

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:
SIX TUNNELS FARM,
GADDESSEN ROW, HERTFORDSHIRE**

on behalf of T.V.F Construction



Jonathan R Hunn BA PhD MIFA

October 2004

ASC: 614/STF/2

Letchworth House
Chesney Wold, Bleak Hall,
Milton Keynes MK6 1NE
Tel: 01908 608989 Fax: 01908 605700
Email: office@archaeological-services.co.uk
Website: www.archaeological-services.co.uk



Site Data

<i>ASC site code:</i>	STF	<i>Project no:</i>	614
<i>County:</i>	Hertfordshire		
<i>District:</i>	Dacorum		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Gaddesden Row		
<i>Parish:</i>	Great Gaddesden CP		
<i>NGR:</i>	TL 0432 1345		
<i>Planning ref.</i>	4/1473/04		
<i>Present land use:</i>	Stables		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Alterations and extensions to existing stables		
<i>Extent of development:</i>	c. 30m x c.30m		
<i>Client:</i>	T.V.F. Construction Pound Cottage Kingston Lisle Oxon OX12 9QL		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Mr H Daly		
<i>Telephone</i>	01491 613900	<i>Fax:</i>	01367 820960

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Jonathan R. Hunn	<i>Date:</i>	October 8 th 2004
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
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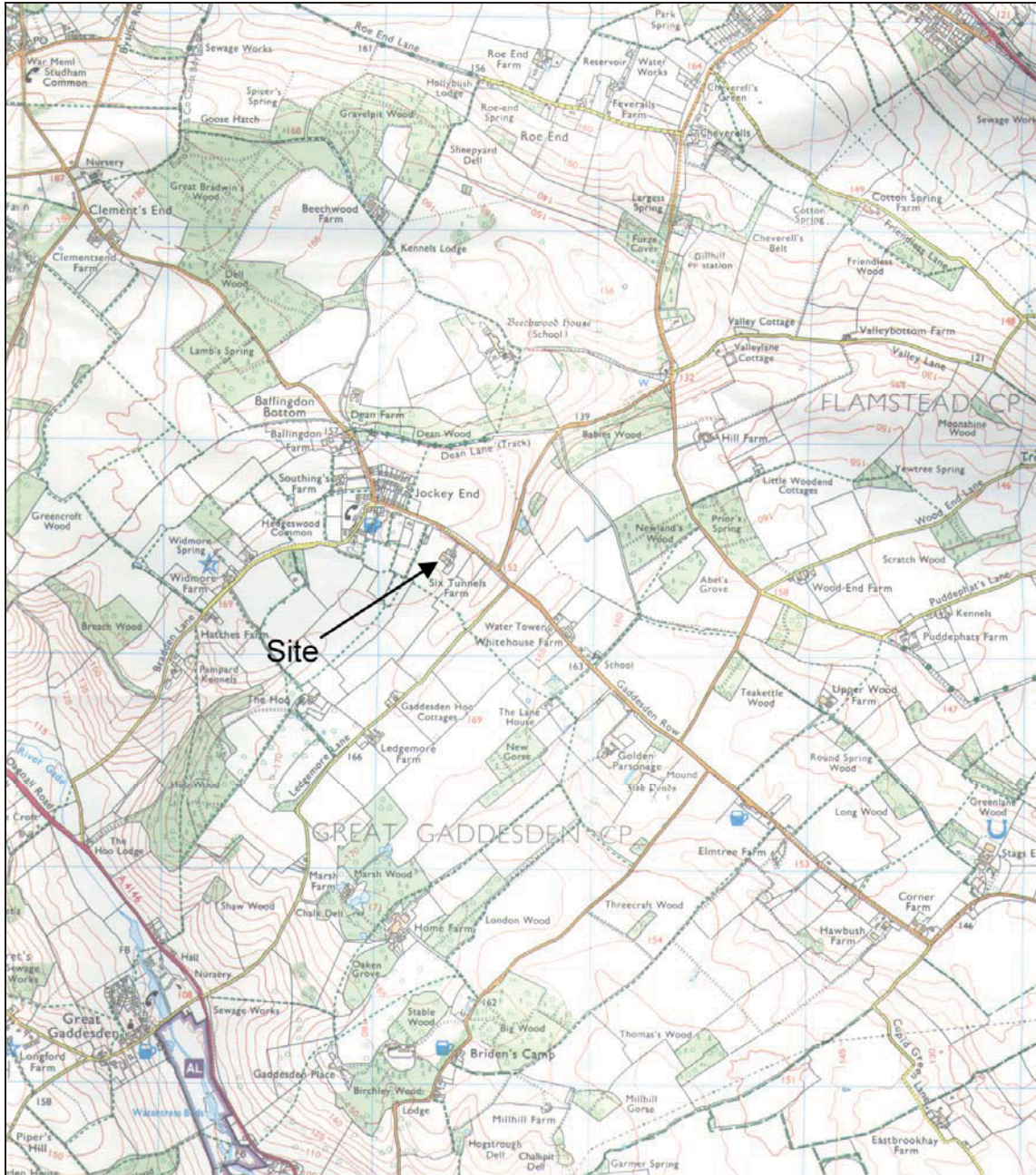


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

During the early autumn of 2004 Archaeological Services & Consultancy undertook a watching brief on a development at Six Tunnels Farm, Gaddesden Row, Great Gaddesden, Hertfordshire. The development consisted of a new stable block and associated service runs immediately to the north east of the main farm complex. Apart from foundations associated with 20th century buildings there was no evidence for earlier activity on the site. Both spoil heaps and service trenches were carefully scrutinised for artefacts, particularly flint artefacts, but in all cases these proved to be absent.

1 Introduction

1.1 During early October 2004 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief on a site at Six Tunnels Farm, Gaddesden Row, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 0432 1345: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Hugh Daly of T.V.F. Construction, and was carried out according to a brief (19/7/04) prepared by the County Archaeology Office (CAO) on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), and a written scheme of investigation prepared by ASC (ASC: 614/STF/1).

1.2 *Reason for Work*

In response to the planning application (Planning ref: 4/1473/04) the CAO, in accordance with PPG16, advised the LPA (Dacorum District Council) that there was a potential risk to archaeological deposits being disturbed or destroyed during the proposed development of the site.

1.3 *Setting*

1.3.1 The site is situated to the southwest of Gaddesden Row road c.250m southeast of the hamlet of Ballingdon Bottom and forms part of a larger farm complex of c.1.9ha in area.

1.3.2 Soils on the site are those of the Batcombe Association, defined as: 'Fine silty over clayey and fine loamy over clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal water logging. Some well drained clayey soils over chalk, variably flinty'. The underlying drift geology is plateau drift and clay-with-flints. (Soil Survey 1983). The site is located on the plateau of the interfluvium between the rivers Gade and Ver. It lies within the Studham zone of the Chilterns AONB (Woolerton Truscott 1993) and is at an elevation of between c.160 – 165mAOD.

1.3.3 The site is currently occupied by the farmhouse of Six Tunnels Farm in addition to a number of assorted farm buildings, including the stables, which is the subject of the present development. No services are known on the site. Access is gained via a driveway from Gaddesden Row to the northeast.

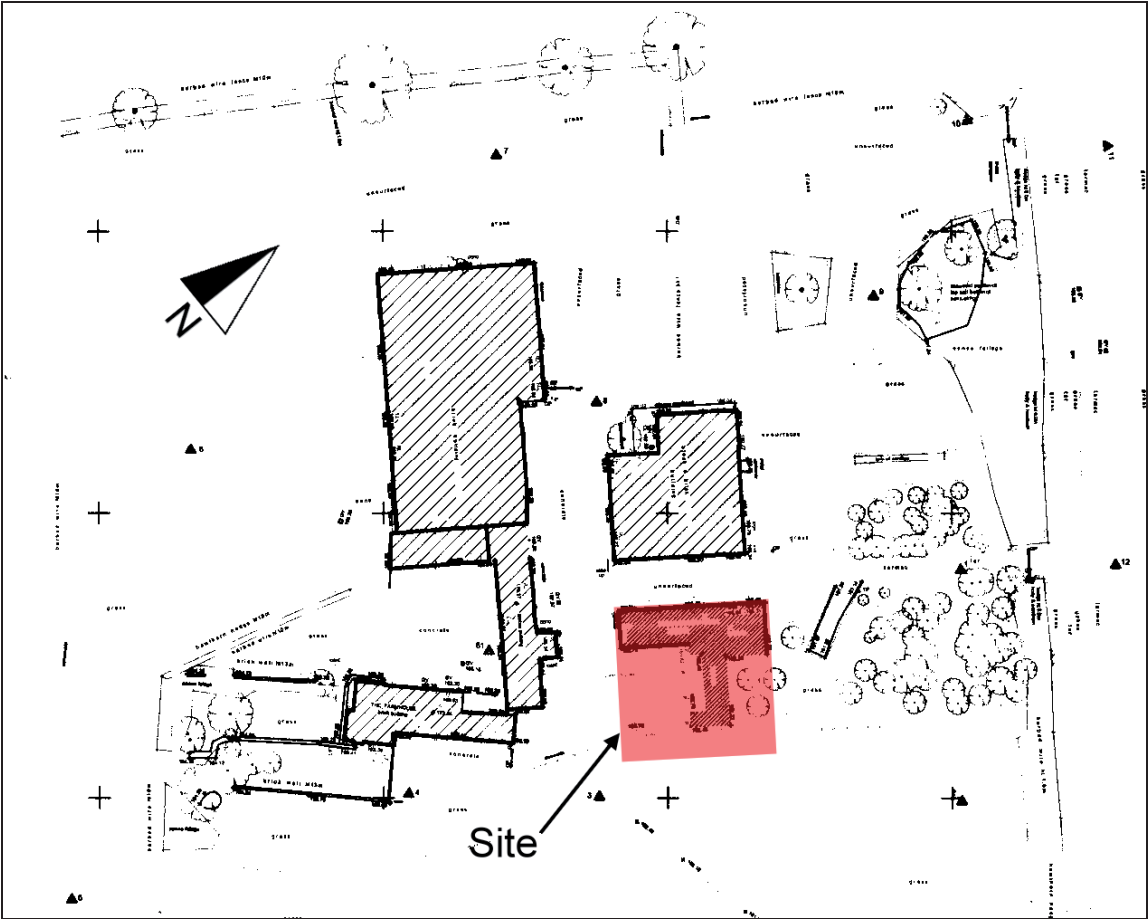


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

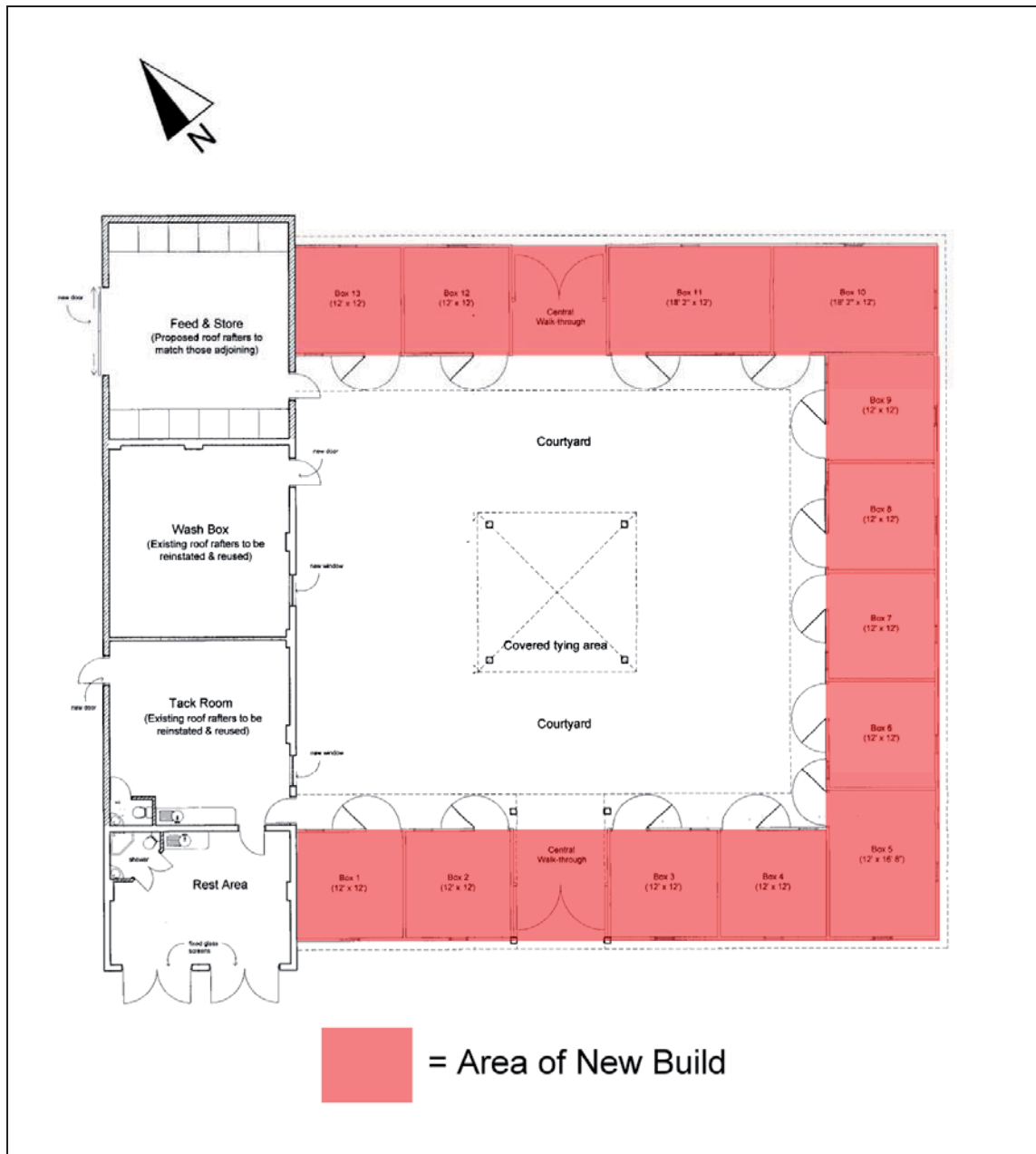


Figure 3: Plan of new stable block (scale 1:200)

2 Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

In line with the requirements of the Brief, the aims of the watching brief were:

- To ensure archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect archaeological remains
- To record any archaeological remains revealed by the development
- To ensure the analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual or ecofactual material recovered

2.2 Methods

The work was carried out according to the brief , which required:

- Soil and overburden stripping under archaeological supervision
- Inspection of sub-soil deposits for archaeological features
- The investigation and recording of any archaeological features/deposits
- Sub-soil stripping under archaeological supervision
- Examination of any service and foundation trenches and subsequent recording of any exposed archaeological deposits
- Examination of spoil-heaps for archaeological material
- A programme of post-fieldwork analysis, archiving and publication

2.3 Standards

The work conformed to the requirements of the *brief*, to the relevant sections of the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001) and *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000a), 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*.

3 Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 Prehistoric *(before 600BC)*

Some of the earliest evidence for human activity in the British Isles is derived from the south side of the Gade valley at Gaddesden Row (SMR 1149). Here were found Acheulian flint implements which belong to the palaeolithic period (SMR 0252); also belonging to the Palaeolithic period were two ovate hand axes (SMR 0253), a further 'implement' (SMR 0254); sixty two flint implements and twenty six worked conglomerates (SMR 0255); flint tools (SMR 0256) and two further palaeolithic hand axes (SMR 0257). Also from Gaddesden Row came a mesolithic 'Thames pick' (SMR 0258), Neolithic scrapers, flint flakes and cores (SMR 0260) and an axe (SMR 0262).

3.2 Iron Age *(600BC-AD43)*

There is no information relating to this period, though it is to be expected, that like the Hudnall common enclosure, there area would have had its fair share of dispersed Iron Age settlements.

3.3 Roman *(AD43-c.450)*

Evidence for this period is also quite poor. There is some form of settlement at Gaddesden Row where two beehive puddingstone querns were found (SMR 1148, 1374). Another site, possibly related to the quern stones, was discovered near Butterfields brickyard. This comprised pottery sherds, part of an amphora and a denarius at NGR TL 0375-1340.

3.4 Saxon *(c.450-1066)*

Apart from documentary sources there is very little physical evidence as to the origins of settlement at Great Gaddesden. We know there was such a place as 'Gaddesden' in the late Anglo-Saxon period since it was mentioned in a will of Aethelgifu who gave it to St Albans Abbey (Sawyer 1968, 419, no. 1497).

3.5 Medieval *(1066-1500)*

At the time of the Domesday Survey the manor had been granted by the king to Edward of Salisbury (Morris 1976, 32/1). It is not possible to estimate the number of house holders who lived in what we now call Great Gaddesden since the figures were applicable to the vill or town ship as a whole (i.e. the area that we now refer to as the parish). Nevertheless, among those mentioned were 15 villagers, 2 small holders, 1 cottager and 8 slaves. Of particular interest was the existence of a priest. We may safely infer the existence of a church. As a general rule, the location of churches was usually determined by the proximity of the dwelling (capital messuage) of whoever endowed the church with land and income (advowson). At Great Gaddesden the rectory and the advowson of the vicarage were appurtenant to the manor until 1381 (Page 1908, 206).

While this information may identify the historical nucleus of Great Gaddesden it does not provide the spatial extent for the settlement. We know that there were 60 names listed in the Lay Subsidy of 1292 for 'Gatesden' but this includes both Little and Great Gaddesden (PRO E. 179 102/2). The church was valued at £13 6s 8d in the Taxatio

Ecclesiastica of 1291 which was more than that for St Peters, Berkhamsted (£10). This suggests that the community was not insignificant. However, it still does not throw much light on the actual population level of the village itself. At some time in the early medieval period the manorial establishment ceased to be located close to the church. This may have been as a result of the nature of its descent due to various absentee owners (VCH II, 201-203). It is possible that what is or was known as Church Farm was the direct descendant of the manorial demesne farm.

3.6 Post-Medieval (1500-1900)

Gaddesden Row appears on Sellers map of 1676. The farm site is also marked on Dury and Andrews 1766 map but not named. Bryants 1821 map shows the site as *Tunnel Fm*, and its layout appears similar to the present day. As noted in the brief Six Tunnels Farm also appears on the Ordnance Survey first edition of 1884.

3.7 Modern (1900-present)

The development of Six Tunnels Farm in the 20th century can be traced through a variety of published and unpublished sources. These range from fairly simple information in the form of cartographic and aerial photographic sources to the records of the National Farm Survey of England and Wales 1940-43 (PRO MAF 73). However, such sources lie beyond the scope of this present study, though much of the fabric of the farm complex that survives almost certainly post dates the mid 20th century.

4 Results

- 4.1 The results were recorded on the monitoring sheets (Appendix 1) and illustrated by a series of photographs (below). In addition to the stable block area and which was the principal objective of the monitoring programme, all the service trenches carrying water to the horse paddocks were inspected (Plate 1). These varied in depth from as little as 0.35m to 0.5m and were 0.3m wide; they all proved to be remarkably clean and devoid of either artefacts or features.
- 4.2 The new foundations adjacent and part of the old stable block were recorded (see reverse of monitoring sheet for October 6th). These were all 0.7m wide and between 0.8 and 1.2m deep. Apart from the upper disturbed 'earthy horizon' they were all cut into a stoneless, yellowish brown clay (Plates 2 and 8). No features or artefacts were noted from these foundations.
- 4.3 The area of new stable block (Fig. 3) was observed (Plates 3-7). The ground was reduced by about 0.5m on the south side nearest to the main brick farm house (Plate 6). This level became progressively reduced towards Gaddesden Row where about 20m or so it faded out altogether. This was in effect terracing of the same sort of order as the adjacent ménage (Plate 5). The area of exposed terrain was about 20m square. Much of the ground was composed of natural ground consisting of pebbly clay (see reverse of monitoring sheet for October 5th). There was the remains of a steel frame building together with some N-S concrete footings 0.4m wide. There was a patch of chalk and concrete interspersed with brick debris and burning (Plates 4 and 7). No features or artefacts that pre-dated the 20th century were observed.

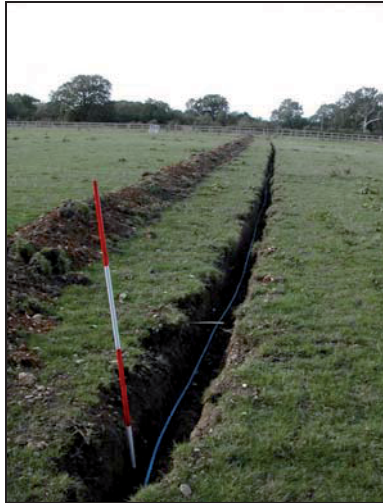


Plate 1: Water pipe trench to rear of farm enclosure



Plate 2: Detail of foundation trench for new building extension



Plate 3: Ground reduction underway



Plate 4: detail of character of reduced ground



Plate 5: Relationship of new stable area to ménage



Plate 6: Detail of ground make-up of south section



Plate 7: Completed ground reduction



Plate 8: Foundations to the new extension on north side of the old brick building

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 Despite careful scrutiny of the reduced area of the new stable block, foundation trenches and water service trenches, during the course of two visits to the site no features or artefacts were observed. The only features present were all associated with the development of the farm in the second half of the 20th century. This suggests that this area of Six Tunnels Farm was only recently developed in the past. An examination of the 6 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1878 shows that the farm consisted to two principal blocks. One was square in shape and comprised the present brick farm house while the other was a three sided plan. Both these building complexes lay to the east and north of the new stable block area, beneath the modern steel and concrete barns.
- 5.2 There is little doubt as to the historical antiquity of the area. The present day landscape of Gaddesden Row is a product of continuous evolution over the centuries with Gaddesden Row itself being cited as an example of a prehistoric ridgeway (Hindle 1982, 56) and the landscape itself being a relict of a prehistoric co-axial field system (Williamson 2000, 147).
- 5.3 The enclosure of the medieval open field landscape began at an earlier period in the Chilterns than that of the 'Champion region' (e.g. N. Hampshire, Bucks, Northants, Cambridgeshire, N. Norfolk, Leicester and Lincolnshire). The champion zone was characterised as having fewer principal fields (often only two or three) which were farmed by individual townships (the Midland system). The Chilterns, in contrast, had many more fields which were smaller in size but were also farmed on a communal basis. This system gradually began to change as more and more farmers chose to amalgamate their individual strips and then to enclose them from their adjoining land holders. This process appears to have been underway by the mid-16th century, if not before. The Great Gaddesden court rolls record 22 exchanges of copyhold for the years 1556-1583 of which half involved small parcels of land in only two fields (Roden 1969, 119). By the early 17th century 23 of the 35 tenants who cultivated common arable land on the manor of Great Gaddesden had less than half their holdings in the common field (Roden 1965, 73). The area to the west of Gaddesden Row appears to have been substantially enclosed by about the mid-17th century (HCRO 13094).
- 5.4 Six Tunnels Farm is cited as a fine example of an Elizabethan House (Hastie & Spain 1992, 172) and by its very character must have been associated with some high status agricultural buildings. These presumably lie beneath the modern farm complex though whether there is evidence for a medieval farm complex has yet to be demonstrated.

6. Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to Hugh Daly for commissioning this report on behalf of TVF Construction. The author also wishes to acknowledge the advice of Kate Batt of the County Archaeology Office of Hertfordshire County Council. Finally my thanks to my colleague Bob Zeepvat for editing this report.

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. List of photographs/slides
7. Colour slides
8. B/W prints & negatives
9. Original specialist reports and supporting information
10. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with the Dacorum Heritage Trust.

8. Bibliography

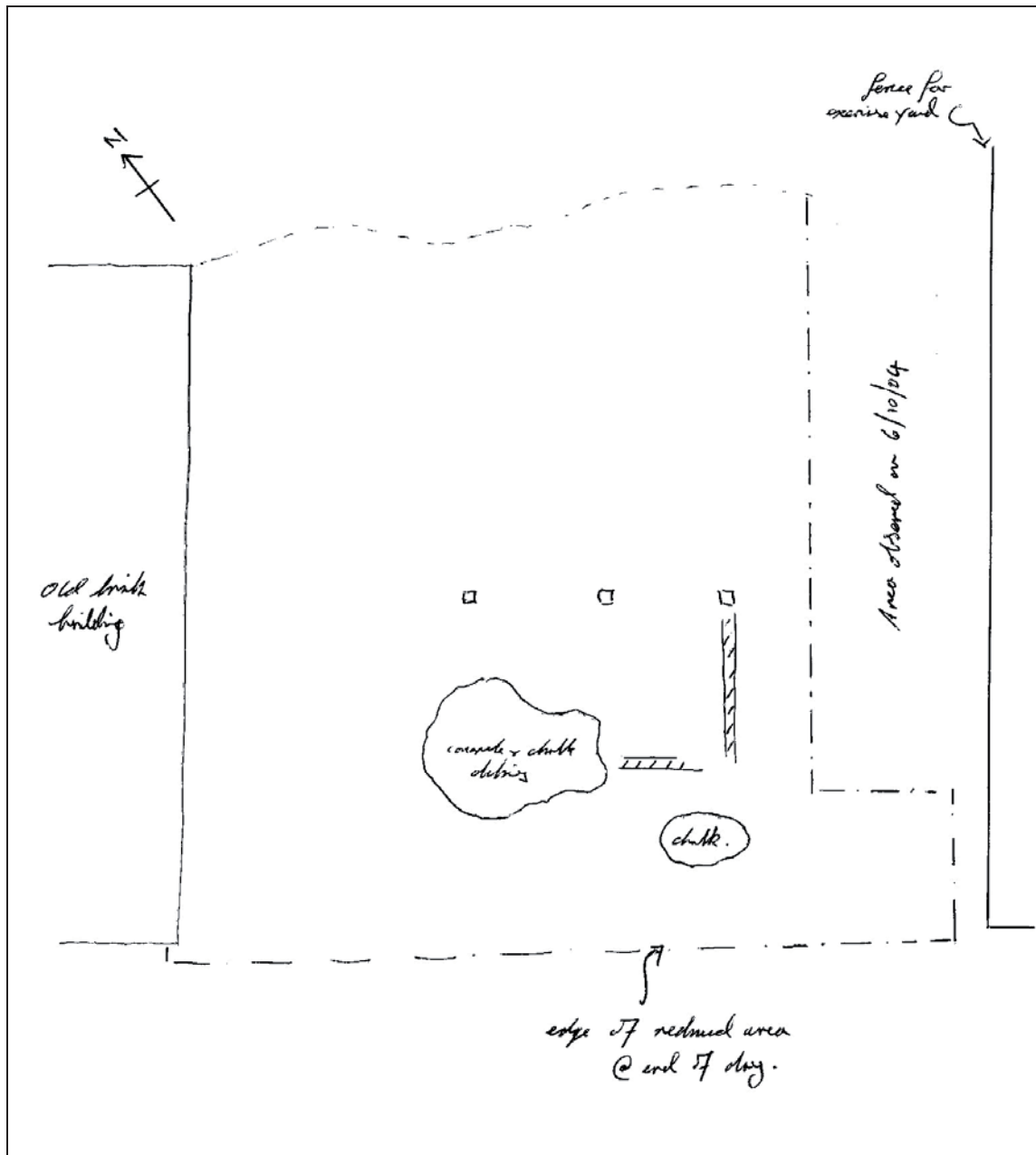
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Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

 A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD	
Project: <i>Six Tunnels Farm</i> <i>Great boaldens</i>		Project No/Code: <i>614 1 STF</i>	Sheet: <i>1 of 2</i>
Client/Developer: <i>TVF Construction</i>		Date of visit: <i>5/10/04</i>	
Contact: <i>Hugh Dohy</i>		Phone: <i>07767818065</i>	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: <i>2.00 pm</i>	Finish:	
Completed by: <i>SBH</i>			
Development Type:			
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: <i>Dry & Sunny though damp underneath.</i>			
Observations: <i>Inspected the general vicinity of the proposed ground works including several water-pipe tracks. These were from 0.35 to 0.5m in depth & 0.3m wide - all under clay & plough-soil.</i> <i>The area of the newly reduced ground was approx. 18m Sq and no more than 0.5m on its South side which declined in depth to the north (ie to the lower boaldens Row). Much of the exposed ground was 'natural' (pebbly clay). There was the remains of a steel frame building together with some N-S concrete footings 0.4m wide. There is a patch of chalk & concrete, brick debris and some fencing. All the material looks 1920 in date.</i>			
Comments: <i>Work continuing on site - visit on tomorrow should complete the ground works</i>			

For sketch plan, use reverse

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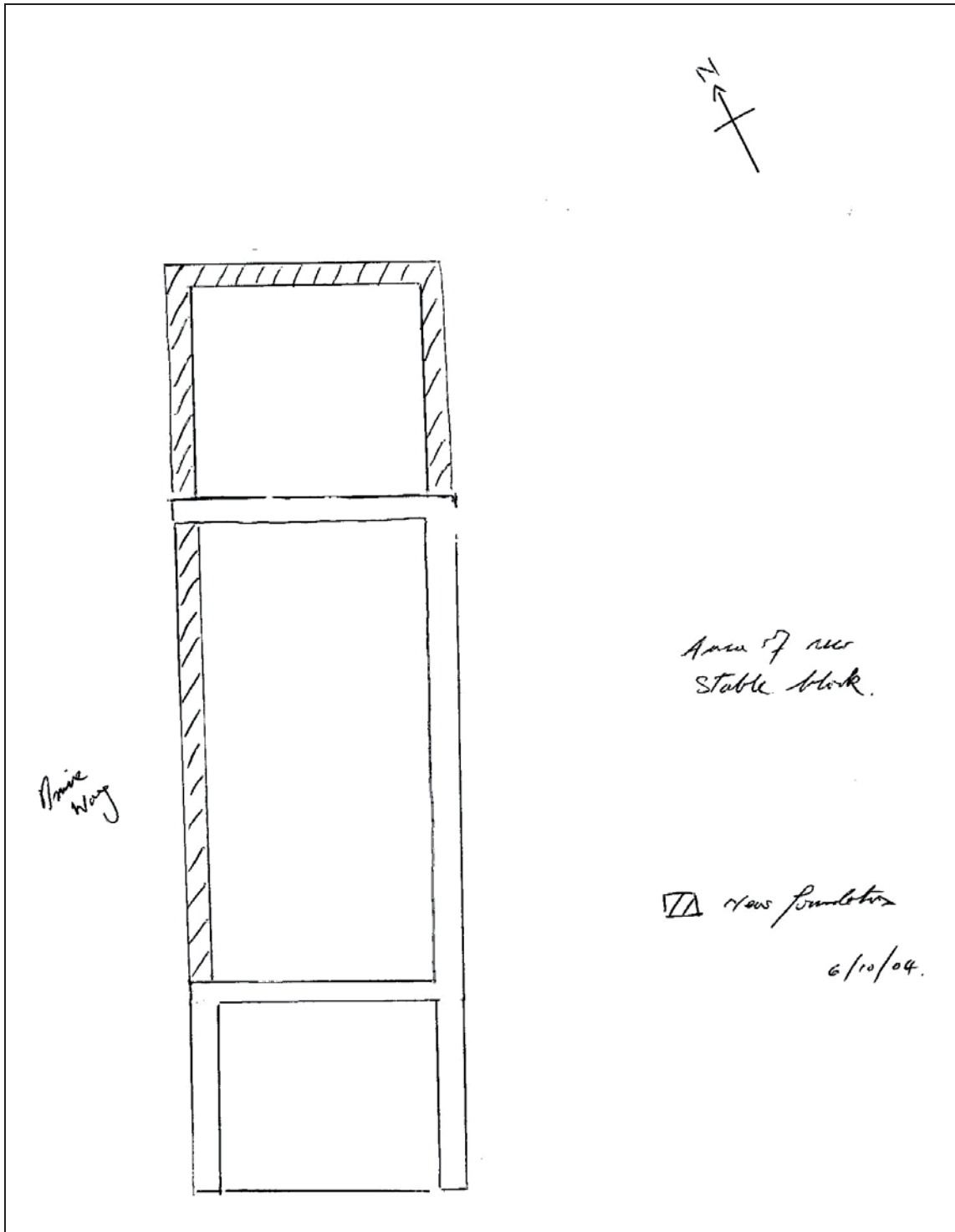
A.S.C. LTD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: Six Tunnels Farm		Project No/Code: 614 1 STF		Sheet: 2 of 2	
Gaddesden Row - G. Gaddesden		Date of visit: 6/10/04			
Client/Developer TVF Construction					
Contact: Hugh Daly				Phone: 07767818065	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 10.50		Finish:	
Completed by: SRTA					
Development Type:					
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Leveling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Quarrying	Pipelines
Other (specify):					
Site & weather conditions: Dry, Sunny & windy.					
Observations: Saw the eastern side of the Stable block area - Similar to previous area but more 'sooty' in composition. Nothing of significance. Also observed the foundation to the south of the semi demolished brick structure. The foundations are 12m deep by 0.7m wide. The upper 0.2m is a horizon (disturbed) below this a further (0.2m) partially brown horizon. The ground below this (i.e. 0.4m) is a smooth yellowish brown clay.					
Comments: No features or artefacts noted despite careful searching.					

For sketch plan, use reverse

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Appendix 2: SMR Summary Sheet

HERTS

Site name and address: Six Tunnels Farm, Gaddesden Row, Great Gaddesden, Hertfordshire		
County: Hertfordshire	District: Dacorum	
Village/Town: not applicable	Parish: Great Gaddesden	
Planning application reference: 4/1473/04		
Client name, address, & tel. no: Hugh Daly T.V.F. Construction Pound Cottage Kingston Lisle Oxon OX12 9QL		
Nature of application: Alterations and extensions to existing stables		
Present land use: farm complex		
Size of application area: n/a	Size of area investigated: n/a	
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 0432 1345	Site code: 614/STF	
Site director/Organization: Jonathan R. Hunn / ASC Ltd		
Type of work: watching brief		
Date of work:	Start: October 5 th 2004	Finish: October 6 th 2004
Curating museum: Dacorum Heritage Trust		
Related SMR nos:	Periods represented: 20 th century	
Relevant previous summaries/reports none known		
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p><i>During the early autumn of 2004 Archaeological Services & Consultancy undertook a watching brief on a development at Six Tunnels Farm, Gaddesden Row, Great Gaddesden, Hertfordshire. The development consisted of a new stable block and associated service runs immediately to the north east of the main farm complex. Apart from foundations associated with 20th century buildings there was no evidence for earlier activity on the site. Both spoil heaps and service trenches were carefully scrutinised for flint artefacts but in all cases these proved to be absent.</i></p>		
Author:	Date:	