

Shirebrook Academy, Common Lane, Shirebrook, Derbyshire; An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

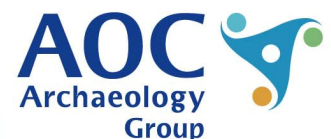
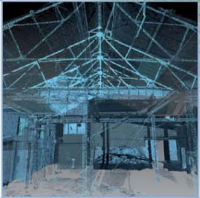
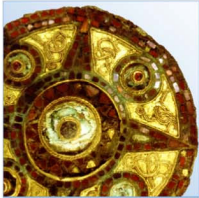
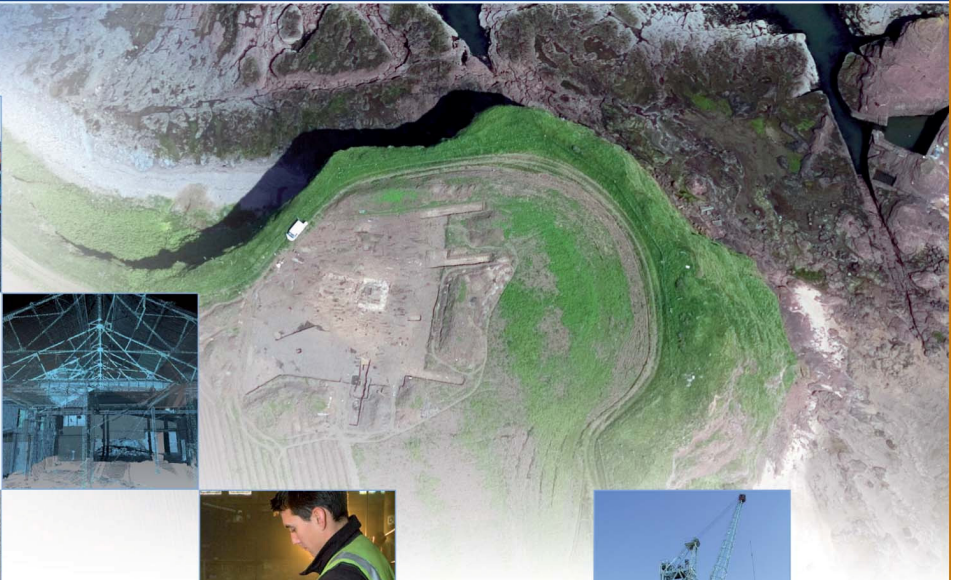
Planning Permission Number: CD5/0210/195

National Grid Reference Number: SK 5175 6835

AOC Project No: 30994

Site Code: CMS12

Date: June 2012



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Shirebrook Academy, Common Lane, Shirebrook, Derbyshire: An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

On Behalf of: Bowmer and Kirkland (N. Midlands & Yorkshire)
High Edge Court
Church Street
Heage
Belper
Derbyshire
DE56 2BW

National Grid Reference (NGR): SK 5175 6835

AOC Project No: 30994

Prepared by: Tara Fidler

Illustration by: Jonathan Moller

Fieldwork: 28th May 2012

Date: June 2012

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Date: June 2012

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Date: June 2012

Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft

Date: June 2012

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group, on behalf of Bowmer and Kirkland on the 28th May 2012 at the site of the Shirebrook Academy, Common Lane, Shirebrook, Derbyshire. The archaeological investigation was carried out during the ground reduction for the new wind turbine which will occupy part of the playing field to the north of the existing school.

The sequence of deposits identified during the watching brief were recorded as a natural mudstone and sandstone horizon, overlaid by the highly disturbed made ground comprising clayey silt.

No features or finds of archaeological interest were identified during the watching brief.

Publication of the watching brief findings will be carried out through a short summary of the fieldwork submitted to the local fieldwork roundup. An OASIS form has also been completed and an electronic copy of the watching brief report will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS). The site archive will be prepared in accordance with local and national guidance and will be deposited with the Weston Park Museum.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken at the site of the Shirebrook Academy, Common Lane, Shirebrook, Derbyshire (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The site, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SK 5175 6835, comprises a secondary school. The school lies on the north-west edge of Shirebrook and is bounded by Common Lane to the west, open fields to the north, and housing estates to the east and south.
- 1.3 The proposed new wind turbine is part of an ongoing scheme of works at Shirebrook Academy. The new wind turbine will occupy part of the playing field to the north of the existing school buildings (Figure 2).

2. Planning Background

- 2.1 The local planning authority is Derbyshire County Council. Archaeological advice to the council is provided by Dave Barrett, Development Control Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council.
- 2.2 No Scheduled Monuments, Registered Battlefields, Registered Parks & Gardens or Listed Buildings are known to lie within 500m of the site. The site does not lie within an Archaeological Notification Zone or within a Conservation Area.
- 2.3 The proposed development (Planning Application No. CD5/0210/195) comprises the erection of a new wind turbine within the playing fields area to the north of the school buildings.
- 2.4 An archaeological condition was attached to planning consent. Condition 45 of the Planning Condition states:

The applicant/developer shall make arrangements for archaeological observation and recording to take place during the construction of the wind turbine. Details of those arrangements shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the CPA, at least one month before any work commences on the application site.

- 2.5 This report details the results of the archaeological watching brief. The archaeological watching brief conformed with the Written Scheme of Investigation, as approved by the Development Control Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council, Dave Barrett (WSI) (AOC 2012). The archaeological watching brief conformed with current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines:

- Department for Communities and Local Government - National Planning Policy Framework (DoCLG 2012).
- English Heritage – Management of Archaeological Projects (EH 1991).
- English Heritage – Archaeological Guidance Paper 3: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork (EH 2009a).
- Institute for Archaeologists – Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (IfA 2008).
- Institute for Archaeologists – Code of Conduct (IfA 2010).
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – Guidance for Archaeological Conservation Practice (UKIC 1990).

3. Geology and Topography

- 3.1 The British Geological Survey map (Sheet 260) (BGS 1998) of the area records that the bedrock geology is Magnesian Limestone which is overlain by Permian mudstones on the eastern edge of

the town. At depth lie Carboniferous Coal Measures of the Westphalian Group; these were mined at Shirebrook from 1896 until the closure of the town pit in 1993.

4. Archaeological And Historical Background

Prehistoric (c. 500,000 BC – AD 43)

- 4.1 The primary source of information in this area for prehistoric activity comes from ephemeral evidence such as findspots, which attest to a general presence and utilisation of the wider landscape, rather than specific identified sites or features.
- 4.2 There is no known prehistoric activity on the site, prehistoric artefacts have, however, been found in the vicinity of the site, in particular an important Palaeolithic assemblage including stone tools and human and faunal remains were recovered from Langwith Basset Cave to the north of the site. The assemblage is generally attributed an Upper Aurignacian (c. 47,000 – 41,000 BP) date (Garrod 1926).
- 4.3 A number of finds of flint tools and waste flakes have also been made from within 1km of the site; these have included:
- Mesolithic to Bronze Age debitage and a microlith from above Langwith Cave.
 - Neolithic or Bronze Age flint and chert scatters from Gildwells Farm, Upper Langwith.
 - Neolithic flint debitage from Deans Plantation Upper Langwith.
 - Neolithic polished stone axe from Scarcliffe.
 - Neolithic flint axe from the eastern edge of Shirebrook.
 - Neolithic scrapers and Bronze Age scraper from Stubbin Wood.
- 4.4 These finds attest to a general level of prehistoric activity within the local area; further evidence of later prehistoric activity may be indicated by the presence of two cropmark enclosures that have been identified on aerial photographs of Upper Langwith and Scarcliff.

Roman (c. AD 43 – 410)

- 4.5 Excavations at Stubbin Wood have identified a Romano-British settlement site that may be part of a villa. The evidence included the foundations of a basilica styled aisled building of 3rd century date that was associated with an enclosure (Kay 1956).
- 4.6 Further evidence for Roman activity within 1km of the site includes a number of coin hoards from Deans Plantation and Stubbins Wood.

Early Medieval (c. AD 410 – 1066), Medieval (c. AD 1066 – 1485) and Post-Medieval (c. AD 1485 - 1900) and Modern (post 1900s)

- 4.7 Settlement is known to have become established at Langwith to the north of the site and Shirebrook to the east by the medieval period. Evidence includes the site of Basset Hall that may have been a manorial site by 1208 (Craven and Stanley 1984). Additionally, Holy Cross Church at Upper Langwith was apparently extant by the 13th century (Pevsner 1953).
- 4.8 There is also a record of a chapel at Upper Langwith, although this had ceased to exist by 1612 (Sinar 1991).
- 4.9 The area of Shirebrook Academy is likely to have lain in the cultivated area associated with these settlements with no development occurring on the site until the construction of the existing school buildings.

5. Strategy

5.1 Aims of the Investigation

5.1.1 The aims of the watching brief were defined as being:

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
- To determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
- To enable the archaeology advisor to Derbyshire County Council, to make an informed decision on the status of the condition, and any possible requirement for further work in order to satisfy that condition.
- To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation.

5.1.2 The specific aims of the watching brief were defined as being:

- Determine the presence of any features or artefacts which may indicate prehistoric to Roman activity is present on the site.
- Determine the presence of any features or artefacts which may indicate early medieval to post medieval activity is present on the site.

5.1.3 The final aim was to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions, through ADS OASIS website.

5.2 Methodology

5.2.1 Site procedures were defined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2012). All work was carried out in accordance with national guidelines (English Heritage 2009a, IfA 2008).

5.2.2 The watching brief was carried out during ground reduction of the approximate 50m² area in the playing field to the north of the existing school buildings (Figure 2). The area reduced measured approximately 7.1m x 7.1m. The ground reduction was carried out by a 21 ton machine by ground workers on site.

5.2.3 The site code CMS12 was obtained from the Weston Park Museum, Sheffield and was used as the site identifier for all records produced.

5.2.4 All recording was in accordance with the standards and requirements of the Museum of London's *Archaeological Field Manual* (MoL 3rd edition 1994).

5.2.5 All of the work was carried out in line with:

- Archaeological Guidance Papers (AGP): 2-4, Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork (English Heritage 2009).
- IfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (IfA 2008).

5.2.6 A continuous unique numbering system was employed. In this report the archaeological fills and layers are represented in curved brackets i.e. (), whilst the cut numbers are represented in square brackets i.e. [].

5.2.7 Written descriptions, comprising both factual data and interpretative elements, were recorded on standardised sheets.

5.2.8 The archaeological watching brief was conducted by the author under the overall management of Melissa Melikian, Operations Director. The site was monitored by Dave Barrett, Development Control Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council.

6 Results

6.1 Trench 1

Table of the stratigraphic sequence (Figure 3)

Context No	Depth	Height below ground height	Description/Interpretation
100	0.12m-0.20m	0m-0.20m	Medium yellowish brown clayey silt. Made Ground.
101	1.60m	0.20m-1.60m	Dark reddish brown mudstone and light whitish yellow fine sand/sandstone. Natural.

6.1.1 The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 1 during the site works was a layer of dense dark reddish brown mudstone consisting of pockets of light whitish yellow fine sands and sandstone (101), excavated to a depth of 1.60m. This deposit was a natural horizon. This was overlain by made ground (100) consisting of yellowish brown clayey silt, at a maximum thickness of 0.20m.

6.1.2 A previous phase of topsoil reduction had already been carried out and the playing field comprising the made ground (100) had been highly disturbed. It is possible that this layer was previously a subsoil

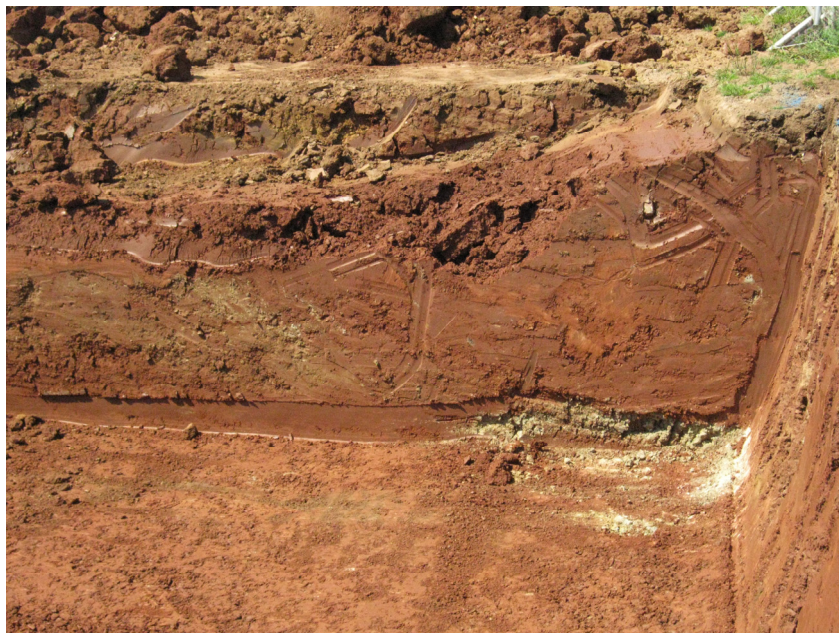


Plate 1 – East-Facing Sample Section

6.1.3 No archaeological remains were recorded on site.

7 Finds

7.1 No finds were collected during the course of the watching brief.

8 Conclusions

- 8.1 The watching brief was successful in establishing the presence or absence of archaeological remains on site; no archaeological remains were recorded on site.
- 8.2 The natural horizon was a dark reddish brown mudstone and light whitish yellow fine sand/sandstone. No intruding finds or features were recorded cutting into the natural deposit. Overlying the natural deposit was a highly disturbed layer of medium yellowish brown clayey silt, defined as made ground, but may have originally been a subsoil.
- 8.3 No archaeological remains or stray finds were recovered from the site.

9 Publication and Archive Deposition

- 9.1.1 A paper copy of the watching brief report will be issued to Dave Barrett, Development Control Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council on the understanding that it will become a public document after an appropriate period of time. A copy will be made available to the LPA archaeological advisor and a third digital copy of the report will also be submitted to the Derbyshire HER.
- 9.2 A short summary of the results of the watching brief will be submitted to the Derbyshire Archaeological Journal, and grey literature added to the online ADS OASIS project (Appendix B).

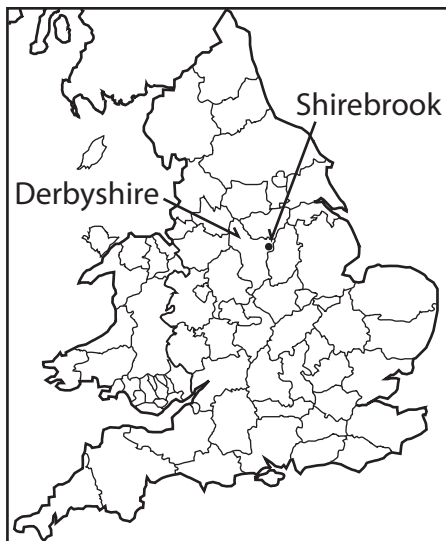
10 Archive Deposition

- 10.1 Following completion of the project the site archive will be prepared in the format agreed with Weston Park Museum. The archive will be security copied and a copy deposited with the National Archaeological Record (NAR).
- 10.2 The archive will be prepared in accordance with the guidelines provided Weston Park Museum and the Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990).
- 10.3 An OASIS form has been completed initiated (Appendix B) and this will be completed and deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

11 Bibliography

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Approximate Site Location Within England & Wales



Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:50 000 Landranger map of 2006 with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 100023757

500m 0 2 km

1:50 000

Figure 1: Site Location



Based on the Plan Provided by the Client

Figure 2: Detailed Site/Watching Brief Location Plan

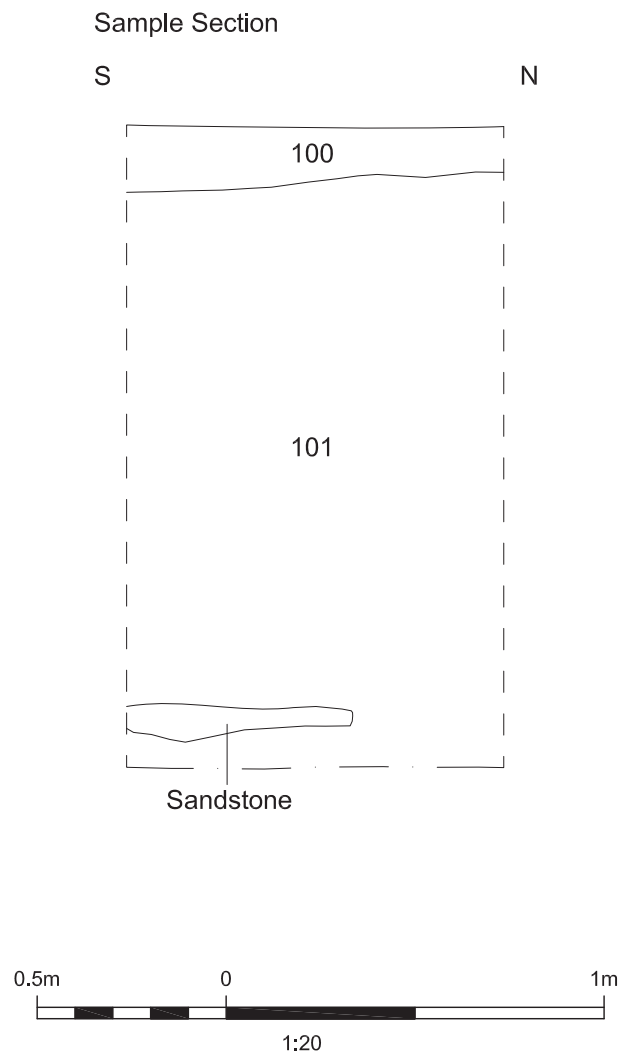


Figure 3: Sample Section

Appendices

Appendix A – Context Register

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
100	Made ground.	7.10m	7.10m	0.12-0.20m
101	Natural horizon.	7.10m	7.10m	1.60m

Appendix B – OASIS Form

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-101119

Project details

Project name Shirebrook Academy

Short description of the project Watching brief on groundworks for installation of a wind turbine at Shirebrook Academy. No archaeological features present. Natural horizon of mudstone and sandstone.

Project dates Start: 16-05-2011 End: 01-06-2012

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any project codes associated reference 30994 - Contracting Unit No.

Any project codes associated reference CMS12 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Community Service 1 - Community Buildings

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Project location

Country England

Site location DERBYSHIRE BOLSOVER SHIREBROOK Shirebrook Academy, Common Lane

Postcode NG20 8QF

Study area 50.00 Square metres

Site coordinates SK 5175 6835 53 -1 53 12 33 N 001 13 30 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation AOC Archaeology

Project brief originator AOC Archaeology

Project design AOC Archaeology
originator

Project director/manager Melissa Melikian

Project supervisor Tara Fidler

Type of developer
sponsor/funding body

Name of Bowmer and Kirkland
sponsor/funding body

Project archives

Physical Archive Weston Park Museum, Sheffield
recipient

Physical Archive Weston Park Museum, Sheffield notified of fieldwork but cannot receive at the
notes present time.

Digital Contents "Stratigraphic"

Digital available	Media	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Contents		"Stratigraphic"
Paper available	Media	"Diary","Microfilm","Photograph","Report","Section","Context sheet"

Project bibliography

1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Shirebrook Academy, Common Lane, Shirebrook, Derbyshire: A Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Ford, A.
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	AOC Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 text and illustration

Project bibliography

2

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Shirebrook Academy, Common Lane, Shirebrook, Derbyshire: An Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Fidler, T.
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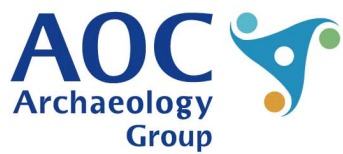
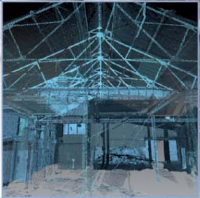
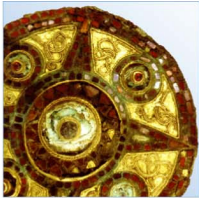
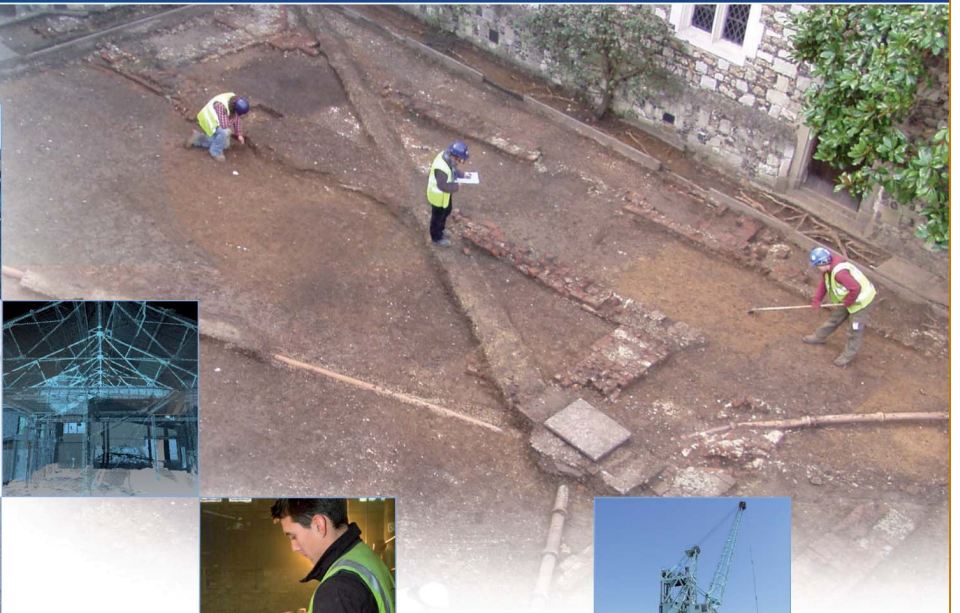
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OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

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