

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

WATCHING BRIEF: 14 MANOR STREET BERKHAMSTED HERTS

NGR: SP 9956 0781

on behalf of Mr David Disley



Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA

MARCH 2010

ASC: 1274/BMS/1



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Site Data

| ASC project code: | 1274 | ASC Project No: | | BMS | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|--|--|
| OASIS ref: | archaeol 2- | 73450 | Event/Accession no: | DACHT: 4415 | | |
| County: | - | Hertfordshire | | | | |
| Village/Town: | | Berkhamsted | | | | |
| Civil Parish: | | Berkhamsted | | | | |
| NGR (to 8 figs): | | SP 9956 0781 | | | | |
| Extent of site: | | c.34 sq. m. | | | | |
| Present use: | | Garden | | | | |
| Planning proposal: | | Construction of detached garage | | | | |
| Planning application ref/date: | | 4/01432/09/FHA | | | | |
| Local Planning Authority: | | Dacorum Borough Council | | | | |
| Date of fieldwork: | | 09/02/2010 | | | | |
| Client: | | Mr David Disley | | | | |
| | | 14 Manor Street | | | | |
| | | Berkhamsted | | | | |
| | | Herts | | | | |
| | | HP4 2BN | | | | |
| Contact name: | | David Disley | | | | |

Internal Quality Check

| Primary Author: | Primary Author: Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA | | 2 nd March 2010 |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|
| Revisions: | | Date: | |
| Edited/Checked By: | David Fell | Date: | 2 nd March 2010 |

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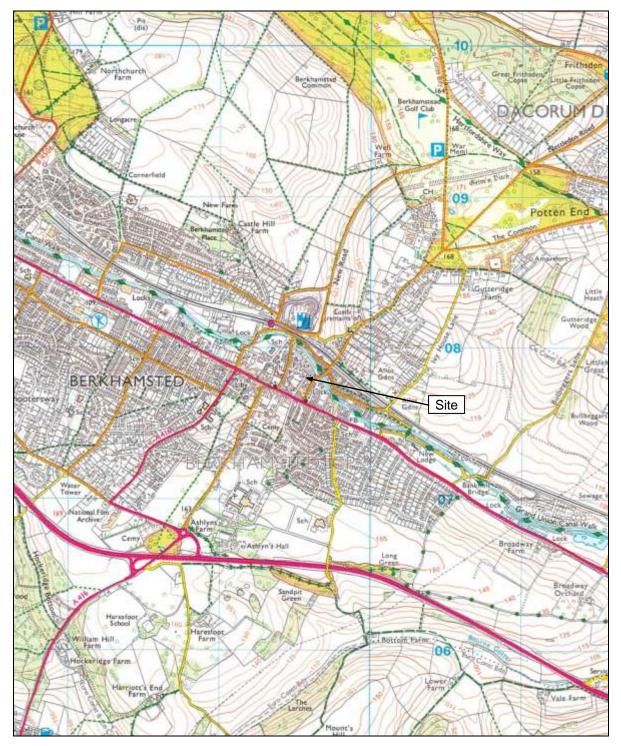


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In February 2010 a watching brief was maintained during excavations for the footings of a detached garage at 14 Manor Street, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire. The watching brief did not reveal any deposits or features of archaeological significance within the area affected by this development. The whole area was covered by a redeposited soil layer up to 0.7m thick, most likely laid down in the post-medieval period, and possibly resulting from development in the vicinity.

1. Introduction

1.1 In February 2010 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out a watching brief at 14 Manor Street, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire. The project was commissioned by Mr David Disley, and was carried out according to a standard method statement (Appendix 1), with the agreement of the Historic Environment Unit, Hertfordshire County Council, archaeological advisor (AA) to the local planning authority (LPA), Dacorum Borough Council. The relevant planning application reference is 4/01432/09/FHA.

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 The Site

1.4.1 *Location & Description*

The site is located in the town and civil parish of Berkhamsted, in the borough of Dacorum, at NGR SP 9956 0781 (Fig. 1). It lies on the west side of Manor Street, just south of its junction with Chapel Street (Fig. 2).

1.4.2 *Geology & Topography*

The soils of the area comprise the *Frome Association*, namely shallow calcareous soils, over the alluvium of the river Bulbourne (Soil Survey 1983, 812a). The underlying geology is characterised as recent and Pleistocene alluvium (BGS, Sheet 238). The site is within the valley of the river Bulbourne and lies at an elevation of c.105 m OD.

1.4.3 Proposed Development

The development comprises the construction of a detached garage and store with a total floor area of c.34 sq. m, replacing an existing smaller garage in the west corner of the rear garden (Fig. 3).

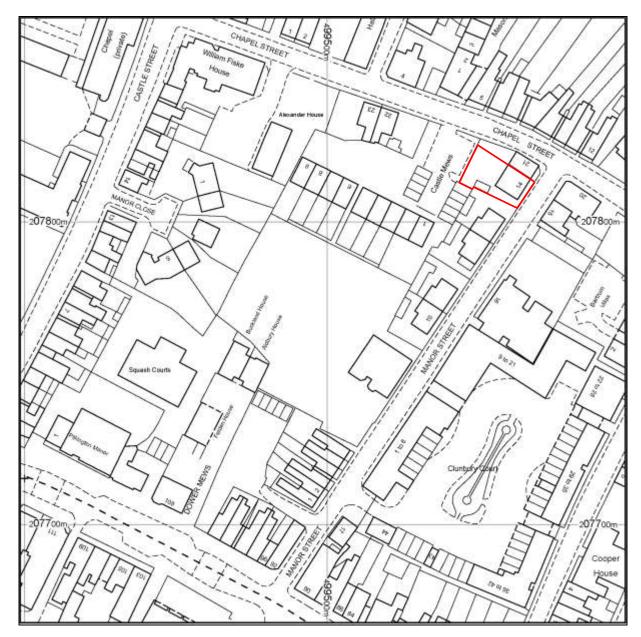


Figure 2: Site location (scale 1:1,250)

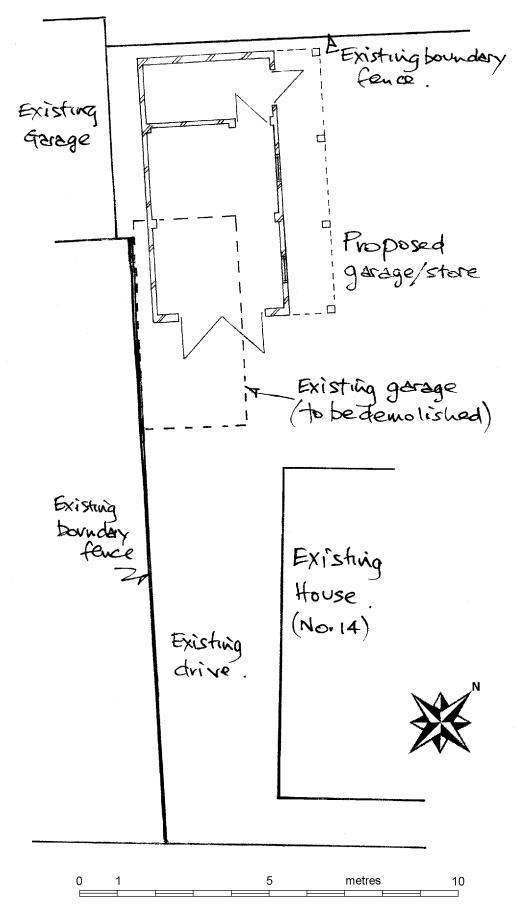


Figure 3: Site plan and proposed development (scale 1:100)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 *Aims*

The aim of the watching brief was:

• To determine the location, extent, date, nature, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains observed on site.

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), 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 normal requirements of the AA, which comprise:

- Soil and overburden stripping under archaeological supervision;
- The inspection of the sub-soil for archaeological features, deposits and artefacts;
- The rapid investigation and recording of any archaeological features or deposits present, including adequate provision of both drawn and photographic records;
- Subsoil stripping under archaeological supervision;
- The examination of any service and foundation trenches and the subsequent recording of any exposed archaeological remains, including adequate provision of both drawn and photographic records;
- Rapid examination of spoil heaps for archaeological material;
- A programme of post-fieldwork analysis, archiving, and publication.

2.4 Constraints

No constraints were encountered during the watching brief.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 Berkhamsted is an area of considerable archaeological and historical interest (*e.g.* Page 1971; Birtchnell 1960; Thompson 2004): this has been recognised by the local planning authority in the designation of the centre of the town as an *Area of Archaeological Significance* (no. 21). The site has the potential to reveal evidence of a variety of periods, but the focus of addition was considered to lie in the Saxon and medieval periods.

3.2 **Prehistoric** (before AD43)

The nature and extent of prehistoric settlement in the area is not well understood, but there is evidence to suggest that the area was occupied from the Neolithic period (McDonald 1995). The earlier prehistoric periods are not well understood but a substantial earthwork, now known as *Grim's Ditch* was constructed along the south side of the river valley during the Iron Age (Bryant & Burleigh 1995). Its purpose is not understood in detail, but it may have served as a boundary between tribal territories or differing land types (Thompson 2004, 2)

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

Berkhamsted High Street follows the approximate course of the Roman road now known as *Akeman Street* (Copeland 2009), which linked *Verulamium* (St Albans) with the Roman town at Alchester, Oxon. The development site is located *c*.150m north of the High Street. A Roman villa has been excavated *c*.3km north-west of the site at Northchurch (Thompson 2004), and evidence of Roman activity has been recorded in Castle Hill Avenue, 0.7km to the north-west (*ibid*.).

3.4 **Saxon** (c.450-1066)

The settlement at Berkhamsted probably originated during the Saxon period, but little is known of its early development. Archaeological evidence is restricted to finds of residual 10th to 12th-century pottery sherds recorded from later medieval features at 3-4 Church Gates, *c*.100m west of the development site (Hunn 2006).

3.5 *Medieval* (1066-1500)

The development site is situated within the historic core of Berkhamsted (HER 10). Prior to the foundation of the castle and the construction of St Peter's Church (below), the focus of settlement may have been the church of St James. This was possibly the original church of the Saxon and early medieval town, and was situated c.0.5km west of the development site (Thompson 2004, 9). Little is known of the church and no evidence of it remains above ground.

Berkhamsted rose in importance following the construction of the castle during the late 11^{th} century (Page 1971, 168-70). Situated c.0.4km north of the development site, the castle was probably originally constructed in timber and was later rebuilt in stone.

The castle became an important influence in the development of the town and the focus of settlement shifted to the closest point on the High Street to the Castle where the market place was laid out and the church of St Peter was constructed (HER 10;

Doggett & Hunn 1985). The market place was situated c.150m west of the development site. It was first recorded in the early 13^{th} century (HER 9188) and was a prominent feature of the town into the 20^{th} century. A timber framed market house was constructed in 1587, and survived until 1854 (HER 9184).

In September 2009 an evaluation was carried out to the rear of 8 Manor Street, 50m south-west of the site (Summerfield-Hill & Kaye 2009). Five trenches were excavated, with archaeological remains present in three of them. One contained the remains of a large feature containing quantities of tile, animal bone and medieval Hertfordshire Grey Ware pottery. In another was a ditch containing quantities of metalworking slag, one sherd of Hertfordshire Grey Ware, and a small modern gully. The third trench contained a substantial feature containing evidence of medieval, possibly Saxon, pottery and metalworking slag, and the remnants of a brick-built structure likely to be part of the 18th-century house 'Manor Croft', which formerly stood on the site. Further investigation is proposed in advance of development.

3.6 **Post-Medieval & Modern** (1500-present)

The development site is c.160m north-east of a large modern building named 'Pilkington Manor', situated on the High Street. A house named Pilkingtons was recorded as a head tenement from 1616 (HER 9297), but was never a medieval manor house. A residential and commercial building was subsequently constructed on the site and archaeological works took place subsequent to the demolition of the latter in 2002 (Hunn 2002). The work revealed a sequence of occupation dating from the $12^{\text{th}}/13^{\text{th}}$ centuries. The remains of a substantial 17^{th} and 18^{th} -century brick and flint building extended across the site, which has been interpreted as 'Pilkington Manor'. The core of the manor appears to have been extended in the 19^{th} century (Kaye & Summerfield-Hill, 2009).

Manor Street is a relatively late addition to the street layout of Berkhamsted, first appearing on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887, with housing on both sides of the road.

4. Results & Conclusions

4.1 Results

A single monitoring visit was made to the site on 9^{th} February, when the footing trenches for the new garage and store had been dug (Fig. 3: Appendix 1). Prior to this, the existing garage had been demolished, and the footprint of the new garage/store had been reduced by c.0.3m.

The footing trenches were 0.54m wide and 0.70m deep. They were cut through a deposit of dark brown soil containing flint gravel, fragments of tile, animal bone, glass and pottery. The latter comprised mostly post-medieval wares, with a small amount of medieval Hertfordshire grey ware body sherds, almost certainly residual. Natural gravel was present at the bottom of all the trenches.

The only variation in stratigraphy was noted at the south-east end of the southern footing trench, where the dark brown soil deposit thinned, and was overlain by a tip layer of flint gravel. No finds were noted in this deposit.

4.2 *Conclusions*

The watching brief did not reveal any deposits or features of archaeological significance within the area affected by this development. The whole area was covered by a redeposited soil layer up to 0.7m thick, most likely laid down in the post-medieval period, and possibly resulting from development in the vicinity. The presence in this soil layer of residual medieval pottery sherds may indicate that the soil originated from somewhere nearer the High Street, possibly the *Pilkington Manor* or *Manor Croft* sites.



Plate 1: North-west footing trench, looking south-west



Plate 2: South-west footing trench, south-east end, from north

5. Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Mr David Disley. The project was monitored by Kate Batt of the HEU on behalf of the local planning authority.

The project was managed for ASC by Karin Semmelmann MA MIFA. Fieldwork was carried out by Jonathan Hunn BA PhD MIFA. The report was prepared by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA and edited by David Fell MA MIFA.

6. Archive

- 6.1 The project archive will comprise:
 - 1. Initial Report
 - 2. Clients site plan
 - 3. Site Monitoring Sheets
 - 4. List of photographs
 - 5. B/W prints & negatives
 - 6. CDROM with copies of all digital files.
- 6.2 The archive will be deposited with Dacorum Heritage Trust.

7. References

Standards & Specifications

- ALGAO 2003 Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14.
- EH 1991 The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2^{nd} 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

- BGS British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology.
- Birtchnell P C, 1960 A Short History of Berkhamsted. Clunbury Press.
- Bryant S & Burleigh G, 1995 'later prehistoric Dykes of the Eastern Chilterns' *in* Holgate 1995, 92-95.
- Copeland R 2009 Akeman Street Moving through Iron Age and Roman Landscapes. The History Press.
- Doggett N & H Hunn J R, 1985 'The Origins and Development of Medieval Berkhamsted' *Hertfordshire's Past* **18**, 18-36.
- Holgate R (ed.) 1995 *Chiltern Archaeology. Recent Work: A handbook for the Next Decade.* The Book Castle (Dunstable).
- Hunn J R, 2002 112-118 High Street, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire: An Archaeological Watching Brief. ASC report no. BHS02/1.
- Hunn J R, 2006 Archaeological Excavation: land adjacent to 3-4 Church Lane, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire. ASC report no 656/BHC/02.
- Kaye D, & Summerfield-Hill C, 2009 Archaeological Excavation: 110 High Street, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire. ASC report no. 1224/BHS/2.
- McDonald T, 1995 'The A41 By-Pass Project' in Holgate 1995, 120-123.
- Page W (ed.) 1971 The Victoria History of the County of Hertfordshire 2. Dawsons of Pall Mall.
- Soil Survey 1983 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend (Harpenden).
- Summerfield-Hill C, & Kaye D, 2009 Archaeological Evaluation: 8 Manor Street, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire. ASC report no. 1212/BMS/2.
- Thompson I, 2004 Berkhamsted Extensive Urban Survey. Hertfordshire County Council.

Appendix 1: Method Statement for Archaeological Watching Brief

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 (e.g. footing and service trenches, reduction of levels, landscaping).

2 Standards

All work will conform to the relevant sections of the Institute for 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

- 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 requires a licence from the Ministry of Justice, 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

- 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.

References

EH 1991 Management of Archaeological Projects (2nd edition). English Heritage (London).

EH 2002 Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-Excavation. English Heritage (London).

IFA 1999a Standards & Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs. Institute for Archaeologists (Reading).

IFA 1999b Code of Conduct. Institute for Archaeologists (Reading).

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

Appendix 2: Monitoring Sheet

| | | CAL FIELD MON | |
|--|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Project: 14, Manor Street | Project N | 16/Code: | Sheet: of / |
| Berkhanstyl | Date of visit: | 9.210 | |
| Client/Developer Mr David | Dixlere | | |
| Contact: | 2.3.2 | Phone: | |
| Ouration of Visit Start: 3.10 p. | м | Finish: | r |
| Completed by: | · 1 | 4.5 | 9 |
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Appendix 3: List of Photographs

| SITE NAI | ME: 14 M | anor Stre | et, Berkhamsted | SITE NO/CODE: 1274/BMS | |
|----------|----------|-----------|---|------------------------|--|
| Shot | B&W | Digital | Subject | | |
| 1 | | 2558 | General view of site, looking south | | |
| 2 | | 2559 | North-west footing trench, looking south-west | | |
| 3 | | 2560 | West corner of footings, looking south-west | | |
| 4 | | 2561 | North-east footing trench, looking east | | |
| 5 | | 2562 | Wall adjacent to south-west footing, from north | | |
| 6 | | 2563 | North-west footing trench, looking south-west | | |
| 7 | | 2564 | General view of site, looking north | | |
| 8 | | 2565 | South-west footing trench, south-east end, from north | | |
| 9 | | 2566 | South-west footing trench, south-east end, from south | | |

Appendix 4: ASC OASIS Form

| PROJECT DETAILS | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|---------------------------|--|--|
| Project Name: | 14 Manor Street, Berkhamsted | | OASIS reference: | archaeol 2-73450 | | |
| Short Description: In February 2010 a watching brief was maintained during excavations for the footings of a detached garage at 14 Manor Street, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire. The watching brief did not reveal any deposits or features of archaeological significance within the area affected by this development. The whole area was covered by a redeposited soil layer up to 0.7m thick, most likely laid down in the post-medieval period, and possibly resulting from development in the vicinity. | | | | | | |
| Project Type: | Watching Brief | | | | | |
| Previous work: (eg. SMR refs) | none | | Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed) | none | | |
| Current land use: | garden | | Future work: (yes/no/unknown) | no | | |
| Monument type: | n/a | | Monument period: | Post-med / modern | | |
| Significant finds: (artefact type & period) | none | | | | | |
| | PROJECT | LOCATIO | N | | | |
| County: | Hertfordshire | OS refe | rence: (8 figs min) | SP 9956 0781 | | |
| Site address: (+ postcode if known) | 14 Manor Street, Berkhamsted, F | | | | | |
| Study area: (sq. m. / ha) | 34 sq m Height OD: (metres) | | DD: (metres) | 105 m AOD | | |
| | PROJECT | CREATO | RS | | | |
| Organisation: | Archaeological Services & Consu | Itancy Ltd | | | | |
| Project brief originator: | n/a | Project design originator: ASC | | ASC | | |
| Project Manager: | Karin Semmelmann MA MIFA | Director/Supervisor: | | Jonathan Hunn BA PhD MIFA | | |
| Sponsor / funding body: | Sponsor / funding body: Mr David Disley | | | | | |
| | | CT DATE | | | | |
| Start date: | 09/02/2010 | End dat | e: | 09/02/2010 | | |
| | PROJECT | ARCHIVE | S | | | |
| | Location (Accession no.) | Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets) | | | | |
| Physical: | none Dacorum | | | | | |
| Paper: | Heritage Repo | | Report, site records, photos. | | | |
| Digital: | Trust CD with | | n all digital files | | | |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report) | | | | | | |
| Title: | Watching Brief: 14 Manor Street, Berkhamsted | | | | | |
| Serial title & volume: | ASC Ltd Report ref. 1274/BMS/1 | | | | | |
| Author(s): | R.J. Zeepvat BA MIFA | | | | | |
| Page nos | 19 | Date: 2 nd March 2010 | | | | |