

Evaluation trenches at All Saints School, Dogsthorpe, Peterborough



Archaeological Evaluation Report



September 2012

Client: CgMs

OA East Report No: 1405

OASIS No: oxfordar3-133485

NGR: TF 192 006

Evaluation trenches at All Saints School, Dogsthorpe Road, Peterborough

Archaeological Evaluation

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Report Date: September 2012

Report Number: 1405
Site Name: All Saints School, Dogsthorpe Road, Peterborough
HER Event No:
Date of Works: September 2012
Client Name: CgMs
Client Ref: MF/13837/02
Planning Ref: 12/00762/FUL
Grid Ref: TF 192 006
Site Code: PET ASJ 12
Finance Code: PET ASJ 12
Receiving Body: Peterborough Museum

Accession No:

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Summary

On the 4th and 5th September 2012, Oxford Archaeology East carried out a watching brief and evaluation at All Saints Junior School, Dogsthorpe Road, Peterborough. The area of the old school playground was stripped and monitored as a watching brief prior to the excavation of two evaluation trenches. No archaeological deposits were found.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at All Saints Junior School, Dogsthorpe Road, Peterborough (TF 192 006).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological watching brief and evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation issued by CgMs (Planning Application 12/00762/FUL).
- 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 works were a post-consent scheme that addressed the requirements of a planning condition and implemented the approved WSI.
- 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 The local geology to the site is comprised of river terrace deposits of sand and gravel formed up to a million years ago in the Quaternary period overlying Cornbrash Formation of sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 159 to 169 million years ago in the Jurassic Period. Local environment previously dominated by shallow carbonate seas.
- 1.2.2 The site lies at 13m AOD.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The following relies largely on the desk based assessment produced by Gajos (2012).
- 1.3.2 Evidence for Palaeolithic activity in the vicinity of the study site is attested to by the discovery of two handaxes recorded as being found c.350m to the south of the study site (HER 8264). Mesolithic lithics (HER 8264a) were also recovered from the same location. There are no HER records of Neolithic or earlier Bronze Age finds or features from within 500m of the study site although a Neolithic axe was found just over 500m to the south of the study site and Bronze Age settlement sites and field systems are present in the wider vicinity.
- 1.3.3 The study site is assessed as having a low to moderate potential to contain early prehistoric remains. Such remains are most likely to comprise stray lithic implements.
- 1.3.4 The excavations undertaken at the former sports ground on Alma Road, c. 200m to the south-west of the study site uncovered evidence of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age activity. The nature of this activity is not clear as only a single broad, shallow ditch could be firmly dated. It is likely that the feature related to an enclosure or is part of a field system rather than settlement.

- 1.3.5 Late Iron Age through to the 2nd century AD evidence was identified at the Alma lane Sports ground site. The site showed a simple layout of enclosures with a scattering of pits and postholes. One large pit was found to contain a piece of kiln furniture suggesting that pottery production was undertaken nearby, although no trace of a kiln or any pottery wasters were found in the excavation.
- 1.3.6 Roman burials and pottery are recorded on the HER as being found c.120m to the south of the study site (HER 02224), although there is nothing to indicate that these were part of a more extensive cemetery.
- 1.3.7 The excavations at Alma Road also revealed a single early medieval pit in the southern part of the site. Pottery recovered from the feature dated to the Saxo-Norman period (10th-12th century). The feature was found in isolation with no other finds of this period to give an indication as to its function. No other Saxon or early medieval remains are recorded in the vicinity of the study site and whilst the potential for remains of this date cannot be entirely disregarded it is considered to be very low.
- 1.3.8 No significant remains post-dating the early medieval period have been identified in the vicinity of the study site. Any remains of this date are likely to relate to agricultural practices.
- 1.3.9 From the historical Ordnance Survey map sequence it is apparent that the site has been agricultural land throughout the late 19th century and became allotments in the early 20th century brought on by the residential expansion within this part of Peterborough. The site remained as allotments until the current school was constructed.
- 1.3.10 The historical map review does not suggest that significant upstanding historical features were present within the site prior to its development in the 1970s.
- 1.3.11 Archaeological work on the site carried out during phase 1 by Albion Archaeology identified a single possible archaeological feature. A single medieval pot sherd was recovered during this phase of work and attributed to manuring practices (Starke 2012)

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Myk Flitcroft of CgMs for Commissioning the work.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this watching brief and evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The preliminary site strip was monitored and two 20m trial trenches were excavated as per the approved WSI (CgMs MF/13837/02).
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 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 to be 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 The site was dry and the work was carried out in sunny weather.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Preliminary site strip

- 3.1.1 The overall level of the site was reduced by 0.35m to remove the old school playground and underlying make-up layers. This strip, approximately 70m by 20m in size, exposed the underlying modern topsoil and no archaeological features were present.

3.2 Trench 1

- 3.2.1 Trench 1 was excavated to a depth of 0.40m through a mid grey-brown sandy silt topsoil and a mid brownish-yellow silty sand subsoil onto the natural riverine geology of yellow sands and gravels. No archaeological features or deposits of archaeological significance were uncovered.

3.3 Trench 2

- 3.3.1 Trench 2 was also excavated to a maximum depth of 0.40m through the remnants of the modern overburden of hardcore, a mid grey-brown sandy silt topsoil and a mid brownish-yellow silty sand subsoil onto the natural riverine geology of yellow sands and gravels. Again, no archaeological features or deposits of archaeological significance were uncovered.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Conclusion

- 4.1.1 No archaeological features or deposits of archaeological significance were uncovered within either of the evaluation trenches or during the removal of the old playground.

4.2 Recommendations

- 4.2.1 Any further recommendations based upon this report will be made by the Peterborough City Council's Archaeologist .

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1							
General description					Orientation		N-S
					Avg. depth (m)		0.4
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		20
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of clayey sand.							
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
100	Layer	-	0.14	Topsoil	-	-	
101	Layer	-	0.16	Subsoil	-	-	
102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	
Trench							
General description					Orientation		N-S
					Avg. depth (m)		0.4
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		20
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of clayey sand.							
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
100	Layer	-	0.2	Overburden	-	-	
101	Layer	-	0.1	Topsoil	-	-	
102	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-	
103	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	

APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- BGS, Geology of Britain viewer. Available on:
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06/09/2012
- Gajos, P. 2012 Archaeological Appraisal; All Saints School, Dogsthorpe Road,
Peterborough. Unpublished
- Starke, W. 2012 Land at All Saints School Dogsthorpe Peterborough: Archaeological
Watching Brief. Unpublished

APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-133485		
Project Name	Evaluation at All Saints School, Dogsthorpe Road, Peterborough		
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	04-09-2012	Finish 05-09-2012
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	PETASJ 12	Planning App. No.	12/00762/FUL
HER No.	PETASJ 12	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Public Building

Please select all techniques used:

☐ Aerial Photography - interpretation	☐ Grab-Sampling	☐ Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
☐ Aerial Photography - new	☐ Gravity-Core	☒ Sample Trenches
☐ Annotated Sketch	☐ Laser Scanning	☐ Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
☐ Augering	☐ Measured Survey	☐ Targeted Trenches
☐ Dendrochronological Survey	☐ Metal Detectors	☐ Test Pits
☐ Documentary Search	☐ Phosphate Survey	☐ Topographic Survey
☐ Environmental Sampling	☐ Photogrammetric Survey	☐ Vibro-core
☐ Fieldwalking	☐ Photographic Survey	☒ Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
☐ Geophysical Survey	☐ 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	Peterborough	All Saints Voluntary Aided Junior School Dogsthorpe Road Peterborough PE1 3DWW	
Parish	Dogsthorpe		
HER	Peterborough		
Study Area	80 sq. m	National Grid Reference	TF 192 006

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Rebecca Casa-Hatton - Peterborough CC
Project Design Originator	Myk Flitcroft CgMs
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	Anthony Haskins

Project Archives

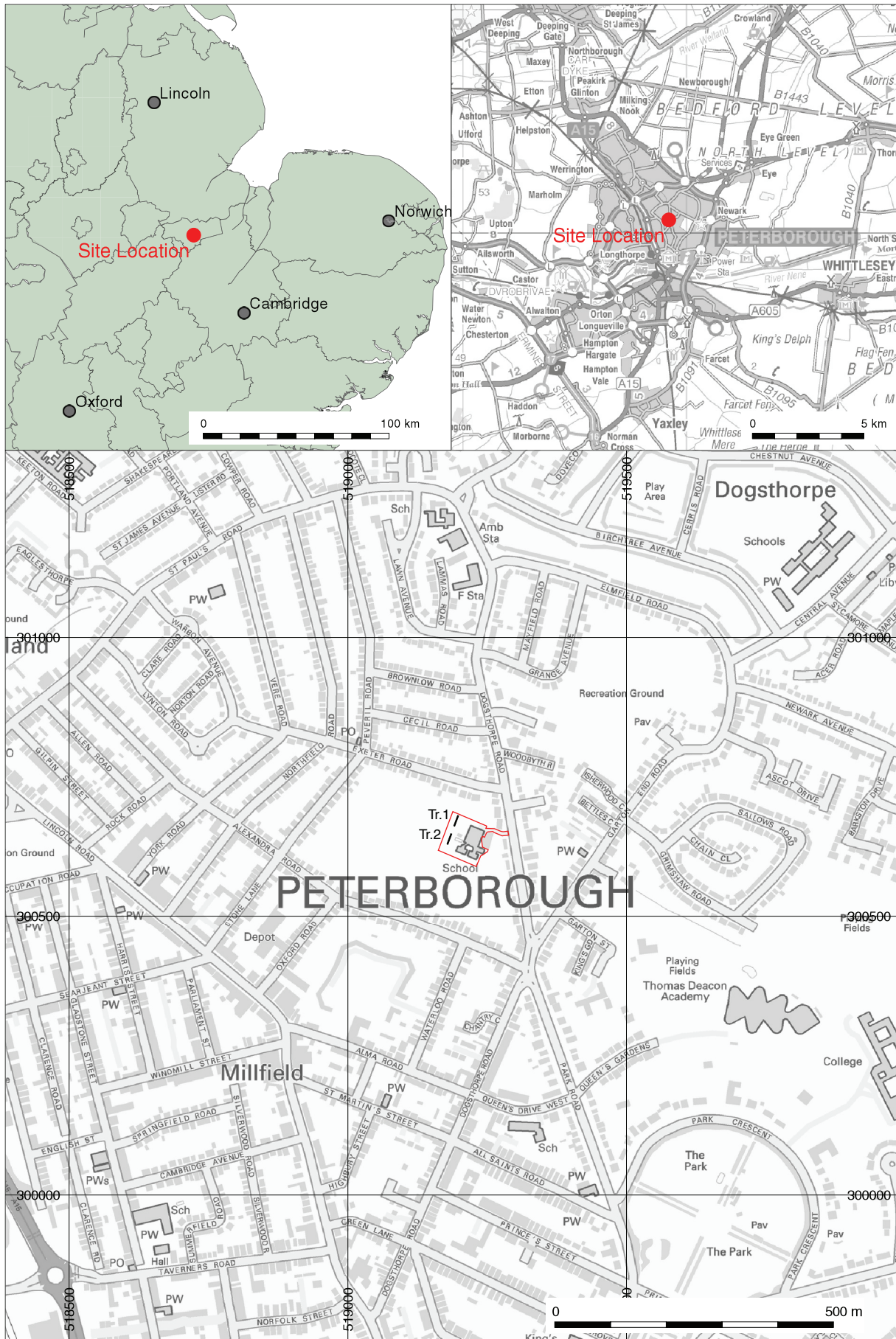
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
CCC Stores	CCC Stores	CCC Stores
PET ASJ 12	PET ASJ 12	PET ASJ 12

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	☐	☐	☐
Ceramics	☐	☐	☐
Environmental	☐	☐	☐
Glass	☐	☐	☐
Human Bones	☐	☐	☐
Industrial	☐	☐	☐
Leather	☐	☐	☐
Metal	☐	☐	☐
Stratigraphic		☐	☐
Survey		☐	☐
Textiles	☐	☐	☐
Wood	☐	☐	☐
Worked Bone	☐	☐	☐
Worked Stone/Lithic	☐	☐	☐
None	☒	☒	☒
Other	☐	☐	☐

Digital Media	Paper Media
☐ Database	☐ Aerial Photos
☐ GIS	☐ Context Sheet
☐ Geophysics	☐ Correspondence
☒ Images	☐ Diary
☐ Illustrations	☒ Drawing
☐ Moving Image	☐ Manuscript
☐ Spreadsheets	☐ Map
☐ Survey	☐ Matrices
☒ Text	☐ Microfilm
☐ Virtual Reality	☐ Misc.
	☐ Research/Notes
	☐ Photos
	☐ Plans
	☐ Report
	☐ Sections
	☐ Survey

Notes:



Ordnance Survey. © Crown Copyright 2012. All rights reserved. Licence number 10001998

Figure 1: Location of trenches (black) with development area outlined (red)



Figure 2: Trench locations



Plate 1: Trench 1 looking south



Plate 2: Trench 2 looking north



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