

# Lighting Columns for Multi-Use Game Area Goffs Lane Broxbourne Hertfordshire



## Archaeological Watching Brief Report



December 2007

**Client: Broxbourne  
Borough Council**

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# Lighting Columns for Multi-Use Games Area, Goffs Lane, Broxbourne, Hertfordshire

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## SUMMARY

*In December 2007 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Goffs Lane open space, Goffs Lane, Cheshunt, Broxbourne, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 34574 02638). The work was commissioned by Broxbourne Borough Council in advance of erection of four lighting columns around the new multi-use games area. The watching brief revealed that the site had been extensively landscaped for the construction of the existing games pitches. This may have removed any archaeological remains, as no remains were observed.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In December 2007 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Goffs Lane open space, Goffs Lane, Cheshunt, Broxbourne, Hertfordshire (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Broxbourne Borough Council in respect of a planning application for erection of Lighting Columns for a Multi-Use Games Area, at Goffs Lane Broxbourne, Hertfordshire (Planning Application No. 7/0411/07).
- 1.1.2 A project brief was set by Andy Instone, the County Planning Archaeologist for Hertfordshire County Council (HCC 2007).
- 1.1.3 OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief (OA 2007).

### 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies on London Clay at approximately 45 m above OD. The site is situated to the south of Goffs Lane, Broxbourne, Herts (TL 34574 02638) and is in centre of playing fields between two pitches with a third pitch and pavilion to the east.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background to the watching brief was prepared for the WSI for the project (OA 2007) and is reproduced below.
- 1.3.2 The site has the potential to contain hitherto undetected archaeological deposits of uncertain but potentially high significance. There is an uncertain, but low potential for the site to include archaeological deposits of the prehistoric, Roman or medieval periods. The site lies within the environs of the post-medieval expansion of the town and, by the late 19th century lay within the extent of the town. There is an uncertain but medium to high potential for the site to include archaeological deposits of the post-medieval period, due to the large number of post-medieval structures within the study area, although it is unlikely that any such deposits are of high importance or interest.

## 2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 To ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect archaeological remains.
- 2.1.2 To identify and record the presence/absence, extent, condition, quality and date of archaeological remains in the areas affected by the development.
- 2.1.3 To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

### 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The new cable trench was excavated with a small powered trench cutter and the four holes for the lighting columns were hand excavated.
- 2.2.2 All features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. A general photographic record of the work was made. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

## 3 RESULTS

### 3.1 Description of deposits

- 3.1.1 The cable trench measured 0.10 m wide and 0.30 m in depth and linked the holes for the four lighting columns to the power supply unit. The trench cut through a 0.25 m thick mid to dark reddish brown silty sand loam topsoil (1) and into the top of a light reddish brown silty sand subsoil (2).
- 3.1.2 The four holes for the lighting columns measured 0.40 m x 0.40 m x 1m and were excavated through the 0.25 m thick mid to dark reddish brown silty sand loam topsoil (1) and through a light reddish brown silty sand subsoil (2) and an orange silty clay with gravel natural (3).

### 3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 No finds were recovered during the watching brief.

### 3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

- 3.3.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the watching brief.

## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The watching brief revealed no archaeological features or deposits during the course of the excavation works. The soil excavated was sterile of finds or other inclusions. The site had been artificially levelled for the construction of the existing playing fields; evidenced by the enclosing bank that was up to 2 m higher than the pitches.

Had and archaeological remains existed on the site it is likely that they would have been severely truncated if not entirely removed during landscaping.

## APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1	Layer	0.25 m	Topsoil
2	Layer	0.70 m	subsoil
3	Layer	0.10 m	Natural

## APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

HCC 2007 *Goffs Lane Open Space, Goffs Lane, Cheshunt, Waltham Cross, Broxbourne: Design Brief for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*

OAU 1992 *Fieldwork Manual*, (Ed. D Wilkinson, first edition, August 1992)

OA 2007 *Lighting Columns for Multi-Use games Area, Goffs Lane, Broxbourne, Hertfordshire Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*

## APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

**Site name:** Lighting Columns for Multi-Use games Area, Goffs Lane, Broxbourne, Hertfordshire

**Site code:** BROXLC 07

**Grid reference:** NGR TL 34574 02638

**Type of watching brief:** Monitoring of ground works for the erection of four lighting columns around new multi-use games area.

**Date and duration of project:** One day visit on the 3rd December 2007.

**Area of site:** 30 m x 20 m

**Summary of results:** The watching brief revealed no archaeology, possibly resulting from truncation by landscaping during the construction of the football pitches.

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Lowewood Museum Service in due course.





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Scale 1:25,000

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Figure 1: Site location

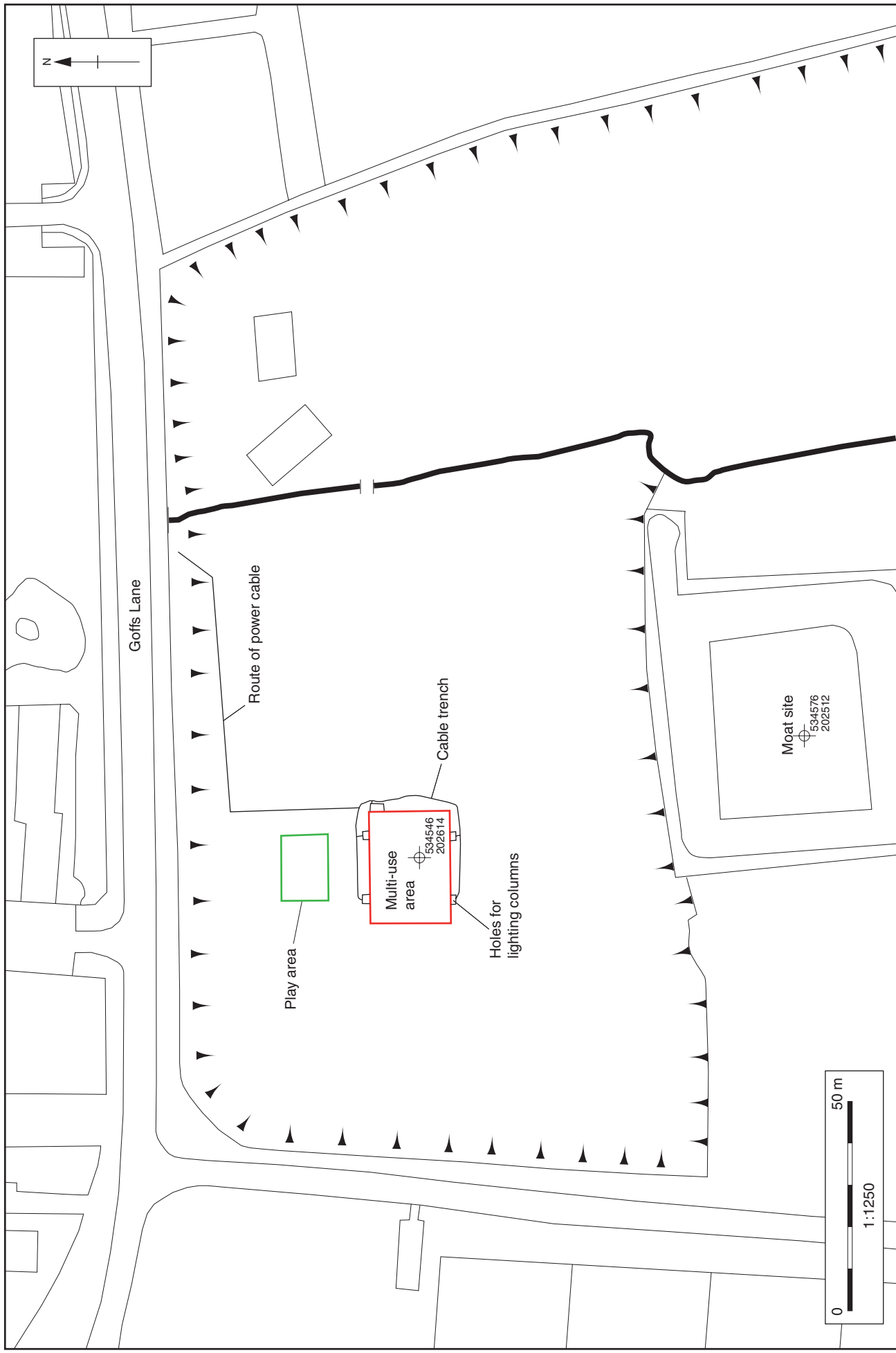


Figure 2: Site plan showing location of lighting columns and cable trench