Archaeological Watching Brief and Excavation at Burrough Green Primary School, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Watching Brief and Excavation Report

Client: Capita Architecture/CCC Schools

OA East Report No: 1127
OASIS No: oxfordar3-64459
NGR: TI 6375 5580
Archaeological Watching Brief and Excavation at Burrough Green Primary School, Cambridgeshire

An Interim Report

Site Code: BUGPYS 09

CHER No. ECB3231

Date of Works: 11/08/09 - 15/09/09

Report No: 1127

Excavator: Jonathan House

Client: Capita Architecture/CCC Schools

Report Date: September 2009
Report Number: 1127
Site Name: Archaeological Watching Brief and Excavation at Burrough Green Primary School, Cambridgeshire
HER Event No: ECB 3231
Date of Works: 11/08/09 - 15/09/09
Client Name: Capita Architecture/CCC Schools
Client Ref: N/A
Planning Ref: N/A
Grid Ref: TL 6375 5580
Site Code: BUGPYS 09
Finance Code: BUGPYS 09
Receiving Body: CCC Stores, Landbeach

Accession No:
Prepared by: Jonathan House
Position: Archaeological Supervisor
Date:

Checked by: Richard Mortimer
Position: Site Manager
Date:
Signed:

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Summary

During various site visits over August and September 2009, OA East carried out an archaeological watching brief and an open area excavation at Burrough Green C of E Primary School (TL 6375 5580). The monitoring was carried out in consideration of the medieval moated manor (SM33588). The works included a top soil strip beside the monument in advance of a new play surface and an open area excavation over the school playground prior to construction of new school buildings. No archaeological features or significant remains were uncovered within either area.
1 GEOLGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

1.1.1 The site is located on an area of glacial silt overlying till, both of Lowestoft formation. The site lies at the northern limit of the historic core of the village at c.113m AOD. The topography is relatively flat with some slightly undulating ground in the vicinity of the village.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1.1 The school is immediately adjacent to a medieval moated site, with some of the school buildings overlying the moat itself (Historic Environment Record number 01161). The moated site is considered to be of national importance and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM33588). The scheduling of the monument was completed after the construction of the modern school building, which encroaches on the south-east corner of the moat (Thomas 2008).

2.1.2 The original school, located to the south, was constructed in 1714, with 19th and 20th century alterations and is Listed (Grade II).

2.1.3 An archaeological evaluation was conducted in July 2008. The investigation consisted of 6 small trenches, 30m in total length, within the proposed redevelopment area of the school. See full report – Fletcher 2008.

2.1.4 Although undated, a single posthole recorded within Trench 5 may provide evidence of surviving archaeology, other than the moat itself, that could date earlier than the 19th century.

2.1.5 Paths and boundary ditches recorded within Trenches 4 and 5, were identified on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, indicating they were in existence in the late 19th century.

2.1.6 The most significant discovery was the confirmation of the location of the south-eastern corner of the moat - the evaluation enabled the precise location of the turn of the moat to be located.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1.1 Three separate areas were identified as being impacted by the proposed development, referred to as areas A, B, and C. This report covers investigations and monitoring carried out in areas A, and B only. Excavations within Area C are scheduled to take place in 2010.

3.1.2 The objective within the excavation area (Area B) was to locate, record and excavate surviving archaeological deposits within the development area (preservation by record). The objective within the topsoil strip (Area A) was to ensure that any archaeological deposits, finds or features present within the topsoil were recorded, and that all excavation within this area was conducted in the presence of an experienced archaeologist.
3.1.3 Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales digital photographs were taken of all Areas, relevant features and deposits.

3.1.4 The site conditions did not inhibit the archaeological investigations.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Area A

Introduction
4.1.1 The sub-surface groundworks associated with Area A consisted of a top soil strip by a 360° excavator of the area defined as Area A, and which partially encroached upon the scheduled area. The top soil strip was observed by the author and by David Kenny of English Heritage and ranged in depth between 0.1m to 0.15m.

Area A Results
4.1.2 No significant archaeological remains were observed. The topsoil contained a mixture of modern finds, and modern building materials, two unstratified limestone fragments were recovered, both of which were dressed blocks. The modern finds were noted but not retained.

4.2 Area B

Introduction
4.2.1 The work in Area B was undertaken as a full archaeological excavation, with the purpose of revealing as much of the area as could reasonably be achieved within the constraints of the available space, service runs and on site logistics. The trench was located on the old school playground

Area B Results
4.2.2 A trench 14m x 12m (168sq m) was stripped to the underlying natural silt. The majority of the overburden consisted of building demolition forming made ground, very little sub soil remained. There were no archaeological features present within the area. The demolition material contained Post Medieval pottery, with frogged and unfrogged bricks.

5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Area A
5.1.1 The strip of the top soil revealed no archaeological deposits, and the majority of the finds observed were related to the construction of the latest school building or the use of the area since. The only finds of any possible significance were the two limestone architectural fragments, both squared and of similar size; width and breadth 0.19m, and 0.14m in height, they may be associated with the original stone school house.

Area B
5.1.2 The Area B excavation revealed no archaeological features, and it appeared that the area excavated had previously been stripped, probably in the 19th or early 20th century for the school playground. The bricks and building demolition forming the make-up for the playground surface appeared to have been brought in to the site, no evidence was
seen for the demolition of a structure on the site itself. The only finds observed besides modern objects associated with the current school were of 18th and 19th century date, these either relate to the school or the demolished building from which the bricks were derived; a small sample of pottery was retained and is of BLAH date.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

6.1.1 The author would like to thank Adam Garner of Capita Architecture who commissioned the work and CCC Schools who funded it. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer.

6.1.2 The brief for archaeological works was written by Andy Thomas, who visited the site and monitored both the watching brief and excavation area. David Kenny of English Heritage has been both helpful and attentive throughout.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


Mortimer, R. 2009, Specification for Archaeological Watching Brief and Excavation : Burrough Green Primary School, Cambridgeshire

Thomas, A. 2008, Brief for Archaeological Evaluation: Burrough Green Primary School, Cambridgeshire
APPENDIX A.  OASIS REPORT FORM
All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number: oxfordar3-64459
Project Name: Archaeological Monitoring at Burrough Green Primary School
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start: 11-08-2009  Finish: 15-09-2009
Previous Work (by OA East) 
Future Work: Yes

Project Reference Codes
Site Code: BUGPS09  Planning App. No.:
HER No.: 3231  Related HER/OASIS No.:

Type of Project/Techniques Used
Prompt: Planning condition

Please select all techniques used:
- Field Observation (periodic visits)
- Full Excavation (100%)
- Full Survey
- Geophysical Survey
- Open-Area Excavation
- Part Excavation
- Part Survey
- Recorded Observation
- Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
- Salvoage Excavation
- Salvage Record
- Systematic Field Walking
- Systematic Metal Detector Survey
- Test Pit Survey
- Recorded Observation
- Systematic Field Walking
- Survey
- Watch 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".

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monument</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Object</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moated Manor</td>
<td>Medieval 1066 to 1540</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School House</td>
<td>Post Medieval 1540 to 1901</td>
<td>Limestone</td>
<td>Early Medieval 410 to 1066</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Project Location

County: Cambridgeshire
District: East Cambridgeshire
Parish: Burrough Green
HER: Cambridge County Council
Study Area: 1162.5m sq.
Site Address (including postcode if possible): Burrough Green C of E Primary School
Burrough Green, Cambs, CB8 9NH
National Grid Reference: TL 6375 5580
During various site visits over August and September 2009, OA East carried out an archaeological watching brief and an open area excavation at Burrough Green C of E Primary School (TL 6375 5580). The monitoring was carried out in consideration of the medieval moated manor (Scheduled Monument). The works included a top soil strip beside the monument, and an open area excavation over the school playground. No archaeological features or significant remains were uncovered within the excavation area.
Figure 1: Location map with watching brief area (red), excavation area (green), area excavated (black) and evaluation trenches (blue)
Plate 1: Area A Top soil strip

Plate 2: Area B Excavation Area