



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

**Archaeological Attendance and
Recording during Groundworks at the
Deepings School, Park Road,
Deeping St. James,
Peterborough,
PE6 8NF**

NGR: TF 1533 0998 (centre)

Andrew Hyam



ULAS Report No. 2019-147
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A R Hyam

For: RPS Consulting

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	Start/end dates	07.10.2019 to 11.10.2019		
	Previous/Future Work	No previous work		
	Project Type	Archaeological Attendance/watching brief		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	School playground/games court		
	Monument Type/Period	None		
	Significant Finds/Period	None		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition		
	Planning Ref.	S19-578		
PROJECT LOCATION	County	Lincolnshire		
	Site Address/Postcode	Deepings School, Park Road, Deeping St James, Peterborough, PE6 8NF		
	Study Area	0.9 ha		
	Site Coordinates	TF1533 0998		
	Height OD	5m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	RPS Consulting		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	John Thomas		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Andrew Hyam		
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Archaeological Attendance and Recording at Deepings School, Park Road, Deeping St. James, Peterborough. NGR: TF1533 0998.

Andrew Hyam

Summary

An archaeological attendance and recording (watching brief) was undertaken at Deepings School, Park Road, Deeping St. James between the 8th and 11th of October 2019 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS). The work took place during groundworks for a replacement DT Departmental block for the school. There are a number of known archaeological sites within the vicinity of the development site. Medieval coins and pottery were discovered during the construction of the existing school buildings adjacent to the site, all of which suggested that there was potential for similar archaeological deposits to be revealed during any current groundworks.

The groundworks were located within a former playground area which had been surfaced with tarmac. Excavation of foundation pads for the new building showed that the tarmac and its stone bedding layers had been laid directly on top of the natural substratum. All topsoil, subsoil and an unknown depth of natural had been removed to create a level surface when the playground was constructed in the 1950s.

No archaeological features or deposits were seen during the groundworks.

The report will be archived under accession number LCNCC:2019.200

Introduction

In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 16 *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment* this document forms the report for an archaeological attendance and recording (watching brief) at Deepings School, Park Road, Deeping St. James, Peterborough, NGR: TF1533 0998. Under planning application reference S19/0487 it is proposed to construction a replacement school DT Departmental block which will be three storeys high and be located adjacent to the Deepings Leisure Centre. There will be associated hard/soft landscaping, services and access arrangements. Such work would have an impact upon any buried archaeological remains should any be present. Therefore the Assistant Heritage Environment Officer at Heritage Lincolnshire recommended that the groundworks should be monitored in order to fully record and archaeological features or deposits which may be present.

Background

Deeping St James is a market village in the South Kesteven district of Lincolnshire and is approximately 10km to the north of Peterborough and 12km to the north-east of Stamford (Fig. 1). The village lies on the northern bank of the River Welland and is on the eastern side of the larger settlement of Market Deeping.

The site at Deepings School is located within a built-up area consisting mainly of residential buildings (Fig. 2). The area for the proposed new building is on the site of a tarmac playing surface to the east of the present school buildings (Fig. 3).

The site covers an area of approximately 0.9ha in extent and lies at a height of 5m OD. The British Geological Survey website indicates that the underlying bedrock geology of the area is Kellaways Sand Member formed of sandstone and siltstone. Superficial deposits consist of river terrace deposits of sands and gravels.

The ULAS *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a programme of archaeological mitigation at Deepings School, Park Road, Deeping St James, Peterborough* discusses the range of archaeological sites and findspots within a 500m radius around the site. The document notes that there is a significant potential for prehistoric and Roman archaeology within the vicinity.

A lower potential for medieval archaeology was noted although medieval coins and pottery were discovered during the construction of the Deepings School in the 1950s.

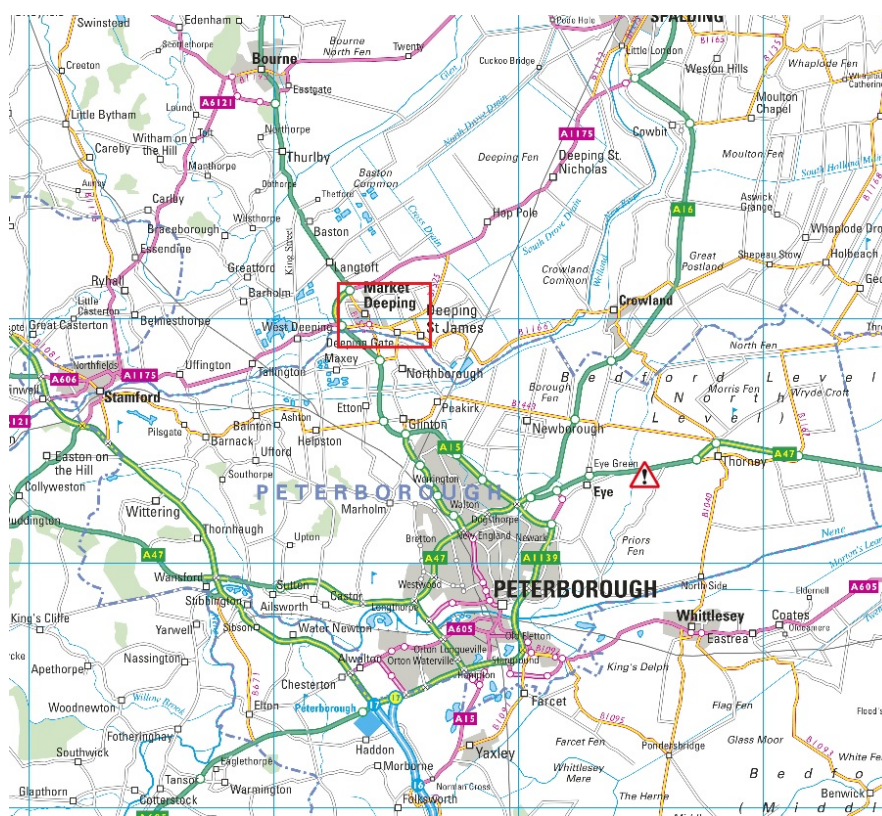


Figure 1 Site location

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Figure 2 Deepings School location
Source: Google Imagery ©2019



Figure 3 Extent of site (red outline)
North to top. Plan supplied by client

Objectives

The overall objectives and research agenda are detailed in the ULAS Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) *for a programme of archaeological mitigation at Deepings School, Park Road, Deeping St James, Peterborough* (ULAS 2019).

The specific objectives for this programme of work 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 ground works.
- To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscape.
- To recover artefacts and ecofacts to compare with other assemblages and results.
- To assess and sample any potential palaeoenvironmental remains.
- To produce an archive and report of the results.

Methodology

The project involved the observation of groundworks associated with the construction of a replacement school DT departmental block, 3 storeys high adjacent to the Deepings Leisure Centre. The excavation and recording methodology used throughout the evaluation is discussed in detail in the ULAS WSI. All excavation work was carried out by the client's contractor with a tracked 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

The proposed new building will be supported on a series of rectangular concrete pads as shown in Figure 4 below. Each pad was excavated down to a depth of between 1.0 and 1.2m below present ground level. The pads varied in size according to their location. The largest pads were located around the perimeter and running along the centre of the building. Smaller pads were placed between the larger pads.

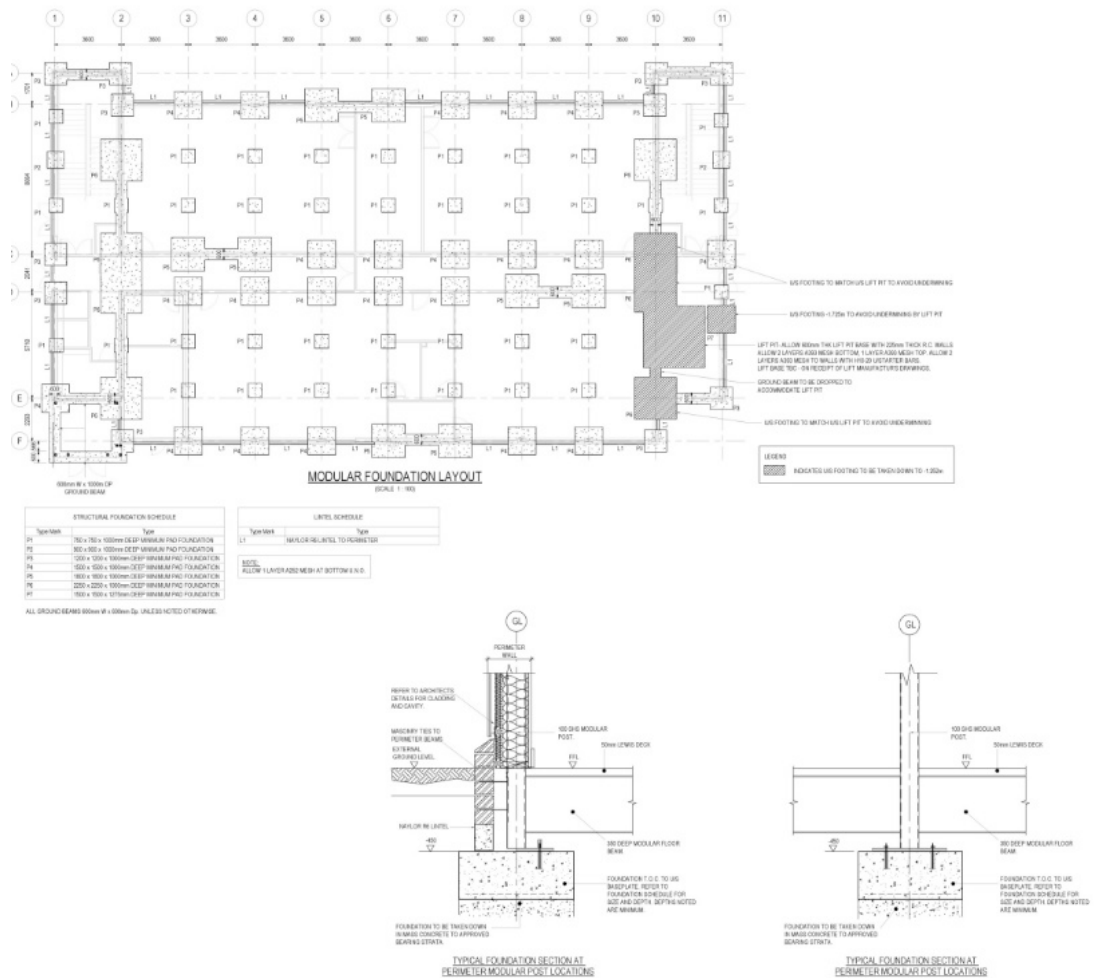


Figure 4 Pile plan for the new building
 Plan provided by client

Results

Prior to commencement of the archaeological work the tarmac surface of the former playground area had been removed to reveal a level surface of compacted mill waste (Fig. 5). Across the whole site the tarmac had a thickness of between 0.08 and 0.1m. This provided an ideal surface on which to work and run vehicles so that the mill waste was then left in-situ and the post pads were excavated through it.

For the purposes of this report the post pads were numbered in the order of their excavation. The numbers do not relate to any identification given by the contractor (Fig. 6). Each pad was excavated in spits down to a maximum depth of 1.2m below current ground level. Removal of the mill waste beneath the tarmac revealed a hard layer of compacted dark brown silty clay pressed into a made stone bedding layer. This compact silty clay gave the impression that this area may have functioned as the construction site car park whilst the school was being constructed (Fig. 7).

In all cases the removal of the stone bedding layer exposed the top of the undisturbed natural substrata. No topsoil or subsoil was seen in any of the post pads which indicated

that the entire area of the playground had been stripped to create a level area when the school was being built. It is not known if any of the natural substratum was removed at the same time as the topsoil and subsoil although it would seem unlikely that the natural would be so flat without being mechanically levelled.

The natural substratum consisted of a dark grey sandy clay with patches and areas of light yellowish brown sandy clay within it. Patches of sandy gravel were also observed within the lighter sandy clay. A number of ceramic land drains were observed cutting into the top of the natural. The backfill within the drain cuts consisted of the stone bedding layer material seen across the site which indicates that the drains were laid at the same time.

No archaeological features or deposits were seen in any of the post pads. No archaeological finds were seen in any of the excavated material.

A total of 36 post pads were observed across the site. The post pad plan included four rows of smaller pads measuring 750mm by 750mm (see Fig. 6). After consultation with the client it was decided that, due to the total absence of archaeological material across the site, these would not be observed. Any linear archaeological features which may have been present within the site would have been visible in the excavations for the larger pads and none were seen.



Figure 5 Site after removal of tarmac and prior to excavation of pads
Looking south-west. Area highlighted by yellow line

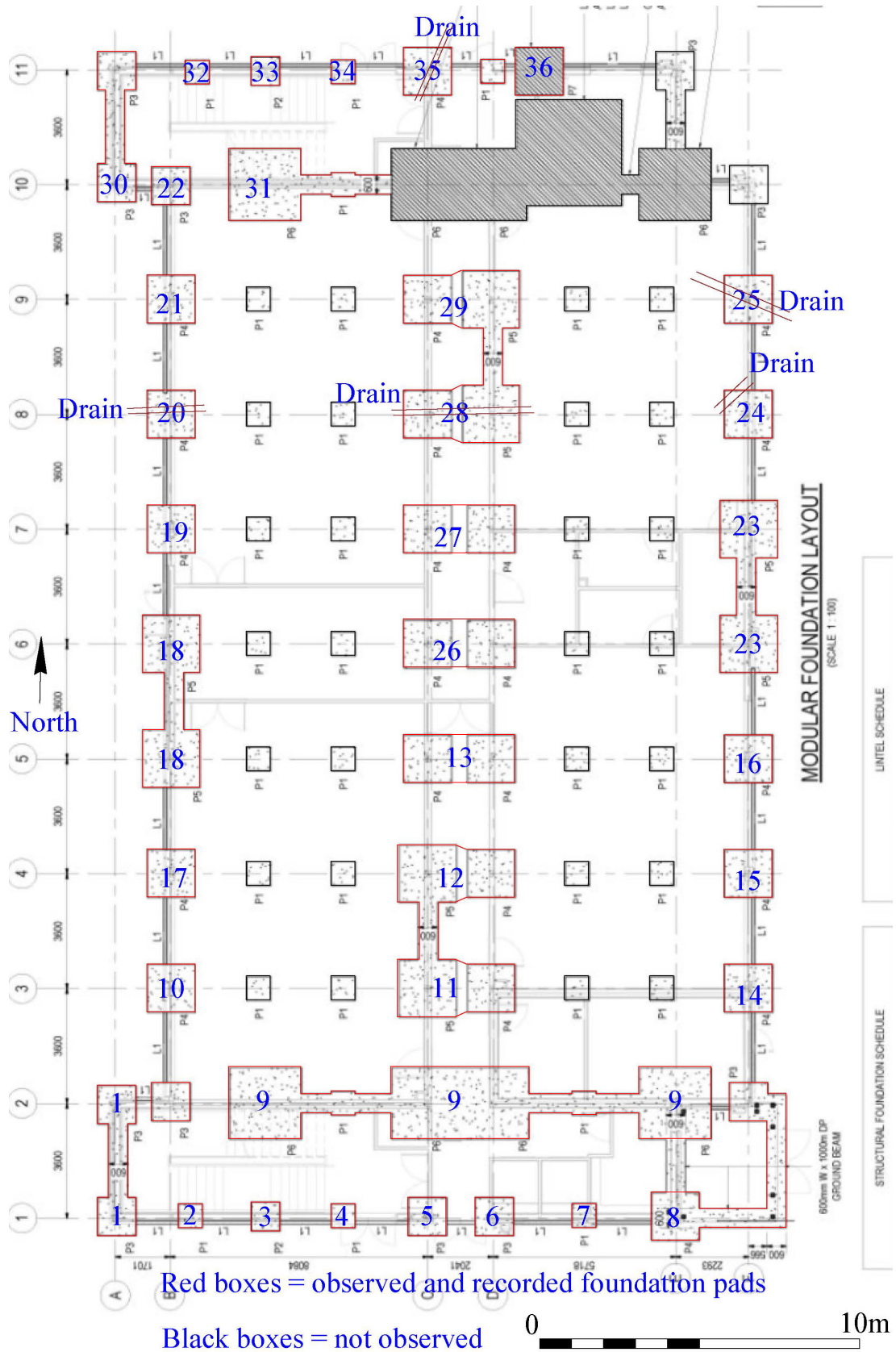


Figure 6 Observed post pads
 Numbers relate to their order of excavation and do not relate to any construction related references

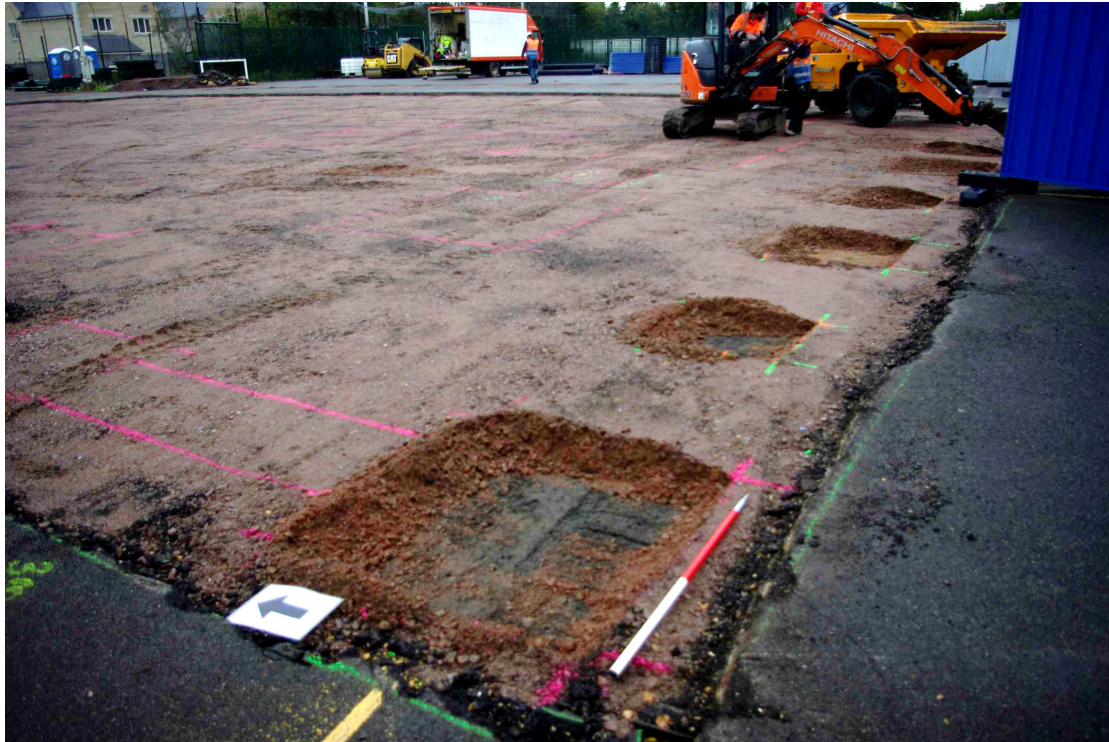


Figure 7 First pads being excavated after removal of mill waste
Looking north-east. 1m scale



Figure 8 West end of post pad number 9 during excavation
Looking south-east



Figure 9 Post pad 6
Looking north. 1m scale. Post pad 9 at top of picture



Figure 10 Post pad 23
Looking north. 1m scale



Figure 11 Post pad 28
Looking north-east. 1m scale. Note land drain in top corner

Discussion

Despite the potential for exposing archaeological features and deposits during this work none were observed. The earlier landscaping work carried out to create the playground when the school was built appears to have removed all of the topsoil, subsoil and an unknown depth of natural ground.

Archive

The archive consists of:

This report,

2 A4 contact sheets of 61 digital photographs of the works and post pads,

1 DVD containing the digital photographs,

3 A4 pro-forma watching brief recording forms,

2 A4 photo record sheets.

Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the appropriate local archaeological and historical journal in due course. A record of the project will also be submitted to the OASIS project. OASIS is an online index to archaeological grey literature.

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Appendix 1 Digital Photographs of the post pads



Pad1.JPG



Pad2.JPG



Pad3.JPG



Pad4.JPG



Pad5.JPG



Pad6.JPG



Pad9.JPG



Pad10.JPG



Pad12.JPG



Pad13, 12, 11.JPG



Pad15.JPG



Pad18.JPG



Pad19.JPG



Pad20.JPG



Pad22.JPG



Pad23.JPG



Pad24.JPG



Pad25.JPG



Pad26.JPG



Pad27.JPG



Pad28.JPG



Pad30.JPG



Pad31.JPG



Pad32.JPG



Pad33.JPG



Pad34.JPG



Pad35.JPG



Pad36.JPG



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