

Fulbourn Primary School, Cambridgeshire



Archaeological Monitoring & Recording Report



October 2014

Client: Cambridgeshire County Council

OA East Report No: 1689

OASIS No: oxfordar3-192890

NGR: TL 5190 5613

Fulbourn Primary School

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

Site Code: FULPRS14

CHER No. ECB4222

Date of Works: September/October 2014

Report No: 1689

Excavator: Pat Moan & James Fairbairn

Client: Cambridgeshire County Council

NGR: TL 5190 5613

Report Date: October 2014

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Summary

During September and October 2014, Oxford Archaeology East carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at Fulbourn Primary School, Cambridgeshire (TL 5190 5613). The monitoring was carried out during the construction of a new car park, and installation of services associated with the refurbishment of the Victorian schoolhouse.

No features of archaeological significance were recorded during the excavation of the service trenches or stripping of topsoil for the car park. A well associated with the Victorian schoolhouse was uncovered during the works, which was photographed and located by GPS prior to the feature being capped.

1 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 1.1.1 The British Geological Survey indicates that the solid geology of the site at School Lane, Fulbourn is the Zig Zag Chalk Formation (BGS: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> accessed 27/10/14).
- 1.1.2 The site lies at 19m OD. It is on the north side of the slight ridge of higher land running north-west to south-east, upon which the early settlement of Fulbourn was built.
- 1.1.3 Although the school itself has been on the site for over a century, the surrounding housing was only developed from the mid-1940s, and consequently the undeveloped parts of the school site are thought to have been largely undisturbed.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 A thorough background was compiled in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Wiseman 2014) prior to the works, and is referenced below.

Roman

- 2.1.2 Substantial amounts of Roman building materials, lime kilns, and a small cremation cemetery (CHER 06242; 06286; 06287 and 10523) have been found in several investigations on the north side of the village, 400m north of the site. A small amount of Roman (and prehistoric) pottery has also been found elsewhere, taken to indicate manuring.

Saxon and Early Medieval

- 2.1.3 The site lies in the historic core of medieval Fulbourn, 100m from the High Street. It is immediately south of an area excavated in 2007 (Hall's Farm), which found a late Saxon / Early Norman settlement, dated to the late-11th / early-12th century. It included seven structures, two wells, boundary ditches and a large number of pits (MCB17979). Redeposited earlier Saxon finds on the site suggested the potential for earlier settlement activity close by.

Medieval and Post-Medieval

- 2.1.4 Located 150m north-east of the site is St Vigor's church and churchyard (CHER 06483) dating to the 13th century. Also found at the church was a Saxon cross (CHER 06483a). Fulbourn Manor (CHER 06324) stands on the opposite side of School Lane, less than 100 metres east of the site. The earliest parts date to the late 16th century, but the manor has been added to periodically since – with substantial remodelling in 1910.
- 2.1.5 A number of farmhouses and other buildings in the streets immediately around the site – particularly along the High Street - date back to the 17th and 18th centuries (DCB5854; DCB6417; DCB6421 and DCB5765). A handful are late medieval in origin, including the Six Bells Public House (DCB6821), which dates to the 16th century.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The objective of this archaeological monitoring and recording 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 (Thomas 2014) required that all groundwork undertaken by the client was to be done under the supervision of a qualified and experienced field archaeologist. The archaeologist will monitor the stripping of any topsoil and subsoil, and will inspect the spoil for artefacts. If archaeological features were encountered, machine work was to be suspended, and the features identified would be investigated by hand. Environmental samples were to be taken where appropriate, in line with English Heritage Guidelines
- 3.1.3 The area of investigation was located within the grounds of the Primary school. The site of the new car park was located within an area laid to grass directly south of the school. The excavated service trenches were located to the north of the Victorian schoolhouse, running from the Victorian building to the current school.
- 3.1.4 Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 3.1.5 Survey on site was undertaken using a Leica GS08 GPS with smartnet capabilities.
- 3.1.6 Site conditions were dry and generally sunny.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1.1 No archaeological features were seen during the monitoring of the works.
- 4.1.2 During construction of the new car park (Fig. 2; Plate 1), 0.25m of topsoil was stripped with a ditching bucket. In parts of the area, modern made ground was uncovered. In other areas, topsoil was deeper than the excavated level for the car park. No finds were recovered from the topsoil.
- 4.1.3 The pipe trenching excavated around the school (Fig. 2; Plate 2) was excavated to a depth of 0.7m. Natural sand geology was located at a depth of 0.6m below ground level, overlain by 0.3m of sandy subsoil, in turn overlain by 0.3m of topsoil.
- 4.1.4 A Victorian well was uncovered during the works next to the Victorian school house. This well was lined with Cambridge White perforated bricks, dating to the mid 19th Century. The well measured 3.5m in diameter, with a depth of at least 5m. The well was beehive shaped at the top, and was sealed by a 0.5m by 0.5m sandstone slab. A brick lined channel lead from the well into the back of the school house, presumably to draw water into the building (Fig. 2; Plate 3).

5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 The works at Fulbourn Primary School have shown that no known or unknown heritage assets have been impacted upon during the works. The known Saxon remains found in excavations directly to the north were not seen to be within the areas excavated during the works.
- 5.1.2 The Victorian well uncovered during the building works was constructed of the same Cambridge White brick as the school building, dating the well to the same period as the construction of the school, the mid 19th century. The well was re-capped with a concrete slab during the works.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 6.1.1 The author would like to thank Cambridgeshire County Council, who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by Aileen Connor.
- 6.1.2 The brief for archaeological works was written by Andy Thomas, who monitored the archaeological works.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- | | | |
|-------------|------|---|
| Thomas, A. | 2014 | Fulbourn Primary School, Monitoring & Recording Brief |
| Wiseman, R. | 2014 | Written Scheme of Investigation: Archaeological Monitoring and Recording, Fulbourn Primary School |

APPENDIX A. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-192890			
Project Name	Fulbourn Primary School			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	12-08-2014	Finish	24-10-2014
Previous Work (by OA East)	No		Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	FULPRS14	Planning App. No.	S/0462/14/CC
HER No.	ECB4222	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt: Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5

Please select all techniques used:

<input checked="" 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 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
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	S Cambs	Fulbourn Primary School Fulbourn Cambridgeshire CB21 5BH	
Parish	Fulbourn		
HER	Cambridgeshire		
Study Area	0.2ha	National Grid Reference	TL 5190 5613

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Andy Thomas
Project Design Originator	Rob Wiseman
Project Manager	Aileen Connor
Supervisor	Pat Moan

Project Archives

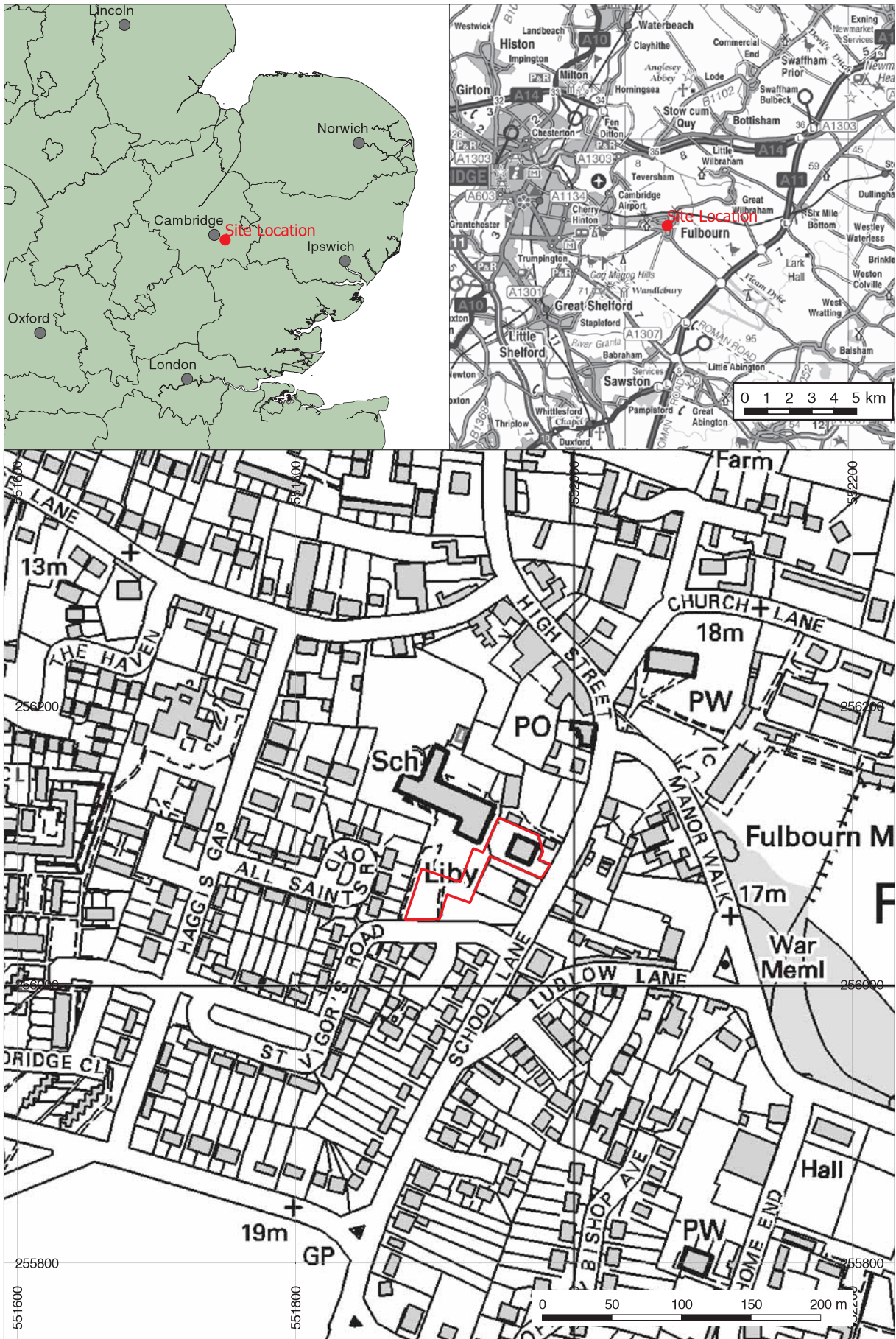
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CCC Stores	OA East	CCC Stores
FULPRS14	FULPRS14	FULPRS14

Archive Contents/Media

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location showing development area (red)

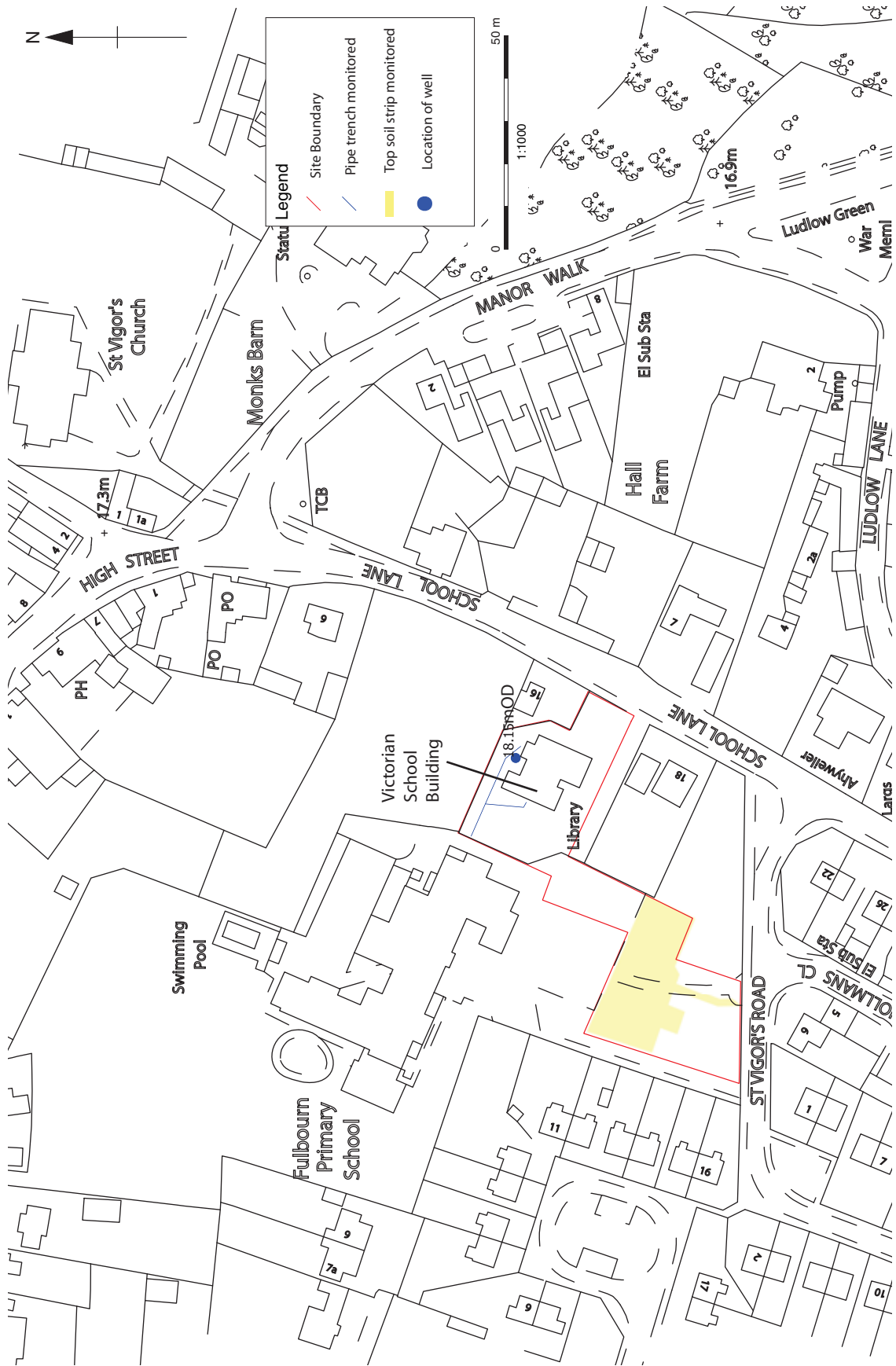


Figure 2: Location of well (blue), services monitored (blue) and area stripped (yellow)



←
Plate 1: Stripping of topsoil in car park area



←
Plate 2: Excavation of pipe trenches, looking east
(Victorian well located underneath concrete slab)



←
Plate 3: View down Victorian well, note the channel
leading in to school building.



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