

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:
CEDAR COTTAGE
VILLAGE ROAD
DENHAM
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

NGR: TQ 0429 8695

on behalf of Mr P Williams



Carina Summerfield-Hill BA MSc

September 2009

ASC: 1182/DCC/2



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Site Data

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>ASC project code:</i> | DCC | <i>ASC Project No:</i> | 1182 |
| <i>OASIS ref:</i> | archaeol2-64084 | <i>Event/Accession no:</i> | AYBCM: 2009.206 |
| <i>County:</i> | Buckinghamshire | | |
| <i>Village/Town:</i> | Denham | | |
| <i>Civil Parish:</i> | Denham | | |
| <i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i> | TQ 0429 8695 | | |
| <i>Extent of site:</i> | c.146 sq m | | |
| <i>Present use:</i> | Garden | | |
| <i>Planning proposal:</i> | Single storey rear extension | | |
| <i>Planning application ref/date:</i> | 08/01691/FUL | | |
| <i>Local Planning Authority:</i> | South Bucks District Council | | |
| <i>Date of fieldwork:</i> | 01/09/09 | | |
| <i>Client:</i> | Mr P Williams Cedar Cottage Village Road Denham UB9 5BH | | |
| <i>Contact name:</i> | Mr P Williams | | |

Internal Quality Check

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|----------|
| <i>Primary Author:</i> | Carina Summerfield-Hill | <i>Date:</i> | 07/09/09 |
| <i>Revisions:</i> | | <i>Date:</i> | |
| <i>Edited/Checked By:</i> | Bob Zeepvat | <i>Date:</i> | 07/09/09 |

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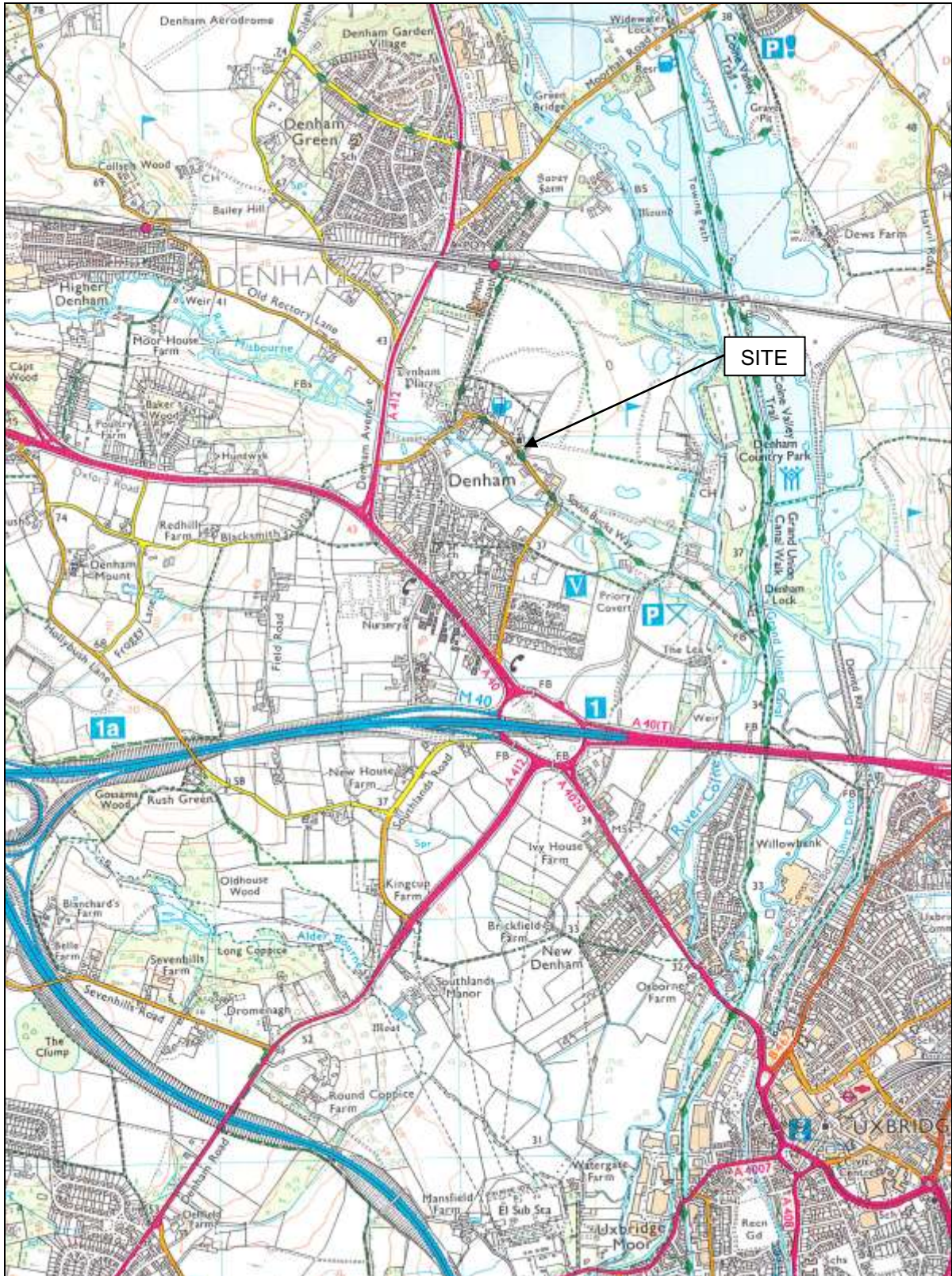


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In September 2009 a watching brief was carried out at Cedar Cottage, Village Road, Denham during the construction of a single storey rear extension to the existing cottage. The site has been much disturbed due to services and a former concrete pond and stream. Therefore no archaeological features or deposits were observed.

1. Introduction

1.1 In September 2009 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief at Cedar Cottage, Village Road, Denham. The project was commissioned by *Mr P Williams*, and was carried out according to a brief (Alqassar 2009) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *South Buckinghamshire District Council*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), *Buckinghamshire County Council Archaeological Service*, and a project design (Rouse 2009) prepared by ASC. The relevant planning application reference is 08/01691/FUL.

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 located in the district of South Buckinghamshire, within the parish and village of Denham, at NGR TQ 0429 8695 (Fig. 1).

The site is located to the south of St Mary's Church, and the churchyard forms the northern boundary of the site. The site is accessed from Village Road, which forms the western boundary of the site (Fig. 2).

1.5.2 *Geology & Topography*

The soils of the area belong to the *Park Gate Association*, and are likely to comprise *deep stoneless silty soils variably affected by groundwater*, over

Aeolian silty drift (Soil Survey 1983, 841e). The underlying geology comprises Quaternary Pleistocene and Holocene Taplow gravel (BGS, Sheet 255).

1.5.3 *Development*

The development comprises the construction of a single storey extension to the existing cottage (Fig. 3).

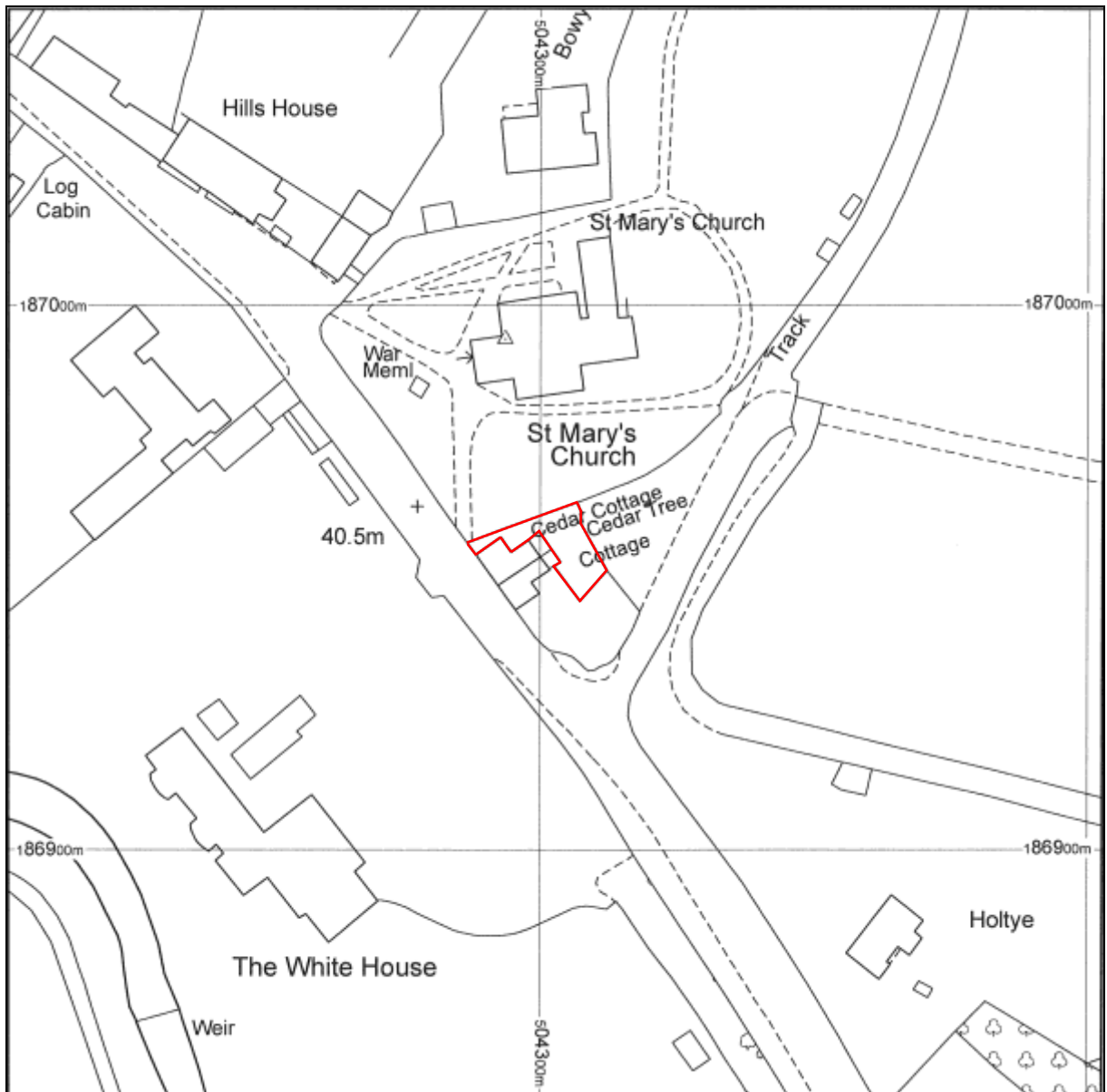


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

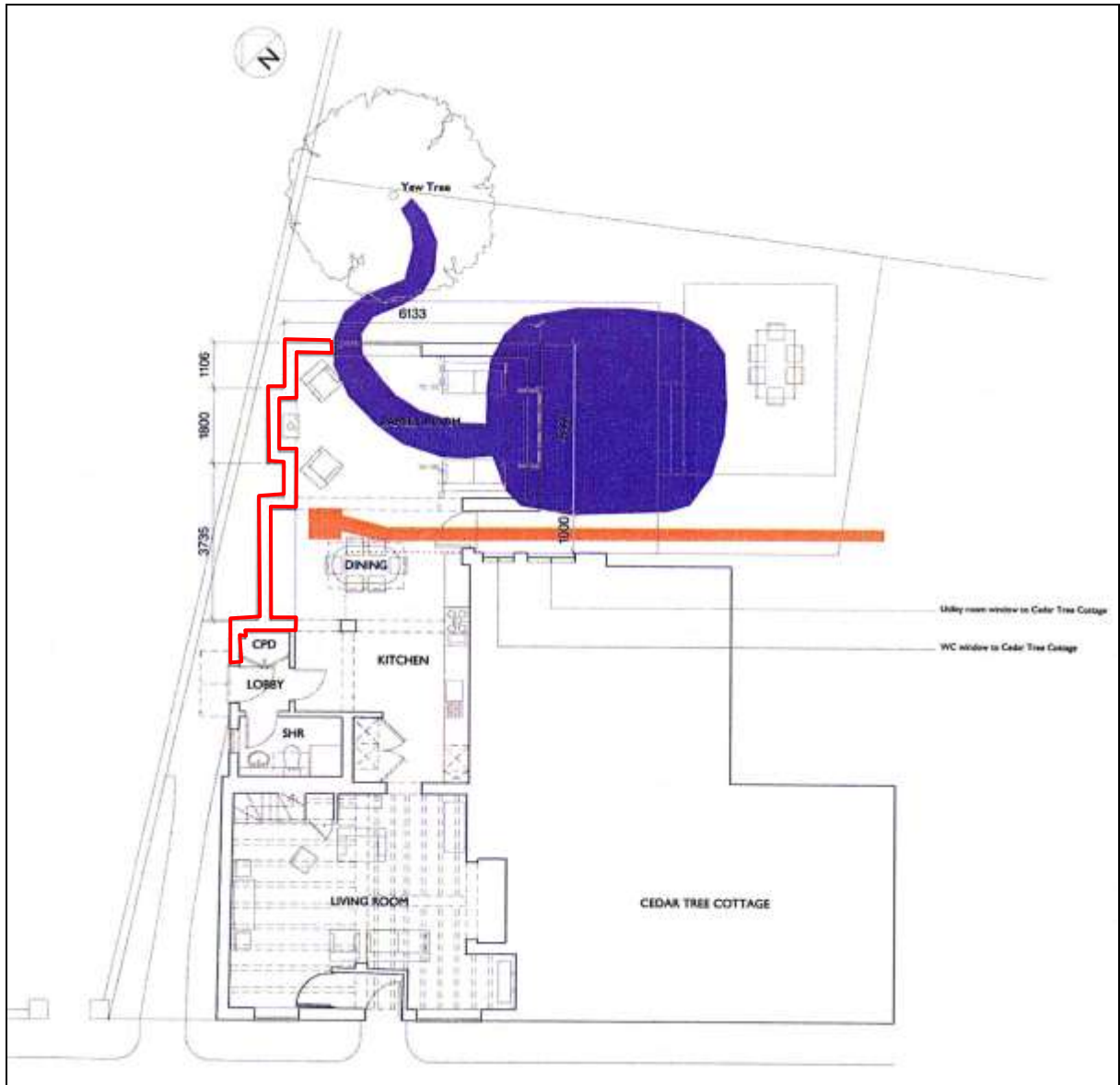


Figure 3: Development, with area monitored highlighted in red. The area of a former pond (now infilled) is shown in blue (*not to scale*)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 *Aims*

As described in the brief (Section 5), the aims of the watching brief were:

- To identify, appropriately investigate and record any archaeological remains revealed by the ground works.

2.2 *Standards*

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute for 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 according to the brief (Section 6), which required:

- Groundworks to be undertaken with an appropriate machine, equipped with a toothless ditching bucket.
- A comprehensive watching brief to be carried out during the mechanical stripping of top and subsoil.
- Results of the comprehensive watching brief to be notified to the AA and further watching brief visits to be undertaken to monitor other intrusive groundworks if required.
- If archaeological remains are discovered at any stage of groundworks the AA is to be notified.
- Sufficient time to be allowed by the client to allow appropriate investigation of discovered archaeological remains in order that they are dated, characterised and appropriately recorded.
- If unexpected archaeological remains of sufficient significance are discovered an appropriate mitigation strategy is to be implemented, subsequent to agreement with the AA and the client.
- Finds to be collected and recorded as appropriate.

2.4 *Constraints*

No constraints were identified during the fieldwork, and the work was carried out according to the aims and methods detailed in the project design.

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.

This section has been compiled with information from the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and other readily available sources.

3.2 ***Prehistoric*** (before 600BC – AD43)

Evidence for prehistoric activity is limited mainly to flint scatters found during fieldwalking (HER5751), or by chance (HER0821 and HER4460). In addition to this, a Bronze Age sword was found in the late 18th – early 19th century, c.300m to the west of the site.

3.3 ***Roman*** (AD43-c.450)

The HER records a Roman road c.600m south west of the development site, which follows the general route of the modern A40. It is thought that this road connected London with the south Oxfordshire region, passing through Middlesex into Buckinghamshire (HER4399). There is only one recorded find dating to the Roman period within the study area, a coin of Constantine I (AD307-337), discovered c.150m to the north east of the development site.

3.4 ***Saxon - Medieval*** (c.450 -1500)

The settlement at Denham is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086, suggesting it has its origins in the late Saxon or early medieval period. It also mentions the presence of two mills in Denham (HER2893), which are identified on later mapping as being located c.300m to the southeast of the development site. There is also documentary evidence for a medieval market and fair at Denham, granted by charter in early 1227 by King Henry III to Henry de Capella (HER9844).

There are several listed buildings in the village of Denham, including The Old Bakery (HER5062). Whilst this Grade II listed building was being restored, it was discovered that the building started life as a medieval base-cruck hall, which has been dated to the mid 14th century, based on archaeological and documentary evidence.

The church of St Mary is located immediately to the north of the development site, with the churchyard boundary forming the northern boundary of the site. Although much updated in the 18th and 19th centuries, the earliest features within the building date to the 13th century.

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

Located on the development site itself, Cedar Cottage, and the adjacent Cedar Tree Cottage, are both Grade II listed buildings dated to the 17th century.

A bronze purse mount with traces of green enamelling dating to the 15th or 16th century was found c.450m to the southeast of the development site.

Denham Place is a large 17th century brick mansion, built by Sir Robert/Roger Hall, situated *c.*500m to the north west of the development site. It is thought to be on the site of the former Denham Manor, which belonged to the Peckham family (HER4370). Another large 17th century manor house, known as Denham Court, is located *c.*800m to the east of the development site. Largely rebuilt in the 18th and 19th centuries, it is surrounded by an ornamental watercourse, and has a surviving fishpond (HER2149).

3.6 *Modern* (1900-present)

During the modern period, the village of Denham has expanded considerably to the southwest of the development site, probably as a result of the opening of major transport routes nearby, such as the railway, *c.*1km to the north, and the M25, 2.5km to the west.

4. Results

4.1 The footings were excavated with the use of a mini digger with a 0.8m toothless bucket (Plate 1). The northwest footing was the primary area to be monitored; this was because the development area had been greatly disturbed by a former concrete fishpond, stream and soil channel (Fig. 3).

4.2 *Northwest Footing* (Fig. 3; Plates 2-3)

The northwest footing measured *c.*0.8m width, *c.*7m in length and between 1.15-1.3m in depth. The stratigraphy comprised of *c.*0.3m of patio and sand, underlying which is *c.*0.85-1.0m of a mid brown, loose, clay silt layer with moderate small sub-angular/rounded and rounded stones, underlying which is a light orangey brown, loose, sandy/gravelly natural strata with frequent small sub-angular/rounded and rounded stones. The ground was much disturbed due to the laying of the patio, an earlier soakaway, and numerous services running through the area. No archaeological features or deposits were observed.



Plate 1: Overall footing trench, looking NW



Plate 2: Northwest area of footing trench, looking east



Plate 3: Northwest area of footing trench, looking west

5. Conclusions

5.1 Due to the high level of disturbance encountered within the monitored area, the presence of buried modern services and a former concrete pond and stream, no archaeological finds or deposits were observed within the footing trench.

5.2 *Confidence Rating*

The work was carried out in good conditions and can be given a high confidence rating.

6. Acknowledgements

The watching brief was commissioned by *Mr P Williams*. The writer is grateful to Mr and Mrs Williams for their assistance. The project was monitored by Eliza Alqassar of BCAS on behalf of the local planning authority.

The project was managed for ASC by Karin Semmelmann MA MIFA. Fieldwork was carried out by Carina Summerfield-Hill BA MSc. The report was prepared by Carina Summerfield-Hill and edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

7. Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

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

7.2 The archive will be deposited with *Buckinghamshire County Museum* (AYBCM: 2009.206).

8. References

Standards & Specifications

- Alqassar, E. 2008 *Generic Brief for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service.
- 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)*.
- Rouse, C. 2009 *Project Design: Cedar Cottage, Village Road, Denham, Buckinghamshire*. ASC, ref. ASC:1182/DCC/1.

Secondary Sources

- BGS *British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology*.
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).

Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

| A.S.C. LTD | | ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD | | |
|--|-------------|--|-----------|------------------|
| Project: CEDAR COTTAGE, DENHAM | | Project No/Code: 1182 / DCC | | Sheet: 1 of 1 |
| Client/Developer | | Date of visit: 01/09/09 | | |
| Contact: | | Phone: | | |
| Duration of Visit (inc. travel): | Start: 8:30 | Finish: 16:00 | | |
| Completed by: CS | | | | |
| Development Type: | | | | |
| Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Services | Roads | Levelling | Quarrying |
| | | | | Pipelines |
| | | | | Other (specify): |
| Site & weather conditions: GOOD DRY SUNNY WEATHER | | | | |
| Observations: OBSERVED THE FOOTING TO THE NEW EXTENSION. THE MAIN AREA OBSERVED WAS THE NORTHWEST AREA OF THE FOOTINGS:- c. 0.8m WIDTH c. 7m LENGTH c. 1.15 - 1.30m DEPTH STRATIGRAPHY:- c. 0.3m PAZIO AND SAND c. 0.85 - 1m: MID BROWN, LOOSE, CLAY SILT LAYER WITH MODERATE SMALL SUB-ANGULAR/ ROUNDED AND ROUNDED STONES. NATURAL STRATA:- LIGHT, CRANGELY BROWN, LOOSE, SANDY/ GRAVELLY, FREQUENT SMALL SUB-ANGULAR/ ROUNDED AND ROUNDED STONES. | | | | |
| Comments: GROUND MUCH DISTURBED DUE TO SERVICES, LAYING OF PAZIO. REST OF FOOTING AREA DISTURBED BY CEMENT FISHBOND AND STREAM, AND BACKFILLED PREVIOUSLY | | | | |

Appendix 3: List of Photographs

| SITE NAME: Cedar Cottage, Village Road, Denham, Buckinghamshire | | | SITE NO/CODE: 1182/DCC |
|---|-----|---------|---|
| Shot | B&W | Digital | Subject |
| 1 | | √ | General site shot, looking north |
| 2 | | √ | General site shot, looking north |
| 3 | | √ | General site shot, looking west |
| 4 | | √ | General site shot, looking west |
| 5 | √ | √ | Northwest footing trench, looking east |
| 6 | √ | √ | Northwest footing trench, looking east |
| 7 | √ | √ | Footing trench, looking east (west facing section) Stream |
| 8 | √ | √ | Footing trench, looking east (west facing section) Stream |
| 9 | | √ | Footing trench, looking east (west facing section) Stream |
| 10 | | √ | General site shot, looking north |
| 11 | √ | √ | Footing trench (north facing section) Cement pond |
| 12 | √ | √ | Footing trench (north facing section) Cement pond |
| 13 | | √ | Footing trench, looking north |
| 14 | | √ | Footing trench, looking NW |
| 15 | | √ | Footing trench, looking SW |
| 16 | | √ | Footing trench, looking w |

Appendix 4: ASC OASIS Form

| PROJECT DETAILS | | | |
|--|--|--|--------------------------|
| Project Name: | Cedar Cottage, Village Road, Denham, Buckinghamshire | | |
| Short Description: | In September 2009 a watching brief was carried out at Cedar Cottage, Village Road, Denham during the construction of a single storey rear extension to the existing cottage. The site has been much disturbed due to services and a former concrete pond and stream. Therefore no archaeological features or deposits were observed. | | |
| Project Type: (indicate all that apply) | Watching Brief | | |
| Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed) | Grade II Listed Building | Previous work: (eg. SMR refs) | Unknown |
| Current land use: | Garden | Future work: (yes / no / unknown) | Unknown |
| Monument type: | Cottage | Monument period: | 17 th century |
| Significant finds: (artefact type & period) | N/A | | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | | | |
| County: | Buckinghamshire | OS reference: (8 figs min) | TQ 0429 8695 |
| District: | Denham | Parish: | Denham |
| Site address: (with postcode if known) | Cedar Cottage, Village Road, Denham, Buckinghamshire, UB9 5BH | | |
| Study area: (sq. m. or ha) | c.146 sqm | Height OD: (metres) | 40.5m |
| PROJECT CREATORS | | | |
| Organisation: | Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd | | |
| Project brief originator: | Eliza Alqassar, BCAS | Project design originator: | Calli Rouse BA PIFA |
| Project Manager: | Karin Semmelmann MA MIFA | Director/Supervisor: | Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA |
| Sponsor / funding body: | Mr P Williams | | |
| PROJECT DATE | | | |
| Start date: | 01/09/09 | End date: | 01/09/09 |
| PROJECT ARCHIVES | | | |
| | Location (Accession no.) | Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets) | |
| Physical: | Buckinghamshire County Museum (AYBCM: 2009.206) | None | |
| Paper: | | Project design, report, monitoring sheet, B&W prints and negatives | |
| Digital: | | All digital files | |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report) | | | |
| Title: | Watching Brief: Cedar Cottage, Village Road, Denham, Buckinghamshire | | |
| Serial title & volume: | ASC Ltd Report ref. 1182/DCC/2 | | |
| Author(s): | Carina Summerfield-Hill BA MSc | | |
| Page nos | 17 | Date: | 07/09/09 |