



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation
Bringhurst Primary School, Great
Easton Road, Bringhurst, Leicestershire**

NGR: SP 8441 9256

Tim Higgins



ULAS Report No. 2012-091
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An Archaeological Evaluation
Bringham Primary School, Great Easton Road, Bringham
Leicestershire

NGR: SP 8441 9256

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For: Leicestershire County Council

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An Archaeological Evaluation Bringhurst Primary School, Great Easton, Bringhurst, Leicestershire (SP 8441 9256)

Timothy Higgins

Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation during May 2012 on behalf of Leicestershire County Council. The fieldwork was a pre-determination requirement on a proposed planning application for a new classroom block at Bringhurst Primary School, Great Easton Road, Bringhurst, Leicestershire (SP 8441 9256), in order that the potential impact of the development on such remains may be assessed by the Planning Authority and an appropriate mitigation strategy put in place.

Two trenches were excavated to evaluate an area for a proposed new class room and school play area to be constructed on existing school play areas to the west and south of the school.

The evaluation work did not reveal any archaeological deposits or features with the exception of modern field drains were recorded. The site archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council under accession number X.A58.2012.

Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Bringhurst Primary School, Great Easton Road, Bringhurst, Leicestershire (NGR SP 8441 9256, Fig.1). The application site lies within an area of archaeological potential.

In accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), (DCLG 2012), this document presents the report for an archaeological evaluation at Bringhurst Primary School, Great Easton Road, Bringhurst, Leicestershire (NGR SP 8441 9256, Fig.1). Planning permission is being sought for development of a new class room and school play area at the school. As the site is located close to known archaeological remains, the Senior Planning Archaeologist recommended an archaeological evaluation to determine if there are any heritage assets likely to be affected by the proposed development.

Archaeological trial trenching that was undertaken on the 28th May 2012. A strategy for the work was set out in the Written Scheme for Investigation, (WSI).

Geology and Topography

The proposed development (SP 8441 9256; centre) is located on Great Easton Road approximately 500m to the north-east of the Bringhurst village centre (Fig. 1). The site currently comprises an area of hard-standing and a grassed field within which it is proposed to build a new classroom block.

The British Geological Survey of Great Britain, indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of Whitby Mudstone Formation.



Figure 1: Location of site at Bringhurst. Scale 1:50,000

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Historical and Archaeological Background

A desk-based assessment (Hunt 2012) shows that the local area round the villages of Bringhurst and Great Easton is rich in archaeological remains. There are many findspots of prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval artefacts in the area, including Mesolithic tools found directly to the south of the school grounds and Anglo-Saxon pottery located to the south and on the adjacent land to the east. The remains of a Bronze Age ring ditch and an Iron Age enclosure lie approximately 500m to the south. The school also lies close to the line of a Roman road, running between Ermine Street and the Roman town at Medbourne and Roman finds to the south of the school indicate the presence of a possible Roman villa in the area.

As it was deemed likely that the proposed development would have a damaging effect on any archaeological deposits, if present, within the application area, an

archaeological evaluation was required by the planning authority following an approved written scheme of investigation (ULAS 2012).

Archaeological Aims and Objectives

The main aims of the evaluation were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed development
- To record any archaeological deposits identified
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation was to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of archaeological deposits within the southern area of the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development.

Methodology

Prior to any machining of trial trenches general photographs of the site areas were taken.

The LCC Planning Archaeologist requested two 15m x 1.6m long trenches. The provisional trench plan attached (Fig. 2) shows the proposed locations of the trench. The size and position of the evaluation trenches did vary from those on the provisional trench plan, due to site constraints such as existing services and site access. The revised trench size now comprised one 15m x 2.00m trench and one 12m x 2.00m trench (Fig. 3).

Excavation was undertaken using a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket, with topsoil and overburden removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision.

All archaeological work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct (2010) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008). The LCC *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological work Leicestershire and Rutland* (1997) were also adhered to.

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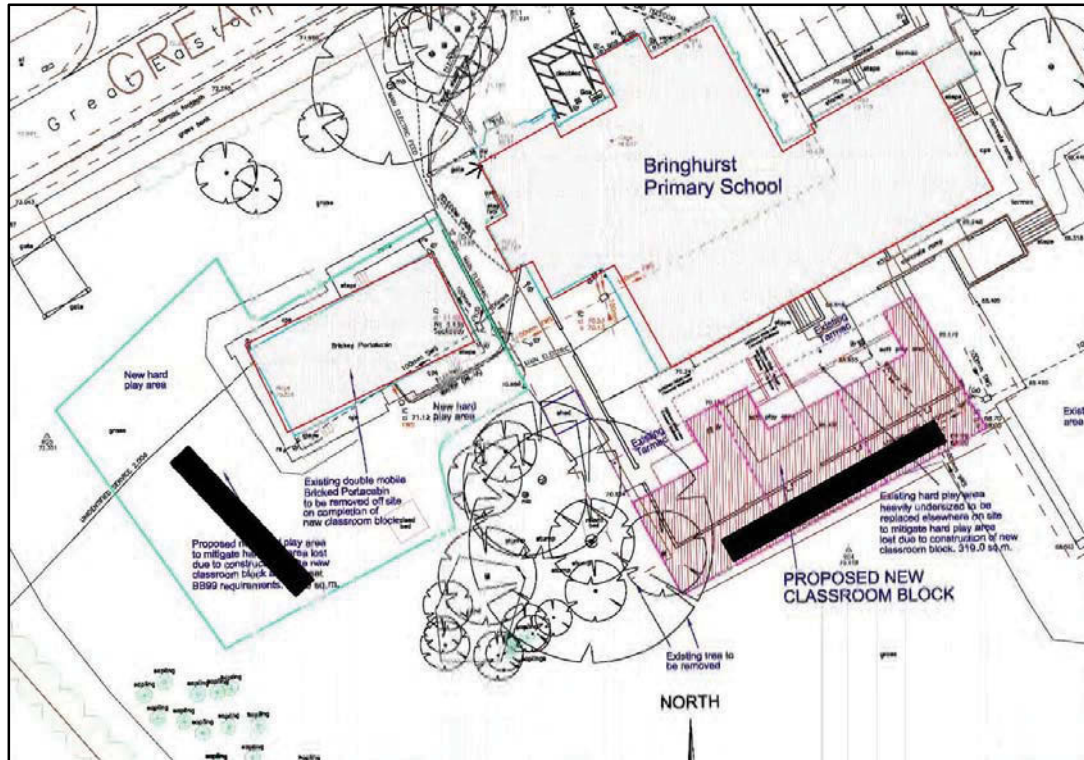


Figure 2: Proposed trench location plan overlying the proposed development

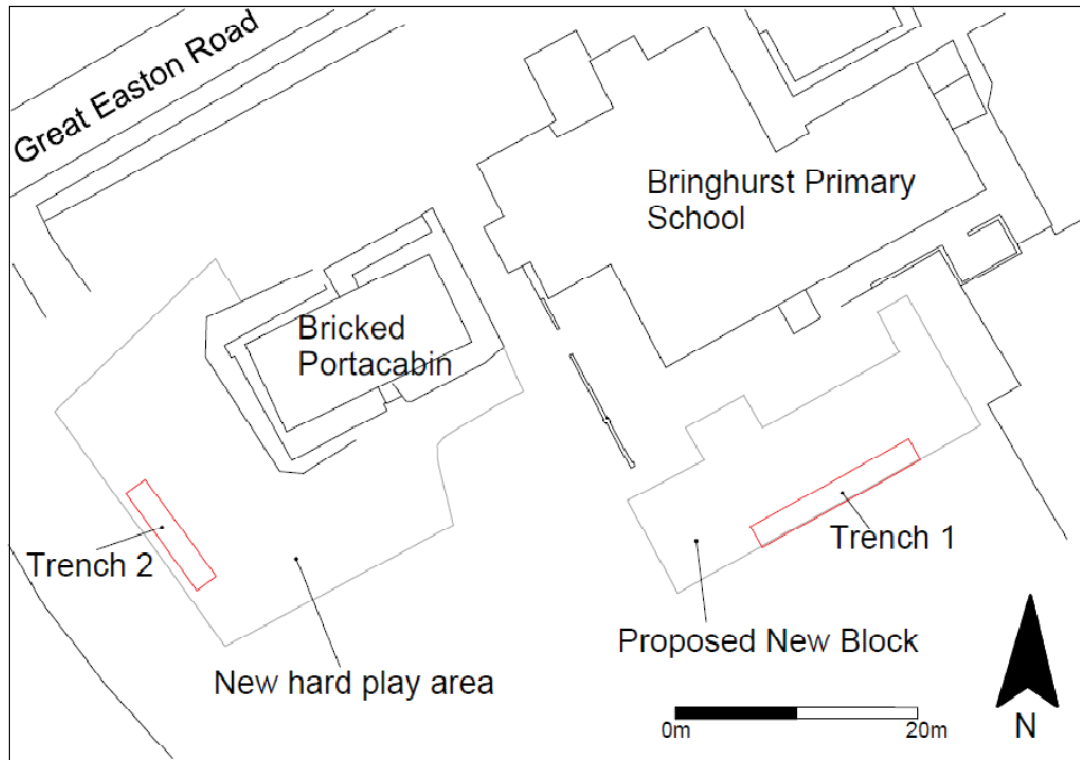


Figure 3: Trench Location Plan

Results

Trench	Orientation	Length(m)	Average depth (m)	Notes feature/context descriptions	Minimum depth to archaeology or natural substratum
1	east to west	15.00m	2.00m	Colluvial layer	1.10m
2	north to south	12.00m	2.00m	Modern land drains	0.80m

Trench 1 (Fig. 4)

Trench 1 targeted the new school classroom area of the proposed development and was orientated east to west (Fig. 3). A natural substratum was reached at average depth of 1.20.m comprised of greyish brown mottled clay. Overlying this was a layer of colluvium consisting of clay silt up to 1.00m deep. The colluvium was sealed by layer of made ground. This layer comprised greyish brown clay silt mixed with brick rubble, and measuring 0.50m deep. The layer of made ground probably supported the former tarmac school play area that had been removed during construction. The trench revealed no archaeological features.



Figure 4: Trench 1 looking south-west

Trench 2 (Fig. 5)

Trench 2 was located towards the west side of the development and was orientated north to south and targeted the new hard play area (Fig. 3). The natural substratum was reached at an average depth 0.80m below the surface. A modern ceramic field drain was observed cutting the natural substratum at the south end of the trench running east to west. Overlying this was a subsoil layer 0.50m deep, which consisted of brown silty clay. Towards the northern end of trench a modern plastic field drain was seen cutting the subsoil and running north-westward. Sealing the subsoil was topsoil, which comprised 0.30m deep greyish brown clay silt.



Figure 5: Trench 2 looking north-east

Discussion

The archaeological evaluation by trial trenching revealed no evidence for archaeological features apart from modern land drains cutting the natural substratum within Trench 2. A possible deep colluvial deposit was observed within trench 1.

Only the occasional modern glass or brick fragment were found within the topsoil (which were examined and then discarded). These were probably deposited when the various current school buildings and play areas were constructed. The subsoil and colluvium were both very clean and contained no finds. The trial trenching suggests that there are unlikely to be any archaeological deposits present within the proposed development area.

Archive

The archive will be held by Leicester Museum Service under the accession number X.A58.2012. The site archive consists of:

- 1 Unbound A4 copy of this report
- 2 A4 Trench recording sheets
- 1 A4 Photo record sheet
- Black and white contact print Black and white picture negatives
- A4 Colour digital contact print 1 CD of 13 digital photos

Publication

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work to the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York (Appendix 1).

A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal, the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*, in due course

Acknowledgements

Thanks are extended to the client for their co-operation and assistance on site. Fieldwork was undertaken Tim Higgins. The project was managed for ULAS by Vicki Score.

Bibliography

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Score, V., 2012, *Written scheme of investigation for archaeological work: Bringhurst Primary School, Great Easton Road, Bringhurst, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 8441 9256)* ULAS Specification 12-354

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28/05/2012

Appendix 1: OASIS Database entry

Project Name	Bringhurst Primary School, Great Easton Road, Bringhurst, Leicestershire
Project Type	Evaluation
Summary	<p>University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out archaeological Evaluation of Bringhurst Primary School Great Easton Road, Bringhurst, Leicestershire, (SP 8441 9256) undertaken on the 28th May 2012. This work was undertaken on behalf of the client Leicestershire County Council. A total of two trenches were excavated to evaluate an area for proposed new class room and school play areas to the west and south of the school.</p> <p>Both trenches contained no archaeological features apart from modern field drains in Trench 2. The site will be archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council under accession number X.A58.2012</p>
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Tim Higgins
Previous/Future work	None
Current Land Use	Playing Field
Development Type	Classroom
Reason for Investigation	In accordance with Planning policy Guidance NPPF
Position in the Planning Process	Pre-determination requirement
Site Co-ordinates	SP 8441 9256
Start/end dates of field work	28/05/2012
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services
Study Area	1200sq m

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