

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:
134 FOLLY LANE
ST ALBANS
HERTFORDSHIRE**

NGR: TL 14114 07711

on behalf of B.S. Construction Limited



Calli Rouse BA PIFA

February 2011

ASC: 1370/SAF/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 project code:</i>	SAF	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	1370
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	Archaeol2-93499	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	TBC
<i>County:</i>	Hertfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	St Albans		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	St Albans		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TL 14114 07711		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c.450sqm		
<i>Present use:</i>	Residential		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Creation of off-street parking		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	5/10/1722		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	St Albans District Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	9 th & 10 th February 2011		
<i>Commissioned by:</i>	AT Surveys Ltd 1 Stonecross St Albans AL1 4AA		
<i>Client:</i>	B.S. Construction Limited The Stables Timberdene Loudwater Drive Rickmansworth Hertfordshire WD3 4HJ		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Bertie Samuelson (B.S. Construction Limited)		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Calli Rouse	<i>Date:</i>	16/02/2011
------------------------	-------------	--------------	------------

<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
-------------------	--	--------------	--

<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
---------------------------	--	--------------	--

© Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

No part of this document is to be copied in any way without prior written consent.

Every effort is made to provide detailed and accurate information. However, Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies within this report.

© Ordnance Survey maps reproduced with the sanction of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
ASC Licence No. AL 100015154

CONTENTS

Summary.....	4
1. Introduction	4
2. Aims & Methods	7
3. Archaeological & Historical Background.....	8
4. Results.	10
5. Conclusions	12
6. Acknowledgements	13
7. Archive	13
8. References	14

Appendices:

1. ASC Watching Brief Monitoring Sheets	15
2. Photo List.....	17
3. ASC OASIS Form	18

Figures:

1. General location	3
2. Site plan	5
3. Proposed development plan.....	6

Plates:

Cover:

1. Section through ground reduction	11
2. Ground reduction.....	11
3. Ground reduction.....	11

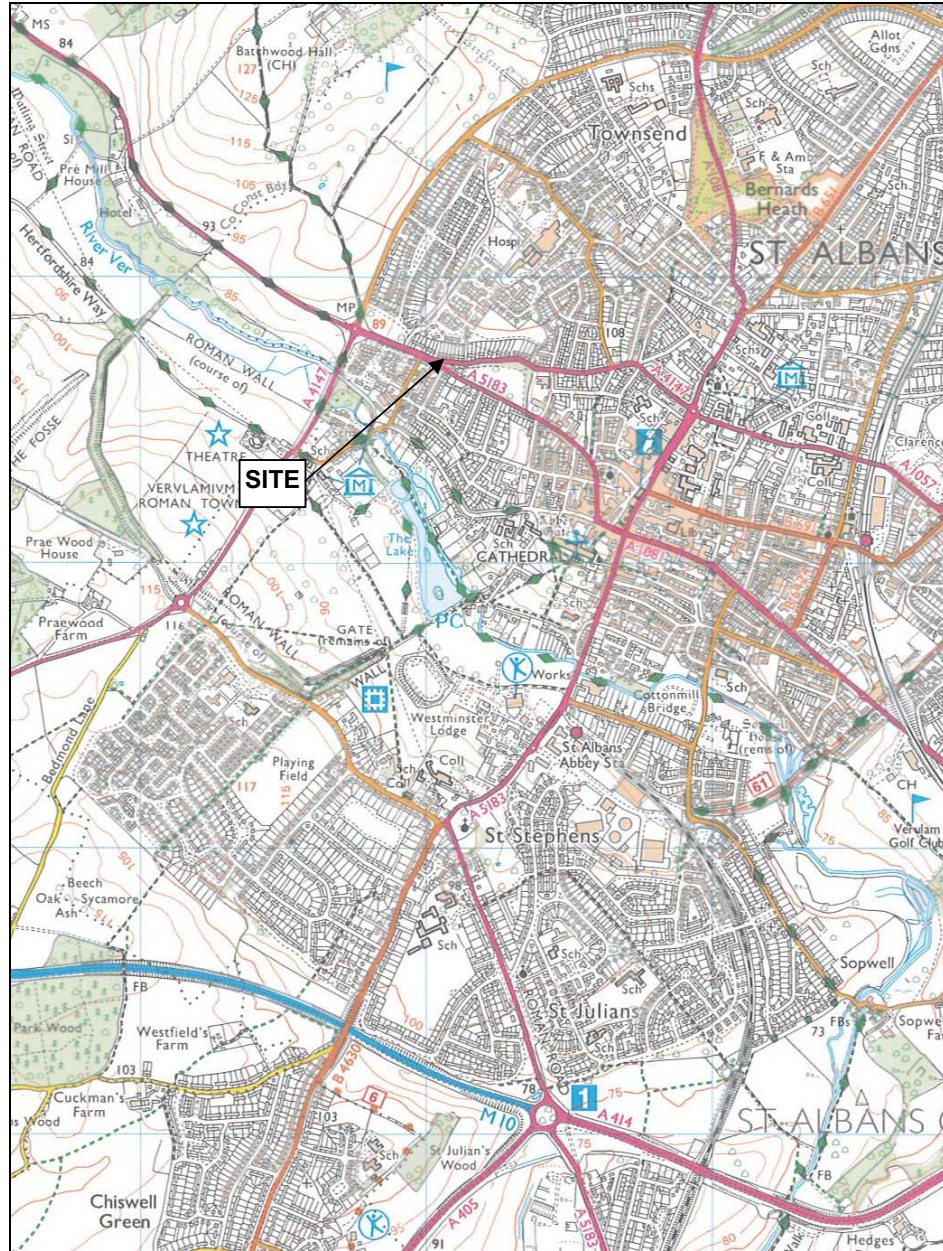


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

During February 2011 ASC carried out an archaeological watching brief at 134 Folly Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire, during groundworks for the construction of a new car parking space the front of the property. The site had the potential to reveal remains from a variety of periods, but particularly the Roman period. No archaeological finds or features were uncovered during the watching brief.

1. Introduction

1.1 In February 2011 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief at 134 Folly Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire. The project was commissioned by *AT Surveys Ltd*, and was carried out following discussions with the District Archaeological Officer (DAO), advisor to the local planning authority (LPA), *St. Albans District Council*. The relevant planning application reference is 5/10/1722.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This watching brief was required under the terms of *Planning Policy Statement 5* (PPS5), 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 development site is located within the district and parish of St Albans, at NGR TL 14114 07711 (Fig. 1).

The site comprises a long, rectangular plot of land on the northern side of Folly Lane. The development focussed on the southern end of the site, between the road and the existing dwelling. The site is accessed from Folly Lane, and is surrounded by residential development (Fig. 2).

1.4.2 *Geology & Topography*

The soils of the area are Unsurveyed, but appear to belong to the *Charity 2 Association*, which are characterised as *well drained flinty fine silty soils in valley bottoms. Calcareous fine silty soils over chalk or chalk rubble on valley sides, sometimes shallow* (Soil Survey 1983, 571m). The underlying geology comprises Cretaceous upper chalk (BGS, Sheet 239).

1.4.3 *Proposed Development*

The proposed development comprised the implementation of two new tarmaced parking spaces at the southern end of the site (Fig. 3).

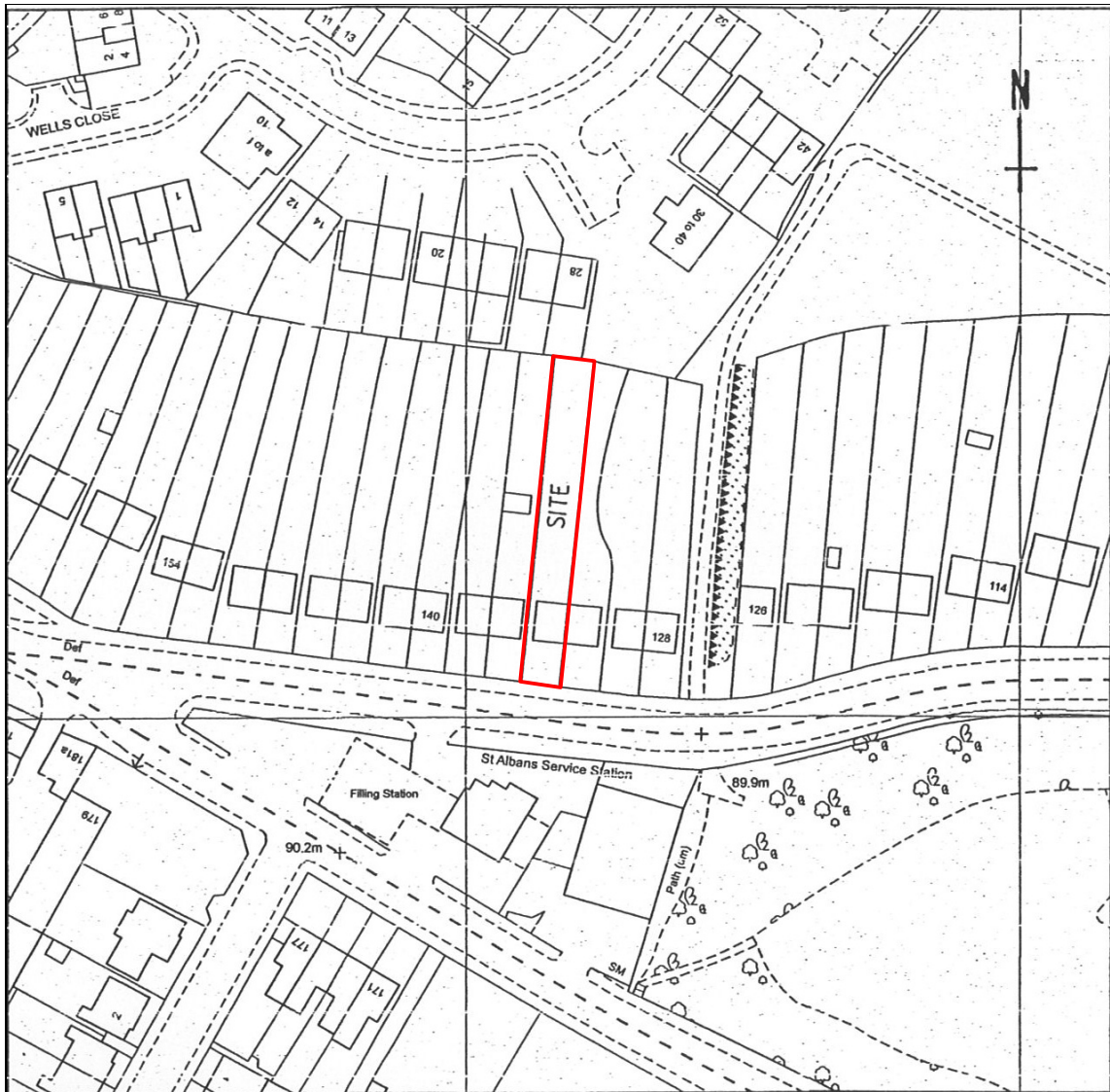


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

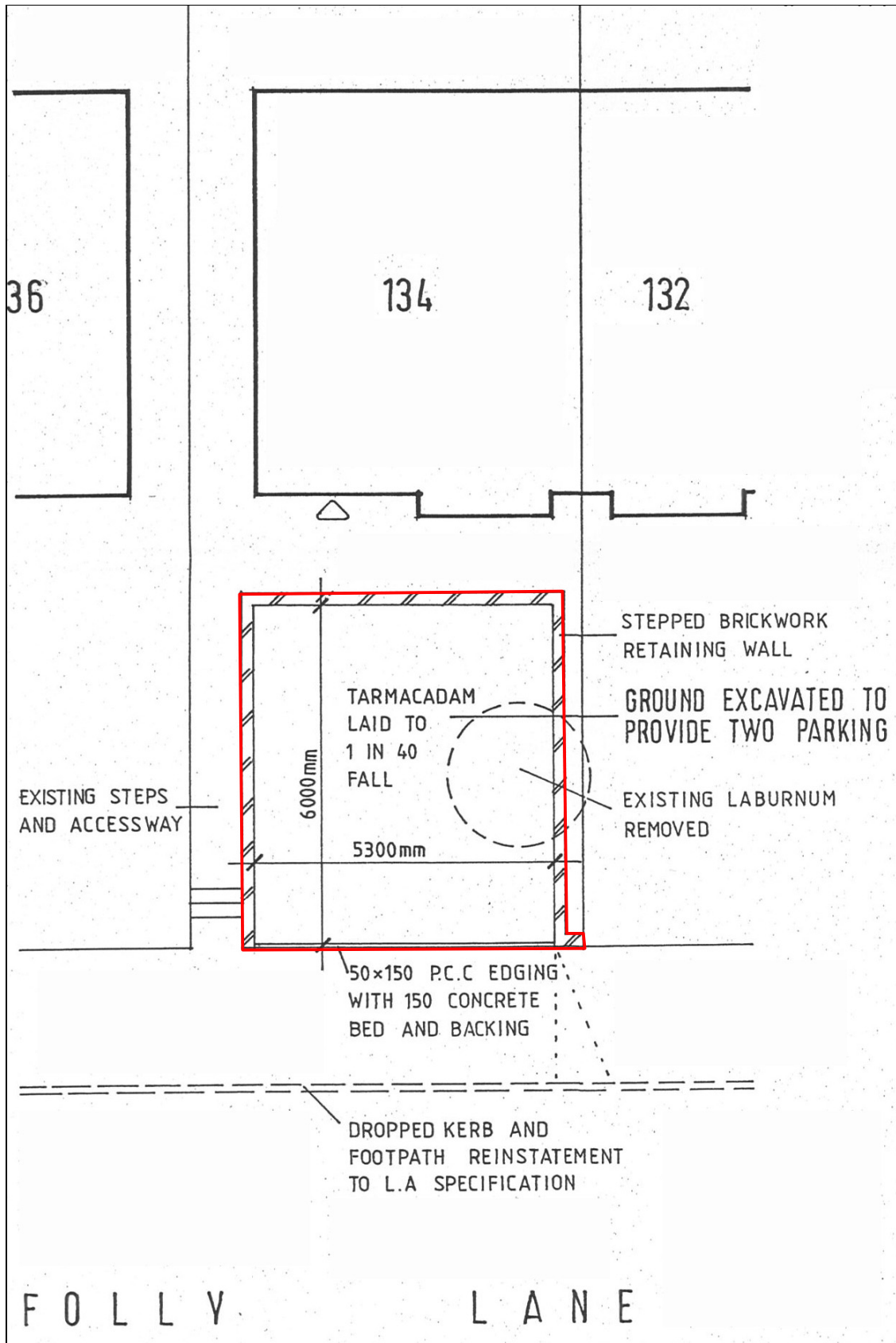


Figure 3: Proposed development plan (scale 1:100)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 *Aims*

As described in the project design (Section 3.1), the aims of the watching brief were:

- To ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to have an impact upon archaeological deposits.
- To secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme.
- To secure the analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site.
- To provide an adequately detailed project report that will place the findings of the monitoring and recording of the development programme in their local and regional context, having made reference to the relevant regional research agendas, and through cartographic, documentary and other research.

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 project design (Section 3.3), which required:

- Removal of existing surfaces under archaeological supervision.
- Soil and overburden stripping under archaeological supervision.
- The inspection of the subsoil for archaeological features, deposits, and artefacts.
- The rapid investigation and recording of archaeological features or deposits present, including adequate provision of both drawn and photographic records.
- Subsoil stripping under archaeological supervision.
- The examination of 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.

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 readily available sources, including ASC's own library.

3.2 *Prehistoric* (before AD43)

The nature and extent of prehistoric remains in the immediate vicinity of the development site is not understood in detail, but a variety of flint artefacts have been found in the valley of the river Ver in the St Albans area. The area was of considerable importance during the late Iron Age and a number of major sites of this period are located in the area. Late Iron Age settlement was dominated by a settlement at Prae Wood c. 2km west of the site (Wheeler & Wheeler 1936). Settlement of this period has been found at a variety of locations in this area for example at Gorhambury (Neal *et al*, 1990). Further evidence of this period has been found north of the river, notably at Folly Lane, where an important Late Iron Age high status burial has been recorded (Niblett 1999).

3.4 *Roman* (AD43-c.450)

Following the Roman conquest there was a shift in settlement and an important Roman city, known as *Verulamium*, was laid out on the south side of the river Ver. It developed into the third largest city in Roman Britain and is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Niblett 2001; Wheeler & Wheeler 1936). The development site is located c.0.5km to the east of the Roman city. Communications in the area were dominated by a major Roman road, now known as *Watling Street*, which led from *Londinium* (London) to the south gate of the Roman city, and on to Wroxeter.

The early phase of buildings in the town was constructed of timber, and many were destroyed during the Boudiccan Revolt in AD 60-61 (Frere 1972). The town was subsequently rebuilt and expanded and was later encircled by gated walls (Niblett 2001). St Alban, the first British Christian martyr, was executed in AD 209 within the city walls (Niblett 2001).

A number of cemeteries are recorded outside the city walls notably on King Harry Lane to the south west of the city (Stead & Rigby 1989). Further burials are recorded on the east side of the city c. 400-500m southeast of the development site (Anthony 1968).

St Albans began to decline after the departure of the Roman Army with many of its buildings falling into disuse, and by the 5th century much of the population had relocated (Niblett 2001).

A 1st or 2nd century Roman pot thought to represent a cremation was discovered outside 21 Kings Road c.0.3km to the south of Folly Lane, complete apart from its ploughed off rim (Niblett & Thompson 2005).

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

The focus of the settlement shifted to the north side of the river during the Saxon period, where a new site known as Kingsbury developed (Niblett 2001, Fig. 75). King Offa of Mercia founded an Abbey dedicated to the martyred Christian St Alban and the present cathedral, which lies c.500m southeast of the development site, occupies the site of the Saxon abbey. A market was established in the town during the 10th century.

3.6 **Medieval** (1066-1500)

St Albans is mentioned in the Domesday Survey (1086) when the abbot was the principal landholder (Williams & Martin 2002). The town developed considerably during the medieval period, when settlement became focused around the abbey and its precinct. The site is located to the west of this area, close to the line of the Tonman ditch which defined the medieval town.

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

Antiquarian maps of the area (eg Hare 1634; Godman 1822) show the area as open land, as does the first edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1879. This appears to have been the case until the area was developed in the early 20th century.

4. Results

- 4.1 During the watching brief the ground reduction for the new parking spaces was observed to a depth of *c.*1m. Prior to the groundworks, the area comprised a turfed area of garden, *c.*1.2m above the level of Folly Lane, with a slight slope at its southern end.

- 4.2 The stratigraphy of the site comprised *c.*0.15m of topsoil, which overlay *c.*0.25m of mid grey brown silt. Below this was natural orange silty clay with frequent inclusions of pebbles and flint. No archaeological finds or features were observed during the watching brief.



Plate 1: Section through ground reduction, looking east, 1m scale



Plate 2: Ground reduction, looking east, 1m scale



Plate 3: Ground reduction, looking north, 1m scale

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 St Albans is an area of archaeological and historical importance, with a high potential for the survival of remains dating to the Roman period. The main Roman settlement of Verulamium was located *c.*0.5km to the southwest of the development site, on the southern side of the River Ver, so there was the potential for the survival of peripheral features related to the town within the boundaries of the site.
- 5.2 The watching brief did not reveal any archaeological finds or features dating to the Roman period or otherwise. This suggests that the site was outside the developed area of the Roman town, and far enough away from the later development of St Albans to remain unaffected by its expansion until the early half of the 20th century when the current houses on Folly Lane were constructed.
- 5.3 *Confidence Rating*
The watching brief was carried out in good to fair conditions, and full cooperation was received from all parties involved. As a result, a high confidence rating is attached to the results of the watching brief.

6. Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by *AT Surveys Ltd*. The writer is grateful to Anthony Tight for his assistance. The project was monitored by Simon West on behalf of the local planning authority.

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

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
7. B/W prints & negatives
8. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with St Albans Museum.

8. 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*, 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 2010 *Project Design for an Archaeological Watching Brief at 134 Folly Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire* ASC/1370/SAF/1

Secondary Sources

- Anthony I E 1968 'Excavations in Verulam Hills Field, St Albans 1963-4'. *Hertfordshire Archaeology* **1**, 9-50.
- BGS *British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology*.
- Frere S 1972 *Verulamium Excavations Vol 1*. Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquities of London. **28**.
- Neal D S, Wardle A and Hunn J 1990 *Excavation of the Iron Age, Roman and Medieval Settlement at Gorhambury, St Albans*. English Heritage Archaeological Report. **14**
- Niblett R. 1999 *The Excavation of a ceremonial Site at Folly Lane, Verulamium*. Britannia Monograph Series **14**
- Niblett R 2001 *Verulamium. The Roman City of St Albans*. Tempus
- Niblett R & Thompson I 2005 *Alban's Buried Towns. An Assessment of St Albans Archaeology up to AD1600*. Oxbow Books
- Saunders C & Havercroft A B 1978 'Excavations in the City and District of St Albans 1974-76' *Hertfordshire Archaeology*, **6**, 1-77
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).
- Stead I M & Rigby V 1989 *Verulamium The King Harry Lane Site*. English Heritage Archaeological Report No: 12.
- Wheeler R E M & Wheeler T V 1936 *Verulamium A Belgic and Two Roman Cities*. Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquities London.
- Williams A & Martin G H, 2002 *Domesday Book. A Complete Translation*. Penguin

Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

 A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD			
Project: 134 FOLLY LANE		Project No/Code: 1370 1 SAF		Sheet: 1 of 2	
		Date of visit: 9/2/11			
Client/Developer					
Contact:				Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 10.15		Finish: 3.15	
Completed by: CR					
Development Type:					
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Quarrying	Pipelines
					Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions:					
CLEAR, DRY, SUNNY					
Observations:					
OBSERVED BEGINNING OF GROUND REDUCTION FOR NEW PARKING SPACE					
ARCHAEOLOGICAL HORIZON / NATURAL NOT REACHED - NO PHOTOS					
Comments:					
RTH COME BACK TOMORROW 8 AM					

 A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD				
Project: 134 FOLLY LANE		Project No/Code: 1370 / 1		Sheet: 2 of 2		
		Date of visit: 10 / 2 / 11				
Client/Developer						
Contact:			Phone:			
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 7.00		Finish: 12.30		
Completed by: CR						
Development Type:						
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions:						
OVERCAST, WET						
Observations:						
OBSERVED REMAINDER OF GROUND REDUCTION.						
STRAT: 0.15m TOPSOIL						
0.25m SUBSOIL - MID GREY BROWN SILT						
OVER GRADE SILTY CLAY WITH FREQ PEBBLE						
& FLINT INCLUSIONS, NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS						
OR FEATURES OBSERVED.						
Comments:						

Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: 134 Folly Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire			SITE NO/CODE: 1370/SAF
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	✓	✓	Section through ground reduction, looking east, 1m scale
2	✓	✓	Working shot
3	✓	✓	Ground reduction at southern end of the site, looking east, 1m scale
4	✓	✓	General site shot, looking north, 1m scale
5	✓	✓	General site shot, looking north, 1m scale

Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	134 Folly Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire	OASIS reference:	Archaeol2-93499
Short Description:	During February 2011 ASC Carried out an archaeological watching brief at 134 Folly Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire, during groundworks for the construction of a new car parking space the front of the property. The site had the potential to reveal remains from a variety of periods, but particularly the Roman period. No archaeological finds or features were uncovered during the watching brief.		
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:	-	Monument period:	-
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	-		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Hertfordshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	TL 14114 07711
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	134 Folly Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	c.450sqm	Height OD: (metres)	c.85
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	-	Project design originator:	C.Rouse
Project Manager:	B.Zeepvat	Director/Supervisor:	B.Zeepvat
Sponsor / funding body:	AT Surveys Ltd		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	09/02/2011	End date:	10/02/2011
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	St Albans Museum	-	
Paper:		Archive box	
Digital:		CD	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Archaeological Watching Brief: 134 Folly Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1370/SAF/2		
Author(s):	Calli Rouse BA PIFA		
Page nos	1-18	Date:	16/02/2011