



Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:
24 BRITTENS LANE
SALFORD
BEDFORDSHIRE**

NGR: SP 9338 3931

on behalf of Mr Marcel Majoor



Calli Rouse BA PIFA

March 2010

ASC: 1227/SBL/2



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Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	SBL	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	1227
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	Archaeol2- 75113	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	BEDFM 2009.65
<i>County:</i>	Bedfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Salford		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Hulcote with Salford		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 9338 3931		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c.33 sq m		
<i>Present use:</i>	Garden & garage		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Demolition of garage: construction of house extension		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	CB/2009/624/FULL		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Central Bedfordshire Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	22-23/03/2010		
<i>Client:</i>	Mr Marcel Majoor 24 Brittens Lane Salford Beds MK17 8DG		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Mr Marcel Majoor		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Calli Rouse	<i>Date:</i>	31-03-2010
<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>	David Fell	<i>Date:</i>	31-03-2010

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CONTENTS

Summary.....	4
1. Introduction	4
2. Aims & Methods	6
3. Archaeological & Historical Background.....	6
4. Results.	9
5. Conclusions	13
6. Acknowledgements	14
7. Archive	14
8. References	15

Appendices:

1. ASC Watching Brief Monitoring Sheets	16
2. Photo List.....	20
3. ASC OASIS Form	21

Figures:

1. General location	3
2. Site plan	5
3. Proposed development and watching brief observations.....	12

Plates:

Cover: General view of site

1. Western arm of footing trench.....	10
2. Sample section of footing trench	10
3. Service trench extending into driveway.....	10
4. Cobbled area in eastern arm of service trench.....	11
5. Disused modern manhole	11



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

Summary

During March 2010 ASC Ltd undertook an archaeological watching brief at 24 Brittens Lane, Salford, Bedfordshire, during groundworks for the construction of a new lounge. A modern cobbled area was uncovered at the south eastern edge of the development, and may represent the remains of a former garden path. No significant archaeological remains were observed during the watching brief and the archaeological impact of the development is likely to have been minimal.

1. Introduction

1.1 In March 2010 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief at 24 Brittens Lane, Salford, Bedfordshire. The project was commissioned by Mr Marcel Majoor, and was carried out according to a brief (CBCA 2009) prepared by the local planning authority (LPA), *Central Bedfordshire Council*, and a project design prepared by ASC (Zeervat 2010). The relevant planning application reference is CB/2009/624/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*

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 Organisation* by the Institute for Archaeologists and is also accredited ISO 9001, in recognition of its high standards and working practices.

1.4 *The Site*

1.4.1 *Location & Description*

The site is located in the village of Salford, in the civil parish of Hulcote and Salford, in the district of Central Bedfordshire, centred on NGR SP 9338 3931 (Fig. 1). It occupies a plot of land on the eastern side of Brittens Lane, near its junction with Broughton Road. 24 Brittens Lane is a semi-detached house, with the adjoining house to the north, and open paddocks to the east and south. The area affected by the development covers *c.*33 sq m to the south of the house, and prior to the re-development was occupied largely by a single-storey garage. Access is from Brittens Lane (Fig 2).

1.4.2 *Geology & Topography*

The site lies on more or less level ground, at an elevation of *c.*75m AOD. Broughton Brook, the nearest watercourse, flows to the west, *c.*300m south-west of the site. Soils in the site area belong to the Oxpasture Association, described as 'fine loamy over clayey and clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging. Some slowly permeable seasonally

waterlogged clayey soils' (Soil Survey 1983, 572h). The underlying solid geology comprises Cornbrash limestone (BGS, Sheet 203).

1.4.3 *Proposed Development*

This comprises demolition of the aforementioned garage, and the construction of an extension to the existing house (Fig. 3).

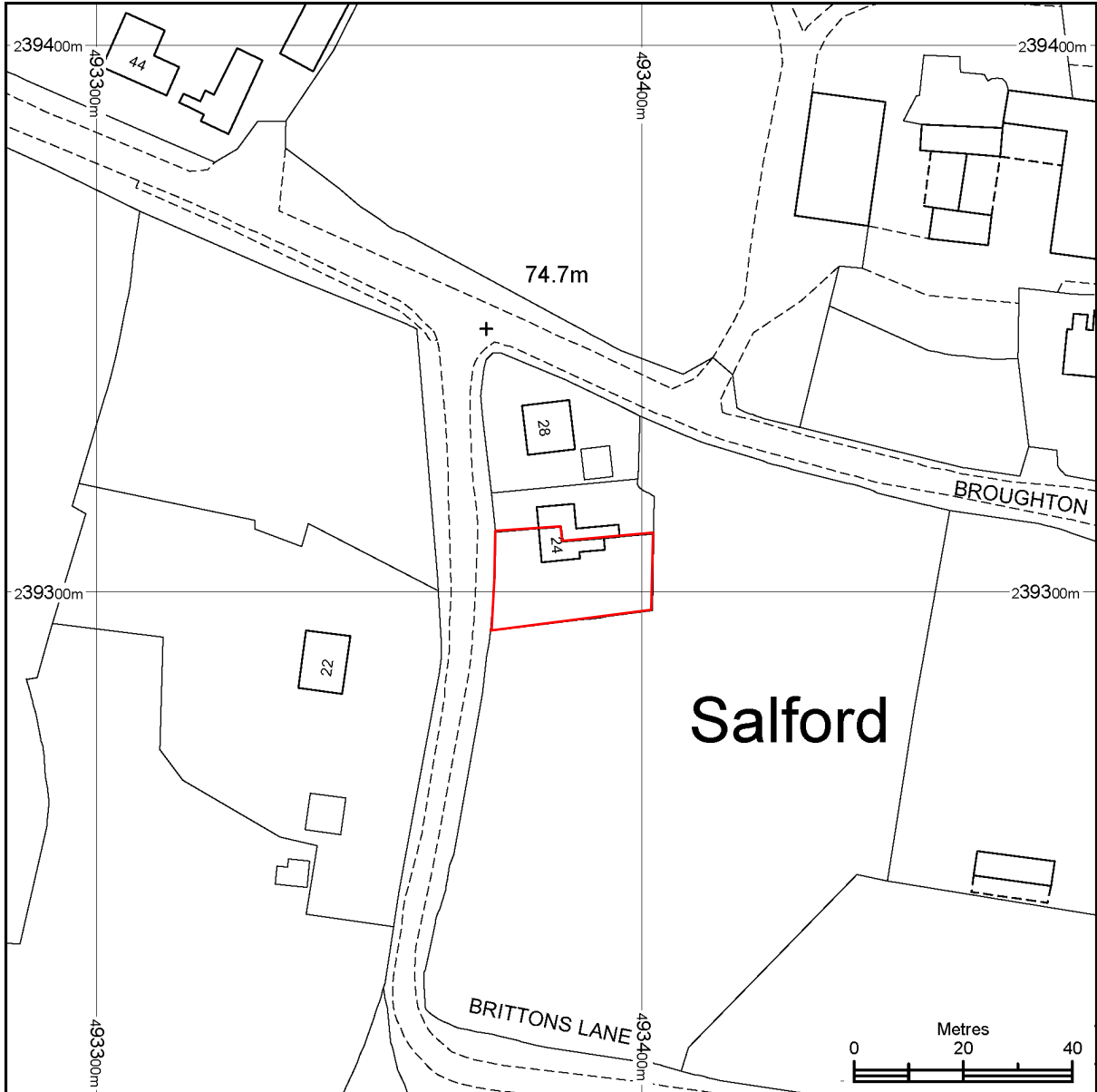


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 *Aims*

As described in the brief (Section 4.3), the aims of the watching brief were:

- To establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation on the development site
- To establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes
- To recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region
- To recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions

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 5), which required:

- Any groundworks likely to have an impact on archaeological deposits to be undertaken under archaeological supervision.

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 principally with information from the Bedfordshire & Luton Historic Environment Record (HER), and ASC's library.

3.2 **Prehistoric - Roman** (before 600BC - c.450)

Little is known of prehistoric or Roman activity in the environs of Salford. The only significant evidence for these periods in the vicinity came from excavations at Salford Quarry in 1988-91 (Clark 1990; Dawson 2005). This site, located just over 1km north-west of the village, revealed Neolithic activity represented by a series of pits, a large assemblage of Peterborough-style pottery, and worked flint. Bronze Age evidence included a ring ditch, pits and Beaker pottery. Evidence for Iron Age occupation was attested by a number of round houses, hearths, four-post structures and associated pits, postholes and middle Iron Age pottery. A small cremation cemetery of late Iron Age date was also excavated. In the Roman period a new pattern of land boundaries was imposed, and an isolated building, probably a field barn, was constructed.

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

Mention of Salford first appears in the Domesday Survey (1086), when the manor was held by Hugh de Beauchamp (Page 1912). The overlordship of the manor was attached to the barony of Bedford. The tenants holding the manor in the 12th century were the de Salford family. In 1438 the manor of Salford formed part of Archbishop Chicheley's endowment of All Souls College, Oxford. The manor remained in the college's possession into the 20th century.

Brittens Lane lies within the core of the medieval village, 300m north-west of the parish church of St Mary, which dates largely to the 13th century (HER 1109). Medieval village earthworks have been recorded in a number of locations in and around the village (HER 1194, 8396), and areas of ridge and furrow ploughing have been identified at three locations adjacent to the settlement (HER 5215). Earthworks in the paddocks to the east and south of 24 Brittens Lane were subject to a programme of recording and investigation by trial trenching. The report (BCAS 1997) concluded:

The earthworks survey recorded a number of linear earthworks, areas of intentional ground levelling and the remains of possible quarrying. Trial trenching provided cross sections of the earthwork features and also uncovered limited evidence of medieval activity, principally in the form of field boundaries.

3.7 **Post-Medieval - Modern** (1500- present)

The earliest map to show the village in any detail is a map of Salford Manor dating to 1595 (Beds CRO XI/74/2). This shows an L-shaped building on the approximate site of 24 Brittens Lane, and the enclosure within which it sits is shown as belonging to 'Rev^d Harvey'. By 1883, when the Ordnance Survey First Edition 25" sheet was

published, a rectangular house was shown on the plot, at right angles to the present structure. Since that date it is apparent that there have been some revisions of the boundaries of the house plots in this area (<http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/ArchivesAndRecordOffice/CommunityArchives/Salford>).

Prior to the present proposed extension of the house, a brick-built, flat-roofed detached garage was constructed to the south of the present house before the mid 1990s, within the area of the proposed new extension. There is no record of any archaeological intervention in relation to the garage, and it is therefore uncertain as to what extent its construction may have truncated or removed any archaeological deposits present.

4. Results

4.1 Four visits were made to the site between 18th and 29th of March 2010, during which all groundworks related to the proposed development were subjected to continuous observation.

4.2 *Footings*

The development area was reduced by a maximum of *c.*0.3m prior to the excavation of the footings trenches. The trenches were 0.6m wide, and varied between 1.6m and 1.8m in depth (Plate 1). Undulations in the ground meant that the stratigraphy comprised between 0.6m and 0.3m of silty grey-brown subsoil, overlying between 0.8m and 1.5m of natural yellow grey clay (Plate 2). Occasional patches of sand were observed along the boundary between the subsoil and the natural clay. These may have been associated with the construction of the demolished garage.

A number of modern service runs were present within the northern and western arms of the excavation, cutting into the subsoil. Fragments of modern pottery and animal bone were also present within the subsoil, suggesting that the area had been disturbed in the recent past. No archaeological finds or features were observed within the footings trenches.

4.3 *Services*

The service trenches were excavated on the same alignment as the eastern and southern footings, with a further arm excavated north west into the driveway (Plate 3). The trenches were *c.*0.3m wide and *c.*0.6m deep. The stratigraphy was similar to that described above.

An area of cobbles was encountered in the eastern arm of the service trench *c.*0.6m below ground level (Plate 4). No dating evidence was recovered from the cobbled surface noted in the southeastern corner of the development, but it lay *c.*0.6m below the ground level of the back garden. Mr Majoor commented that the ground level in the garden, including the area where the cobbles were uncovered, had been raised by 0.6-0.8m within the last 10 years when it was renovated by the client. He also remembers garden features in the area, and it is possible that the cobbles represent a former garden path.

The corner of a brick built, filled in former manhole was encountered along the southern edge of the service trench that was extended into the driveway, *c.*3.5m from the southwest corner of the development (Plate 5). No further archaeological finds or features were observed with in the service trenches.



Plate 1: Western arm of footing trench, looking south (*scale= 2m*)



Plate 2: Sample section of footing trench, looking north (*scale= 2m*)



Plate 3: Service trench extending into driveway, looking south east (*scale= 1m*)



Plate 4: Cobbled area in eastern arm of service trench, looking east (*scale= 1m*)



Plate 5: Disused modern manhole, looking south west (*scale= 1m*)

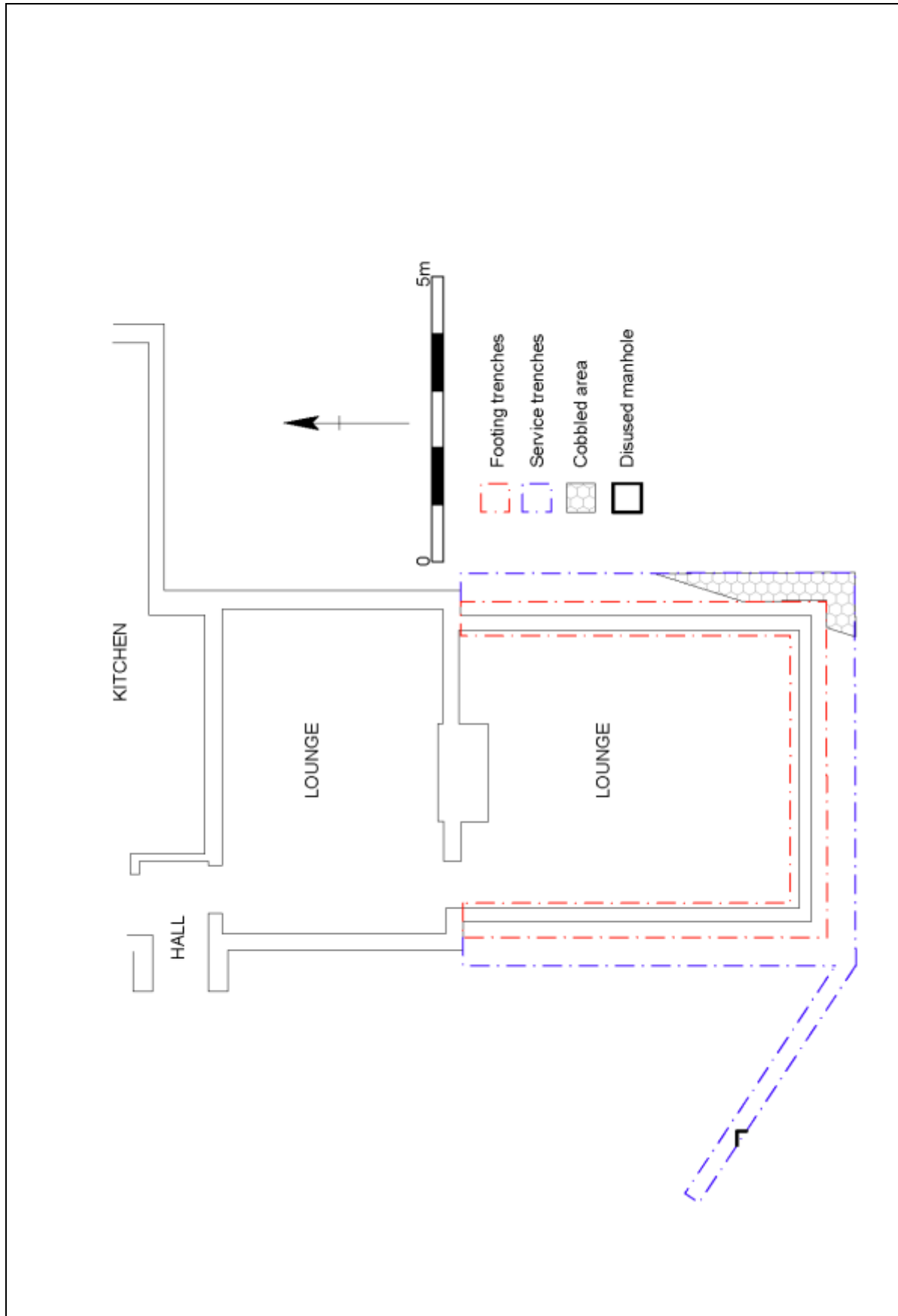


Figure 3: Watching brief observations (scale 1:100)

5. Conclusions

5.1 No significant archaeological features were observed during the watching brief. It is worth noting that the current built up level of the back garden is similar to the level of ground in the surrounding fields. This suggests that the site had been levelled at an earlier date, potentially during the construction of the original dwelling. While the existence of individual isolated archaeological features away from the development cannot be specifically excluded, it is unlikely that large numbers of archaeological features are present on the site. It is unlikely that the development has had a significant impact on archaeological remains.

5.3 Confidence Rating

The watching brief was undertaken in fair to damp conditions, and full cooperation was received from all parties involved. Therefore a high confidence rating is attached to the results of the watching brief.

6. Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Mr Marcel Majoor, and the writer is grateful for his assistance. The project was monitored by Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologists on behalf of the local planning authority. Thanks are also due to the groundworkers on site.

The project was managed for ASC by Karin Semmelmann MA MIFA. Fieldwork was carried out by Karin Semmelmann and Calli Rouse BA PIFA. The report was prepared by Calli Rouse and edited by David Fell MA MIFA.

7. Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise: Brief

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

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum.

8. References


Standards & Specifications

- ALGAO 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper **14**.
- CBCA 2009 *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication at 24 Brittens Lane, Salford, Bedfordshire*. Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologists
- 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)*.
- Zeepvat, B 2010 *Project Design for an Archaeological Watching Brief at 24 Brittens Lane, Salford, Bedfordshire* ASC/1227/SBL/1

Secondary Sources

- BCAS 1997 *Land between Broughton Road and Brittens Lane, Salford, Bedfordshire: Archaeological Field Evaluation*. Beds. County Archaeol. Service report no. 1997/16.
- BGS *British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology*.
- Brown N & Glazebrook J (eds) 2000 *Research & Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties. 2, Research Agenda and Strategy*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper **8**.
- Clark R 1990 'Excavation at Salford Quarry', *South Midlands Archaeology* **20**, 8-9.
- Dawson M 2005 *An Iron Age Settlement at Salford, Bedfordshire*. Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph **6** (Bedford).
- Oake M, Luke M, Dawson M, Edgeworth M & Murphy P, 2007 *Bedfordshire Archaeology. Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy*. Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph **9** (Bedford).
- Page W (ed) 1912 *The Victoria History of the County of Bedfordshire*, vol. **3**, 424-425.
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpندن).

A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD				
Project: 24 BRITTENS LANE		Project No/Code: 1227 / SBL		Sheet: 2 of 4		
SALFORD		Date of visit: 22/03/10				
Client/Developer						
Contact:			Phone:			
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 9.05		Finish: 3.45pm		
Completed by: CK						
Development Type:						
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: OVERCAST						
Observations: WHAEOF OBSERVED WESTERN ARM OF FOOTING + PART OF SOUTHERN + EASTERN ARMS. SITE WAS LEVELLED BEFORE EXCAVATION OF FOOTING - REDUCED BY C. 0.3m. - DID NOT GO THROUGH SUBSOIL. STRAT: 0.6 - 0.2m SILTY GREY BROWN SUBSOIL DIRECTLY OVER SANDY YELLOW GREY CLAY. NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES OBSERVED. SMALL AMOUNT OF BLUE & WHITE CHINA & 1x COW BONE OBSERVED NEAR DRAINAGE RUN AT N END OF W FOOTING (AGAINST HOUSE).						
Comments: COME BACK TOMORROW TO MONITOR REMAINDER OF FOOTINGS.						

 A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD				
Project: 24 BRITTENS LANE, SALFORD		Project No/Code: 1227 1 SAL		Sheet: 3 of 4		
Client/Developer		Date of visit:				
Contact:			Phone:			
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 8.15		Finish: 10.30		
Completed by: CR						
Development Type:						
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: OVERCAST / SUNNY, DRY						
Observations: OBSERVED REMAINING FOOTING TRENCH - NE CORNER. STRAT AS YESTERDAY. NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS / FEATURES OBSERVED						
Comments: DRAINAGE TO BE DUG SAND OF NEXT WK - INILDER (PAUL) WILL CALL OFFICE						

A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD				
Project: 24 BRITTONS LANE, SALFORD		Project No/Code: 1227 1 SBL	Sheet: 4 of 6			
Client/Developer		Date of visit: 29/3/10				
Contact:		Phone:				
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 8.20am	Finish: 11.30am				
Completed by: CR						
Development Type:						
Footings	Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: OVERCAST, DAMP						
Observations: OBSERVED EXCAVATION OF DRAINAGE RUN FROM SW CORNER OF EXTENSION. MODERN ^{FILED IN} MANHOLE OBSERVED 3.5m FROM EXTENSION. STRAT AS BEFORE. TRENCHES 0.3m WIDE, C.O. 6m DEEP. ALSO SAW REMAINS OF GARDEN PATH (COBBLED) IN SE* CORNER OF EXTENSION. C. 0.6 BGL - CLIENT SAYS ^{THEY} GARDEN ^{GARDEN} WAS BUILT UP BY 0.6-0.8m OF TOPSOIL, MAKING COBBLED PATH AT APPROX FORMER GROUND LEVEL						
Comments: NO MORE VISITS REQUIRED						

Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: 24 Brittens Lane, Salford, Beds			SITE NO/CODE: 1227/SBL
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1		✓	Working shot 22-03-10
2		✓	Site prior to excavation, looking south west 22-03-10
3	✓	✓	Eastern arm of footing trench, looking south, 2m scale 22-03-10
4	✓	✓	Southern arm of footing trench, looking east, 2m scale 22-03-10
5	✓	✓	Section of footing trench, looking south east, 2m scale 22-03-10
6		✓	Footing trench showing footings of former garage, looking west, 1m scale 23-03-10
7		✓	Footing trench showing footings of former garage, looking west, 1m scale 23-03-10
8		✓	Working shot 23-03-10
9		✓	General site shot 23-03-2010
10		✓	General site shot 23-03-2010
11	✓	✓	Eastern arm of footing trench, looking south, 2m scale 23-03-10
12	✓	✓	Eastern arm of footing trench, looking north, 2m scale 23-03-10
13	✓	✓	Southern arm of footing trench, looking east, 2m scale 23-03-10
14	✓	✓	Sample section, looking north, 2m scale 23-03-2010
15		✓	Existing drainage trench collapse in eastern arm of footing trench, looking north 23-03-2010
16		✓	Detail of existing drainage 23-03-2010
17	✓	✓	Cobbled area, eastern service trench, looking east, 1m scale 29-03-2010
18	✓	✓	Service trench extending into driveway, looking south east, 1m scale 29-03-2010
19	✓	✓	Modern manhole, looking southwest, 1m scale 29-03-2010

Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	24 Brittens Lane, Salford, Bedfordshire	OASIS reference:	Archaeol2- 75113
Short Description:	During March 2010 ASC Ltd undertook an archaeological watching brief at 24 Brittens Lane, Salford, Bedfordshire, during groundworks for the construction of a new lounge. A cobbled area was uncovered at the south eastern edge of the development, and may represent the remains of a former garden path. No further significant archaeological remains were observed during the watching brief.		
Project Type:	Watching Brief		
Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	None	Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	None
Current land use:	Garage	Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	No
Monument type:	-	Monument period:	-
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	-		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Bedfordshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	SP 9338 3931
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	24 Brittens Lane, Salford, Bedfordshire, MK17 8BG		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	33sqm	Height OD: (metres)	c.75
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	CBCA	Project design originator:	B.Zeervat
Project Manager:	K.Semmelmann	Director/Supervisor:	K.Semmelmann
Sponsor / funding body:	Mr M. Majoor		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	18-03-2010	End date:	29-03-2010
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Bedford Museum	-	
Paper:		Archive Box	
Digital:		CD	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Archaeological Watching Brief at 24 Brittens Lane, Salford, Bedfordshire		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1227/SBL/2		
Author(s):	Calli Rouse BA PIFA		
Page nos	21	Date:	31-03-2010