Piper Barn, Manor Farm, Mill Way, Grantchester
Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

July 2018

Client: RM Construction

Issue No: 2 (Final)
OA East Report No: 2221
NGR: TL 4337 5535
Piper Barn, Manor Farm, Mill Way, Grantchester

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording Report

Written by Nicholas Cox BSc

With illustrations by David Brown BA

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Summary

On the 13th of June 2018 Oxford Archaeology East conducted Archaeological Monitoring and Recording during the excavations of footings for an extension at the rear of Piper Barn, Manor Farm, Mill Way, Grantchester. The site lies adjacent to a scheduled medieval moated site.

A foundation trench 0.6m wide with a total length of 16.8m was excavated down to a depth 1.0m. No archaeological features were found and no artefacts were recovered. The upper 0.4m of deposits had been truncated by the construction of a paved area outside the back of the property.
Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Robert Mead for commissioning this project. Thanks also to Gemma Stewart who monitored the work on behalf of Cambridge County Council for her advice and guidance.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Nick Gilmour. The fieldwork was carried out by Nicholas Cox. Digitising was carried out by Sarita Louzolo and Dave Brown. The archive was prepared by Katherine Hamilton.
1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) East was commissioned by Robert Mead of RM Construction to undertake archaeological monitoring and recording during the construction of an extension at the back of Piper Barn, Manor Farm, Grantchester, South Cambridgeshire (TL 4337 5535; Fig. 1).

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. S/1643/17/FL & S/1644/17/LB). A brief was set by Gemma Stewart (Stewart 2018) outlining the Local Authority’s requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process. A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced by OA East detailing the methods by which OA proposed to meet the requirements of the brief (Gilmour 2018).

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site is located in the core of the village of Grantchester, at an elevation of 12.5m OD. The area on which the extension is to be constructed is currently a domestic garden. Within this garden is a paved area, which has caused minor disturbance to below ground deposits.

1.2.2 The site is situated adjacent to a designated medieval moated site at Manor Farm (National Heritage List for England reference 1020440, Historic Environment Record reference DCB283). Located 100m to the north of the development area is Saint Andrew and Saint Mary’s Church (CHER 05141), which has pre-Norman origins.

1.2.3 The bedrock geology of the site is chalk of the West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation, which is overlain by superficial River Terrace Deposits of sand and gravel (British Geological Survey 2014, British Geological Survey online map viewer http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html; accessed May 2018).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The following archaeological and historical background of the site was produced for the WSI (Gilmour 2018) and based on a 1km radius search of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER).

1.3.1 The subject site is situated within the historic core of Grantchester; a village with a rich history dating back to the early medieval period and with evidence for prehistoric activity within the local landscape. Below is a summary of known heritage assets within the vicinity (Fig. 2).

Prehistoric (up to AD43)

1.3.2 The only prehistoric findspot within the search area is a Neolithic axe, found within the parish and possibly within the field 150m south-west of the development area (CHER 04391).
1.3.3 Prehistoric sites are known within the vicinity, with a Late Bronze Age cremation cemetery and one inhumation being revealed during cutting of foundation trenches, c. 750m north-west of the subject site (CHER 04379).

1.3.4 On the limit of the search area (1km to the south-west) two prehistoric timber trackways were discovered during the construction of the Cambridge Western Bypass (now the M11) in the late 1970s. A number of large antlers were also found within the area (CHER 04426).

1.3.5 Iron Age activity within the search area is limited, although a Middle to Late Iron Age enclosure and associated pitting was revealed during evaluative works south of Grantchester Road, 950m south-east of the subject site (MCB 17988).

Roman (AD43 – 410)

1.3.6 Significant Roman activity is known within the local landscape. A scheduled Roman settlement is located 800m south-east of the subject site (south-west of Trumpington: CHER 05130).

1.3.7 Roman findspots and features are also well known within the area: a Roman mill stone, tiles and flue pipe were used in the construction of the Parish Church of St Andrew & St Mary, 100m north of the subject site (CHER 05141A). Evidence for an extensive Roman settlement was also revealed during the early 20th century, 350m south-south-west of the development area, with evidence for a high-status building in the form of flue tiles and large fragments of painted wall plaster being recovered (CHER 05166). Other finds include a Roman cremation (CHER 04873), 750m to the north-east, Roman coins and pottery 800m south-west (CHER 04728), along with a large fragment of a Roman Doric column within the same area (CHER 04509).

Anglo-Saxon (AD410 – 1066)

1.3.8 Evidence for the origins of the village were uncovered prior to construction of a new school in the village during the 1970s. Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon settlement was recorded, along with a pin and brooch of Saxon date also being recovered (CHER04922a), 350m north of the subject site. Possible Saxon spearheads and knives were also found in the late 19th century, 350m to the west of this (CHER 04854). Five fragments of an Anglo-Saxon gravestone are recorded within the graveyard for the Church of Saint Mary and Saint Andrew (CHER04451).

Medieval to post-medieval (AD1066 – 1500)

1.3.9 The village of Grantchester was recorded in the Domesday book as Grantesete and Grauntsethe. It was a very large village, with a total of 76 households and a mill. The Grantchester parish church of St Andrew & St Mary is located 100m north of the subject site (CHER 05141) and is thought to have pre-Norman origins (with the eastern flint and pebble wall of the period still extant).

1.3.10 One of the most significant nearby heritage assets is the well preserved scheduled moated manor at Manor Farm, directly south of the subject site (CHER 01197). This monument incorporates two adjacent islands, rectangular in plan. The site is
associated with the manor of Jaks, which included several estates assembled by the family of Grantchester in the 15th century.

1.3.11 Other medieval records in the CHER include ridge and furrow cropmarks (CHER 05147 & 05159) in fields to the west and north of the development area and medieval pottery was recovered in a field 800m to the west (CHER 08698). A mid-15th century bronze seal of John Salle was recovered during the 19th century (CHER 05147), within the field 300m south-west.

Post-medieval to modern (1500 – present)

1.3.12 The vast majority of post-medieval and modern Historic Environment Records relate to listed buildings within the village. Directly south of the subject site is the location of a post-medieval dovecote; a lease of 1467 refers to a large dovecote with space for 130 birds. The structure is now in residential use (CHER 10422). Other listed building within the village include the Green Man Inn (CHER 04940), of 16th to 17th century construction, a post-medieval barn (CHER 04939), 800m north of the development area and a terrace of four 18th century alms houses, 400m to the north-west (CHER 04937). Piper Barn, constructed in two storeys in Cambridgeshire Stock brick with a slate roof, forms the central portion of a range of buildings (Stable Barns and the Old Dairy) that were converted to residential use in the late 1990s. The buildings are listed grade II due to their location within the curtilage of the listed Manor Farm House.

Previous work

1.3.13 A watching brief was conducted in 2009 during the construction of an all-weather riding surface 175m to the south-west of the site (House 2009, ECB3264). No archaeological features were identified.
2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The monitoring and recording sought to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the site, characterise where they were found (location, depth and extent), and establish the quality of preservation of any archaeology and associated environmental remains.

2.2 Methodology

Investigation methods – Foundation trench

2.2.1 All below ground development works were subject to archaeological monitoring and recording. Specifically, an experienced archaeologist attended the site during below ground construction works in order to investigate and record any archaeological deposits affected.

Recording of archaeological deposits

2.2.2 Records comprise digital, survey, drawn, written and photographic data.

2.2.3 Each deposit was individually documented on unique context sheets. Written descriptions were recorded on pro-forma sheets comprising factual data and interpretative elements. A register of contexts has been kept.

2.2.4 A site plan was drawn at 1:50 and was accurately tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

2.2.5 A sample section of the trench was drawn at 1:20 and tied in to Ordnance Datum.

2.2.6 The photographic record comprises high resolution digital photographs. A register of photographs has been kept.

Finds Collection and retention

2.2.7 No finds (except obviously modern items, which were not kept) were collected.

Metal detecting and the Treasure Act

2.2.8 Metal detector searches took place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the archaeological monitoring and recording are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the deposits encountered within the foundation trench. The full details of all deposits including depths are given in Appendix A.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence was fairly uniform across the 1m-deep foundation trench. The natural geology of mid blue grey clay (3) was overlain by a 0.2m-thick layer of dark brown silty clay (2), possibly a surviving subsoil. This was in turn overlain by modern hardcore (1), also 0.2m thick, which was put down below the existing paving (Fig. 3, S. 1 and Plates 1 & 2).

3.2.2 Ground conditions were good throughout.

3.3 Foundation trench

3.3.1 The foundation trench was 0.6m wide and extended for 4m from the wall of the existing building (Piper Barn) to the north, turned a right angle to the east and continued for 8.8m before turning north again for 4m back to the existing building (Fig. 3).

3.3.2 No archaeological features were identified within the trench. A single modern service trench relating to the current house was revealed aligned north-west to south-east, present in both the north-east to south-west aligned stretches of the trench. It was 0.6m wide and 0.4m deep and filled with gravel around a plastic pipe.

3.4 Finds summary

3.4.1 No finds were recovered.
4 **DISCUSSION**

4.1 **Reliability of field investigation**

4.1.1 Site conditions were good, although the narrow nature of foundation trench provided a restricted view of the deposits within the development area.

4.2 **Interpretation**

4.2.1 No archaeological features were present within the foundation trench. The whole area of the trench had been reduced by 0.4m from the ground surface during the construction of the modern paved area during the 1990s. Hardcore (1) had been laid as a bedding for a layer of concrete, above which were paving slabs forming the top surface. The paving slabs and concrete had been removed from the area of the excavation prior to the commencement of work but were still present to the west of the trench.

4.2.2 Layer 2 may represent a remnant subsoil or a levelling layer within the earlier farmyard, overlying the natural deposits.

4.3 **Significance**

4.3.1 No features of archaeological significance were identified and the soil profile indicates that the area was truncated by modern activity down to around 0.4m depth.
APPENDIX A  CONTEXT INVENTORY

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APPENDIX B  BIBLIOGRAPHY


Gilmour, N., 2018, Piper Barn, Manor Farm, Mill Way, Grantchester, Written Scheme of Investigation, Oxford Archaeology East (Unpublished)

Stewart, G., 2018, Piper Barn, Manor Farm, Mill Way, Grantchester, Brief for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording, CCC Historic Environment Team (Unpublished)
APPENDIX C  OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

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Prompt

- Directive from local planning authority

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

- Aerial Photography – interpretation
- Aerial Photography - new
- Annotated Sketch
- Augering
- Dendrochronological Survey
- Documentary Search
- Environmental Sampling
- Fieldwalking
- Geophysical Survey
- Geophysical Survey - new
- Gravity-core
- Laser Scanning
- Measured Survey
- Metal Detectors
- Measured Survey
- Measured Survey
- Photographic Survey
- Photographic Survey
- Photo-rectified 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)
- Watching Brief

Monument | Period
---|---
None | None
Choose an item.

Object | Period
---|---
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Choose an item.

Project Location

- County: Cambridgeshire
- District: South Cambs
- Parish: Grantchester
- HER office: Cambridgeshire
- Size of Study Area: 21.21 sq.m
- National Grid Ref: TL 4337 5535

Address (including Postcode)

- Piper Barn
- Mill Lane
- Grantchester
- Cambridge
- Cambs
- CB3 9NB

Project Originators

- Organisation: OA East
- Project Brief Originator: Gemma Stewart
- Project Design Originator: Nick Gilmour
- Project Manager: Nick Gilmour
- Project Supervisor: Nicholas Cox
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### Digital Media

- Database: ☒
- GIS: ☒
- Geophysics: ☐
- Images (Digital photos): ☒
- Illustrations (Figures/Plates): ☒
- Moving Image: ☐
- Spreadsheets: ☐
- Survey: ☒
- Text: ☒
- Virtual Reality: ☐

### Paper Media

- Aerial Photos: ☐
- Context Sheets: ☒
- Correspondence: ☐
- Diary: ☐
- Drawing: ☐
- Manuscript: ☐
- Map: ☐
- Matrices: ☐
- Microfiche: ☐
- Miscellaneous: ☐
- Research/Notes: ☐
- Photos (negatives/prints/slides): ☐
- Plans: ☒
- Report: ☒
- Sections: ☒
- Survey: ☐

### Further Comments
Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trench (black) and extent of scheduled medieval moated site of Manor Farm (red)
Figure 2: HER entries mentioned in the text, based on information supplied by CHER
Figure 3: Site plan and sample section
Plate 1: Section 1, looking north-west

Plate 2: General view, looking west
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