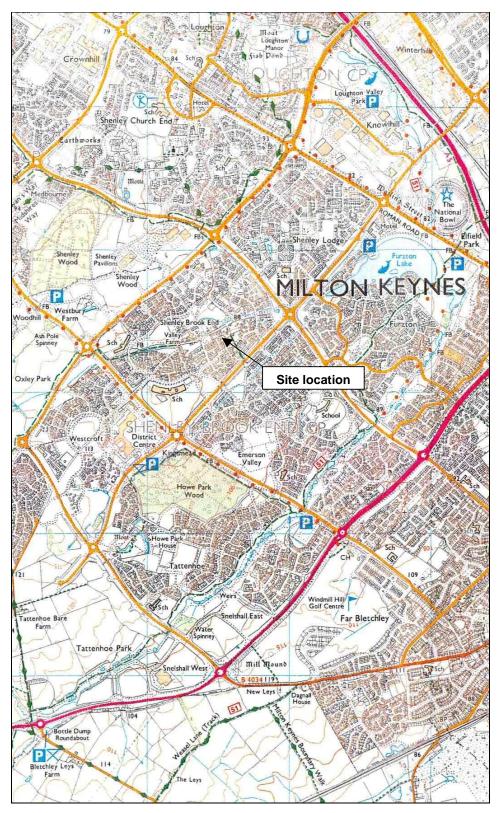


Figure 1: General location (*scale 1:25,000*)

## Summary

In May and June 2008 a watching brief was carried out at 9a Whaddon Road, Shenley Brook End, Milton Keynes, during the construction of an extension to an existing house and construction of a garage. Four visits were made to the site in order to monitor the excavation of the footing trenches for the new buildings. No archaeological remains were observed, and it is unlikely that the construction works had a significant impact upon buried archaeological remains.

# 1. Introduction

1.1 In May/June 2008 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out a watching brief at 9a Whaddon Road, Shenley Brook End, Milton Keynes. The project was commissioned by *G T Homes Ltd*, and the work was agreed on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *Milton Keynes Council*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), the *Milton Keynes Archaeological Officer*. The project was undertaken according to ASC's standard method statement for watching briefs. The relevant planning application reference and date is 08/0016/FUL, 28/01/08.

## 1.2 **Planning Background**

This watching brief was required under the terms of *Planning Policy Guidance Note* 16 (PPG16), as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site.

## 1.3 Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd (ASC) is an independent archaeological practice providing a full range of archaeological services including consultancy, field evaluation, mitigation and post-excavation studies, historic building recording and analysis. ASC is recognised as a *Registered Archaeological Organisation* by the Institute of Field Archaeologists, in recognition of its high standards and working practices.

### 1.4 Management

The project was managed by Karin Semmelmann BA MA MIFA, and was carried out under the overall direction of Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

### 1.5 The Site

### 1.5.1 Location & Description

The site is situated in Shenley Brook End, in the administrative district of Milton Keynes and is centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) SP8348 3541 (Fig. 1). The site lies on the south side of Whaddon Road, and comprises a rectangular plot of land, of c.1300sq m (Fig. 2).

### 1.5.2 *Geology & Topography*

The soils of the site and surrounding area are described as the Hanslope Association, consisting of slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils. Some slowly permeable non-calcareous clayey soils. Slight risk of water erosion

(Soil Survey 1983, 411d). The underlying geology comprises *Quaternary Till* (BGS, Sheet 220) and Oxford Clay.

1.5.3 Proposed Development

The proposed development comprised the demolition of an existing conservatory, followed by the erection of a single storey rear extension, two-storey side and rear extensions, and the erection of a garage (Fig. 3).



Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

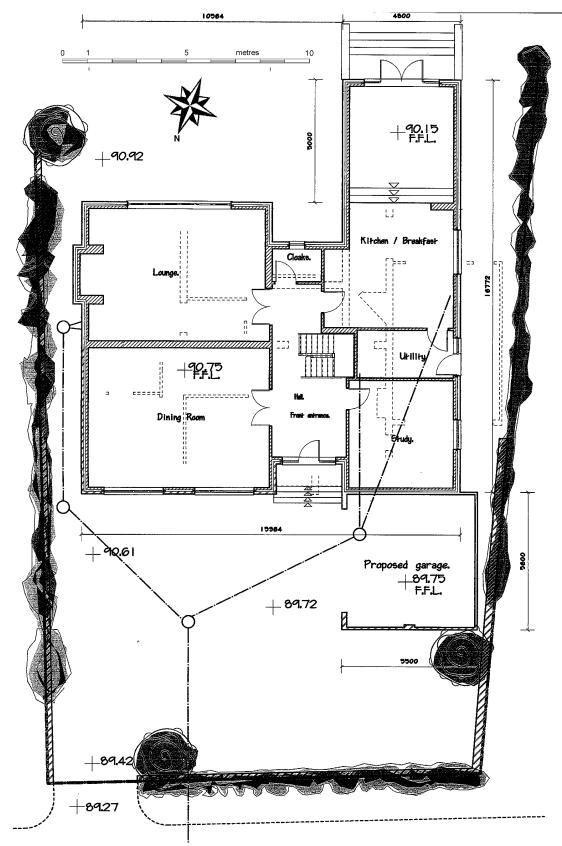


Figure 3: Development plan (scale as shown)

## 2. Aims and Methods

#### 2.1 *Aims*

The aims of the watching brief were:

- To ensure any archaeological features were fully recorded and interpreted
- To ensure any significant evidence was recorded and analysed to appropriate standards

#### 2.2 *Standards*

The work conformed to the requirements of the AA, the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

#### 2.3 *Methods*

The work was carried out as agreed with the AA, in line with ASC's standard specification for watching briefs (Appendix 1), which describes:

• A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording during any development works likely to affect archaeological remains.

#### 2.4 Constraints

Due to a lack of communication from the contractor the excavation of the footings of parts of the lounge, dining room, and the garage was not monitored (Fig. 3).

# 3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 The following section provides a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the development site and its environs. The site lies within an area of archaeological and historical interest, and has the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods.

#### 3.2 *Early Prehistoric* (*before 600BC*) There is little evidence for prehistoric activity in

There is little evidence for prehistoric activity in the Shenley area. A general background scatter of Mesolithic and Neolithic flints, and occasional Bronze Age artefacts, have been recorded by metal detectors, and from excavations of later periods (Ivens 1993, 131).

## 3.3 *Iron Age* (600BC-AD43)

A number of more substantial archaeological remains have been discovered from the late Iron Age. For example, at North Furzton, in the southeast of Shenley, a stock farmer's habitation site was excavated, dating to the first century BC (Ivens 1993, 131-134). Iron Age and early Roman field boundary ditches have been discovered beneath the later medieval settlement at Westbury-by-Shenley (Zeepvat 1991, 49-63).

## 3.4 **Roman** (AD43-c.450)

In the Roman period the Milton Keynes area fell within the *civitas* (tribal area) of the *Catuvellauni*. The nearest towns were *Magiovinium* (near Fenny Stratford) to the south, and *Lactodorum* (Towcester) to the northwest. The road linking them follows the present alignment of V4 Watling Street, *c*.1km northeast of the site (Mynard 1987, 24, MK77). Traces of Roman activity have been found throughout Shenley parish. An extensive series of field-systems used throughout most of the Roman period have been discovered in Westbury, which may also indicate a settlement within the area. A tessellated pavement was uncovered at Dovecote Farm (RCHM 1914, 245; Ivens 1993, 134), suggesting the presence of a villa, though no supporting evidence has yet come to light.

### 3.5 Saxon (c.450-1066)

Little is known about the Shenleys between the end of the Roman period and the Norman Conquest. The name Shenley (*scienan-liage, i.e.* 'bright clearing') could indicate a new Saxon settlement in a wooded area (Ivens 1993, 134). Saxon artefacts have been found at Shenley Church End, the later medieval deserted village of Westbury (Ivens *et al* 1995, 1-5) and the southern part of Shenley Brook End. A number of 7<sup>th</sup>-century burials have been excavated beneath the later medieval settlement at Westbury. Two contemporary wells, each containing a wooden ladder, were also discovered a few metres from the burials (Ivens 1993, 134).

## 3.6 *Medieval* (1066-1500)

The Domesday Survey (1086) records four separate holdings in Shenley, two in Church End and two in Brook End (Ivens *et al* 1993, 134). Settlement in the area was dominated by two villages, Westbury-by-Shenley to the north of the site, and Tattenhoe to the south (Ivens *et al* 1995, 1-5). A number of medieval earthworks survive in the area including examples at Childs Way *c*.1km northwest of the site, and

at Tattenhoe, *c*.1km south of the site. Throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods the site probably comprised open land.

3.7 **Post-Medieval** (1500-1900)

The village of Shenley Brook End probably comprised a loosely linked group of farms, including Shenley Lodge. This was formerly known as East Green and dates to c.1600. Dovecote Farm, now a modern farmhouse, was probably built on the site of an earlier medieval farmhouse. The latter is marked on the Salden map of 1599. Other examples include Valley Farm, dating to c.1600, Emerson's Farm, and Westbury Farm (Ivens 1993, 137).

## 3.8 *Modern* (1900-present)

Today Shenley Brook End is a village within the new city of Milton Keynes. The 1956 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 scale map shows the site to be open land. Shenley Brook End was incorporated into Milton Keynes when it was established as a new town in 1967. The historic village of Shenley Brook End is now at the core of a new district.

# 4. **Results & Conclusions**

### 4.1 *Results*

Four visits were made to the site between 29<sup>th</sup> May 2008 and 5<sup>th</sup> June 2008 in order to monitor the removal of the footings of the existing building and the excavation of footings for replacement structures. The extent of these observations is shown in Fig. 4: site monitoring sheets are reproduced in Appendix 2.

The natural soil layers were observed following the removal of the original footings and during the cutting of the foundation trenches for the extensions. The undisturbed natural strata consisted of pale yellowish brown, grey mottled clay. This was overlain by a 0.55m thick horizon of dark grey silt containing flecks of charcoal. This is interpreted as redeposited material, but no artefacts were present. This horizon was sealed by a layer of redeposited yellowish brown clay c.0.3m thick, which was in turn overlain by c.0.15m depth of topsoil (Plates 1 and 2).

A single sherd of pottery and part of a stem of a clay pipe were observed. As they were of obvious  $19^{th}/20^{th}$ -century date and not archaeologically significant, they were not retained.

### 4.2 *Conclusions*

The watching brief confirmed that no features or finds of archaeological significance were present. The natural stratum was observed across the site. This was overlain by a series of layers of redeposited material, containing a small assemblage of  $19^{th}/20^{th}$ -century artefacts. No significant archaeological deposits or artefacts were observed and it is unlikely that the works had a significant impact upon archaeological remains.

### 4.3 *Confidence Rating*

The work took place in both damp and sunny weather conditions, and a high proportion of excavated areas were observed during the monitoring. Consequently, the confidence rating attached to this watching brief is high.

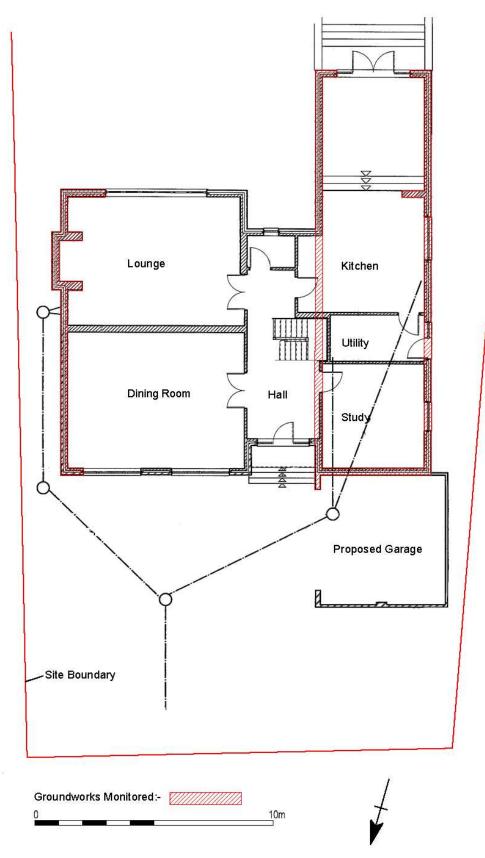


Figure 4: Archaeological monitoring (scale 1:150)



Plate. 1: Detail of soil layers on the eastern side of site



Plate. 2: Soil horizons at the south end of the site

## 5. Acknowledgements

The author is grateful to Mr Alex Gerra of *G T Homes Ltd* for commissioning the watching brief. The project was monitored on behalf of the local planning authority, *Milton Keynes Council* by Nick Crank.BSc AIFA.

The fieldwork was undertaken for *ASC Ltd* by Jonathan Hunn BA PhD MIFA and Calli Rouse BA PIFA. The report was prepared by Carina Summerfield-Hill BA MSc and edited by David Fell BA MA MIFA.

## 6. Archive

- 6.1 The project archive will comprise:
  - 1. Clients site plans
  - 2. Site Monitoring Sheets
  - 3. Site record drawings
  - 4. List of photographs
  - 5. CDROM with copies of all digital files
  - 6. Watching Brief report
- 6.2 The archive will be deposited with *Buckinghamshire County Museum*.

## 7. References

#### Standards & Specifications

- 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*).
- McKinley J.I. & Roberts C. 1993 *Excavation and Post-Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains*. Institute of Field Archaeologists Technical Paper **13**.

#### Secondary Sources

BGS British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology.

- Ivens, R. J. 1993 The Shenleys in Croft, R. A. & Mynard, D.C. The Changing Landscape of Milton Keynes, 131-143. Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society Monograph Series 6 (Aylesbury).
- Ivens, R, Busby, P, and Shepherd, N. 1995 *Tattenhoe and Westbury*. Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society Monograph Series 8 (Aylesbury).
- Mynard, D.C. (ed.), 1987 *Roman Milton Keynes*. Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society Monograph Series **1** (Aylesbury).
- Page, W. (ed.), 1927 *The Victoria History of the County of Buckingham, vol* **4**. Dawsons of Pall Mall (London).
- Soil Survey 1983 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend (Hapenden).
- Zeepvat, R.J. 1991 'The Milton Keynes Project', Records of Buckinghamshire 33, 49-63.

# **Appendix 1: ASC Watching Brief Method Statement**

#### 1 Definition

An archaeological watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any earth-moving operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons (IFA 1999, 2). It normally involves the monitoring by an experienced archaeologist of ground disturbance on a development (eg. footing and service trenches, reduction of levels, landscaping).

#### 2 Standards

All work will conform to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance Notes* and *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000), to current English Heritage guidelines (EH 1991), to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*, and to any specific requirements of the Planning Archaeologist (PA).

#### 3 General Methodology: Observation & Recording

- 3.1 Archaeological observation and recording normally involves visits when groundworks are under way, and requires close co-operation and communication between contractor and archaeologist. In many cases only regular, relatively brief visits are required (an *intermittent* watching brief). In certain circumstances (e.g. where archaeological features are known or strongly suspected to exist), the archaeologist's continuous presence may be required (an *intensive* watching brief). In the absence of specific instruction, professional judgement will be exercised to determine the level of monitoring.
- 3.2 Each site visit will be recorded on ASC's *Site Monitoring Sheet* (example attached). These sheets should record what is observed, including sketches where appropriate. A photographic record (see 4.4, below) will also be maintained throughout the watching brief. Plans of the development provided by the client will normally form the basis for recording the location of archaeological features and finds.
- 3.3 If significant archaeological remains are identified during the watching brief, a meeting will be arranged between ASC, the client, and the PA in order to agree an appropriate investigation. Provision to cover this has been made in the project estimates. Detailed investigation will follow the methods set out in the following section.

#### 4 *General Methodology: Investigation (if required)*

- 4.1 Excavation will be carried out by hand. Maximum depths of excavation will conform to current Health & Safety regulations.
- 4.2 At the start of fieldwork temporary bench marks will be established, to be tied in subsequently to an appropriate Ordnance Survey bench mark. All plans and section drawings will be annotated with relative heights derived from these benchmarks. Plans will be related to the OS National Grid. Overall site plans will normally be drawn to a scale of 1:100 or 1:50: detailed plans of specific areas or features may be drawn to 1:20 or 1:10: burials will always be drawn at the latter scale. Sections will be drawn at 1:20 or 1:10, depending upon size and complexity.
- 4.3 A detailed record of all archaeological contexts will be maintained on individual pro-forma record sheets, designed to meet current professional standards. Each context will be individually numbered in a single sequence, and will be described in terms of dimensions, shape, fill type and inclusions, artefact content, samples and interpretation. A register of contexts will be maintained, and context records will be cross-referenced to all other records.
- 4.4 The primary photographic record will normally be compiled in 35mm black & white print format, supplemented by digital photography, illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. A photographic register will be maintained on ASC's *Photographic Record Sheet*, fully cross-referenced. Digital photographs will be used to illustrate the report. Metric scales will be used in all photographs.

- 4.5 All finds relating to the archaeological record of the site will be collected with reference to context and location. Finds of particular significance (small finds) will be recorded three-dimensionally on site, and described on individual pro-forma record sheets. A register will be kept of all finds. Finds processing may take place during or after fieldwork, and will entail cleaning, marking, packaging, quantification and initial classification. Conservation of artefacts will normally take place after processing, but primary conservation of delicate artefacts may be required on site.
- 4.6 Provision will be made for the sampling and analysis of environmental data by appropriate specialists. Sampling will be carried out in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (EH 2002). All samples will be recorded on individual pro-forma record sheets, and a register of samples will be maintained. Specialists will be required to submit copies of the base data from environmental analysis for inclusion in the site archive.
- 4.7 Any human remains encountered will normally be recorded and left *in situ*. The removal of human remains in consecrated ground requires a Home Office licence, and investigation or removal of remains must be agreed between ASC, the client, and other appropriate authorities. For the excavation and recording of human remains, current IFA guidelines will be followed (McKinley & Roberts 1993). In general, due care and respect will be accorded to any human remains, and site staff are required not to discuss their discovery in public, so as not to attract undesirable interest.
- 4.8 Due concern will be given to the physical security of all archaeological features, deposits, artefacts and records, both on and off site. All reasonable measures will be taken to secure their protection before, during and after excavation.

#### 5 *Reporting*

- 5.1 Upon completion of the watching brief, an initial report on its findings will normally prepared within four weeks, subject to specialist input. This will typically include:
  - a concise non-technical summary of the results
  - information relating to the circumstances of the project
  - background information about the site
  - a summary of the aims of the project and the methods used
  - a description of the results, supported by appropriate illustrative material
  - a conclusion, summarising the results and examining their significance
  - a confidence rating
  - the contents and location of the archive
  - appendices (record sheets, specialist reports, reference works etc.)
  - an SMR summary sheet, if required
- 5.2 Copies of the report will be provided as required to the client, to the PA, and to other bodies as required. Eight copies are normally produced: a charge may be made for providing any additional copies. Interim reports will be submitted to the relevant period and/or regional journals within one year of the project's completion.
- 5.3 Once the final report has been accepted by the PA, an OASIS fieldwork summary form will be completed and submitted to the Archaeology Data Service.

#### 6 Archive

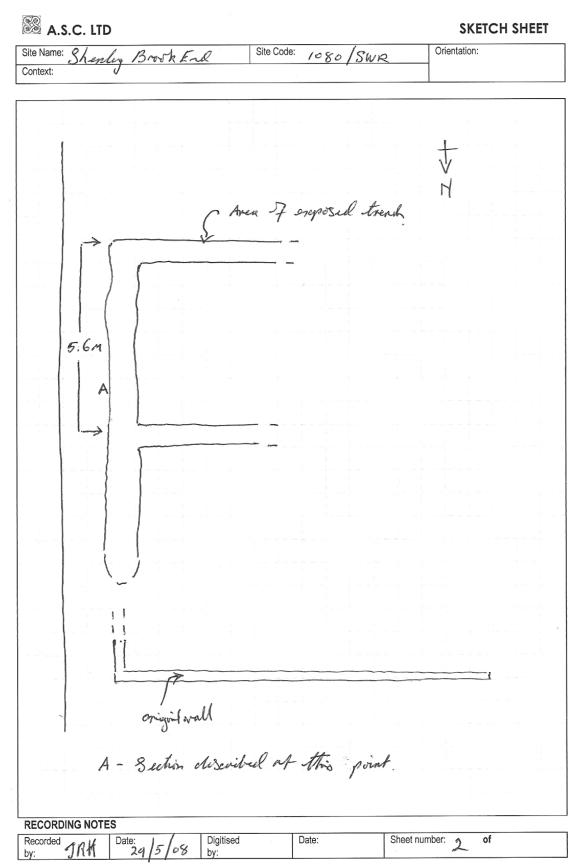
- 6.1 All archaeological projects generate a quantity of records and related material Together, these constitute the *project archive*. While the report may describe the project's findings in some detail, the archive contains the evidence on which the report is based, and its importance cannot be too highly stressed. By its nature, archaeological fieldwork cannot normally be repeated, so the archive often constitutes the only surviving evidence for past activity on a site, and arrangements must therefore be made for its deposition and long-term storage.
- 6.2 At the start of a project, ASC will initiate arrangements for archive deposition. On completion of the reporting stages of the project, the archive will be prepared for long-term storage. If

arrangements for deposition cannot be concluded, ASC will store the archive until deposition can be arranged.

- 7 *Staffing* 
  - 7.1 The project will be under the overall direction of **Bob Zeepvat** BA MIFA, an established archaeologist with extensive experience in managing archaeological projects, of a wide range of fieldwork in both rural and urban environments, of post-excavation, publication and presentation projects, and of work on a wide range of historic buildings and structures.
  - 7.2 Staff undertaking watching briefs will all be experienced archaeologists, of at least Assistant Project Officer grade. Less experienced staff may assist with any detailed investigation, under supervision.

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# **Appendix 2: Monitoring Sheets**

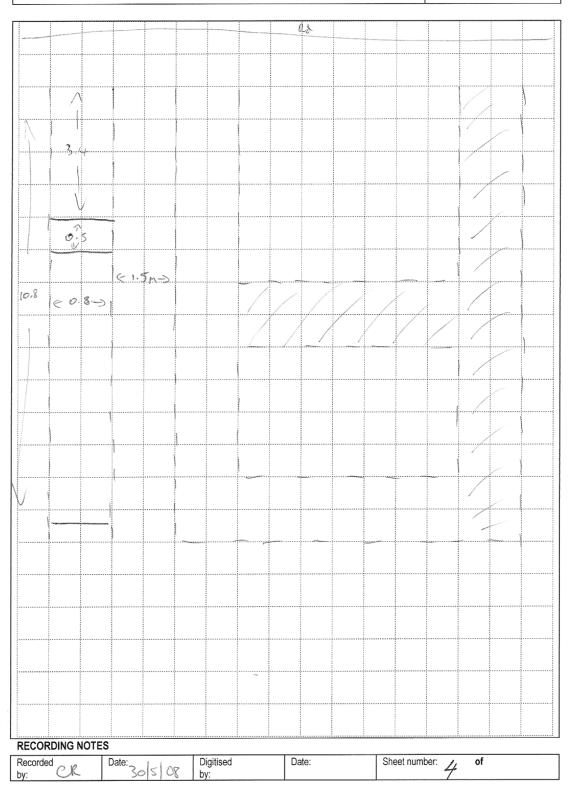


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# **Appendix 3: List of Photographs**

SITE NAME: 9a Whaddon Road, Shenley Brook End, MK SITE NO/CODE: 1080/SWR						
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject			
1		001	General shot of site			
2		002	General shot of site			
3		003	General shot of site			
4		004	Site driveway and road			
5		005	Neighbouring houses			
6		006	Site from road			
7		007	Detail of stratigraphy			
8		008	Detail of stratigraphy			
9		009	Detail of stratigraphy			
10		010	General shot of demolition			
11		011	Footings			
12		012	Footings			
13		013	Footings showing stratigraphy			
14		014	Footings showing stratigraphy			
15		015	Footings north side of site			
16		016	Footings north side of site			
17		017	Footings north side of site			
18		018	Footings north side of site			
19		019	Footings north side of site			
20		020	Detail of soil horizons			
21		021	Detail of soil horizons			
22		022	Detail of stratigraphy			
23		023	General excavation shot			
24		024	Footings north side of site			
25		025	Footings north side of site			
26		026	Wall/foundation for former building at south side of northernmost trench			
27		027	Wall/foundation for former building at south side of northernmost trench			
28		028	Footings			
29		029	Footings			

# **Appendix 4: ASC OASIS Form**

	PROJECT	T DETAILS					
Project Name:	9a Whaddon Road, Shenley Brook End, Milton Keynes, MK5 7AF						
Short Description:	In May and June 2008 a watching brief was maintained during the excavation of groundworks for a demolition and extension at 9a Whaddon Road, Shenley Brook End, Milton Keynes. The groundworks were monitored and no archaeological features were observed, and it is unlikely that the construction works had a significant impact upon buried archaeological remains.						
Project Type: (indicate all that apply)	Watching Brief						
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	None	Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	None				
Current land use:	Residential	Future work: (yes / no / unknown)	No				
Monument type:	N/a	Monument period:	N/a				
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)							
PROJECT LOCATION							
County:	Buckinghamshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	SP 8348 3541				
District:	Milton Keynes	Parish:	Shenley Brook End				
Site address: (with postcode if known)							
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	c. 28m x 46m	Height OD: (metres)	<i>c</i> . 88m				
PROJECT CREATORS							
Organisation: Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd							
Project brief originator:	N/a	Project design originator:	N/a				
Project Manager:	K Semmelmann BA MA MIFA	Director/Supervisor:	Jonathan Hunn BA PhD MIFA				
Sponsor / funding body:							
PROJECT DATE							
Start date:	29 <sup>th</sup> May 2008	End date:	5 <sup>th</sup> June 2008				
PROJECT ARCHIVES							
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)					
Physical:	N/a	N/a					
Paper:	N/a	N/a					
Digital:	ASC Ltd	Watching Brief Report, photographs, maps					
BIBLIOGRAF	BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)						
Title:	Watching Brief, 9a Whaddon Road, Shenley Brook End, Milton Keynes, MK5 7AF						
Serial title & volume:	title & volume: ASC Ltd Report ref. 1080/SWR/1						
Author(s):	: Carina Summerfield-Hill BA MSc						
Page nos	27	Date:	12th September 2008				