

# An Archaeological Evaluation at Coton Primary School, Cambridgeshire



## Archaeological Evaluation Report



January 2014

**Client: Cambridgeshire County Council**

OA East Report No: 1563  
OASIS No: oxfordar3-167013  
NGR: TL 4079 5895

## **An Archaeological Evaluation at Coton Primary School, Coton, Cambridgeshire**

*Archaeological Evaluation*

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*Report Date: January 2013*

**Report Number:** 1563  
**Site Name:** Coton C of E Primary School  
**HER Event No:** ECB 4092  
**Date of Works:** December 2013  
**Client Name:** Cambridgeshire County Council  
**Grid Ref:** TL 4079 5895  
**Site Code:** CTN CPS 13  
**Finance Code:** CTN CPS 13  
**Receiving Body:** CCC Stores, Landbeach  
**Accession No:**

Prepared by: Helen Stocks-Morgan  
Position: Supervisor  
Date: 18/12/13

Checked by: Stephen Macaulay  
Position: Project Manager  
Date: 13/01/14  
Signed: .....



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## **Summary**

*An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Coton C of E Primary school, Coton, Cambridgeshire (TL 4079 5895). The fieldwork took place on the 17th December 2013. Two trenches, 10m long, were excavated within the proposed development area. No archaeological deposits were encountered during this evaluation.*



## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Coton C of E Primary School, Coton, Cambridgeshire (TL 4079 5895).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council, supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (Macaulay, 2013).
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by CCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

### 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 Although the parish of Coton lies predominately on the Cambridgeshire Claylands, the village of Coton itself lies on a the clay/West Melbury Chalk junction north of the Coton Brook.
- 1.2.2 The site is situated on a south facing slope within a gently rolling landscape at an approximate height of 32m AOD. One trench was located within an existing tarmacked playground, the second trench was located on grass.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

#### *Prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon*

- 1.3.1 There are not many early finds recorded from Coton within the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record. Three Neolithic axes, a Roman brooch, bracelet and small pot and an early Saxon brooch are recorded (Taylor, 1997).

#### *Medieval*

- 1.3.2 There are two moated sites in Coton, one lies due south of the school at The Rectory (CHER 01195). The second moated site lay to the east at Rectory farm (CHER 00194) is most likely of medieval in date and may have been the manor of d'Engaynes. The 12th century parish church of St Peter (CHER 00353) lies to the north of the moated site, immediately south-east of the school.
- 1.3.3 Medieval (or perhaps post-medieval) ridge and furrow is recorded to the west (CHER 05152) and south (05153) of the school.

#### *Post-medieval*

- 1.3.4 A number of Listed buildings are located in the village of Coton. Two c.17th century buildings (including a Dovecote) are located close to the school (CHER 08012 and 08013).



## **1.4 Acknowledgements**

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Keith Johnson of Faithful & Gould who commissioned the work on behalf of the client Cambridgeshire County Council. Thanks also to Coton Primary School's headteacher, Farah McPhee. Thanks are also extended to John Diffey who helped with the fieldwork and David Brown who created the graphics. The project was managed by Stephen Macaulay and monitored by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council.

## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation 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.

### 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Brief required that two 10m trenches were excavated and all archaeological remains sample excavated where appropriate. One trench was located within the footprint of the proposed new classroom and the second trench was located within the area of the proposed new playground.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with an 8 tonne, wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.2.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.5 Site conditions were good, with mild and sunny weather experienced.

### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The trenches are presented below in numerical order (see Fig. 1 for trench locations).

#### 3.2 Trench 1

3.2.1 No archaeological remains were encountered within the trench. The natural deposits were recorded at 0.5m below modern ground level, consisting of a white chalky marl (5). A layer of dark greyish brown sandy clay (4) 0.04m thick was seen underlying a layer of crushed concrete (3) that was 0.17m thick. This was overlain by hardcore (2) and tarmac (1) up to 0.1m in thickness.

#### 3.3 Trench 2

3.3.1 No archaeological remains were encountered within the trench. The natural deposits were recorded at 0.55m below modern ground level and consisted of a white chalky marl (5). A subsoil layer of mid brownish grey silty clay (7), 0.4m thick, was recorded. This was overlain by the topsoil (6), a dark greyish brown silty clay, 0.1m in thickness.

#### 3.4 Finds Summary

3.4.1 No finds were recovered during the evaluation.

## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### 4.1 Discussion

- 4.1.1 The evaluation showed that the site was subject to localised modern disturbance. Within the area of Trench 1 the playground was noticeably lower than the surrounding land, suggesting that the area had been levelled and truncated when the playground was originally built. This would have severely impacted upon any archaeological remains.
- 4.1.2 The land to the west of Trench 2 had been levelled to build a demountable classroom. The depth of subsoil and topsoil seen in Trench 2 would suggest that this area had also been subject to extensive landscaping, probably as part of these works, with the spoil from this levelling being used to build the ground up. It is likely that these works would have significantly disturbed any potential archaeological remains.

### 4.2 Recommendations

- 4.2.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.

## APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of tarmac and concrete overlying a natural of chalk marl					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.5
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
					<b>Length (m)</b>	9.8
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.05	Tarmac	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.06	Hardcore	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.17	Crushed concrete	-	-
4	Layer	-	0.04	Make up	-	-
5	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 2						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of chalk marl					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.55
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
					<b>Length (m)</b>	9.7
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
6	Layer	-	0.1	Topsoil	-	-
7	Layer	-	0.4	Subsoil	-	-
5	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

## APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Macaulay, S 2013 *Specification for Archaeological Evaluation*. Oxford Arch. East Tender Ref No, 16280 (unpublished)
- Taylor, A 1997 *Archaeology of Cambridgeshire Vol 1: South West Cambridgeshire*. Cambridgeshire County Council
- Thomas, A 2013 *Design Brief for Archaeological Evaluation*

## APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-167013		
Project Name	Coton C of E Primary School		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	17-12-2013	Finish	17-12-2013
Previous Work (by OA East)	Yes	Future Work	Unknown

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	CTNCPS13	Planning App. No.	
HER No.	ECB4092	Related HER/OASIS No.	

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Development Type	Large/Medium Scale Extensions to Existing Structure

### Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/> Grab-Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-Core	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch	<input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
<input type="checkbox"/> Augering	<input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits
<input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search	<input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core
<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography	

### 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	SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE	Coton C of E primary school Whitwell Way Coton Cambridgeshire
Parish	COTON	
HER	ECB4092	
Study Area		National Grid Reference TL 4079 5895

### Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Andy Thomas (CCC)
Project Design Originator	Stephen Macaulay (OA East)
Project Manager	Stephen Macaulay (OA East)
Supervisor	Helen Stocks-Morgan (OA East)

### Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Cambridgehire County Stores	OA EAST	Cambridgehire County Stor
CTN CPS 13	CTN CPS 13	CTN CPS 13

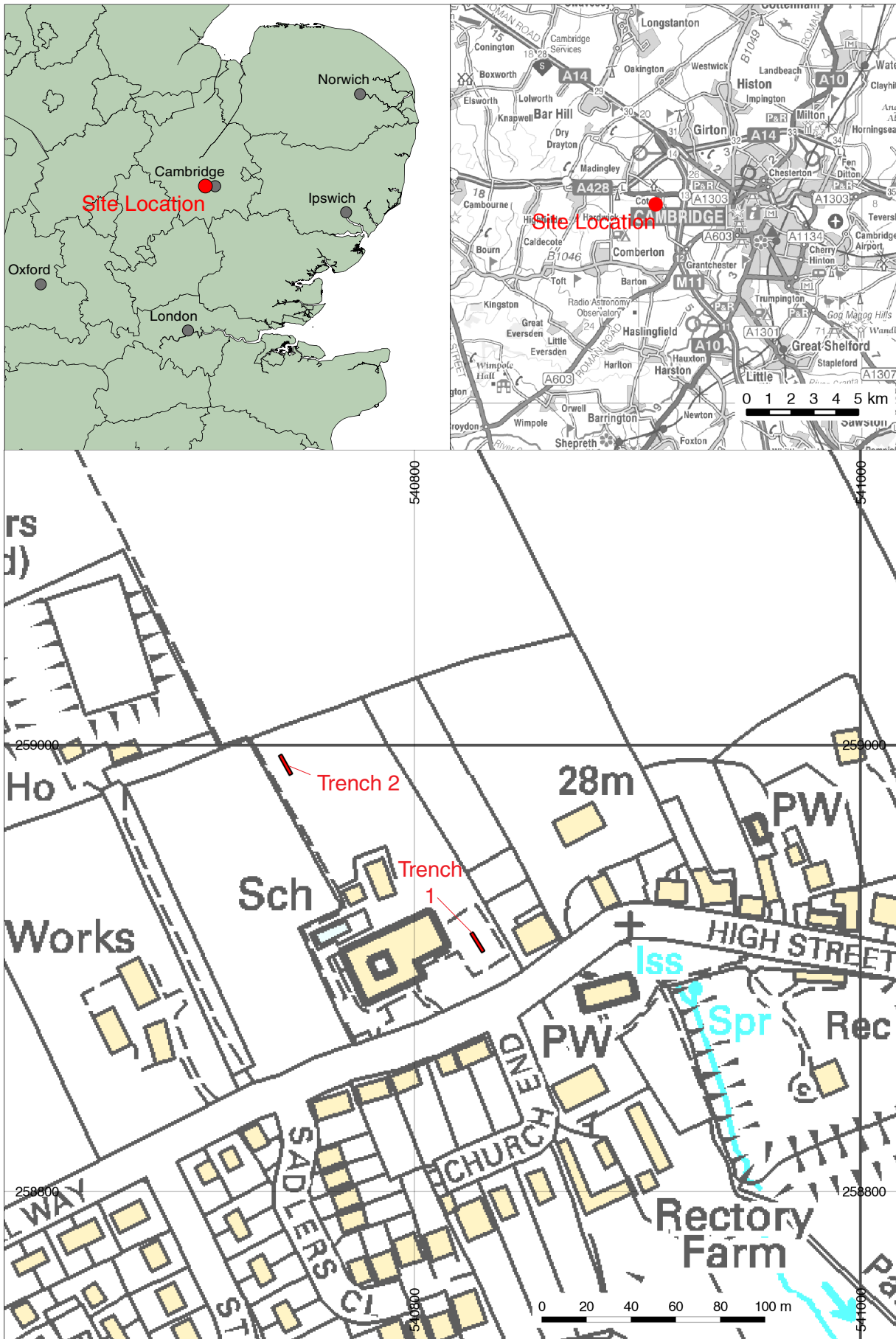
### Archive Contents/Media

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

### Notes:





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Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (red)



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking north-west



Plate 2: Trench 2, looking north-west



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