St Faith's Sports Hall
Trumpington

Archaeological Evaluation Report

OA East Report No: 1177
OASIS No: oxfordar3-75191
NGR: TL 4526 5671

Client: St Faith's School

April 2010
St Faith's Sports Hall, Trumpington

Archaeological Evaluation

By Jonathan House BA

Editor: Richard Mortimer MIfA

Illustrator: Nick Gilmour MA Pifa

Report Date: April 2010

DRAFT
Report Number: 1177

Site Name: St Faith's School, Trumpington.

HER Event No: ECB 3350

Date of Works: March 2010

Client Name: St Faith's School

Client Ref: N/A

Planning Ref: 08/1506/FUL

Grid Ref: TL 4526 5669

Site Code: CAMSFT10

Finance Code: CAMSFT10

Receiving Body: CCC Stores, Landbeach

Accession No: 

Prepared by: Jonathan House
Position: Supervisor
Date: April 2010

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

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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

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Plate 1 Trench shot, photo taken from the east.
Plate 2 Photo of Section 1, showing topsoil and subsoil, taken from the north.
Plate 3 Selection of finds recovered from the trench, including complete coffee extract bottle.
Summary text.

An Evaluation was carried out at St Faith’s school, Trumpington, Grid ref TL 4526 5669. The evaluation consisted of one trench located within the proposed development area, adjacent to the sports hall, within the school playing field. The trench revealed features related to the original school buildings and playing field construction, some signs of farming practices pre-dating the school construction were seen in the form of plough scars, aligned perpendicular to Trumpington road. No archaeological features or deposits of significance were recorded.
1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at St Faith's school, Trumpington, at grid reference TL 4526 5671.

1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application 08/1506/FUL), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East.

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 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 and topography

1.2.1 The site is located south of Cambridge at grid reference TL 4526 5671, at a height of 14.90m AOD, the surrounding area is relatively flat. The A1309 (Trumpington Road) runs to the west of the site on a north to south alignment, while the northern boundary of the site is formed by Newton road, running east to west.

1.2.2 The development site lies on the Second Terrace Deposits (sands/silts/gravels) on the east side of the valley of the River Cam.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 There are cropmarks to the west which may indicate the location of a Roman-period settlement (CHER 09603) and a possible Saxon cemetery came to light in the 19th century, close by at 'Dam Hill' on the Vicar's Brook. The brook runs to the east and north of the development area and into the River Cam.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The author would like thank Russell Osborn of George Corderoy & Co and St Faith's School who respectively commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer and the illustrator was Nick Gilmour, with Jonathan House as the on-site staff. The project was monitored by Dan McConnell of CAPCA.
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 all archaeological deposits should be investigated, and recorded.

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 The site survey was carried out by Jonathan House using measurements from existing buildings.

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 digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

2.2.5 No environmental samples were taken from the site, as no appropriate features were identified during the investigations.

2.2.6 The site conditions and the weather did not inhibit the archaeological work.
3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction
3.1.1 One trench was excavated, the results are presented and described below.

3.2 Trench 1
3.2.1 Trench 1 ran east to west and measured 40m in length, the top soil measured 0.18m with 0.28m of subsoil. (Plate 2, Fig 2) The topsoil contained a reasonably high density of ceramics and glass, with some metalwork, some was obviously modern however the majority was late 19thC and early 20thC.

3.2.2 Various Post Medieval features were identified within the trench, including two 19thC soakaways which appeared to be associated with the school building to the north, and which were perpendicular to it.

3.2.3 Two parallel concrete beams crossed the trench north to south, with a 1m space between them filled with modern demolition material. This truncated an earlier feature 103, however upon excavation this also proved to be a further drainage pipe on the same alignment.

3.2.4 Plough scarring could be seen along the full length of the trench, the scarring was on a slightly different alignment to both the buildings and Post Medieval features within the trench.

3.3 Finds Summary
3.3.1 A few contextual finds were recovered from feature 103 (104) the earliest sherd being a Black Glaze Ware dating to the 17thC, with the rest dating to the early 19thC (Carole Fletcher pers. comm.). The rest of the finds were recovered from the top soil and the truncated ground surface, the majority of the assemblage is within a relatively tight date range of the late 18thC to early 19thC, with nothing beyond 1920; this finds cut-off fits in well with the construction and formation of the playing fields and its undisturbed use thereafter.

3.3.2 A few of the more intrinsically interesting finds consisted of a fragment of a Salt Glazed ink well, a complete coffee extract bottle, and a sherd of a late 18thC Refined White Earthen Ware coffee can, which had a green under glaze transfer print.
4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Discussion
4.1.1 All the drainage systems encountered are highly likely to relate to the construction of the school, the date of the finds assemblage supports this; the glass coffee extract bottle dating from 1885 to 1900 coincides with the foundation of the school. The variety of drains within the trench is probably due to the successive improvements and reworking of the school buildings.

4.1.2 The subsoil had been truncated in patches along the trench, but where it survived no finds were observed during the machine strip. The levelling of the ground for the construction of the playing field and cricket pitch, appears to have caused minimal truncation due to the already flat topography of the area.

4.1.3 The plough scars seen at the base of the trench are likely to relate to the farming practices which would have pre-dated the school's construction. Considering its perpendicular alignment to Trumpington Road, it is probably contemporary or later than the establishment of the road, and pre the construction of the school.

4.2 Significance
4.2.1 The site is of low archaeological significance.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trench 1</th>
<th>General description</th>
<th>Orientation</th>
<th>Avg. depth (m)</th>
<th>Width (m)</th>
<th>Length (m)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trench located within playing field adjacent to sports hall.</td>
<td>E-W</td>
<td>0.46</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>39.6</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Contexts</th>
<th>context no</th>
<th>type</th>
<th>Width (m)</th>
<th>Depth (m)</th>
<th>comment</th>
<th>finds</th>
<th>date</th>
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<tr>
<td>101</td>
<td>Layer</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>Topsoil</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Pot</td>
<td>19thC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td>Layer</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.28</td>
<td>Subsoil</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>103</td>
<td>Cut</td>
<td>&gt;2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Drain</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>104</td>
<td>Fill</td>
<td>&gt;2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Fill of 103</td>
<td>Pot</td>
<td>19thC</td>
<td>-</td>
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APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY


Websites
**APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM**

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

## Project Details

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<td>Project Name</td>
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<td>ECB 3350</td>
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## Type of Project/Techniques Used

**Prompt**
Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

**Development Type**
Urban Commercial

### 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
- [x] 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>
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<th>Period</th>
<th>Object</th>
<th>Period</th>
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<tr>
<td>Soakaway</td>
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<td>Ceramics</td>
<td>Post Medieval 1540 to 1901</td>
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<td>Select period...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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## Project Location

<table>
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<th>County</th>
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<td>Cambridgeshire</td>
<td>St Faith’s, Trumpington Road Cambridge CB2 8AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambs City</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HER</td>
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<td>Study Area</td>
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An Evaluation was carried out at St Faith's school, Trumpington, Grid ref TL 4526 5669. The evaluation consisted of one trench located within the proposed development area, adjacent to the sports hall, within the school playing field. One trench was excavated revealing features related to the original school and playing field construction, some signs of farming practices pre-dating the school construction were seen in the form of plough scars, aligned perpendicular to Trumpington road.
Drawing Conventions

Plans
Limit of Excavation
Deposit - Conjectured
Natural Features
Intrusion/Truncation
Illustrated Section - Section 14

Concrete
Archaeological Deposit
Plough Scar
Modern Deposit
Cut Number 118

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

Cut Number 118
Deposit Number 117
Ordinance Datum 18.45m OD
Inclusions 2

Convention Key
Figure 1: Location of trench (black)
Section 1

- Topsoil
- Subsoil

Section 2

- Topsoil
- Subsoil

Figure 2: Trench plan and sections
Plate 1: Trench shot, photo taken from the east

Plate 2: Photo of Section 1, showing topsoil and subsoil, taken from the north
Plate 3: Selection of finds recovered from the trench, including complete coffee extract bottle
Head Office/Registered Office
Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@thehumanjourney.net
w: http://thehumanjourney.net

OA North
Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: oanorth@thehumanjourney.net
w: http://thehumanjourney.net

OA East
16 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850 500
f: +44 (0) 1223 850 599
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net
w: http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast

OA Méditerranée
115 Rue Merlot
ZAC La Louvade
34 130 Mauguio
France

t: +33 (0) 4.67.57.86.92
f: +33 (0) 4.67.42.65.93
e: oamed@oamed.fr
w: http://oamed.fr/

Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA
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