Land at Bottisham Village College

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Client: Capita

OA East Report No: 1054
OASIS No: oxfordar3-48624
NGR: TF 5412 6087

December 2008
Land At Bottisham Village College

An Archaeological Evaluation

By Dan Hounsell BA, PhD

Editor: James Drummond-Murray BA, PgDip, MIFA

Illustrator: Lucy Offord BA

Report Date: December 2008
Report Number: 1054
Site Name: Bottisham Village College
HER Event No: ECB 3006
Date of Works: August 2008
Client Name: Capita
Client Ref: none
Planning Ref: -
Grid Ref: TL 5412 6087
Site Code: BOTVIC08
Finance Code: BOTVIC08
Receiving Body: -

Accession No:
Prepared by: Dan Hounsell
Position: Project Officer
Date: 18 / 9 / 08

Checked by: James Dummond-Murray
Position: Project Manager
Date: 17 / 12 / 08
Signed: [Signature]

Disclaimer
This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.

Oxford Archaeology East,
15 Trafalgar Way,
Bar Hill,
Cambridge,
CB23 8SQ
t: 01223 850500
f: 01223 850599
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net
w: http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast

© Oxford Archaeology East 2008
Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627
# Table of Contents

Summary.................................................................................................................................................5

1. Introduction...........................................................................................................................................6
    1.1 Location and scope of work..............................................................................................................6
    1.2 Geology and topography...................................................................................................................6
    1.3 Archaeological and historical background.......................................................................................6
    1.4 Acknowledgements............................................................................................................................7

2. Aims and Methodology.........................................................................................................................8
    2.1 Aims..................................................................................................................................................8
    2.2 Methodology.....................................................................................................................................8

3. Results..................................................................................................................................................9
    3.1 Introduction ......................................................................................................................................9
    3.2 Trench 1 (AOD 12.68m – 12.79m).................................................................................................9

4. Discussion and Conclusions.................................................................................................................9
    4.1 Conclusions......................................................................................................................................9
    4.2 Significance.....................................................................................................................................9
    4.3 Recommendations..............................................................................................................................9

Appendix A. Health and Safety Statement ...............................................................................................10

Appendix B. Bibliography .......................................................................................................................11

Appendix C. OASIS Report Form .............................................................................................................12
List of Figures

Fig. 1    Site location map
Fig. 2    Trench Location plan
Fig. 3    Sections
Summary

Between the 4th and the 5th of August 2008 Oxford Archaeology East undertook an archaeological evaluation at Bottisham village college, Cambridgeshire in advance of the construction of a new school building. This evaluation involved the excavation of a T shaped trial trench. The SW – NE aligned arm was 14m long, the NW – SE aligned arm was 18m long. Both were 1.8m wide.

The evaluation did not reveal any archaeological features, finds or deposits and appeared to indicate that the area had never been subject to any significant, surviving human archaeological activity.

The underlying solid geology was chalk. This was heavily scarred with palaeochannels, indicating an ancient periglacial location for the site.
1. Introduction

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted on land at Bottisham Village college.

1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Thomas (2008) of the Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice team, supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (formerly Cambridgeshire County Council's CAM ARC, Drummond–Murray, 2008). The work was undertaken in advance of the construction of a new school building.

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 Planning and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by CAPCA, 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 The site lies on Lower chalk.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 Palaeolithic axes have been made in the south-west of the parish and at another unspecified location (HER 07912). Two Mesolithic tranche axes and a number of flint flakes were found just west of the church (HER 06595).

1.3.2 Numerous neolithic axes have been found: several were uncovered near Lode, in the north-west (HER 06520, 06573, 06575, 06610) the east (HER 06556) and the south (HER 06580). Flint flakes were found just to the east of the village (HER 06531). Neolithic ditches are noted to the north of the village (HER 06605).

1.3.3 In the parish there are numerous barrows and ring ditches, but these are almost all to the south-west. Three more barrows are closer to the village to the north-east (HER 06609), to the north-west (HER 06553) and to the south-east (HER 06626). Bronze Age flints were found at the same location as the neolithic ones mentioned above (HER 06531). A barbed and tanged arrowhead was found to the south-east of the development area (HER 06591). Further Bronze Age flints were found close to the church (HER 06598).

1.3.4 The site lies to the west of a Roman villa/high status farmstead revealed through various archaeological investigations (e.g. Macdonald, 2000 – ECB1234, Wills 2003 - ECB2560). Features included a number of structures and a metallised yard, dated between the second and fourth centuries. Roman coins and pottery have been found
to the north (HER nos. 04133 and 06586). Another excavation (Kenny, 2002 - ECB707) revealed remains that are peripheral to the villa estate, these include boundary ditches, demolition rubble and a corn-dryer. The main phase of activity on this site appears to date from the first and second centuries AD.

1.3.5 Several Anglo-Saxon artefacts have been found but none from within the village itself. There is also a single pagan Saxon barrow amongst the Bronze Age ones to the south-west (HER 06762a).

1.3.6 A number of medieval manor houses are recorded in the parish and two are marked by moats, including Tunbridge (HER 0112,a,b,c,d,e,f,g, - SAM 71). The medieval church, Holy Trinity, is built on the highest part of the chalk ridge (HER 06730). Nothing remains of the Norman church that preceded the present 13th / 14th century structure.

1.3.7 Numerous medieval coins have been found by metal detectorists (e.g. HER 06534-06548, 08131-08140) around the village.

1.3.8 The name Bottisham is first recorded in 1060 as Bodekesham and as Bodichessham in the Domesday Book of 1086. An interpretation of the name is ‘Boduc’s farm’. The village originated as at least three hamlets, and more may have sprung up before they all merged into its modern shape. Common fields were enclosed in 1808.

1.3.9 The population of the parish at Domesday was 49; it had risen to 701 by 1891 and to 1920 in 2000.

1.3.10 Apart from the work at Tunbridge Lane listed above, recent archaeological work has revealed undated linear features, found in an evaluation at Bell Road (Ashworth and Bray 2001 - ECB 372). A Saxo-Norman well and refuse pit were uncovered at Beechwood Avenue (Atkins 2003 - ECB1436) and monitoring at Queens Court, Downing Close revealed no archaeological features because of later disturbance (Kaye 2007 – ECB2134).

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 Thank are due to Capita for commissioning the work. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray and the field work was run by Dan Hounsell.
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 the work be carried out by a team of professional, competent archaeologists.
2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. A T shaped evaluation trench was excavated. The SW – NE arm of this trench was 14m long, while the SE – NW arm was 18m. The trench was 1.8m wide (bucket width).
2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by Garath Rees using a Leica GPS survey system.
2.2.4 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.
2.2.5 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.
2.2.6 The evaluation was undertaken during a period of relatively clement weather. There were no conditions which may have hindered the recognition of archaeological artefacts or deposits.
3. Results

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 This archaeological evaluation did not reveal any archaeological finds, features or deposits. The deposit model presented by the trial trench is presented below

3.2 Trench 1 (AOD 12.68m – 12.79m)

3.2.1 See figures 2 and 3 for illustrations of the location, alignment and section drawings referring to the trial trench.

3.2.2 Context 100. Topsoil. This material was 0.26m – 0.40m thick. It was a dark grey brown, loose, silty material containing occasional small stone (primarily angular flint) and chalk inclusions. This directly overlay 101.

3.2.3 Context 101. Subsoil. This material was 0.28m – 0.46m thick. It was a light yellow orange, moderately compact silty sand. This contained frequent small stone (primarily angular flint) and chalk inclusions. This directly overlay contexts 102 and 103.

3.2.4 Context 102. Natural drift geology. This material was the solid geology underlying the area. It consisted of a mid creamy white, hard chalk with occasional flint stone inclusions. This material was regular scarred by context 103.

3.2.5 Context 103. Glacial deposition. This material was a mid-red orange, moderately compact, silty sand, containing frequent small to moderately sized angular flint nodules. This deposits would appear to represent material laid down through glacial activity across the region and the formation of palaeochannels – indicating an ancient periglacial location.

4. Discussion and Conclusions

4.1 Conclusions

4.1.1 The evaluation did not reveal any archaeological features, finds or deposits. Nor did the evaluation reveal any evidence of significant human activity in the area, modern or ancient.

4.2 Significance

4.2.1 The archaeological work is significant in that it revealed that the area under study appears never to have been subject to substantial, surviving, human occupation or significant land use. And so indicates that the area can be thought of as having a fairly low archaeological potential.

4.3 Recommendations

4.3.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.
APPENDIX A. HEALTH AND SAFETY STATEMENT

A.1.1 OA East will ensure that all work is carried out in accordance with relevant Health and Safety Policies, to standards defined in The Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act, 1974 and The Management of Health and Safety Regulations, 1992, and in accordance with the manual Health and Safety in Fieldwork Archaeology (SCAUM 1997).

A.1.2 Risk assessments prepared for the OA East office will be adhered to.

A.1.3 OA East has Public Liability Insurance. Separate professional insurance is covered by a Public Liability Policy.

A.1.4 Full details of the relevant Health and Safety Policies and the unit's insurance cover can be provided on request.
APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY


APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM
All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OASIS Number</th>
<th>Bottisham village college: An archaeological evaluation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Dates (fieldwork) Start</td>
<td>Finish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04-08-2008</td>
<td>05-08-2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous Work (by OA East)</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future Work</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Project Reference Codes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOTVICO8</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>ECB3006</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Development Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Building</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please select all techniques used:

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

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”.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monument</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Object</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Select period...</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Select period...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select period...</td>
<td></td>
<td>Select period...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select period...</td>
<td></td>
<td>Select period...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Project Location

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Site Address (including postcode if possible)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cambridgeshire</td>
<td>Bottisham Village college, Lode Road, Bottisham CB25 9DJ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>HER</th>
<th>Study Area</th>
<th>National Grid Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Cambs</td>
<td>Bottisham</td>
<td>Cambs HER</td>
<td>900m2</td>
<td>TL 5412 6087</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Project Originators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>OA EAST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Brief Originator</td>
<td>Andy Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Design Originator</td>
<td>James Drummond Murray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Manager</td>
<td>James Drummond Murray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervisor</td>
<td>Dan Hounsell</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Project Archives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical Archive</th>
<th>Digital Archive</th>
<th>Paper Archive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>OA East</td>
<td>Cambs County Store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accession ID ...</td>
<td>BOTVIC08</td>
<td>BOTVIC08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Archive Contents/Media

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Physical Contents</th>
<th>Digital Contents</th>
<th>Paper Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animal Bones</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceramics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Bones</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leather</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stratigraphic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survey</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textiles</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worked Bone</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worked Stone/Lithic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Digital Media

- ☑ Database
- ☑ Geophysics
- ☑ Images/Illustrations
- ☑ Moving Image
- ☑ Spreadsheets
- ☑ Survey
- ☑ Text

### Paper Media

- ☑ Aerial Photos
- ☑ Correspondence
- ☑ Diary/Drawing
- ☑ Manuscript
- ☑ Map/Matrices
- ☑ Misc.
- ☑ Research/Notes
- ☑ Report
- ☑ Sections/Survey

### Notes:

[Note: The page contains the Project Originators, Project Archives, and Archive Contents/Media sections. The notes section is left blank.]
## Drawing Conventions

### Plans

- Limit of Excavation
- Deposit - Conjectured
- Natural Features
- Sondages/Machine Strip
- Intrusion/Truncation
- Illustrated Section: S.14

### Sections

- Limit of Excavation
- Cut
- Cut-Conjectured
- Deposit Horizon
- Deposit Horizon - Conjectured
- Intrusion/Truncation
- Top Surface/Top of Natural
- Break in Section/Limit of Section Drawing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cut Number</th>
<th>Deposit Number</th>
<th>Ordnance Datum</th>
<th>Inclusions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>118</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>18.45m OD</td>
<td>Q₂</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 1: Location of trenches (black) with the development area outlined (red)
Figure 2: Trench location
Figure 3: Section drawings