

Brampton Primary School



Archaeological Monitoring and Recording Report



August 2014

**Client: Cambridgeshire
County Council**

OA East Report No: 1648
OASIS No: oxfordar3-187917
NGR: TL 52055 27081

Brampton Primary School

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

Site Code: BRAPSG 14

CHER No. ECB 4251

Date of Works: 13th August 2014

Report No: 1648

Excavator: Michael (Tam) Webster

Client: Cambridgeshire County Council

Report Date: August 2014

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Summary

On the 13th August 2014, OA East carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at Brampton Primary School (TL 52055 27081). The monitoring was carried out during the excavation of a single trench to install an attenuation tank as part of a program of building refurbishment works. A wide, silt filled drainage channel was discovered, aligned north to south. The only datable finds from the channel were two sherds of medieval pottery. However, these may have been residual as a fragment of post-medieval tile and sherd of post-medieval glass were recovered from a subsoil layer which the channel truncated. Therefore the channel may be post-medieval in date and could have linked a village green pond to Brampton Brook, located to the south of the site.

1 LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 1.1.1 The archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at Brampton Primary School (TL 52055 27081), on the south side of the village of Brampton, Huntingdon (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The British Geological Survey indicates that the solid geology of the proposed development site comprises Oxford Clay overlain by superficial deposits of 1st and 2nd River Terrace Deposits (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> accessed 19/08/14).
- 1.1.3 The site lies at approximately 15m OD and slopes down very gently to the south, to the Brampton Brook – a tributary of the Great Ouse.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 An evaluation carried out in 1993, 150 metres to the west on Park Road, identified a Bronze Age cremation pit (Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record 11176 – hereafter CHER). However, most prehistoric sites in the vicinity are located on the north side of the village. These include a Neolithic cursus and mortuary enclosure (CHER 02117C), a Bronze Age barrow complex (CHER 02117), and Iron Age settlement enclosures (CHER 02117A, MCB18443, MCB20046) under the current A14 – A1 corridor.
- 2.1.2 Roman pits have been excavated in the west of the village (CHER 924, 927), about 600m north-west of the site. To the north of Brampton a Roman settlement was found at Meadowview Farm (CHER 10172), while elements of a Roman field system were discovered further west (CHER 02117D).
- 2.1.3 The school is located to the west of the medieval historic core of Brampton, although buildings in the vicinity demonstrate that the settlement expanded in this direction from at least the 17th century. There is also evidence for medieval settlement to the south (CHER 02550).
- 2.1.4 Human skeletal remains (CHER 17177) recovered from a site to the east may suggest a cemetery in the vicinity and a Bronze Age cremation is recorded to the west (CHER 11176).

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The objective of the archaeological monitoring was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.
- 3.1.2 The Brief required that all stripping would take place under the supervision of a suitably qualified archaeologist, the first stage being the inspection of the sub soil and secondly the inspection of the natural substrate.
- 3.1.3 All excavation exposing the subsoil and top of natural geology was undertaken by a 360° excavator using a 1.5m toothless ditching bucket. Excavation of the natural geology was carried out with a toothed bucket.

- 3.1.4 The area of investigation was located to the south of the existing school, within a tarmac play ground area.
- 3.1.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 3.1.6 Site conditions were dry and sunny. Due to a lack of space for spoil storage the trench was stripped in two phases, the southern half initially followed by the northern half.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1.1 The trench for the tank measured 11.2m long, 11m wide and 1.3m deep (Fig. 2). It was excavated in two phases; phase one exposed the sub soil and phase two the natural substrate. The trench description is presented in chronological order, from earliest to latest deposit.
- 4.1.2 At the base of the trench was natural geology (8), consisting of orangey brown sands and gravels with occasional seams of clay. It was sealed by a further layer of geology (6), a pale whiteish grey clay, measuring 0.38m thick. Sealing layer (6) was an upper geological deposit (5), comprising reddish brown clays and sands measuring 0.65m thick. The top of the natural geology was encountered at a depth of 0.45-0.50m from ground level.
- 4.1.3 A truncated subsoil (3), which sealed layer (5), consisted of a mid brown clayey silt measuring 0.23m thick. It contained one fragment of medieval grey ware pottery (5g), two fragments of shell tempered pottery (6g) that were not closely datable, a fragment of post-medieval tile (66g) and a small sherd of glass, probably 18th or 19th century in date. A small quantity of animal bone was also recovered (13 fragments, 11g) including a heavily fragmented cattle metacarpel.
- 4.1.4 A wide channel (7), orientated roughly north to south, truncated subsoil layer (3). It was recorded in section (Fig. 2, section 1 and Plate 1) although its western edge was visible in the base of the trench. Channel 7 measured at least 9m wide and was 0.95m deep. The western edge was very steep while the opposing east side was not located within the trench, but appeared to be stepped, suggesting that this side was subject to flooding. The channel was filled by (4), a mixed deposit comprising pale to dark greyish brown silts containing two fragments (6g) of medieval Brill ware pottery (AD 1200 – 1350) and a sherd of reduced sandy ware pottery (13g), which could be either Roman or medieval.
- 4.1.5 Channel 7 was sealed by a layer of made ground (2), measuring 0.28m thick, which was in turn sealed by the overlying tarmac surface (1), measuring 0.08m thick.

5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 The earliest deposit of archaeological significance was subsoil layer (3). It contained post-medieval finds and was stratigraphically earlier than channel 7.
- 5.1.2 The only datable finds from channel (7) were two sherds of medieval pottery. However, these were probably residual because it truncated subsoil layer (3), which appeared to be post-medieval in date. The channel was therefore likely to have been a post-

medieval drainage feature, which may have linked a pond once situated on the village green, north of the school, southwards towards Brampton Brook.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 6.1.1 The author would like to thank Cambridgeshire County Council who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. Adam Hunt of Morgan Sindall was the site manager. The project was managed by Aileen Connor and fieldwork was carried out by Michael Webster.
- 6.1.2 The brief for archaeological works was written by Kasia Gdaniec of the Historic Environment Team, Cambridgeshire County Council.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Wiseman, R., 2014, *Written scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Excavation and Monitoring at Brampton Primary School*. Project number 16979 May 2014.

APPENDIX A. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	<input type="text"/>		
Project Name	<input type="text"/>		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	<input type="text"/>	Finish	<input type="text"/>
Previous Work (by OA East)	<input type="text"/>	Future Work	<input type="text"/>

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	<input type="text"/>	Planning App. No.	<input type="text"/>
HER No.	<input type="text"/>	Related HER/OASIS No.	<input type="text"/>

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt

Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Field Observation (periodic visits)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Record
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Excavation (100%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Field Walking
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Recorded Observation	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Metal Detector Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pit Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Open-Area Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Watching Brief

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Project Location

County	<input type="text"/>	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Parish	<input type="text"/>	
HER	<input type="text"/>	
Study Area	<input type="text"/>	National Grid Reference <input type="text"/>

Project Originators

Organisation	<input type="text"/>
Project Brief Originator	<input type="text"/>
Project Design Originator	<input type="text"/>
Project Manager	<input type="text"/>
Supervisor	<input type="text"/>

Project Archives

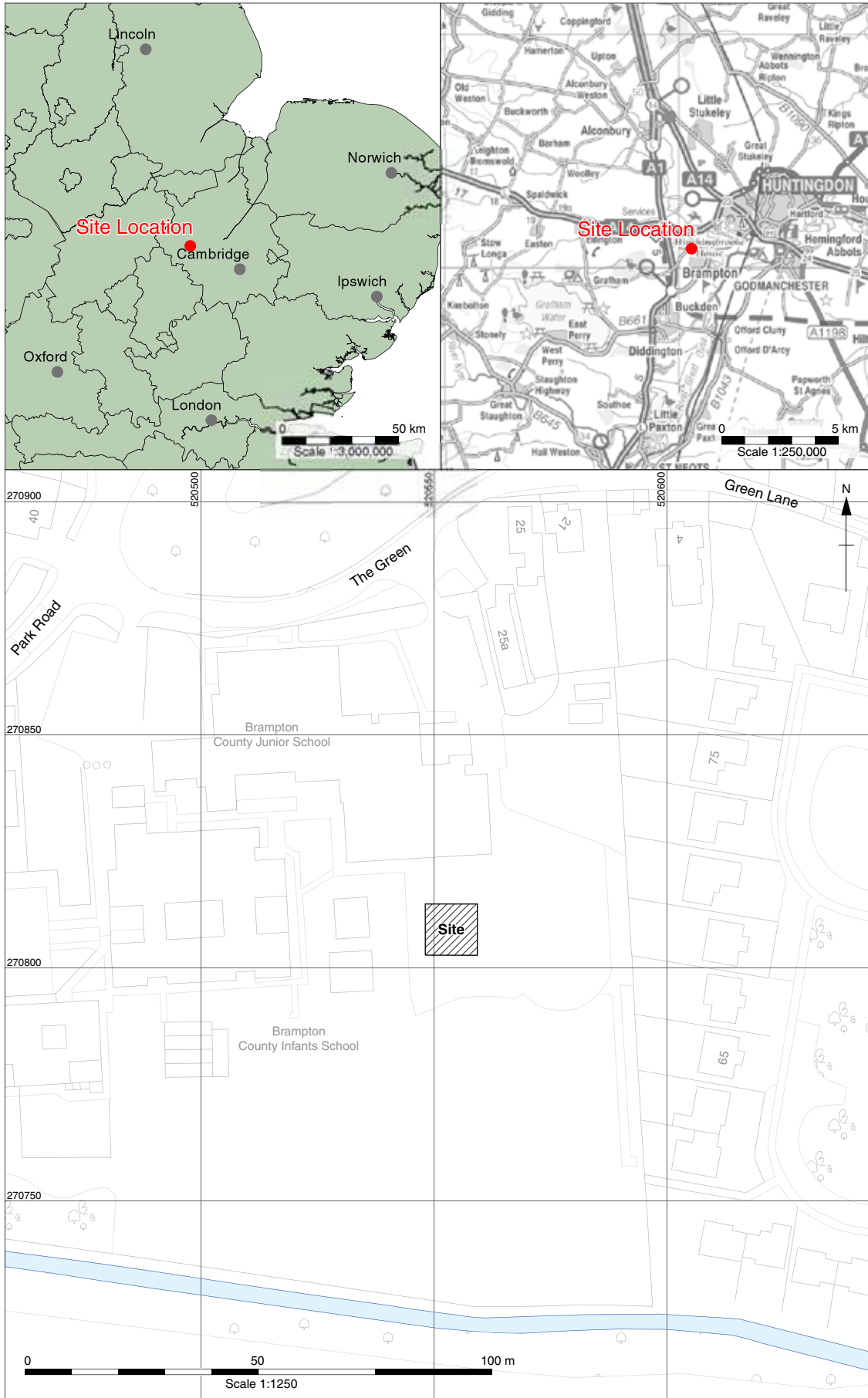
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Archive Contents/Media

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Digital Media	Paper Media
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<input type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
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<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location

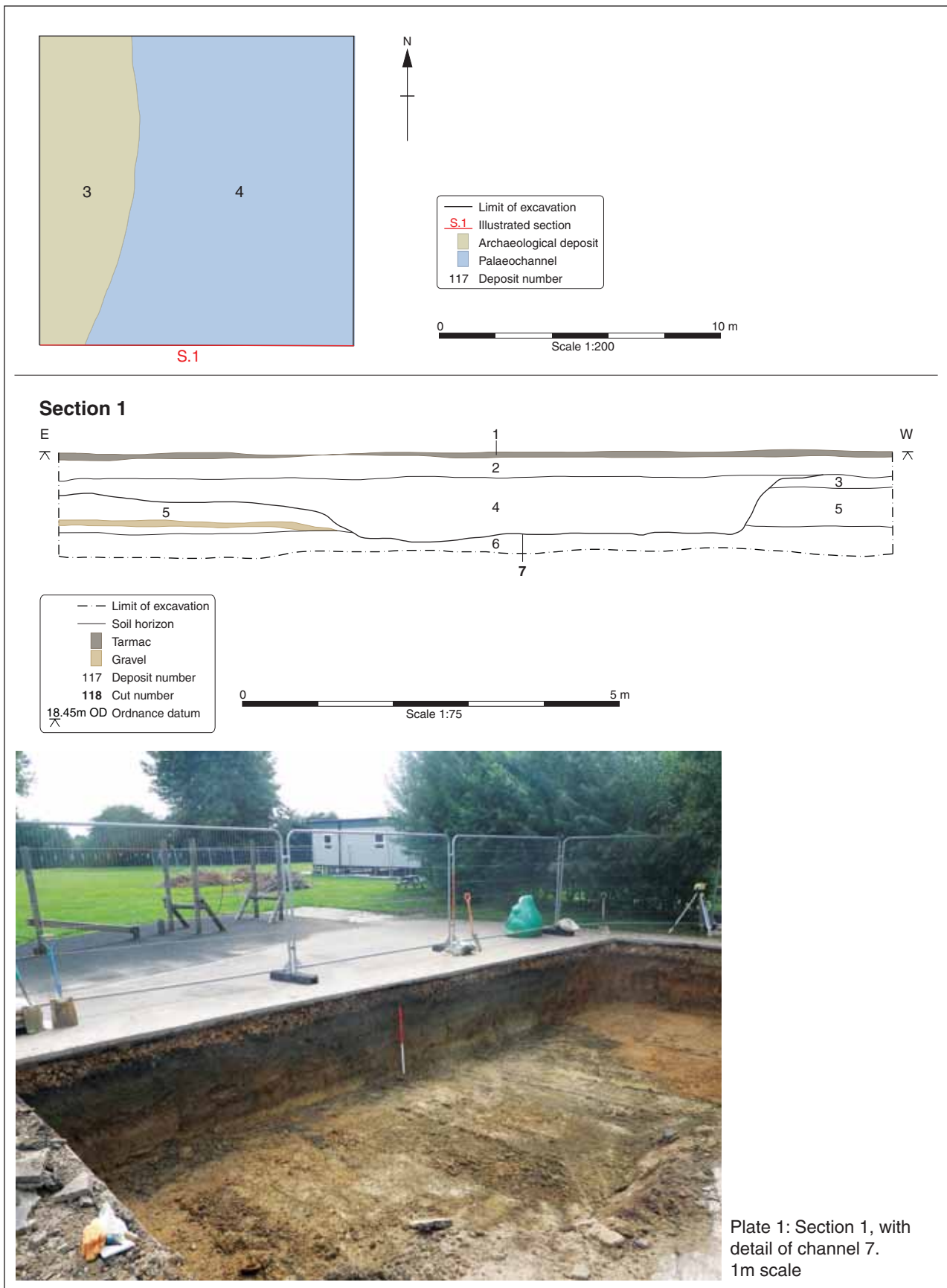


Figure 2: Plan and section of trench



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