

St Andrews CE First School, Hampton, Evesham, Worcestershire



Archaeological Evaluation Report

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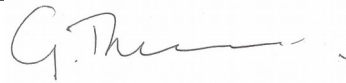
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St Andrews CE First School, Hampton, Evesham

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Written by Gerry Thacker and Chris Pickard and illustrated by Gary Jones and Victoria Hosegood

Table of Contents

Summary.....	3
1 Introduction.....	4
1.1 Location and scope of work.....	4
1.2 Geology and topography.....	4
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	4
1.4 Acknowledgements.....	5
2 Evaluation Aims and Methodology.....	6
2.1 Aims.....	6
2.2 Methodology.....	6
3 Results.....	7
3.1 Introduction and presentation of results.....	7
3.2 General soils and ground conditions.....	7
3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits.....	7
3.4 Trenches 1 and 2.....	7
3.5 Finds summary.....	7
4 Discussion.....	8
4.1 Evaluation objectives and results.....	8
Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory.....	9
Appendix B. Bibliography and References.....	11
Appendix C. Summary of Site Details.....	12



List of Figures

- | | |
|--------|----------------------|
| Fig. 1 | Site location map |
| Fig. 2 | Trench location plan |
| Fig. 3 | Sections |

Plates

- | | |
|---------|----------|
| Plate 1 | Trench 1 |
| Plate 2 | Trench 2 |
| Plate 3 | Trench 3 |



Summary

During July 20th-22nd 2015 Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation of the grounds of St Andrews CE First School, Marymans Road, Hampton, Evesham, Worcestershire. The evaluation comprised an assessment of the relevant Historic Environment Record data, and the excavation of three trial trenches, each measuring 20m by 3m. Two of the trenches contained the shallow remnants of planting rows associated with an orchard that was shown within the site until the 1968 OS map, and one contained a single small tree throw hole, and scars from ploughing. The third trench was devoid of any features. No significant archaeological deposits or features were uncovered by the evaluation.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 The site is located within the playing field to the east of St Andrews School in Hampton, Evesham, Worcestershire, centred on NGR SP 0275 4284 (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The evaluation was undertaken as a condition of planning permission (ref: CC/15/00008), ahead of the construction of a new school building.
- 1.1.3 The trial trench evaluation comprised three trenches, each measuring 30m by 2m and examined around 5% of the available area (Fig. 2).

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site was a flat playing field and was sited at around 30.50 to 31m aOD (above Ordnance Datum). The geology of the area is the Wilmcote Limestone Member, comprising interbedded mudstone and limestone (BGS).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background to the site has been subject to a Desk Based Assessment (WSM67004, WAAS 2015b), which examined all records within 500m of the site. Additional information was requested regarding prehistoric and Roman sites that had been noted within the vicinity, but beyond the 500m search area. The results of the assessment are summarised below.
- 1.3.2 Land use within the search area is evenly split on a north-south basis with the settlement of Evesham in the former and irregular arable fields in the latter. The field pattern is primarily one of field amalgamation and reorganisation and the settlement pattern is one of nucleated cluster and modern expansion.
- 1.3.3 The second edition OS map (1904) shows the area of the site occupied by orchard, and this continued unchanged until 1973, when fewer trees are indicated.
- 1.3.4 Within the search area lie six Listed Historic Buildings dating to the 14th, 17th and 18th centuries, as well as a single unlisted historic building dating to the 20th century. A Historic England project to identify the Historic Farmsteads of Worcester also recorded two farmsteads dating to the 19th century, neither of which is extant.
- 1.3.5 In addition to the built environment there are also various monuments recorded within the search area, the earliest of which is a possible prehistoric cooking pit (WSM067074) located around 400m to the north-east of the site. The medieval period is represented by a possible Anglo-Saxon burial (WSM02707), a water mill (WSM02716) and an enclosure associated with Evesham Abbey (WSM15209), which are located between 300m to 500m to the east and north-east of the site.
- 1.3.6 Post medieval monuments consist of the former Midland Railway, sited to the west of the School, and decommissioned in 1963 (WSM31671) and demolished farm buildings (WSM67067) situated to the north-west of the site.
- 1.3.7 Various unstratified finds have been recorded within the search area through the Portable Antiquities Scheme. With the exception of a late Iron Age coin, these finds date from the medieval and post medieval periods and include coins, mounts and a dress hook. Additional unstratified finds recorded within the parish of Evesham include Romano-British pottery and coins dating from the Iron Age onwards.

- 1.3.8 There has been limited archaeological investigation within the search area and consequently the survival of archaeology is relatively unknown. The two recorded intrusive investigations discovered a possible Anglo-Saxon burial (WSM41425) and a possible Prehistoric cooking pit (see above).
- 1.3.9 A Historic England project to identify the potential for Palaeolithic Archaeology in Worcestershire recorded a number of deposits within the search area with potential for archaeology dating to Oxygen Isotope Stage 12, but these fall to the south-east of the development site (WSM56936).
- 1.3.10 Beyond the 500m search area evidence of Romano-British settlement was uncovered to the south (WSM 020703) and south-east of the site (WSM02701, WSM11257 and WSM12465). An unenclosed settlement of late Bronze Age date including a post built roundhouse was uncovered to the north-east of the site (WSM45210).

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 OA would like to thank Vanessa Anderson of Jacobs who commissioned the work on behalf of Worcestershire County Council. Also Aisling Nash of the Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service who provided advice, and approved the WSI. The site work was undertaken by Jim Mumford of OA, assisted by Emma Powell and Conan Parsons. The project was managed for OA by Gerry Thacker.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The aims of the evaluation were:

- (i) To determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains which may survive.
- (ii) To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any surviving remains
- (iii) To determine the date range of any surviving remains by artefactual or other means.
- (iv) To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains.
- (v) To determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy.
- (vi) To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape.
- (vii) To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive.
- (viii) To determine the implications of any remains with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity.
- (ix) To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artifactual evidence present.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The trenches were set out by an OA Surveyor using a GPS system with a sub 50mm accuracy.
- 2.2.2 Two trenches (2 and 3) were moved slightly from there original positions to avoid the school running track (Fig. 2).
- 2.2.3 Trench locations were CAT scanned to detect potential services using a JCB fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The machine reduction was carried out under constant archaeological supervision.
- 2.2.4 Soils were removed in level spits until the underlying geological horizon was reached.
- 2.2.5 Excavation and recording was undertaken as outlined in the WSI (OA 2015).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The soils and ground conditions, distribution of features and trench descriptions form the content of the following sections. The thickness and extent of all deposits are tabulated in Appendix A. Plans and sections are shown at the end of the report.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 All trenches contained topsoil, which measured between 0.14m and 0.24m thick (Fig. 3). This sealed a subsoil (buried ploughsoil) which measured between 0.13m and 0.14m thick. This in turn sealed the natural mudstone which manifested as a mid yellow brown clay with frequent limestone inclusions, and patches of orange gravels.
- 3.2.2 The trenches remained dry throughout the evaluation, and the features present (planting trenches, plough scars and tree throw) were easily visible against the geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 Trenches 1 and 2 contained the remnants of linear tree planting trenches (Fig. 2). Trench 2 contained a tree throw hole, which extended into the trench from the eastern baulk, and the shallow remnants of plough scars. Trench 3 contained no features (Fig. 2; Plate 3).

3.4 Trenches 1 and 2

- 3.4.1 Natural mudstone (102) was located in Trench 1 at c 30.75m aOD (Fig. 2; Plate 1). A layer of subsoil 101, that was 0.14m thick sealed the natural. Truncating the subsoil on a west-east alignment were regularly spaced tree planting rows which in turn were sealed by a layer of topsoil, 100, that was generally the same thickness as the subsoil.
- 3.4.2 In Trench 2 the natural mudstone (202) was located at c 30.15mOD (Fig. 2; Plate 2). A probable tree bole, 203, was located at the northern end of the trench extending into the section below the subsoil layer. Cut 203 was irregular in plan and had an undulating base with showed clear evidence of rooting. The cut was filled with a light brownish grey clay (204) with red clay inclusions that had no dating evidence. Sealing the tree bole and the natural was a layer of subsoil (201) that was on average 0.14m thick. Plough scars that traversed the trench on a north-east to south-west alignment cut through the subsoil as did planting rows on an west-east alignment. The subsoil and planting trenches were sealed by a layer of modern topsoil (200).

3.5 Finds summary

- 3.5.1 No finds were recovered during the evaluation, except those of modern date from the topsoil, and these were not retained. No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were uncovered.



4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.1.1 During the course of the evaluation it was possible to clearly establish the presence or absence of archaeological features on the site. Whilst two of the trenches contained the shallow remnants of planting rows these were shown to be associated with an orchard that was within the site until the 1968 OS map, and one contained a single small tree throw hole. The third trench was devoid of any features. No significant archaeological deposits or features were therefore uncovered by the evaluation.



4.1.2

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1							
General description					Orientation		NNW-SSE
Trench contained three planting trenches which cut the subsoil. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of mudstone.					Avg. depth (m)		0.27
					Width (m)		3
					Length (m)		20
Contexts							
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date	
100	Layer	-	0.14	Topsoil	Plastic	Modern	
101	Layer	-	0.13	Subsoil	-	-	
102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	ENE-WSW
Trench contained three planting trenches cutting subsoil and a tree throw sealed by subsoil. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of mudstone.					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
					Width (m)	3
					Length (m)	20
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
200	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	Modern
201	Layer	-	0.14	Subsoil	-	-
202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
203	Cut	0.45	0.25	Fill of tree bole	-	-
204	Fill	0.45	0.25	Tree Bole	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	E/W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of mudstone.					Avg. depth (m)	0.29
					Width (m)	3
					Length (m)	20
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
300	Layer	-	0.16	Topsoil	-	-



301	Layer	-	0.13	Subsoil	-	-
302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-



APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

OA, 2015. St Andrews First School, Evesham, Worcestershire. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation. Oxford Archaeology.

WAAS 2015a. Requirements for a programme of Archaeological Work at St Andrews CE First School, Marymans Road, Hampton, Evesham, Worcestershire. Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service.

WAAS 2015b. Desk Based Assessment on Land at St Andrews School, Hampton, Evesham WSM67004. Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service.



APPENDIX C. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: St Andrews CE First School, Hampton, Evesham, Worcestershire

Site code: WSM67002

Grid reference: SP 0275 4284

Type: Evaluation

Date and duration: 20th - 22nd July 2015

Area of site: 3090m²

Summary of results: During July 20th-22nd 2015 Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation of the grounds of St Andrews CE First School, Marymans Road, Hampton, Evesham, Worcestershire. The evaluation comprised an assessment of the relevant Historic Environment Record data, and the excavation of three trial trenches, each measuring 20m by 3m. Two of the trenches contained the shallow remnants of planting rows associated with an orchard that was shown within the site until the 1968 OS map, and one contained a single small tree throw hole, and scars from ploughing. The third trench was devoid of any features. No significant archaeological deposits or features were uncovered by the evaluation.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Worcestershire Museum Service in due course, under the reference WSM67002.



Figure 1: Site location

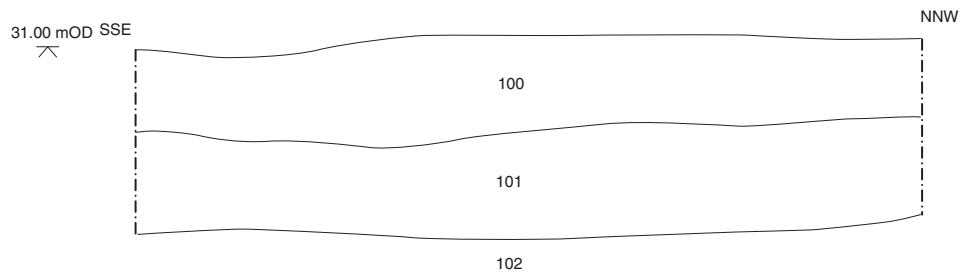
Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2015
 Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA,
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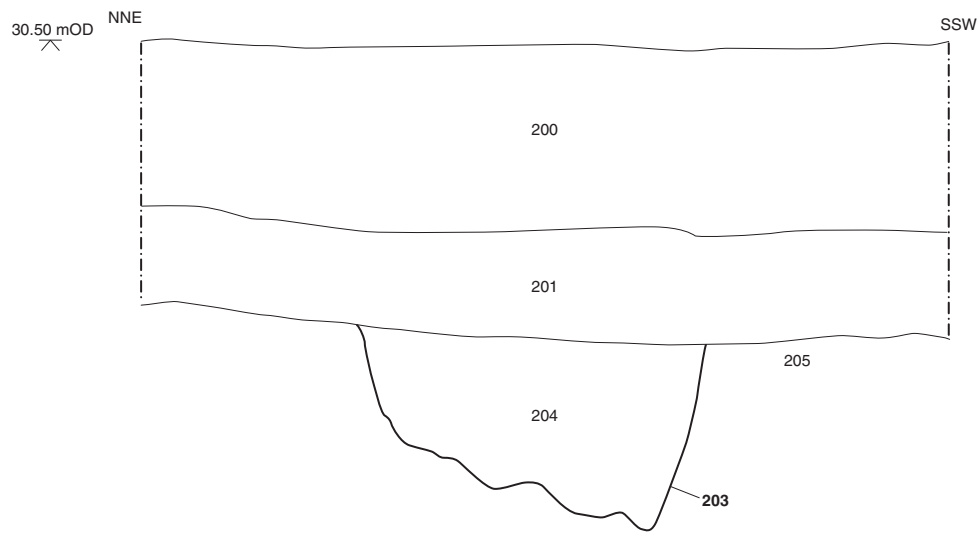
Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User

Figure 2: Trench location plan

Section 100



Section 200



Section 300

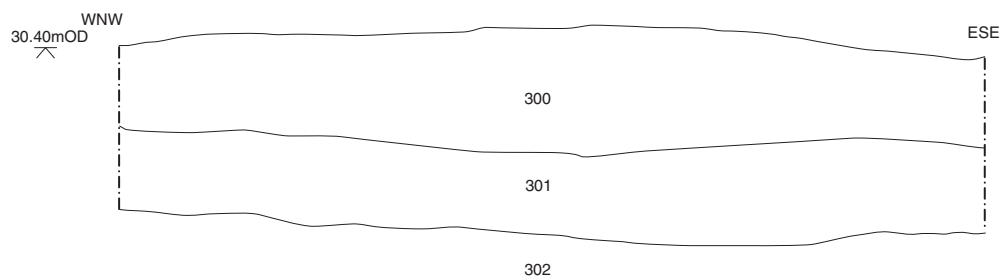


Figure 3: Sections



Plate 1: Trench 1



Plate 2: Trench 2



Plate 3: Trench 3



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