

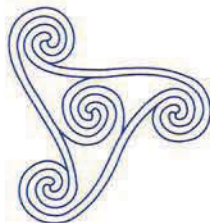
BISHOP RAMSEY SCHOOL,  
RUISLIP,  
LONDON BOROUGH OF HILLINGDON

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

TQ 1033 8787  
Planning Ref.: 19731/APP/2006/2811

JANUARY 2008

**AOC**  
ARCHAEOLOGY  
GROUP



**National Grid Reference:** TQ 1033 8787

**Site Code:** BRX 07

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**Timing:** Evaluation Fieldwork: 8<sup>th</sup> May 2007 – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2007  
Watching Brief Fieldwork: 19<sup>th</sup> June - 17<sup>th</sup> July 2007

Post-excavation and report production: January 2008

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## 1 ABSTRACT

*An archaeological evaluation and watching brief was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group between the 8th and 15th May 2007 and the 19<sup>th</sup> June and 17<sup>th</sup> July 2007 respectively at Bishop Ramsey School, Ruislip (NGR: TQ 1033 8787). The project was commissioned by GHM Rock Townsend Ltd. on behalf of Bishop Ramsey Church of England School.*

*The evaluation consisted of three machine excavated trenches; one measuring 2.00m wide, 20.00m long and two measuring 2.00m wide, 41.00m long. A fourth trench could not be excavated due to existing buildings on the site.*

*Following the results of the evaluation and after discussions with the Archaeological Advisor to the London Borough of Hillingdon, a watching brief was conducted between the 19<sup>th</sup> June and 17<sup>th</sup> July 2007 on the northern area of the site during the intrusive groundworks. The watching brief comprised the excavation of an open area within the footprint of the new drama barn and the 'wedge building'.*

*The programme of archaeological work revealed a linear ditch containing middle to late Iron Age pottery. Natural clay and silt were recorded in the north part of the site, while the natural clay in the south was contaminated with hydrocarbons and was sealed by a 20<sup>th</sup> century made ground layer of rubble, over 1.00m thick.*



## **2 INTRODUCTION**

2.1 This document is a report on an archaeological evaluation and watching brief at Bishop Ramsey School, Ruislip, London Borough of Hillingdon (Figure 1).

### **Site Location**

2.2 The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 1033 8787, and is within land bounded by the High Grove Leisure Centre and car park to the north, residential streets to the west, Myrtle Avenue to the south and Warrander Park to the east.

2.3 The site is approximately rectangular, measuring approximately 325m (north-south) and 100m (east-west), covering an area of 3.58 hectares (Figure 2).

2.4 The northern half of the proposed development is occupied by school buildings and will be affected by the development: the southern half is used for a playing field and will be unaffected. The proposed development is for the demolition of several temporary buildings, the canteen assembly hall and the workshop, and the construction of two new buildings: the ‘drama barn’ and the ‘wedge building’. There will also be a ground source heat pump on the side of the ‘wedge building’.

### **Planning Background**

2.5 The local planning authority is the London Borough of Hillingdon. Archaeological advice to the Borough is provided by the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS), which is part of English Heritage.

2.6 The proposed development is part of a scheme to amalgamate the upper and lower parts of the school into one. The current site, the upper, will be redeveloped into the new campus by the demolition and refurbishment of existing buildings, erection of new school buildings, new parking areas, access provision and playground/sports facilities.

2.7 The development proposal requires the demolition of:

- The two temporary prefabricated buildings to the southeast of the main buildings.
- The three temporary prefabricated buildings located to the north of the main buildings.
- The canteen/assembly hall to the west of the main building
- The workshop to the south west of the main building.

Of the existing buildings on the site, this leaves the main building, north and south blocks, and the sports hall remaining.

- 2.8 The site lies about 300m to the southeast of an Area of Archaeological Importance, as defined by the London Borough of Hillingdon. It does not contain any Listed Buildings, Greater London Sites and Monuments Records entries, or Scheduled Ancient Monuments.
- 2.9 The first stage in the Archaeological Investigation was the production of a Desk Based Assessment (AOC 2007a).
- 2.10 The evaluation consisted of three trenches, with the overall aim of enabling the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA to make an informed decision on the requirement for any further mitigation works. The evaluation was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation, prepared by AOC Archaeology and approved by GLAAS (AOC 2007b).
- 2.11 Following the evaluation fieldwork it was recommended by GLAAS that an archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken during groundworks for the new school buildings. This document reports on the results of the archaeological evaluation and watching brief.

### **3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 3.1 The British Geological Survey map (BGS Sheet 255), indicates that the solid geology of the site is Lambeth Group (clay, silt and sand) rock type, overlaying Upper Chalk Foundation. Clay and silt was identified in all the evaluation trenches.
- 3.2 Geotechnical Developments (UK) Ltd was commissioned in May 2006 to conduct a desk based and field survey of the development site. This survey suggested it is likely that ground reduction required for the construction of the northern building will impact below the made ground deposit.

### **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The following background information is drawn from the Desk Based Assessment (AOC 2007a). This examined historical information, the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (GLSMR) for archaeological features or chance finds within a 1km radius of the site, and cartographic information. No previous archaeological investigations have been undertaken on the site itself.

#### **Prehistoric (before c.AD 43)**

- 4.2 Neolithic flint, possibly scrapers and arrowheads, were found in a garden Warrender Way, about 100m to the east of the site.

- 4.3 A Neolithic to Early Bronze Age Plano-Convex flint knife was found near the centre of the enclosure in Park Wood, about 800m to the northeast of the site in the 1920s

**Roman (c. AD 43 - 450)**

- 4.4 The only Roman find within the search radius was a fragment of a screw necked flagon, made of soft redware, discovered in Parkers Field.

**Anglo-Saxon (c.451-1065)**

- 4.5 No remains of this period have been identified although Ruislip is recorded in the Domesday Book, and so has its origins in this period.

**Medieval (c.1066 - 1485)**

- 4.6 The site itself is located between the two medieval villages of Ruislip and Eastcote. Eastcote originated as a non-nucleated settlement along Eastcote High Road, and was a hamlet by AD 1323.

- 4.7 In c.1087, Hesdin granted Ruislip to the Benedictine Abbey of Bec in Normandy. For the next three hundred years the manor stayed in the Abbey's possession, with a priory at the site of modern day Manor Farm. By the 13<sup>th</sup> century this priory was the administrative centre of the Abbey's Balliwick of Ogbourne, and was probably the seat of the Proctor-General.

- 4.8 Within the parish of Ruislip there were two other manorial estates; St. Catherine's Manor, situated to the west of Park Wood, which was passed to the Abbey of Holy Trinity by Ernulf de Hesdin sometime before 1087, and Southcote, to the north of Manor Farm. The history and descent of these two manors are partly confused with each other, but by 1719, they were both in the hands of the same person. There is also noted a manorial grange at Northwood in 1248.

- 4.9 The series of conflicts with France in the late 14<sup>th</sup> century led to the Manor being sequestrated several times by the Crown, and in 1404 was confiscated from the Abbey of Bec and granted to the Duke of Bedford. By 1451 Ruislip Manor, and its lands, were granted outright to King's College, Cambridge, who held it until the 1920s.

- 4.10 The topography of the parish remained largely the same from the medieval period, with the woodlands of Park Wood and Ruislip Coppice, and Ruislip Common in the north of the parish, separating Northwood from Eastcote and Ruislip, and the open fields to the south, which were enclosed under the 1804 act. Several of these fieldnames indicate past usage, such as Windmill Field: there are also records of a water mill in 1248, a watermill and windmill in 1294 and a further reference to a miller in 1565, although no mill remains have been found.

- 4.11 To the west of the site a leat, a man-made watercourse, runs from The River Pinn near Bury Street to near Fore Street. It would have been for the use of a mill, though the site of the mill is uncertain.
- 4.12 There is a curving medieval earthwork with an external ditch, which is likely to have been part of a park pale (a type of enclosure designed to keep deer in the park), and at the late medieval boundary of Park Wood there is a smaller rectangular enclosure, possible once a tenement or parker's lodgings, which by the 1750s had become an osier moor and sallow bed (where willow was grown).
- 4.13 Eastcote Road, about 500m to the north of the site, is the approximate location of Hale End, which is recorded as the home of the Hale family from the 13<sup>th</sup> century, and which was demolished in the 1760s.
- 4.14 Five listed buildings in the search radius date from the medieval period, but are not in the immediate vicinity of the site.

#### **Post-Medieval (c.1485 - modern)**

- 4.15 Two major surveys were undertaken on behalf of King's College in 1565 and 1750. The 1565 Terrier (Land Roll) covered the whole of the manor of Ruislip and provides us for the first time with a full description of the demesne lands. From the study of this it is possible to locate the investigation site to the east of Little Windmill Field. although not precisely. It appears to be to the east of the three rectangular fields south of the Ruislip to Eastcote Road. Within its approximate location are two square "messuages" (dwelling and out buildings), with a terrier name of 'Cusgate'. Although they seem most likely to have been located at High Grove, to the north of the site, there is a possibility that these medieval or early post medieval structures were within the site.
- 4.16 Post medieval Ruislip retained much of its size and character, with only slight changes in its topography and little development. Historical records concerning population shows how Ruislip grew slowly from 53 people in 1088, 120 people in a mid-13<sup>th</sup> century custumal list, between 105 -130 tenants in early 15<sup>th</sup> century rental agreements, to 480 communicants in the parish in 1547. Then from little over 1,000 parish inhabitants in 1790 the population only grew to 1, 413 by 1841. However, between 1891 and 1901 the population shot from 1,836 to 3,566. This population increase coincided with the development of the railways (stations at Northwood in 1887, Ruislip in 1904 and Eastcote 1906) and the general population shift of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century from inner city areas to the new 'metropolitan' suburban areas. Its 20<sup>th</sup> century growth was rapid: by 1921 the population rose to 9,112; in 1931 it was 16,042; and by 1951 it had reached 68,288.
- 4.17 Ten listed buildings in the search radius date from the post medieval period, but are not in the immediate vicinity of the site. In addition a house on High Road

dating from the 16th or early 17th century was demolished in 1964, though the out buildings remain.

## **5 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 5.1 The aims of the Evaluation and 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 make available to interested parties the results of the investigation in order to inform the mitigation strategy as part of the planning process.
- 5.2 The specific objectives of the Evaluation and the Watching Brief were to:
- Determine the presence of any remains of Prehistoric or Saxon activity on the site.
  - Record the extent of the ditch identified in Evaluation Trench 3.
  - Collect further dating and environmental data from the ditch identified in Evaluation Trench 3.
- 5.3 The final aim is to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

## **6 METHODOLOGY**

- 6.1 The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of one trench measuring 20.00m x 2.00m at base and two trenches measuring 41.00m x 2.00m at base. A fourth trench, (Trench 2), could not be excavated due to the presence of standing buildings. The evaluation trenches were situated as shown in Figure 2.
- 6.2 The watching brief comprised the machine excavation of an open area between the foundation footprints of the new drama barn and the 'wedge building'.
- 6.3 Excavation was conducted using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under the constant supervision of the Archaeological Project Supervisor. Undifferentiated topsoil or overburden of recent origin was removed in successive level spits down to the natural geology, as significant archaeological horizons were not encountered above this.

- 6.4 The site code **BRX 07** was obtained from the Museum of London, and used for all fieldwork.
- 6.5 All trenches were accurately located to the National Grid. A temporary benchmark with a value of 54.41mOD was established on the site.
- 6.6 All recording was in accordance with the standards and requirements of the *Archaeological Field Manual* (Museum of London Archaeology Service 3rd edition 1994).
- 6.7 A continuous unique numbering system was employed. For each trench, a block of numbers in a continuous sequence was allocated. All recording was carried out using standardised pro-forma sheets.
- 6.8 Written descriptions, comprising both factual data and interpretative elements, were recorded on standardised sheets.

## 7 RESULTS

### 7.1 Trench 1

OD Height	Thickness	Context	Description
49.70 – 49.60	0.10m	1/001	Black Tarmacadam. Yard Surface.
49.60 – 48.60	1.00m	1/002	Light brown sandy silt with modern brick inclusions. Made ground.
48.60	NFE	1/003	Firm grey blue silty clay. Natural

7.1.1 Natural clay (1/003) was contaminated with hydrocarbons and appeared to have been truncated by activity associated with the construction of the existing buildings on the site. It was sealed by 20<sup>th</sup> century made ground, (1/002), used to level the area in advance of laying the tarmac surface, (1/001). No archaeological finds or features were present.

### 7.2 Trench 2

7.2.1 Trench 2 could not be excavated due to existing buildings on the site

### 7.3 Trench 3

OD Height	Thickness	Context	Description
54.40 – 54.30	0.10	3/001	Mid brown humic topsoil
54.30 – 54.10	0.20	3/002	Soft mid brown clay silt. Subsoil.
54.10 – 53.70	0.40	3/003	Mid brown clay silt. Natural.
53.70	NFE	3/004	Mid brown clay. Natural.

7.3.1 The natural clay (3/004) was sealed by natural silts (3/003). The silts were cut by a single ditch [3/006] measuring 2.00m to the limit of excavation, 1.15m wide and 0.85m deep. It was linear in plan and aligned north-south. Its fill (3/005) was a soft light-grey silt-clay which contained 44g of middle – late Iron Age pottery. Ditch [3/006] may represent a field boundary.

7.3.3 Ditch [3/006] was sealed by a mid brown clay silt subsoil (3/002) and topsoil (3/001).

### 7.4 Trench 4

OD Height	Thickness	Context	Description
53.36 – 53.06	0.30m	4/001	Mid brown humic topsoil
53.06 – 52.96	0.10m	4/002	Soft mid brown clay silt subsoil
52.96	NFE	4/003	Natural mid brown clay

7.4.1 Natural clay (4/003) was sealed by mid brown clay silt subsoil (4/002) and topsoil (4/001). No archaeological finds or features were present.



## 7.5 Watching Brief Area

OD Height	Thickness	Context	Description
54.10-53.70	0.30-0.40m	5/003	Brown humic sand. Topsoil. Same as (3/001).
53.70-53.45	0.20-0.30m	5/004	Light brown silty clay. Subsoil. Same as (3/002).
53.45-52.75	0.40-0.70m	5/001	Soft light grey silt. Fill of [5/002]. Same as (3/005).
53.45-52.75	0.40-0.70m	5/002	Linear feature. Ditch. Same as (3/006).
53.45	NFE	5/005	Brown-orange silty clay. Natural. (Same as 3/003).

7.5.1 The earliest deposit identified was a naturally deposited light brown-orange silty clay, (5/005).

7.5.2 The natural Lambeth clay was cut by ditch [5/002], a continuation of ditch [3/006] from Trench 3 to the south. Ditch [5/002] was 35.00m long, linear in plan and aligned northwest – southeast, turning towards the south at its south-eastern end. It was 0.70m wide to the north and widened to 1.50m at the south. Its depth varied between 0.40m and 0.70m deep. Its fill, (5/001)=(3/005), was a soft light grey silt clay, which contained 329g of pottery (Appendix B), 45 pieces of burnt daub (Appendix C) and three ox teeth (Appendix D). All finds retrieved from ditch [5/002] indicate the area was occupied at this time. The daub remains are probably the remains of loomweights (Appendix C), while the ox teeth are probably all from one animal, (Appendix D).

7.6 Ditch [5/002] was sealed by a light brown silty clay subsoil (5/004)=(3/002), which contained 3 peg roofing tiles. Sealing the subsoil was a 0.30m thick dark brown sandy topsoil, (5/003)=(3/001). The topsoil contained modern artefacts that were not retained.

## 8 FINDS

8.1 Six sherds of pottery were retrieved from ditch [3/006]. Five of these were from the same vessel. A further 51 sherds were recovered from the same ditch [5/002] from the watching brief phase. The pottery is thought to be Late Iron Age in date although the fabric could potentially be Early Saxon. Three ox teeth and 45 pieces of burnt daub were also present in ditch [5/002] from the watching brief phase. 3 probable post-medieval peg roofing tiles were recovered from the subsoil (5/004). A more complete assessment is included as Appendix B.

## 9 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 The evaluation met its primary objective: to establish the presence/absence of any archaeological remains. No archaeological deposits were identified in Trench 1 as the presence of hydrocarbon contamination and 20<sup>th</sup> century made ground directly



- overlying the natural clay indicates that the northern part of the site, where the site has already undergone development, has been heavily truncated.
- 9.2 A single ditch was identified in Trench 3 and the watching brief area, sealed by the subsoil. Although no other features were identified in Trenches 3 or 4, the sequence of deposition was similar, indicating that there is potential for further archaeological remains to be present in the south part of the site under the playing fields. However, works on this part of the site had a limited impact and any such remains will have been preserved in-situ.
  - 9.3 The ditch is locally and regionally important as no previous Iron Age remains in Ruislip have been reported, while Iron Age remains in West London are sparse. The multiple sherds of pottery from the same vessel and the size of the ditch may indicate more intensive settlement activity nearby.
  - 9.4 Publication of the results will be through the ADS OASIS form (Appendix F) with a short summary submitted to the London Archaeologist fieldwork roundup 2008.
  - 9.5 The archive will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive Resource centre.

## 10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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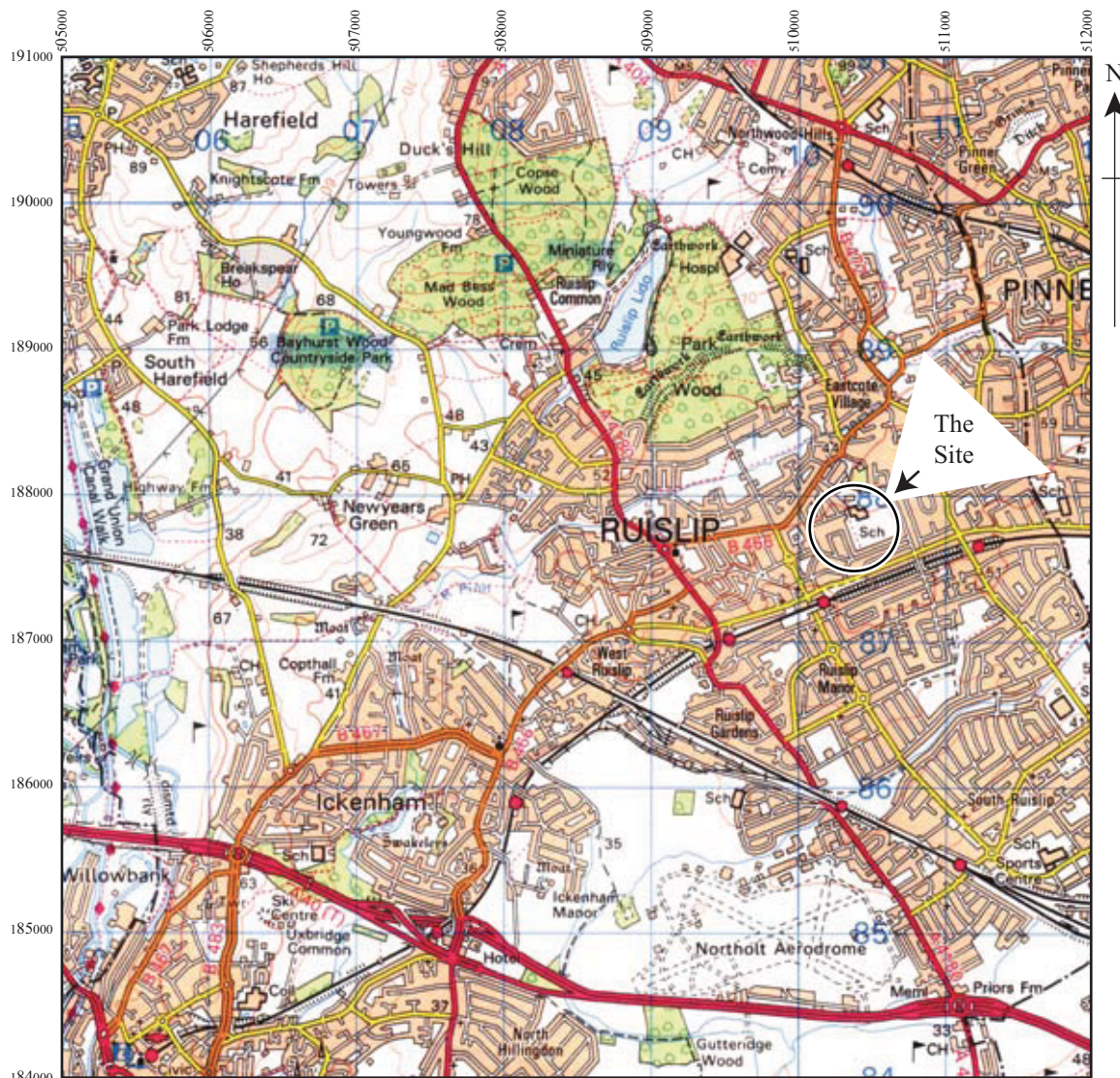
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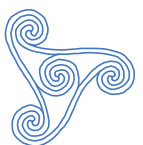
Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:50 000 Landranger map of 1999 with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 1000 16114

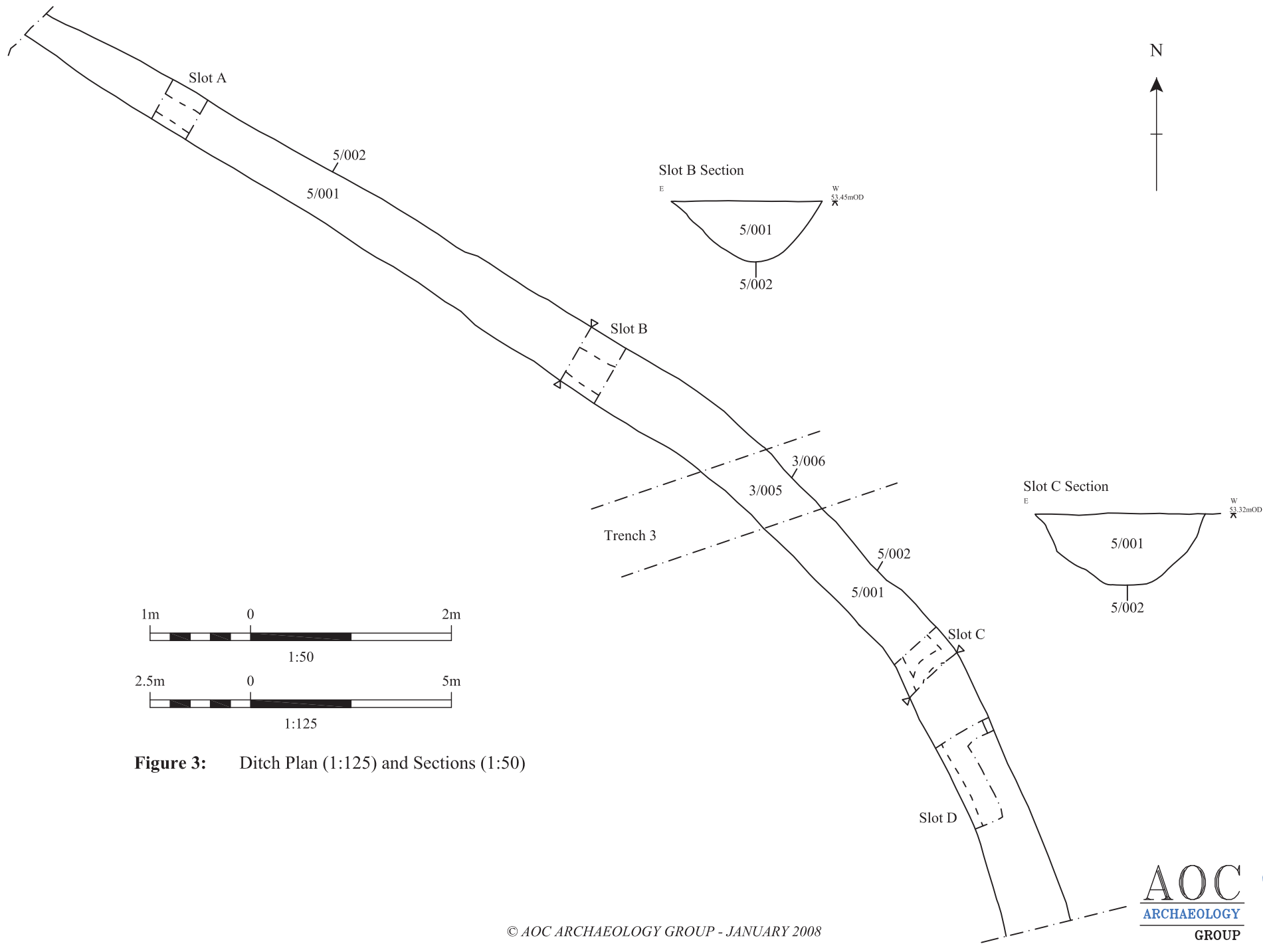


**Figure 1:** Site Location



**Figure 2:** Evaluation Trench, Watching Brief and Ditch Location Plan





**Figure 3:** Ditch Plan (1:125) and Sections (1:50)





## APPENDIX A

### CONTEXT REGISTER

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
1/001	Tarmac Surface	15.00m	2.00m	0.10m
1/002	Light brown sandy silt with modern brick inclusions	15.00m	2.00m	1.00m
1/003	Firm grey blue silty clay natural	15.00m	2.00m	NFE
3/001	Mid brown humic topsoil	41.00m	2.00m	0.10
3/002	Soft mid brown clay silt subsoil	41.00m	2.00m	0.20
3/003	Natural mid brown clay silt	41.00m	2.00m	0.40
3/004	Natural mid brown clay	41.00m	2.00m	NFE
3/005	Soft light grey silty clay fill of [3/006]	2.10m	1.15m	0.85
3/006	Linear cut feature with N-S alignment	2.10m	1.15m	0.85
4/001	Mid brown humic topsoil	41.00m	2.00m	0.30m
4/002	Soft mid brown clay silt subsoil	41.00m	2.00m	0.10m
4/003	Natural mid brown clay	41.00m	2.00m	NFE
5/001	Soft light grey silty clay fill of [5/002]			0.70m
5/002	Linear cut feature with NE-SW alignment			0.70m
5/003	Mid brown humic topsoil			0.40m
5/004	Light brown silty clay subsoil			0.30m
5/005	Natural brown-orange clay			NFE

NFE = No Further Excavation

## APPENDIX B

### POTTERY

*Lyn Blackmore*

#### Introduction

A small assemblage of abraded late Middle/Late Iron Age pottery (57 sherds, 329g) was recovered from a ditch during an Evaluation of the site (Trench 3) and a later Watching Brief, both carried out in 2007. Several sherds join but no profiles could be reconstructed. The fabrics were numbered SAND1–6, codes which overlap with those used for the West London Landscape project (Rayner in prep). The fabric descriptions for the two assemblages, however, do not necessarily correspond and the codes used here should be considered unique to this site. The pottery was recorded on paper proforma sheets noting fabric, form, decoration, condition, number of sherds, number of vessels, weight and the presence of any rims. The data was then entered onto an Excel spreadsheet.

#### Fabrics and forms

The fabrics are all very similar, and all were probably locally made using London clay and/or brickearth and fired in a reducing atmosphere. The main variations are in the amounts of iron present in the clay and the presence of (possibly added) sparse organic matter. No flint-tempered wares are present and no sherds are decorated; one sherd has the remains of a surface burnish but if present on any others it has been removed by abrasion.

SAND1. Dense fabric with a micaceous groundmass of very fine sand (*c* 0.05mm across) with rare quartz grains up to 1mm and mica up to 0.2mm; also sparse very fine organic inclusions (probably rootlets that were an inherent part of the clay matrix). Rare flint also occurs in some sherds. Five body sherds from [3/005]; three sherds (rim, body and lower body, thickness *c* 7mm) from a ring-footed bowl with slight remains of external burnish and four sherds from a bowl or jar from [5/001].

SAND2. Very similar to SAND1 but noticeably with a more abrasive and looser texture. Groundmass of very fine sand (*c* 0.05mm across) with abundant quartz grains between *c* 0.2 and 0.5mm across, occasional grains of 1mm and up to 1.8mm across. The organic content is also more abundant, especially in one of the three sherds from [5/001], which include a splayed flat base (diameter 110-120mm); one sherd from [3/005].

SAND3. This fabric differs from the first two in having a very dense inclusion-free matrix with quartz grains ranging from 0.2mm to 1mm across (presumed added). Also present in most sherds are plate-like voids and streaks from burnt-out organic inclusions. Small slightly everted rims, one flat-topped, two others rounded and very slightly beaded,

are present among the 20 sherds from [5/001], which derive from two, possibly three vessels.

SAND4. This fabric is the same as fabric 1 but contains scattered red clay pellet/iron oxides. Eleven sherds, some joining, from [5/001] (wall thickness *c* 9mm).

SAND5. This fabric differs from the others in that it is noticeably iron-rich, with red pellets up to 5mm across (mainly rounded, but some more angular). The dense matrix contains abundant very fine quartz sand and moderate larger sub-angular quartz grains up to 1mm across, mainly colourless but also rose-coloured quartz; also present is moderate fine flint, mainly up to 0.4mm across but occasionally larger, both white/grey and red in colour. One sherd also contains a rounded pebble of quartz/quartzitic sandstone 7mm across. The nine sherds, all from [5/001], are from towards the base of a thick-walled flaring jar with oxidised exterior and reduced inner margin bearing carbon deposits; several join, giving a lower diameter of 120mm (wall thickness *c* 10mm).

SAND5. As above but coarser, with larger iron inclusions (up to 3mm) and more abundant quartz sand, mainly under 0.5mm, but up to 1mm across.



Cxt	Per	Edate	Ldate	Fabric	Form	Dec	State	SC	ENV	Gm	Rim	Comment
3/005	IA	-350	-50	SAND1	JAR		A	5	1	30		
3/005	IA	-350	-50	SAND2	JAR		A	1	1	13		
5/001	IA	-350	-50	SAND1	BOWL	BUR	A	3	1	31	Y	small rim, body sherd with part of ring foot
5/001	IA	-350	-50	SAND1	JAR		A	4	1	44		some joining
5/001	IA	-350	-50	SAND2	JAR			1	1	16		splayed flat base
5/001	IA	-350	-50	SAND2	JAR			1	1	11		same as base sherd?
5/001	IA	-350	-50	SAND2	JAR		A	1	1	3		oxid, voids
5/001	IA	-350	-50	SAND3	JAR		A	4	1	8	Y	2 small rims (joining, plus body sherd
5/001	IA	-350	-50	SAND3	JAR		A	16	2	45	Y	2 rims (possibly different; weight includes crumbs
5/001	IA	-350	-50	SAND4	JAR			11	1	57		some joining
5/001	IA	-350	-50	SAND5	JAR		S	9	1	85		thick-walled, oxid ext; internal sooting
5/001	IA	-350	-50	SAND6	JAR		A	1	1	29		oxid ext

Table 1. The distribution of the pottery by context and fabric type

## Distribution

The pottery was recovered from two different parts of the same ditch. Six abraded sherds of pottery (44g) were collected during the Evaluation from context [3/005], the fill of a linear cut in trench 3 of the evaluation. Five sherds are from a single thick-walled vessel (fabric SAND1). The other sherd is very similar but in a more sandy fabric (SAND2). The other 51 sherds (329g) were collected during the Watching Brief from fill [5/001] of ditch [5/002], which contained sherds from up to eleven different vessels in six related but subtly different fabrics. The distribution of the material is shown in Table 1.

## Dating

From the fabrics and forms that are represented, notably the flat-based jar and ring-footed bowl, the sherds are dated to the late Middle Iron Age, ie probably *c* 400–100/50 BC, although they could date to the Late Iron Age (*c* 50 BC–50/100 AD). Similar Middle Iron Age pottery has been found at St Mary Clerkenwell, Islington, and possibly at Fulham Palace (Blackmore in prep). Although the Anglo-Saxon period to the south of Ruislip and closer to the Thames (eg Sipson and Harmondsworth) is beginning to be better understood (Cowie and Blackmore in prep), there is currently little material evidence for activity between the Roman and Saxo-Norman periods in the Ruislip area other than a few sherds from Northolt (Hurst 1961, 255–56). Although very similar fabrics have been found in Saxon contexts from the Heathrow area (Blackmore in prep), they usually have a more obvious organic content.

## Discussion

This pottery assemblage is entirely domestic in character. Although small, it is significant in that it adds to the currently limited knowledge of the later prehistoric period in this part of Middlesex. Prehistoric activity is well documented in West Middlesex and although there is less evidence to the north of Heathrow, towards Ruislip, a few small sherds of flint-tempered pottery were found at Northolt (Hurst 1961, 255, fabric c); the latter were first thought to be Saxon but some were found by the present writer to be prehistoric. Although little Middle/Late Iron Age pottery has yet been published, several Iron Age sites are known in the Heathrow area (Cotton, Mills and Clegg 1986, 54–7) and iron-rich fabrics were identified in the MoLAS West London Landscape project (Rayner in prep, fabrics IO11, IO12, IO13). The best known published sites is that of ‘Caesar’s Camp’ where a wider range of forms, with more complete examples was found (Grimes and Close-Brooks 1993, 341–51, 357); these include some close parallels for the probable forms found at Bishop Ramsey School (*ibid*, fig 33). Middle to Late Iron Age pottery has also been found in excavations in advance of Heathrow Terminal 4 (Perry Oaks: Every and Mephram, *nd*). Although the sequence from Middle to Late Iron pottery traditions in the area is currently unclear (Grimes and Close-Brooks 1993, 356–7; Every and Mephram *nd*, 19–20), further consideration of these assemblages, together with smaller groups such

as that from the present site, should help to clarify trends and the transition from prehistoric to Romano-British ceramics.

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## APPENDIX C

### BUILDING MATERIAL

*Ian M. Betts*

#### Summary/Introduction

The ceramic building material assemblage from BRX07 weights 540 gm, and comprises 48 small fragments of daub-like material from context 5/001 and three peg roofing tiles from context 5/004.

#### Methodology

All the building material has been recorded using the standard recording forms used by the Museum of London. This has involved fabric analysis undertaken with a x10 binocular microscope. The information on the recording forms has been added to an Excel database (bmdata.xls).

#### Ditch fill (context 5/001)

This produced 45 fragments fine grained, partly micaceous daub-like material. Most of the material has a grey core, indicating that it has been burnt, whilst one fragment has the remains of a 7 mm diameter circular hole.

Three fragments made from fine clay have a light brown and orange colour with a black core, the latter again indicates burning. One fragment has a *circa* 11 mm diameter circular hole.

The pottery associated with this material has been dated to the Iron Age, so it seems highly likely that these daub and clay fragments are loom weights, or similar clay/daub objects. Similar material has been found on other Iron Age sites around London (Betts 2006).

#### Subsoil (context 5/004)

Three peg roofing tiles were recovered from the subsoil, one of which would originally have had two 12mm diameter round nail holes. These are difficult to date, but are almost certainly post-medieval.

## Bibliography

Betts, I M 2006, 'East London Gravels: building material and fire clay objects', unpub archive report, Museum of London Archaeological Service

Context	Fabric	Form	Corners	Weight	Length	Breadth	Thickness	Number	Comments
5/001	3102	daub	0	320				45	fine silty clay, d. grey & l. brown, round 7mm hole (see sheet)
5/001	3102	daub?	0	60				3	fine clay, black & l brown & orange, round c.11mm hole
5/004	3090	peg	1	40			12	1	round nail hole 12mm dia
5/004	2586	peg	0	120			13	2	x1 abraded

## APPENDIX D

### ANIMAL BONE

*Alan Pipe*

#### Introduction

During excavations at the Bishop Ramsay School, Ruislip, hand-collected animal bone was recovered from a soft light grey silty fill (5/001) of a ditch (5/002), dated to the Iron Age in Area 5. This feature was probably a boundary or enclosure ditch. It was possible that these remains could provide information on the character of local human activity in the vicinity of the ditch. Identifications and interpretation followed Schmid 1972.

#### Results

*Table 1: Hand-collected animal bone from BRX07/summary*

*Table 2: Hand-collected animal bone from BRX07/detailed summary*

Ditch fill [5/001] produced multiple fragments, 0.029 kg, derived from three teeth of ox *Bos taurus*. These derived from a right mandibular (lower jaw) first or second molar, a left maxillary (upper jaw) first or second or second molar and a fragment of another mandibular molar. All fragments could derive from the same animal. Wear on the upper and lower first or second molars indicates that they were both fully erupted and therefore from animal(s) in at least the second year of life. The eroded and fragmented condition of the teeth, together with the absence of any trace of the maxilla or mandible, indicate very aggressive soil conditions and strongly suggest that these may be the only remnants of an originally larger bone assemblage. There were no tool marks.

#### Discussion / Summary

This small and heavily fragmented group of ox tooth fragments has only very limited potential for interpretation. It indicates that elements of one ox upper and at least one ox lower jaw were present from animal(s) in at least young adulthood, perhaps an indication of disposal of waste from processing of a beef carcass.

#### Bibliography

Schmid, E, 1972 *Atlas of animal bones for prehistorians, archaeologists and Quaternary geologists*

London. Elsevier.

**Tables**

DATE	AREA	INTERPRETATION	PARENT	CONTEXT	SAMPLE	WT (kg)	FRAG (mm)	PRES	NOS	LMAM	SMAM	FISH	BIRD	AMPH	MAND	MEAS	EPI	COMPLETE
Iron Age	5	ditch fill	ditch [5/002]	[5/001]	0	0.029	25-75	medium	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>									3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

*Table 1: Hand-collected animal bone from BRX07/summary*

DATE	INTERPRETATION	PARENT	CONTEXT	SAMPLE	TAXON	BONE	SIDE	AGE	STATE
Iron Age	ditch fill	ditch [5/002]	[5/001]	0	ox	molar tooth M1/M2, maxillary	left	adult	fragmented
Iron Age	ditch fill	ditch [5/002]	[5/001]	0	ox	molar tooth M1/M2, mandibular	right	adult	fragmented
Iron Age	ditch fill	ditch [5/002]	[5/001]	0	ox	molar tooth, mandibular		adult	fragmented

*Table 2: Hand-collected animal bone from BRX07/detailed summary*

## APPENDIX E

### PLANT REMAINS

By John Giorgi

#### Introduction

During excavations at the Bishop Ramsay School, Ruislip, two bulk soil samples were collected for the potential recovery of macro-fossil plant remains from a soft light grey silty fill (5/001) of a ditch (5/002), dated to the Iron Age in Area 5. This feature was probably a boundary or enclosure ditch. It was hoped that any archaeobotanical plant remains from the samples could provide information on the character of the local environment in the vicinity of the ditch and possible evidence of human activities nearby.

The soil samples were processed by AOC and the resulting flots dried and presented to the author for analysis. The flots were divided into fractions using a stack of sieves and the plant remains examined in the Environmental Department, MoLAS using a binocular microscope together with modern botanical reference material and reference manuals.

#### Results

A table of the biological remains in each flot is shown in Table 1.

Context	Sample	Flot vol (ml)	Charcoal	Wood	Insects	Molluscs (terrestrial)	Comments
5/001	1	3	++	+		+	mainly rootlets
5/001	2	2	++		+		mainly rootlets

Table 1: BRX07: The biological remains in the environmental samples

#### *Ditch fill 5/001, sample <1>*

This sample produced only a small dry flot with a volume of just 3ml. The flot consisted mainly of rootlets with occasional flecks of wood and very fragmented charcoal, none of which was of an appropriate size for identification purposes. A single example of the burrowing land snail, *Cecelioides acicula*, was also present in the flot.

#### *Ditch fill 5/001, sample <2>*

This sample also only yielded a small dry flot with a volume of less than 2ml. Again, the flot contained primarily rootlets with charcoal flecks. A few insect (?beetle, pupae) fragments were also present in this flot.



## **Discussion / Summary**

The biological remains in the two flots consisted mainly of rootlets and very fragmented wood/charcoal. No comment can be made on the basis of these remains pertaining to either the environment and/or human activities at the site. The charcoal and wood is too fragmented for identification and in any event there is a high possibility that all this material is intrusive given the presence of rootlets in both samples and a burrowing mollusc in sample <1>. It is also very likely that the few insect fragments in the flot from sample <2> are also of more recent origin having travelled down the soil profile.

## Appendix F – Oasis Form

### 2 OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: ENGLAND

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#### 2.1.1 Printable version

2.2 OASIS ID: aocarcha1-27220

##### Project details

Project name BISHOP RAMSEY SCHOOL, RUISLIP, LONDON BOROUGH OF HILLINGDON: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND WATCHING BRIEF

Short description of the project *The following report details the results of an archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology between the 8th May 2007 and 17th July 2007 at Bishop Ramsey School, Ruislip (NGR TQ 1033 8787). The evaluation revealed a north-south aligned ditch contained middle-late Iron Age pottery. Following the advice of the Archaeological Advisor an Archaeological Watching Brief was conducted to the immediate north of the evaluation. The Watching Brief revealed the continuation of the Iron Age ditch to the northeast.*

Project dates Start: 08-05-2007 End: 17-07-2007

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes BRX 07 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation and watching brief

Significant Finds POTTERY Middle – Late Iron Age

Methods & 'Sample Trenches', Open area watching brief

techniques

Development type Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### **Project location**

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON HILLINGDON RUISLIP Bishop Ramsey School, Ruislip, London Borough of Hillingdon

Postcode HA4 8EE

Study area 3.58 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 1033 8787 51.5783988843 -0.407589079178 51 34 42 N 000 24 27  
W Point

Height OD Min: 47.96m Max: 53.54m

### **Project creators**

Name of Organisation AOC Archaeology

Project brief originator AOC Archaeology

Project design originator AOC Archaeology

Project director/manager Andy Leonard

Project supervisor Dan Eddisford

Project supervisor Paolo Guarino

Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	GHM Rock Townsend

### **Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient	Museum of London
Physical Archive ID	BRX07
Physical Contents	'Ceramics'
Physical Archive notes	Archive to be retained at AOC until ready for deposition with Museum of London
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London
Digital Archive ID	BRX07
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Images vector','Text'
Digital Archive notes	Archive to be retained at AOC until ready for deposition with Museum of London
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London
Paper Archive ID	BRX07
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media	'Context'

available sheet', 'Microfilm', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section', 'Unpublished Text'

Paper Archive notes Archive to be retained at AOC until ready for deposition with Museum of London

### **Project bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of Bishop Ramsay School, Ruislip, London Borough of Hillingdon. Unpublished Report.

Author(s)/Editor(s) Brooks, S.

Date 2007

Issuer or publisher AOC Archaeology Group

Place of issue or publication AOC Archaeology Group

Description A4 bound document

### **Project bibliography 2**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title BISHOP RAMSEY SCHOOL, RUISLIP, LONDON BOROUGH OF HILLINGDON: AN INTERIM ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Author(s)/Editor(s) Eddisford, D.

Date 2007

Issuer or publisher AOC Archaeology

Place of issue or publication AOC Archaeology

Description A4 bound document

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**Project  
bibliography 2**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
Title Bishop Ramsay School, Ruislip, London Borough of Hillingdon: An Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief  
Author(s)/Editor(s) Pole, C. Guarino, P  
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Entered by Andy Leonard (andyleonard@aocarchaeology.co.uk)  
Entered on 29 May 2007

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### **3 OASIS:**

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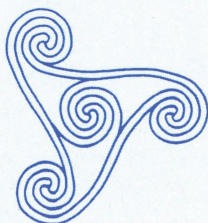
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*The logo incorporates a design from a lead disc found on Birsay, Orkney, dated to the sixth century AD.*