Cherry Hinton Infant School
Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

OA East Report No: 1204
OASIS No: oxfordar3-81191
NGR: TL 48925 56880

Client: Capita (Cambridgeshire County Council)

August 2010
Cherry Hinton Infant School, Cambridgeshire; an Archaeological Evaluation

Archaeological Evaluation

By Nick Gilmour MA PIFA

Editor: James Drummond-Murray MIWA

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Report Date: August 2010
Report Number: 1204
Site Name: Cherry Hinton Infant School
HER Event No: ECB 3424
Date of Works: August 2010
Client Name: Capita Architecture for CCC Schools
Client Ref: n/a
Planning Ref: n/a
Grid Ref: TL 48925 56880
Site Code: CAM CHI 10
Finance Code: CAM CHI 10
Receiving Body: CCC Stores, Landbeach
Accession No: CAM CHI 10
Prepared by: Nick Gilmour
Position: Supervisor
Date: August 2010
Checked by: Richard Mortimer
Position: Project Manager
Date: August 2010
Signed: .............................................................................................. ....

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology East carried out an archaeological Evaluation at Cherry Hinton Infant School on 11th August 2010. Two trenches were excavated, which revealed a modern demolition layer, underneath which were the remains of a topsoil and a subsoil. Two flint flakes were recovered from the subsoil. No archaeological features were identified.
1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Cherry Hinton Infant School, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire.

1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council, supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (formerly Cambridgeshire County Council's CAM ARC).

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 Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010). The results will enable decisions to be made by CCC, 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

1.2.1 The site overlies the West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation c. 700m to the north of the spring line of the Tottenhoe Stone (BGS sheet 205).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The site lies immediately to the north of the Railway line that bisects the Village, to the south lies the springhead, a water source exploited since at least the Bronze Age, to the north the presumed Anglo-Saxon core around St Andrew's Church.

Archaeology to the South

1.3.2 An Early Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead (CHER 04827) was found on the Netherhall Lower School site during the digging of Allotment Gardens, prior to the construction of the Lower School. Two disc or bell barrows (CHER 04964, 04965) were recorded during quarrying 150/200 yards from the War Ditches monument (see below) (CHER 04963a). Grooved ware and Beaker pottery was also recovered.

1.3.3 The Early Iron Age ringwork of War Ditches monument is located just over 1km to the south-southwest of the proposed development site. Identified first during quarrying in 1893 it was excavated most recently by OA East in 2009.

1.3.4 A Roman settlement was recorded on the War Ditches site (CHER 04963b) dating to the 1st-2nd centuries AD. This included at least two buildings, a palisade and ditches, a well, pottery kiln, pits and burials. ‘Celtic fields’ are also recorded 500 yards to the south-east (CHER 04830). Roman pottery and a skeleton were also found to the west of War Ditches (CHER 05126, 05126a) during quarrying.

1.3.5 A small 6th/7th century Saxon cemetery (CHER 04965a) was also excavated at the War ditches site, these were secondary inhumations within the Bronze Age barrows and contained a range of grave goods including spears, knives, Fe and Cu alloy objects, bone combs, pottery and a crystal ball mounted on bronze.
1.3.6 Recent years have seen several archaeological interventions in the vicinity of the Church of St Andrews (Church End), including both evaluation trenching and full excavation.

1.3.7 Towards the west of the area Church End (ECB 149 &1318), Romano-British and Middle Saxon occupation have been identified. In addition earlier find spots indicate the presence of Early Saxon furnished burials on the south side of Coldham’s Lane (MCB 5583). Other Historical Environment Record (HER) entries within the immediate area include Roman pottery, ditches and wells (MCB 6282, MCB 5584, MCB 5868 and 5869).

1.3.8 Further to the east along the northern side of Church End, a range of remains include a Late Saxon and medieval settlement, perhaps originally based around a large enclosure containing a proto-manorial complex, and aligned with the ancient routeway from Church End/Hinton to Cambridge (known as The Old Drift). This central enclosure also included a Late Saxon church and graveyard, believed to have been abandoned by the 12th century (ECB 148). The later medieval occupation is believed to have been centred on the existing parish church along with other elements of the known post-medieval village. In addition medieval wells containing several whole pots were recovered from the Coldham’s Lane cement works in the 1950s, in a location without obvious properties of this date. The medieval occupation of Church End and Hinton is incompletely understood and it is possible that the subject site includes other, yet to be identified, elements in the medieval settlement landscape of Cherry Hinton.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The author would like to thank Capita who commissioned and funded the archaeological work on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer and excavation was undertaken by Nick Gilmour. The brief for archaeological works was written by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council, Dan McConnell visited the site and monitored the work.
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 25m of trenching, equating to a 5.75% sample of the main development area, be excavated. Due to the presence of a soakaway, a total of 20.40m were excavated.

2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type 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 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 Site conditions were good, with cloudy weather and occasional sunny spells.
3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction
3.1.1 No archaeological features were identified in either trench. Full descriptions of each trench are given in appendix A.

3.2 Trench 1
3.2.1 The topsoil (100) was a mid greyish brown, sandy loam, with frequent organic inclusions. It was up to 0.12m thick and covered the entire area of the trench. Below this was a modern make-up layer (101), which was a mid brownish grey, sandy loam. This contained occasional inclusions of brick, concrete and charcoal, together with frequent gravel inclusions.

3.2.2 Below layer 101, was layer 102. this was a mid brownish grey, silty loam, with rare gravel inclusions. Below this was 104, a mid-pale greyish brown sandy loam, with occasional gravel inclusions. Two flint flakes were recovered from layer 104.

3.3 Trench 2
3.3.1 The deposits recorded in this trench were the same as those recognised in Trench 1. No finds were recovered from any of these deposits in this trench.

3.4 Finds Summary
3.4.1 Two flints flakes were recovered from the subsoil (104) in Trench 1. One of these is a decortication flake, which exhibited a blueish recortication. The other is perhaps a core rejuvenation flake, with two distinct scars on the dorsal face. Both were worn.
4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Stratified Deposits
4.1.1 The deposits recorded appear to represent a subsoil (104) and topsoil (103), buried under a modern make-up layer (101) and an artificially laid topsoil (100). It is likely that the make-up layer relates to the building of the current facilities in the 1970's.

4.1.2 The two flint flakes recovered from the subsoil are not unexpected, given the prehistoric activity known in the area.

4.2 Significance
4.2.1 This evaluation did not uncover any archaeological features. Also no Saxon or Medieval finds were recovered, suggesting this area was outside of the settlement area at this time. However, two flint flakes were recovered from the subsoil.

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. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

### Trench 1

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<td>103</td>
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### 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
- 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
- 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".

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## Project Originators

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<td>Project Design Originator</td>
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<td>Project Manager</td>
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## Project Archives

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## Digital Media

- Database
- GIS
- Geophysics
- Images
- Illustrations
- Moving Image
- Spreadsheets
- Survey
- Text
- Virtual Reality

## Paper Media

- Aerial Photos
- Context Sheet
- Correspondence
- Diary
- Drawing
- Manuscript
- Map
- Matrices
- Microfilm
- Misc.
- Research/Notes
- Photos
- Plans
- Report
- Sections
- Survey
Figure 2: Trench plan and section
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