



Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:
11 STATION ROAD
TODDINGTON
BEDFORDSHIRE**

NGR: TL 0996 9033

on behalf of Mrs K Collins



Jonathan R Hunn BA PhD MIFA

July 2010

ASC: 1246/TSR/2r




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Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	TSR	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	1246
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	archaeol2-77446	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	2010.21
<i>County:</i>	Bedfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Toddington		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Toddington		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TL 0996 9033		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	7.5 x 3.5m		
<i>Present use:</i>	Existing extension to house		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Demolition: construction of new extension		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	CB/TP/09/05245		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Central Bedfordshire Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	29 th April– 5 th May 2010		
<i>Client:</i>	Mrs Kate Collins 11 Station Road Toddington Bedfordshire LU5 6BN		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Mrs Kate Collins		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Jonathan R Hunn	<i>Date:</i>	13 th May 2010
<i>Revisions:</i>	Bob Zeepvat	<i>Date:</i>	19 th July 2010
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	19/07/2010

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

Summary

In April and May 2010 a continuous watching brief was undertaken on the groundworks for a new extension to the rear of 11 Station Road, Toddington, Bedfordshire. No deposits, features or finds of archaeological significance were noted during site clearance, ground reduction and the excavation of service trenches. The only intrusive features that were identified were the remains of existing drainage runs.

1. Introduction

1.1 In late April and early May 2010 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief at 11 Station Road, Toddington, Bedfordshire. The project was commissioned by Mrs K. Collins, and was carried out according to a brief (Firth 2009) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), Central Bedfordshire Council, by their archaeological advisors (AA), the *Conservation and Design Team of Central Bedfordshire Council* (CBC), and a project design prepared by ASC (Rouse 2010). The relevant planning application reference is CB/TP/09/05245.

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 *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 development site is situated in Toddington, in the administrative district of Central Bedfordshire (Fig.1). It lies in the medieval core of the settlement, on the west side of Station Road, and is centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference TL 0996 9033.

The development site is accessed from Station Road. It is surrounded by other residential buildings and their associated gardens (Fig. 2).

1.5.2 *Geology & Topography*

The soils around Toddington belong to the *Sutton 1* association “well drained fine and coarse loamy soils locally calcareous and in places shallow over limestone gravel” (Soil Survey 1983, 571u) over Gault clay (BGS, Sheet 220).

The site is essentially flat and lies at an elevation of *c.*143m AOD.

1.5.3 *Proposed Development*

The development comprises demolition of an existing extension to the property, and construction of a new extension to the rear of the property (Fig. 3).

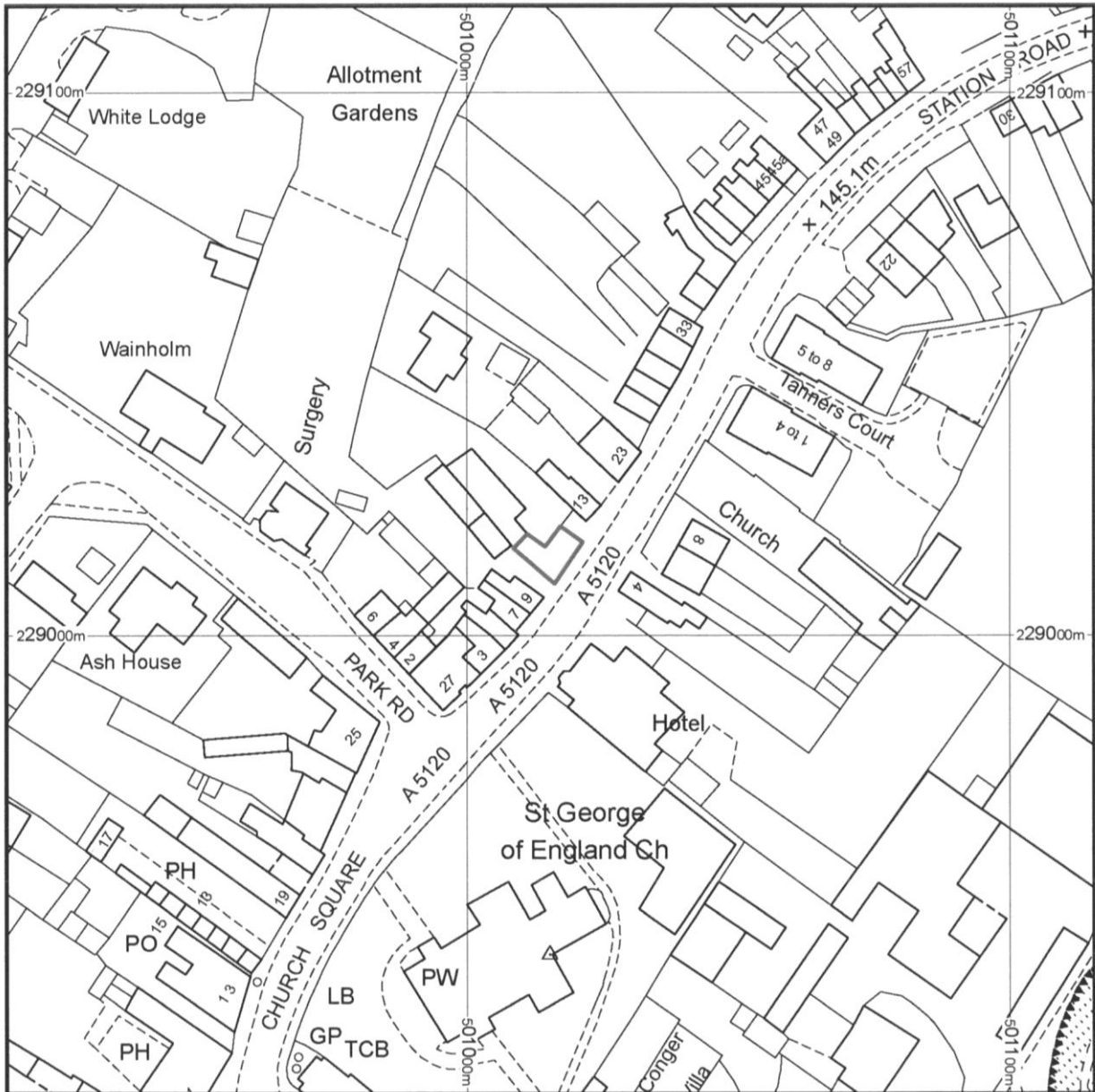


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

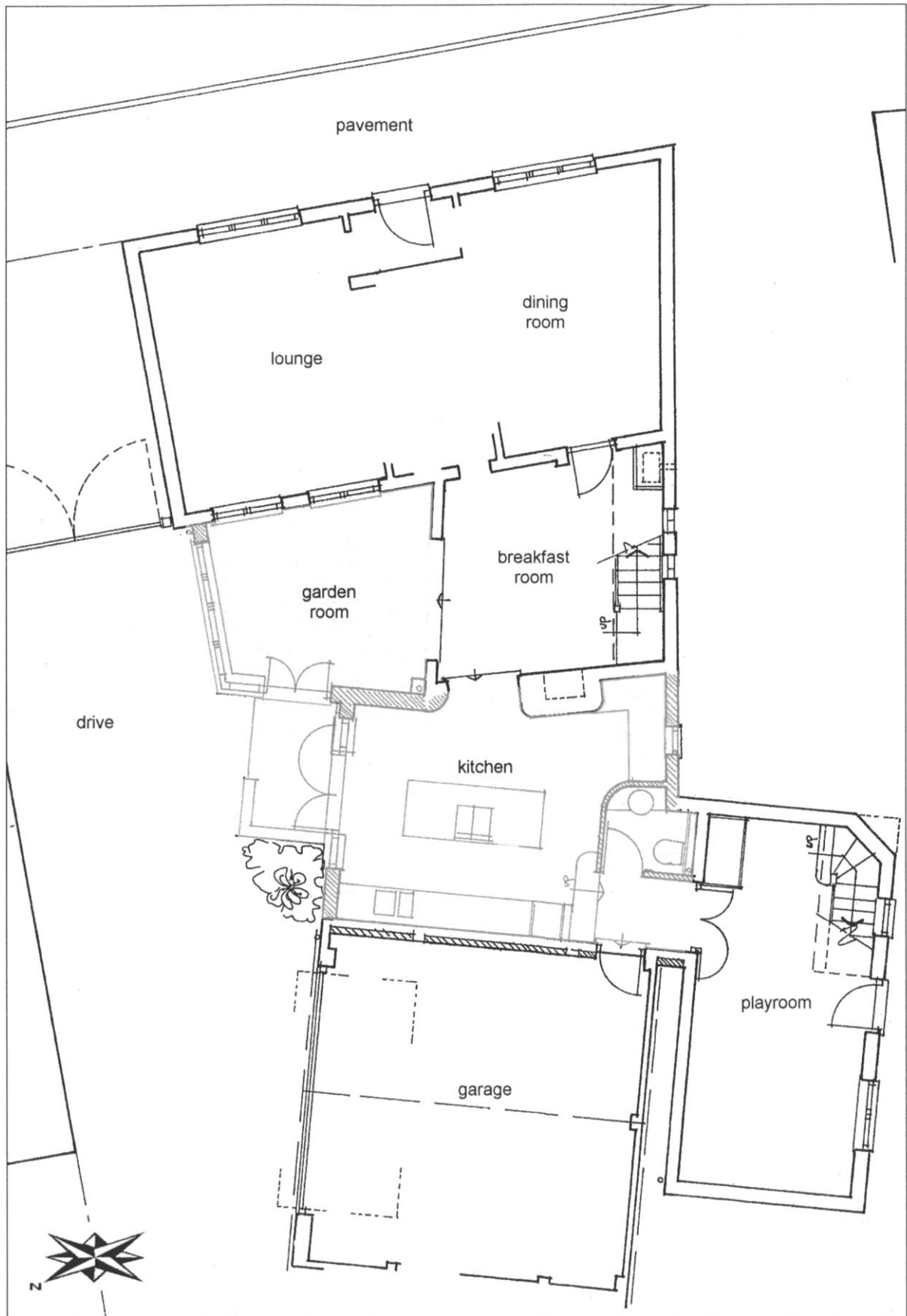


Figure 3: Proposed development (scale 1:100)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 *Aims*

As described in the project design, the aims of the watching brief were:

- To establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation within the development area
- To establish the relationship of any remains found to be 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
- To consider the need for research into the origins and development of small towns and early town planning as described by Oake *et al* (2007, 14) and Medlycott & Brown (2008, 96-97).

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 project design, which required:

- A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording, undertaken in the areas of the new extensions
- In this case, the recommendation is for a programme of continuous archaeological supervision.

2.4 *Constraints*

The watching brief was undertaken under mild and dry conditions. No constraints were encountered during the course of this project.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 *Introduction*

The following section provides a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the development site and its environs. Toddington is an area of considerable archaeological and historical interest (Page 1912), and has the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods. The development site is located within the core of Toddington, which has been designated a Conservation Area. The focus of interest is likely to lie in the medieval period, as the basic medieval pattern of streets, church and market square is well preserved, and the lack of archaeological excavations in the area means that the potential for below-ground deposits is currently unknown (Edgeworth 2003, Firth 2009).

3.2 *Prehistoric* (before 600BC)

Prehistoric flints have been found in the surrounds of Toddington (HER 3291, 15845, 15846, 15860) including knives, blades and cores dating from the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age.

Two Bronze Age urns were found to the southwest of Toddington (HER 1426), with an unusually large number of hoards known from further afield, more than 1km from Toddington.

3.3 *Iron Age and Roman* (600BC-AD c.450)

Very little evidence of Iron Age activity is known from the area around Toddington. A coin of Cunobelin (late 1st century BC- c.45AD) was found in the 19th century in Toddington (Kennett 1972). An early to mid 1st century BC cremation burial was discovered c.1km south of the development site in 1858, and several pottery sherds and bronze working debris found close by indicate the presence of a cemetery (Pollard 1991).

During the Roman period the site fell within the tribal territory of the *Catuvellauni*, with its capital at *Verulamium* (St Albans). The nearest major settlements were *Durocbrivae* (Dunstable: HER 135) and *Magiovinium* (Fenny Stratford): the major road linking them, now the A5 (Watling Street: HER 5508) passes 4km west of Toddington. The nearest known Roman occupation is over 1km from the development site. A collection of pottery vessels dating to the 1st to 2nd century AD was also discovered c.2km to the southeast of the development site (*ibid*).

3.4 *Saxon* (c.450-1066)

A Saxon cemetery is known c.150m to the south of the application site (HER 101) with another cemetery further out at Chalton (HER 99). Further away, in the outskirts of the town, early pagan cemeteries with cremations and inhumations of 5-6th century date were found (HER 2857 and HER 11954). This suggests that the general area of Toddington was favoured for Saxon settlement.

3.5 *Medieval* (1066-1500)

The development site lies within the medieval core of Toddington (HER 16981), which was a medieval market town. The right to hold a market was granted in 1218. The town continued to prosper in the medieval period and its layout suggests it became a medieval planned town, organised around a green located at the junction of four of the five roads which crossed the town, probably in the 13th century.

The 13th century church of St George (HER 962) is located south of the development site. It occupies the highest ground within the town and may be the site of an earlier church. Behind the church lay St John's Hospital (HER 7921), which was founded in 1433. The earlier manor house may also have been located on this higher ground.

There was considerable development along the main thoroughfares. To either side of the streets lay strips of land, burgage plots, with the main dwellings sitting on the street frontage in the classic pattern of a medieval new town sometimes extending back along the boundary of the plots, at right angles to the street. The street layout of the medieval town survives into the present day with the main road being the Bedford to Dunstable road. The motte of a Norman castle ("Conger Hill") survives as an earthwork to the southeast of the application site (HER 89: SM 20439).

3.6 *Post-Medieval* (1500-1900)

The town as shown in the Agas map of 1581 probably represents the shape of the medieval settlement. Apart from the town development, the Agas map shows a focus of settlement at Tanner's End with several parallel rows of houses situated on the bend of the road at the top of the village, in the area which includes the application site. These had disappeared by the time of the Enclosure Award map when the area became a farm. The farmhouse survives (HER 5314).

3.7 *Modern* (1900-present)

The expansion of Toddington since 1900 has been concentrated to the south of the settlement with only some small-scale infilling development within its historic core.

4. Results & Conclusions

4.1 Results

The observations were undertaken between April 29th and May 5th 2010 under dry and mild conditions, before and during the commencement of groundworks.

After the removal of the existing surface, consisting of tarmac, concrete and old footings, some manual clearance of the development area was undertaken (Plates 1 & 2). Soils in the cleared area comprised strong brown, silty clay with occasional flints and rounded pebbles. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were noted: the only features present were service trenches associated with the existing dwelling.

In addition, the excavation of three drainage runs across the development area was observed (Plates 3-5). These all cut through the silty clay described above, and revealed no archaeological features or deposits. The only artefacts noted consisted of a few fragments of willow-pattern pottery, late post-medieval red wares (unglazed) and some modern fragments of glass. These were not retained.

On the basis of the above observations it was apparent that the development area contained no features or deposits of archaeological significance.

4.2 Conclusions

The watching brief did not reveal any features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance within the area of disturbance caused by the development. The development site is located over 8m from the present street frontage, an area where 'back yard' features (e.g. yards, rubbish pits) might be expected, though it is possible that any such features present might have been truncated by later development.



Plate 1: View WSW across area of ground reduction



Plate 2: Final site clearance looking south



Plate 3: Excavation of drainage run looking south



Plate 4: North west facing section of drainage run



Plate 5: Drainage trenches looking south west

5. Acknowledgements

The watching brief was commissioned by Mrs K. Collins. The writer is grateful to Darren Towers and David Willen of the contractors for their co-operation and assistance.

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

6. Archive

6.1 The project archive will comprise:

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

6.2 The archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum.

7. References

Standards & Specifications

- EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition. English Heritage (London).
- Firth, H 2009 *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication at 11 Station Road, Toddington, South Bedfordshire*. Central Bedfordshire Council.
- 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 2010 *11 Station Road, Toddington, Bedfordshire: Project Design for Archaeological Watching Brief*. ASC doc. ref. 1246/TSR/1.

Secondary Sources

- Bigmore, P 1979 *The Bedfordshire and Huntingdon landscape*. Hodder & Stoughton (London).
- BGS *British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology*.
- Brown, N & Glazebrook, J 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties – 2 Research Agenda and Strategy* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8
- Edgeworth, M 2003 *Extensive Urban Survey for Bedfordshire: Toddington Archaeological Assessment* Albion Archaeology (Bedford)
- Kennett, D H 1972 "Bedfordshire Archaeology 1971-1972", *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal* 7, 89-97
- Medlycott, M & Brown, N 2008 *Revision of the Regional Archaeological Framework for the Eastern Region* ALGAO East of England
- Morris, J 1977 *The Domesday Book. Bedfordshire*. History from the Sources. Phillimore
- 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 (London).
- Pollard, J 1991 'A "Belgic" and an Early Romano-British Burial from Toddington' *Bedfordshire Archaeology* 19, 103-105
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpندن).

Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD				
Project: <i>11, Station Rd, Toddington</i>		Project No/Code: <i>1246 1TSR</i>	Sheet: <i>1</i> of <i>3</i>			
Client/Developer <i>Mr & Mrs Collins (J & K!)</i>		Date of visit: <i>29/4/10</i>				
Contact: <i>Darren Towers</i>		Phone: <i>07786-325656</i>				
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: <i>10 am</i>	Finish: <i>12 midday</i>				
Completed by: <i>JAA</i>						
Development Type:						
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site & weather conditions: <i>Dry & mild</i>						
Observations: <i>Demolition and extensive work. Machine level broken down but with the site. However, v. useful in dismantling programme and what is required from the chiller in order to discharge the planning conditions</i>						
Comments: <i>Visit next Tuesday (May 4th)?</i>						



A.S.C. LTD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: 11, Station Road, Toddington, Beds		Project No/Code: 1246 1 TSR	Sheet: 2 of 3
Client/Developer: Mr & Mrs Collins		Date of visit: 5/5/10	
Contact: Darren Towers		Phone: 07786-325656	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 8.35	Finish:	
Completed by: JRA			
Development Type:			
Footings	Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roads	Levelling
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: Dry & mild			
Observations: The upper surface (tarmac, concrete & old footings) had been removed. Although the initial clearance was not ideal (only toothed bucket used) the only features identified were those of the previous drains and inspection boxes. The ground was mostly composed of a strong brown, silty clay with occasional flints/pebbles (Max 7.5 x 5/8). Three drains, in the form of a 'crow's foot' were observed. The main one ran SW-NE and was 0.5m wide at from surface at SW end on to 0.45m at its NE end (near junction). The gravel level is to be raised up c.300mm. The footings will be cut into the natural ground. The only artifacts observed were some willow patten pottery and medium broken glass and metal ware shreds - unglazed.			
Comments: David Walker (Proj manager) No further observation required as the footings will be cut into natural ground.			

For sketch plan, use separate sheet

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Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: 11 Station Rd, Toddington, Bedfordshire		SITE NO/CODE: 1246/TSR	
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1		3456	Demolition phase looking south west (April 29 th 2010)
2		3457	View SSW of exposed rear elevation of existing dwelling
3		3458	Front elevation of no. 11 Station Rd. Plate 6
4		3470	View WSW of area of ground reduction
5		3471	Looking west across area of ground reduction. Plate 1
6		3472	Final site clearance looking south. Plate 2
7		3473	Commencement of central drainage run looking south
8		3474	Excavation of central drainage run looking north east. Plate 3
9		3475	NW corner of site showing disturbance of old drainage run
10		3476	Detail of SW end of the site
11		3477	NW facing section of central drainage run. Plate 4
12		3478	Work in progress looking north
13		3479	Drainage trenches looking south west. Plate 5

Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	11 Station Road, Toddington		
Short Description:	In April and May 2010 a continuous watching brief was undertaken on the groundworks for a new extension to the rear of 11 Station Road, Toddington, Bedfordshire. No deposits, features or finds of archaeological significance were noted during site clearance, ground reduction and the excavation of service trenches. The only intrusive features that were identified were the remains of existing drainage runs.		
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:	none	Monument period:	Post-medieval
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	none		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Bedfordshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	TL 0996 9033
District:	Central Bedfordshire	Parish:	Toddington
Site address: (with postcode if known)	11 Station Road, Toddington, Bedfordshire LU5 6BN		
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	30 sq. m.	Height OD: (metres)	143m
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	H. Firth (CBC)	Project design originator:	Calli Rouse BA PIFA
Project Manager:	K. Semmelmann MA MIFA	Director/Supervisor:	J. Hunn BA PhD MIFA
Sponsor / funding body:	Mrs K. Collins		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	29/4/10	End date:	5/5/10
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Bedford Museum	none	
Paper:		Brief, project design, report, site notes, photos, drawings	
Digital:		CD with all digital files	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Watching Brief: 11 Station Road, Toddington, Bedfordshire		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1246/TRS/2		
Author(s):	Jonathan R. Hunn BA PhD MIFA		
Page nos	18	Date:	17 th May 2010