

Archaeological Watching Brief and Excavation at Burrough Green Primary School, Cambridgeshire



Archaeological Watching Brief and Excavation Report



September 2009

Client: Capita Architecture/CCC Schools

OA East Report No: 1127

OASIS No: oxfordar3-64459

NGR: TI 6375 5580

**Archaeological Watching Brief and Excavation at Burrough Green Primary
School, Cambridgeshire**

An Interim Report

Site Code: BUGPYS 09

CHER No. ECB3231

Date of Works: 11/08/09 - 15/09/09

Report No: 1127

Excavator: Jonathan House

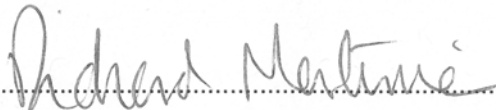
Client: Capita Architecture/CCC Schools

Report Date: September 2009

Report Number: 1127
Site Name: Archaeological Watching Brief and Excavation at Burrough Green Primary School, Cambridgeshire
HER Event No: ECB 3231
Date of Works: 11/08/09 - 15/09/09
Client Name: Capita Architecture/CCC Schools
Client Ref: N/A
Planning Ref: N/A
Grid Ref: TL 6375 5580
Site Code: BUGPYS 09
Finance Code: BUGPYS 09
Receiving Body: CCC Stores, Landbeach
Accession No:

Prepared by: Jonathan House
Position: Archaeological Supervisor
Date:

Checked by: Richard Mortimer
Position: Site Manager
Date:
Signed:



Disclaimer

This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting there from. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.

Oxford Archaeology East,
15 Trafalgar Way,
Bar Hill,
Cambridge,
CB23 8SQ

t: 01223 850500
f: 01223 850599
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast>

© Oxford Archaeology East 2008
Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

Table of Contents

Summary.....	5
1 Geology and Topography.....	6
2 Archaeological Background	6
3 Methodology	6
4 Results.....	7
4.1 Area A	7
4.2 Area B.....	7
5 Discussion and Conclusions.....	7
6 Acknowledgements.....	8
Bibliography	9
Appendix A. OASIS Report Form	10

List of Figures

Fig. 1 Site location map with investigation areas

List of Plates

Plate 1 Area A Top soil strip

Plate 2 Area B Excavation Area

Summary

During various site visits over August and September 2009, OA East carried out an archaeological watching brief and an open area excavation at Burrough Green C of E Primary School (TL 6375 5580). The monitoring was carried out in consideration of the medieval moated manor (SM33588). The works included a top soil strip beside the monument in advance of a new play surface and an open area excavation over the school playground prior to construction of new school buildings. No archaeological features or significant remains were uncovered within either area.

1 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 1.1.1 The site is located on an area of glacial silt overlying till, both of Lowestoft formation. The site lies at the northern limit of the historic core of the village at c.113m AOD. The topography is relatively flat with some slightly undulating ground in the vicinity of the village.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 The school is immediately adjacent to a medieval moated site, with some of the school buildings overlying the moat itself (Historic Environment Record number 01161). The moated site is considered to be of national importance and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM33588). The scheduling of the monument was completed after the construction of the modern school building, which encroaches on the south-east corner of the moat (Thomas 2008).
- 2.1.2 The original school, located to the south, was constructed in 1714, with 19th and 20th century alterations and is Listed (Grade II).
- 2.1.3 An archaeological evaluation was conducted in July 2008. The investigation consisted of 6 small trenches, 30m in total length, within the proposed redevelopment area of the school. See full report – Fletcher 2008.
- 2.1.4 Although undated, a single posthole recorded within Trench 5 may provide evidence of surviving archaeology, other than the moat itself, that could date earlier than the 19th century.
- 2.1.5 Paths and boundary ditches recorded within Trenches 4 and 5, were identified on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, indicating they were in existence in the late 19th century.
- 2.1.6 The most significant discovery was the confirmation of the location of the south-eastern corner of the moat - the evaluation enabled the precise location of the turn of the moat to be located.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1.1 Three separate areas were identified as being impacted by the proposed development, referred to as areas A, B, and C. This report covers investigations and monitoring carried out in areas A, and B only. Excavations within Area C are scheduled to take place in 2010.
- 3.1.2 The objective within the excavation area (Area B) was to locate, record and excavate surviving archaeological deposits within the development area (preservation by record). The objective within the topsoil strip (Area A) was to ensure that any archaeological deposits, finds or features present within the topsoil were recorded, and that all excavation within this area was conducted in the presence of an experienced archaeologist

- 3.1.3 Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales digital photographs were taken of all Areas, relevant features and deposits.
- 3.1.4 The site conditions did not inhibit the archaeological investigations.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Area A

Introduction

- 4.1.1 The sub-surface groundworks associated with Area A consisted of a top soil strip by a 360° excavator of the area defined as Area A, and which partially encroached upon the scheduled area. The top soil strip was observed by the author and by David Kenny of English Heritage and ranged in depth between 0.1m to 0.15m.

Area A Results

- 4.1.2 No significant archaeological remains were observed. The topsoil contained a mixture of modern finds, and modern building materials, two unstratified limestone fragments were recovered, both of which were dressed blocks. The modern finds were noted but not retained.

4.2 Area B

Introduction

- 4.2.1 The work in Area B was undertaken as a full archaeological excavation, with the purpose of revealing as much of the area as could reasonably be achieved within the constraints of the available space, service runs and on site logistics. The trench was located on the old school playground

Area B Results

- 4.2.2 A trench 14m x 12m (168sq m) was stripped to the underlying natural silt. . The majority of the overburden consisted of building demolition forming made ground, very little sub soil remained. There were no archaeological features present within the area. The demolition material contained Post Medieval pottery, with frogged and unfrogged bricks.

5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Area A

- 5.1.1 The strip of the top soil revealed no archaeological deposits, and the majority of the finds observed were related to the construction of the latest school building or the use of the area since. The only finds of any possible significance were the two limestone architectural fragments, both squared and of similar size; width and breadth 0.19m, and 0.14m in height, they may be associated with the original stone school house.

Area B

- 5.1.2 The Area B excavation revealed no archaeological features, and it appeared that the area excavated had previously been stripped, probably in the 19th or early 20th century for the school playground. The bricks and building demolition forming the make-up for the playground surface appeared to have been brought in to the site, no evidence was

seen for the demolition of a structure on the site itself. The only finds observed besides modern objects associated with the current school were of 18th and 19th century date, these either relate to the school or the demolished building from which the bricks were derived; a small sample of pottery was retained and is of BLAH date.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 6.1.1 The author would like to thank Adam Garner of Capita Architecture who commissioned the work and CCC Schools who funded it. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer.
- 6.1.2 The brief for archaeological works was written by Andy Thomas, who visited the site and monitored both the watching brief and excavation area. David Kenny of English Heritage has been both helpful and attentive throughout.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Fletcher, T. 2008, Archaeological Investigations at Burrough Green Primary School, Cambridgeshire, OA East Report Number 1050.

Mortimer, R. 2009, Specification for Archaeological Watching Brief and Excavation : Burrough Green Primary School, Cambridgeshire

Thomas, A. 2008, Brief for Archaeological Evaluation: Burrough Green Primary School, Cambridgeshire

APPENDIX A. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-64459		
Project Name	Archaeological Monitoring at Burrough Green Primary School		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	11-08-2009	Finish	15-09-2009
Previous Work (by OA East)	Yes	Future Work	Yes

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	BUGPYS09	Planning App. No.	
HER No.	3231	Related HER/OASIS No.	

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open-Area Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Excavation	<input checked="" 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
Moated Manor	Medieval 1066 to 1540	None	None
School House	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901	Limestone	Early Medieval 410 to 1066
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	East Cambridgeshire	Burrough Green C of E Primary School Burrough Green, Cams, CB8 9NH
Parish	Burrough Green	
HER	Cambridge County Council	
Study Area	1162.5m sq.	National Grid Reference TL 6375 5580

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Andy Thomas
Project Design Originator	Richard Mortimer
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	Jonathan House

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Landbeach	OA East Office	Landbeach
BUGPYS09	BUGPYS09	BUGPYS09

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Map
<input type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:

During various site visits over August and September 2009, OA East carried out an archaeological watching brief and an open area excavation at Burrough Green C of E Primary School (TL 6375 5580). The monitoring was carried out in consideration of the medieval moated manor (Scheduled Monument). The works included a top soil strip beside the monument, and an open area excavation over the school playground. No archaeological features or significant remains were uncovered within the excavation area

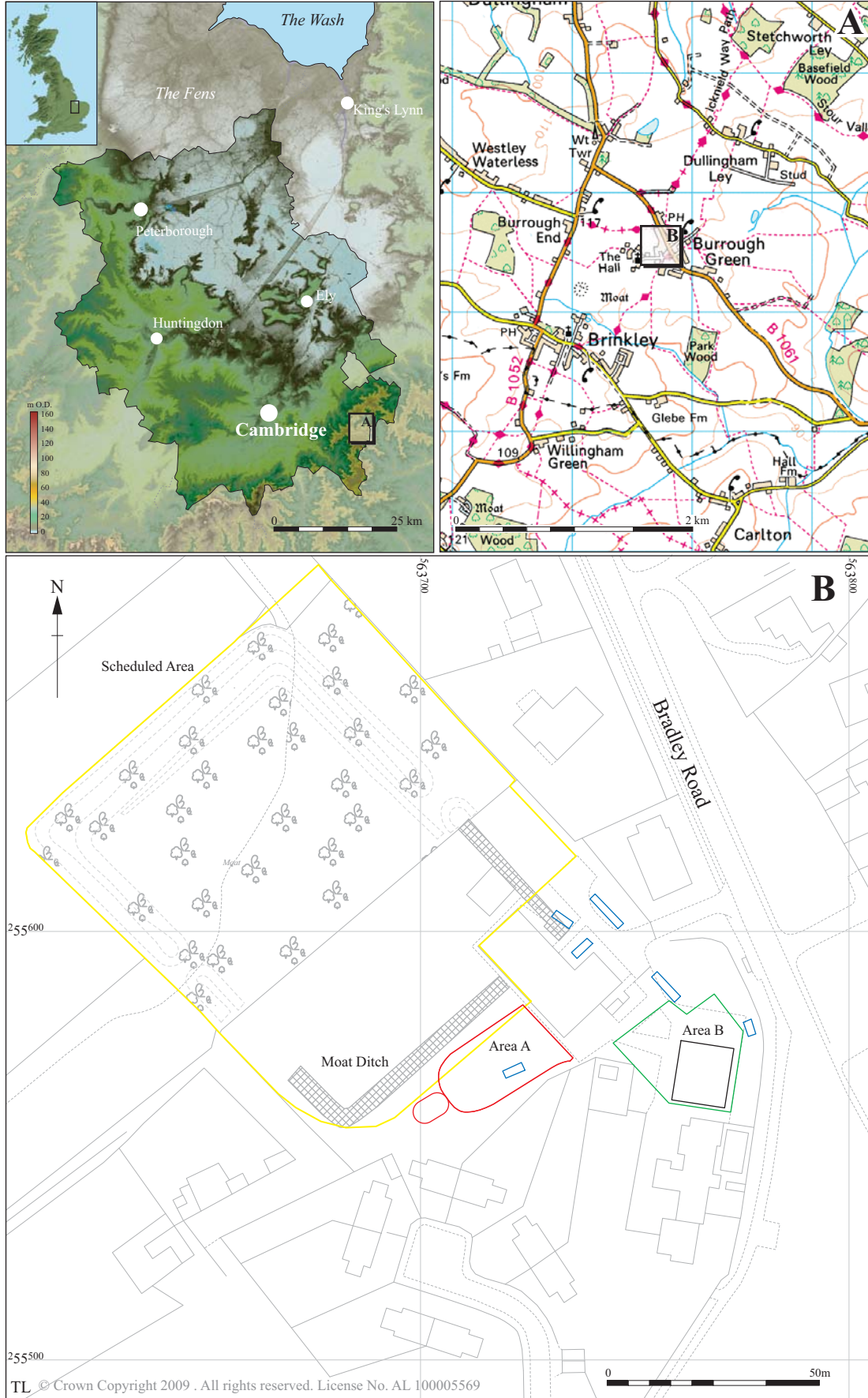


Figure 1: Location map with watching brief area (red), excavation area (green), area excavated (black) and evaluation trenches (blue)



Plate 1: Area A Top soil strip



Plate 2: Area B Excavation Area



Head Office/Registered Office

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@thehumanjourney.net
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: [oanorth@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oanorth@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
f: +44 (0) 1223 850599
e: [oaeast@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast>

OA Méditerranée

115 Rue Merlot
ZAC La Louvade
34 130 Maugeio
France

t: +33 (0) 4.67.57.86.92
f: +33 (0) 4.67.42.65.93
e: [oamed@oamed.fr](mailto: oamed@oamed.fr)
w: <http://oamed.fr/>



Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

*Oxford Archaeological Unit is a
Private Limited Company, N^o: 1618597
and a Registered Charity, N^o: 285627*