

Manor Farm, Granchester: All Weather Riding Surface



Archaeological Watching Brief Report



October 2009

**Client: Richard Brimblecombe
Architect**

OA East Report No: 1140

OASIS No: oxford3-65803

NGR: TL 4327 5523

Manor Farm, Grantchester: all-weather riding surface

Archaeological Watching Brief

Site Code: GRA MAF09

CHER No. ECB3264

Date of Works: September 2009

Report No: 1140

Excavator: Jonathan House

Client: Richard Brimblecombe Architect

Report Date: October 2009

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Plate 2: Stripped area from the south.

Summary

On the 26th September 2009, OA East carried out an archaeological watching brief at Manor Farm, Grantchester (TL 4327 5523). The watching brief required the observation of topsoil removal over a 20m by 50m area prior to construction of an all weather riding surface. No archaeological features were observed and a small number of mostly post-medieval to modern artefacts were recovered.

1 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 1.1.1 The underlying natural geology consists of chalk and Gault clay and the area lies at c. 15.50m on a very gentle south- and east-facing slope with the River Cam some 380m due east.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 A series of cropmarks to the northwest, west and south of the site indicate Romano-British settlement archaeology, part of a known settlement, and possible villa site (MCB6279). At the centre of the village, 400m due north of the site, are the destroyed remains of an earthwork site in the grounds of the old village school. Partial investigated before their destruction revealed well preserved Early Saxon settlement remains including a *Grubenhause*, and the bank and ditch of what may be a defended Middle Saxon enclosure.
- 2.1.2 The development lies c.220m south-southwest of the church and immediately south of the medieval moated site of Manor Farm (MCB1544 and DCB283), close to, but not within the core of the Medieval village. This part of the village was further developed through the early post-medieval period, the Old Vicarage, immediately to the north of Manor Farm, dating to the 17th century.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The objective of this watching brief was to observe the removal of topsoil deposits over a 20m by 50m area.
- 3.1.2 The top soil was stripped by a 360° excavator with a toothless ditching bucket.
- 3.1.3 The Brief required that the removal of the top soil was observed by an experienced archaeologist.
- 3.1.4 Site conditions did not inhibit the observation of the works, the weather was dry and overcast.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Topsoil strip

- 4.1.1 The topsoil was stripped to a depth varying between 0.35m and 0.50m, the depth of the deposit being greater at the east side of the stripped area and generally thinning to the west. A light greyish brown subsoil with chalk inclusions was observed underlying the topsoil across the entire area, however this material was not excavated. A land drain was seen running N-S within the stripped area.

4.2 Finds summary

- 4.2.1 All the finds retrieved came from the topsoil, the assemblage consists of five Late 19thC sherds, one late 18thC/ early 19thC sherd, an abraded 12-13thC sherd, and two undated clay pipe fragments. A few fragments of animal bone were collected and have been discarded.

5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 No archaeological features were observed during the strip (with the exception of a single land drain) and the finds recovered are of a quantity and type to be expected with the proximity of the village and the nearby farm buildings.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 6.1.1 The author would like to thank Richard Brimblecombe who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer.
- 6.1.2 The brief for archaeological works was written by Daniel McConnell.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Mortimer, R. 2009, Specification for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording: Manor Farm, Grantchester, Cambridgeshire.

APPENDIX A. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxford3-65803			
Project Name	Manor Farm, Grantchester			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	26-09-2009	Finish	26-09-2009
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	No	

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	GRA MAF 09	Planning App. No.	S/0554/09/F
HER No.	ECB3264	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Planning condition
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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 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
Paddock	Modern 1901 to Present	Pottery	Uncertain
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Cambs	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	South Cambs	Manor Farm, Mill way, Grantchester, Cambridge CB3 9NB	
Parish	Grantchester		
HER	Cambridgeshire County Council		
Study Area	1600m2	National Grid Reference	TL 4327 5523

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Daniel McConnell
Project Design Originator	Richard Mortimer
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	Jonathan House

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Bar Hill (OA East Office)	Bar Hill (OA East Office)	Bar Hill (OA East Office)
GRAMAF09	GRAMAF09	GRAMAF09

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 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 type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Map
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:

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