

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:  
FOLD FARM, GALLEY LANE,  
BARNET, HERTFORDSHIRE**

*on behalf of Fold Farm Partners Limited*



by

Nicholas A Crank BSc AIFA

**November 2004**

**ASC: 627/BFF/01**

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**Site Data**

<i>ASC site code:</i>	BFF	<i>Project no:</i>	627
<i>County:</i>	Hertfordshire		
<i>District:</i>	Hertsmere		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Barnet		
<i>Parish:</i>	Unparished Potters Bar		
<i>NGR:</i>	TQ 2253 9759		
<i>Extent of development:</i>	c.23m x c.48m		
<i>Present land use:</i>	Agricultural (farmyard)		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Construction of Steel Framed Agricultural Building		
<i>Client:</i>	Fold Farm Partners Ltd Fold Farm Galley Lane Barnet Hertfordshire EN5 4RA		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Gary Lewis		
<i>Telephone</i>	07973 431435	<i>Fax:</i>	N/A

**Internal Quality Check**

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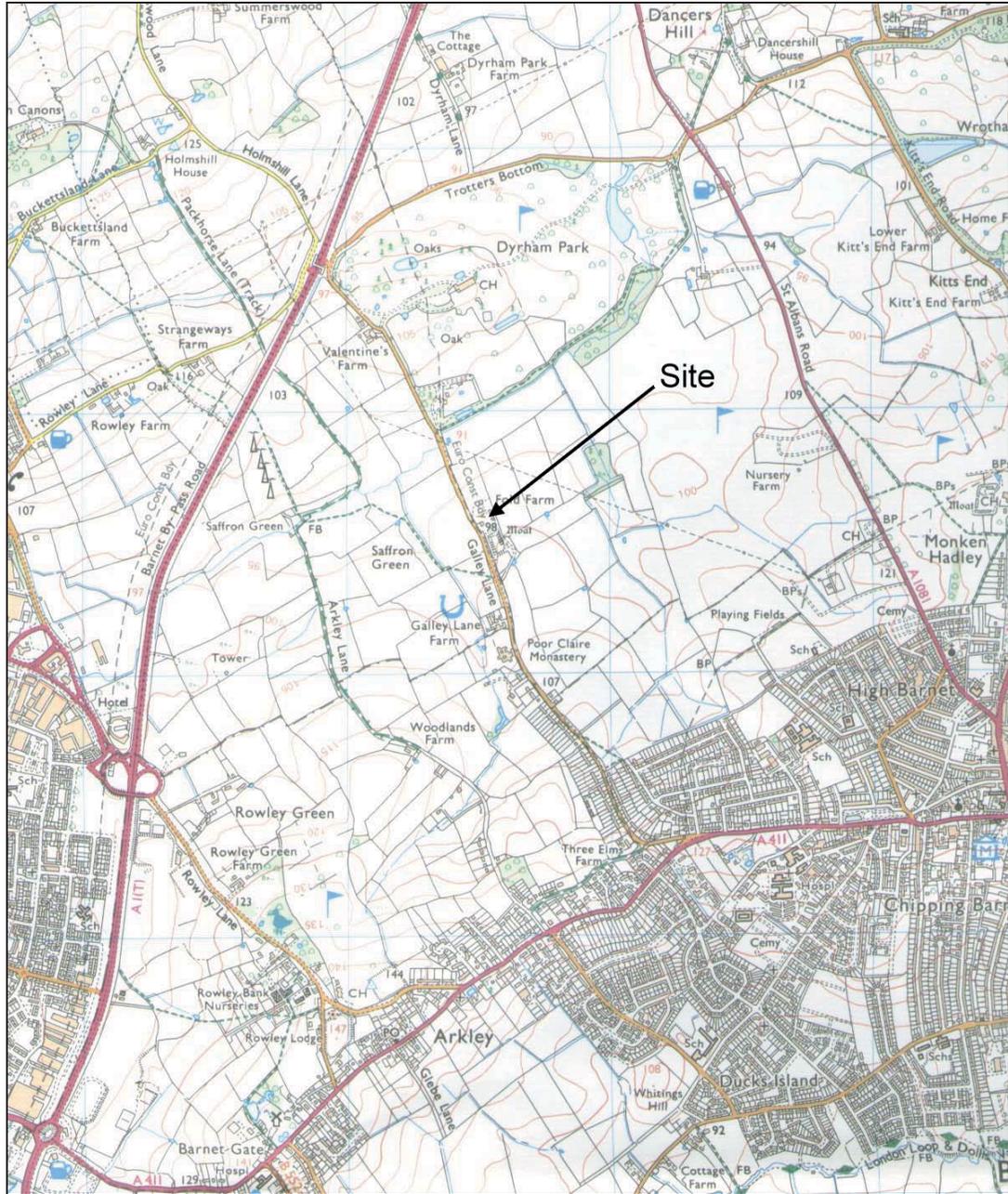


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

## Summary

*During November 2004 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on a site at Fold Farm, Galley Lane, Barnet, Hertfordshire. The project was undertaken during the excavation of foundations for a steel framed agricultural building. No archaeological remains were observed during the works.*

## 1 Introduction

1.1 During November 2004 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief on a site at Fold Farm, Galley Lane, Barnet, Hertfordshire (NGR: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Fold Farm Partners, and was carried out according to a standard method statement prepared by ASC and a brief issued by Hertfordshire County Council County Archaeological Office (HCC CAO).

### 1.2 Reason for Work

As the development is within an area of known archaeological potential, the HCC CAO acting as advisor to Hertsmeire District Council recommended that a watching brief should be undertaken, to enable archaeological monitoring of the groundworks. This advice was accepted and a condition requiring a watching brief to be commissioned was placed on the development.

### 1.3 Setting

1.3.1 The site is situated to the east of Galley Lane *c.*1.5km northwest of the centre of Barnet and comprises a roughly rectangular plot *c.*1.8ha in area.

1.3.2 Soils in the area are those of the Windsor Association defined as 'Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey soils mostly with brown subsoils. Some fine loamy over clayey and fine silty over clayey soils and locally, on slopes, clayey soils with only slight seasonal waterlogging'. The underlying drift geology is Tertiary (London) Clay. (Soil Survey 1983). The site itself appears to have been levelled and occupies an elevation of *c.*98m AOD.

1.3.3 The site is currently occupied by a range of buildings including the farmhouse, cattle sheds and various dairying buildings. The area of the new development was unoccupied at the time of the watching brief, having previously been occupied by a storage building. No services are known within the development area. Access is gained via Galley Lane to the west.

1.3.4 As noted in the brief (para. 2.1) the site is situated within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 25 as designated on the local plan. This notes that Fold Farm is on the site of a Medieval Farmstead. The site is recorded within the county Site and Monuments Record (SMR1330, 2648, & 6228). This refers to the farm as a probable manorial site and notes the presence of a moat to the south of the farmhouse. The farmhouse itself is a timber-framed building dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> century or earlier.

- 1.3.5 It is proposed to demolish an existing storage building and construct a new steel framed agricultural building in its place. The new building will be *c.*23m x *c.*48m in area, and the groundworks will consist of the excavation of 37 pits for the concrete pad foundations.

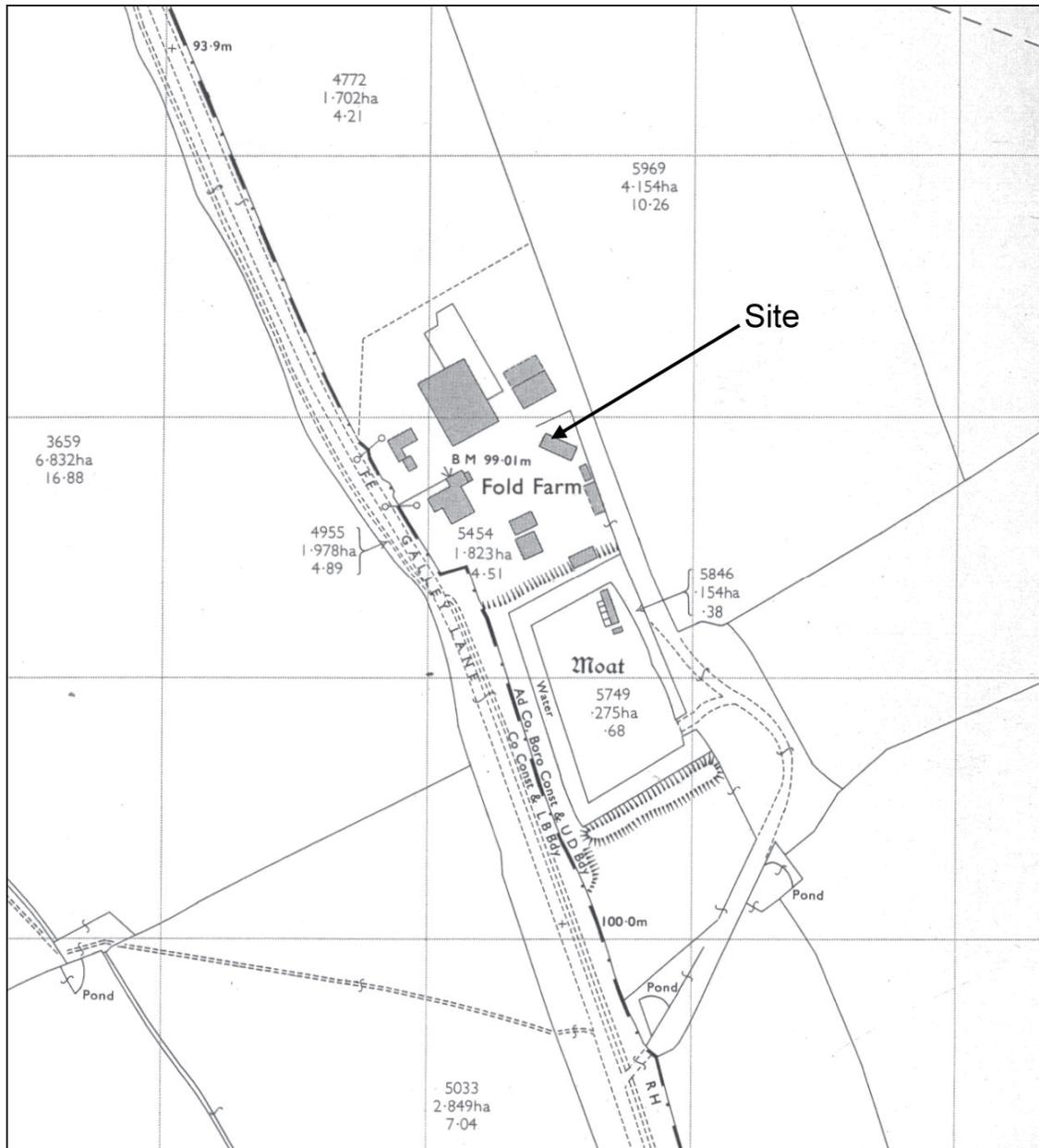


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:2500)

## **2 Aims & Methods**

### **2.1 Aims**

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

- To ensure archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect archaeological remains
- To secure the adequate recording of 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**

In line with the requirements of the Brief (Section 3), the methods to be adopted for this project shall be:

- 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 HCC CAO, 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 Results**

- 3.1 The groundworks observed comprised the cutting of 37 pits to receive the concrete pad foundations (Fig. 3, Plates 1 & 2). The 22 main pits were each *c.*1.4m x *c.*1.0m in area and the 15 minor pits were *c.*0.75m x *c.*0.75m, the pits varied in depth between 0.75m to 1.2m.
- 3.2 Sample sections were observed for the pits revealing a general stratigraphy consisting of between 0.5m to 1.0m of modern made ground and demolition rubble over the natural light brown London Clay (Plates 1 & 2).
- 3.3 Observation of the foundation pits indicated that the area of the new building had been subject to extensive levelling with made ground deposits of up to 1m being present sealing the natural clay. The lack of an intervening topsoil layer above the natural and the presence of geotextile matting below the made ground indicates extensive stripping of the area during the recent past. All the pits were examined for archaeological features and the excavated spoil scrutinised for artefacts but none were observed.

#### **3.4 *Archaeological impact of the development***

The watching brief revealed that the area of the new building had been subject to extensive truncation and levelling in the recent past. The modern date of this activity is confirmed by the presence of geotextile matting directly above the natural clay. No archaeological features were observed during the watching brief and no artefacts recovered. As a result it is considered unlikely that archaeological remains survive within the area of the new build and consequently the archaeological impact of the excavation of the observed groundworks has been minimal.

#### **3.5 *Confidence Rating***

Due to the favourable weather conditions and lighting combined with the full cooperation of the client and contractors a high confidence rating is attached to the results of the watching brief.

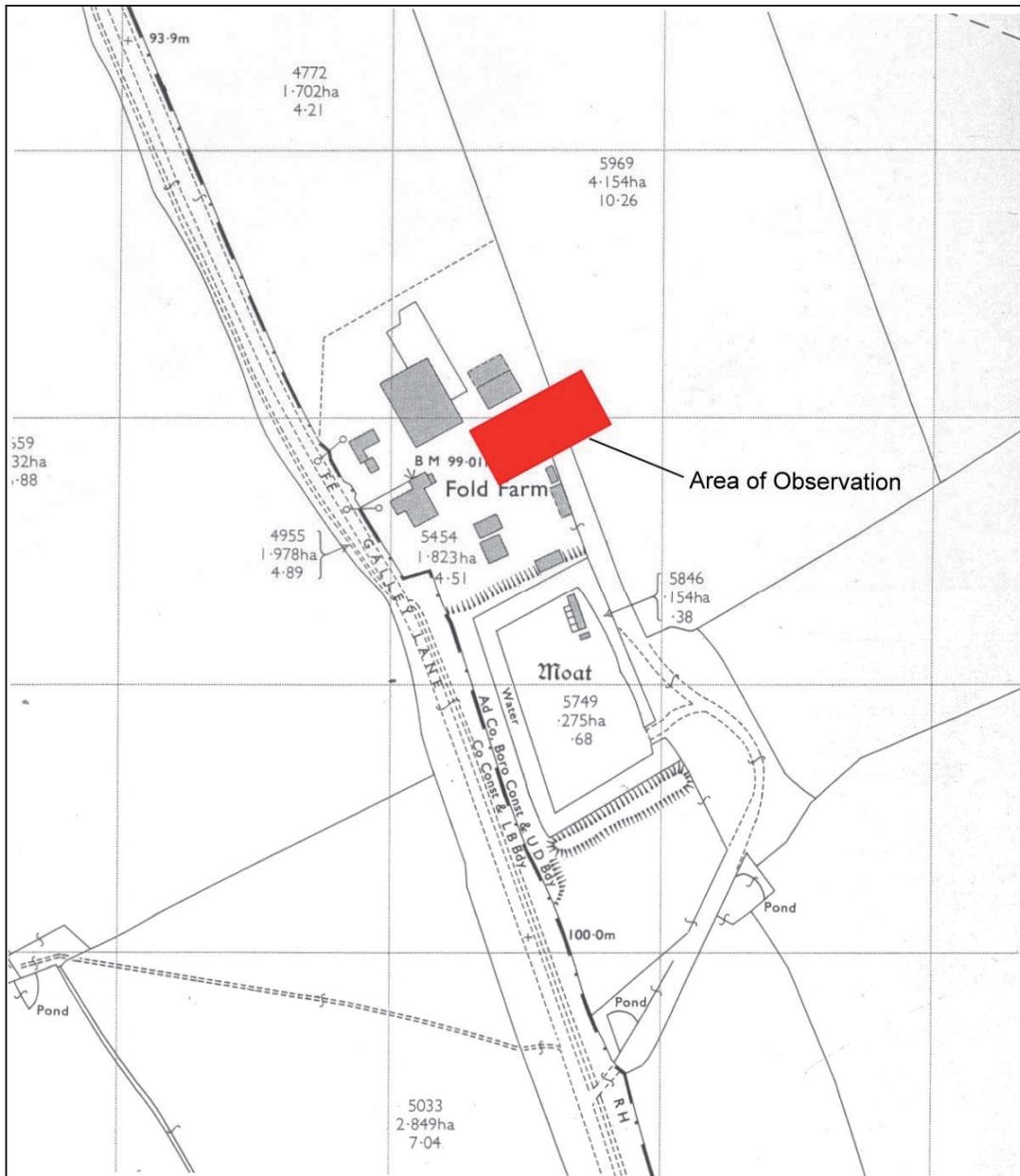


Figure 3: Area of Observation (Scale 1:2500)



**Plate 2:** Foundation Pit on southwest edge of building



**Plate 3:** Foundation Pit on southeast edge of building

## **4. Acknowledgements**

The writer is grateful to Mr Gary Lewis of Fold Farm Partners for commissioning the watching brief. We would also like to acknowledge the co-operation of the groundwork contractor Mr Mark Preece of MK Preece Excavations Ltd. Thanks are also due to Mrs Kate Batt and Mr Jonathan Smith of HCC CAO who acted as curatorial officers.

The fieldwork was undertaken for ASC Ltd by Nicholas A Crank BSc AIFA. The report was prepared by Nicholas A Crank and edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

## **5. Archive**

5.1 The project archive will comprise:

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

5.2 The archive will be deposited with Bushey Museum.

## **6. Bibliography**

ALGAO 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper No.14

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)*.

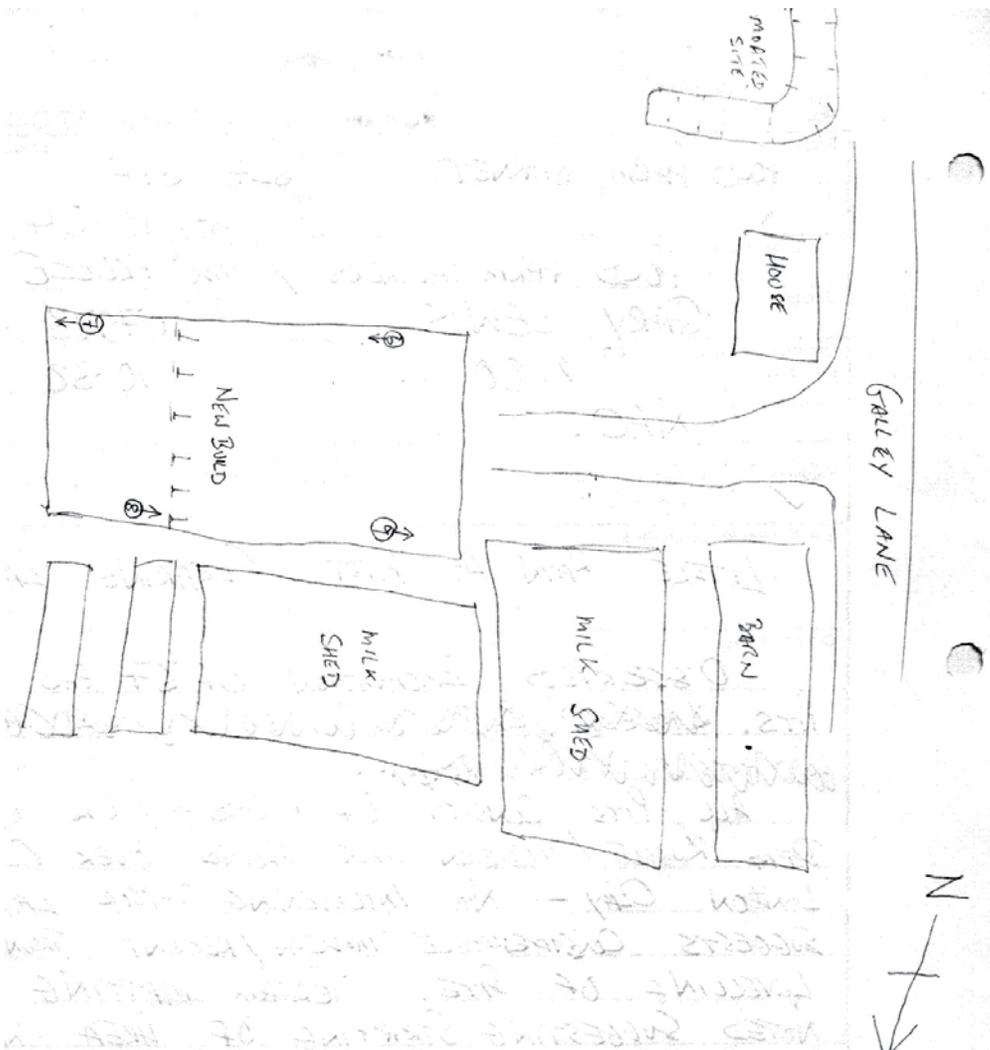
Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend (Harpenden)*.

### Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

 <b>A.S.C. LTD</b>		<b>ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD</b>	
Project: <b>FOLD FARM, BARNET.</b>		Project No/Code: <b>6271BFF</b>	Sheet: <b>1 of 1</b>
Client/Developer: <b>FOLD FARM PARTNERS / MK PREECE</b>		Date of visit: <b>4/11/04</b>	
Contact: <b>GARY LEWIS</b>		Phone: <b>07973 431435.</b>	
Duration of Visit (Inc. travel):	Start: <b>8.00</b>	Finish: <b>10.30</b>	
Completed by: <b>NAC.</b>			
Development Type:			
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services <input type="checkbox"/>	Roads <input type="checkbox"/>	Levelling <input type="checkbox"/>
			Quarrying <input type="checkbox"/>
			Pipelines <input type="checkbox"/>
			Other (specify): <input type="checkbox"/>
Site & weather conditions: <b>LITTLE RAIN AT FIRST, CLEARING LATER.</b>			
Observations: <b>OBSERVED EXCAVATION OF 37 PAD FOUNDATION PITS. <del>ALL PITS CONSIST OF 0.5-1.0m of DEMO RUBBLE / MODERN MADE GROUND OVER CLEAN LONDON CLAY - NO INTERVENING TOPSOIL LAYER - SUGGESTS CONSIDERABLE MODERN / RECENT TRUNCATION / LEVELLING OF SITE. TERRAM MATTING ALSO NOTED SUGGESTING STRIPPING OF AREA IN RECENT YEARS.</del></b> <b>ALL PITS CONSIST OF 0.5 - 1.0m of DEMO RUBBLE / MODERN MADE GROUND OVER CLEAN LONDON CLAY - NO INTERVENING TOPSOIL LAYER - SUGGESTS CONSIDERABLE MODERN / RECENT TRUNCATION / LEVELLING OF SITE. TERRAM MATTING ALSO NOTED SUGGESTING STRIPPING OF AREA IN RECENT YEARS.</b>			
Comments: <b>NO ARCHAEOLOGY OBSERVED. MUCH EVIDENCE FOR TRUNCATION &amp; LEVELLING UP.</b>			

For sketch plan, use reverse

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22 X MAIN BATES (11-A-SIDE)  
15 MORE BATES.

EACH BATE CONSISTS OF WHITE GROUND OVER  
FROM NATURAL LIGHT BROWN (BELOWERS) CLAY WITH OOL.  
ROUGH STEAKS - LONDON CLAY.

NEW BUILD = 48m x 22.8m.

BATES = MAIN = 1.4 x 1m

MORE = 0.75 x 0.75m.

## Appendix 2: SMR Summary Sheet

Site name and address: Fold Farm, Galley Lane, Barnet, Herts		
County: Hertfordshire	District: Hertsmere	
Village/Town: Rural	Parish: Unparished Potters Bar	
Planning application reference:		
Client name, address, & tel. no: Fold Farm Partners Ltd Fold Farm Galley Lane Barnet Hertfordshire EN5 4RA Tel: 07973 431435		
Nature of application: Construction of Agricultural Building		
Present land use: Farmyard		
Size of application area: c.23m x c.48m	Size of area investigated: n/a	
NGR (to 8 figures): TQ 2253 9759	Site code: BFF 04	
Site director/Organization: Nick Crank / ASC Ltd		
Type of work: Watching Brief		
Date of work:	Start: 04/11/04	Finish: 04/11/04
Curating museum: Bushey		
Related SMR nos: 1330, 2648, 6228---	Periods represented: None	
Relevant previous summaries/reports None		
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>During November 2004 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on a site at Fold Farm, Galley Lane, Barnet, Hertfordshire. The project was undertaken during the excavation of foundations for a steel framed agricultural building. No archaeological remains were observed during the works.</i>		
Author: N.A.Crank	Date: 12 <sup>th</sup> November 2004	