



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

An archaeological evaluation
at Great Casterton Primary School,
Pickworth Road,
Great Casterton,
Rutland
(SK 999 092)

Leon Hunt




ULAS Report No 2011-025
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(SK 999 092)**

Leon Hunt

**for:
HSP Consulting**

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An archaeological evaluation at Great Casterton Primary School, Pickworth Road, Great Casterton, Rutland (SK 999 092)

Leon Hunt

Summary

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of HSP Consulting at Great Casterton Primary School, Great Casterton, Rutland in advance of a new extension to the current school building and the laying of a temporary haul road to facilitate the proposed ground-works.

The school lies close to the ramparts of the Roman town and close to a Roman fort. It is also close to Ermine Street Roman Road. Excavations during the construction of the school in 1959 revealed Roman burials and two pottery kilns were found nearby.

Two trenches were placed in the school grounds: Trench 01, excavated across a grassy bank leading from a hard playing area to the rear of the school, revealed a layer of made-up ground and a modern concrete pad. Trench 02, excavated to the rear of the school in a tight space, revealed part of a Romano-British pottery kiln, containing several sherds of Romano-British pottery and fragments of kiln lining and kiln furniture, dating the kiln to the late 2nd to early 3rd century.

The kiln is similar in form to two other Romano-British pottery kilns discovered in the area in the late 1950s, indicating that the school grounds lie in an area where further Romano-British discoveries are likely.

The archive for this project will be deposited with Rutland County Museum, Oakham, with accession number OAKRM: 2011.5

Introduction

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at Great Casterton C. of E. Primary School, Pickworth Road, Great Casterton, Rutland (N.G.R: SK 999 092) in advance of the construction of new extensions and a temporary haul road at the school.

Although the development is understood to be exempt from planning controls in view of its small size, the work was in accordance with DOE Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5: Planning and the Historic Environment) and was intended to provide preliminary indications of the character and extent of any archaeological remains that may have been present on the site, in order to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on such remains.

Leicestershire County Council Historic and Natural Environment Team recommended that a field evaluation would be advisable to identify and locate any archaeological remains of significance and proposed suitable treatment to avoid or minimise damage by the development.

The site lies close to the site of a Roman fort (Historic Environment Record No. MLE5293) and close to the walls of a small Roman town (MLE5294). It is also close to the line of Ermine Street, the Roman road (MLE5748).

It also lies adjacent to the site of Roman and Anglo-Saxon burials (MLE5302 & MLE5304). Burials were also discovered during the construction of the school in 1959 (Corder 1961). Recent archaeological work adjacent to the Primary School revealed 133 inhumations, dating from the late 3rd and early 4th centuries.

The proposed trenches were to include two 10m trenches in the area of the haul road and one 3m trench at the proposed extension site, amended to one 21m trench and one 1.8m trench due to site constraints.



Figure 1: Site Location

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Site Location, Geology and Topography

Great Casterton lies at the eastern edge of Rutland around 2.5 miles from the centre of Stamford and around 10 miles from Oakham (Figure 1). The site itself lies on the eastern side of Pickworth Road, to the north of the centre of the town.

The proposed haul road would run across a small playground at the western edge of the site, across a grassy bank towards the rear of the school. The new extension would lie at the rear of the school at its south-eastern edge.

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 157 (Stamford), indicates that the underlying geology is likely to be Lower Lincolnshire Limestone.

The site, at the playground end of the site lies at 44.50m above Ordnance Datum. This rises up to around 46.45m aOD at the top of the bank. The rear of the school lies at around 46.55m aOD. The school grounds as a whole cover 0.72 hectares.

Archaeological Objectives

The main objectives 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 ground works.
- 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 on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development.

Trial trenching is an intrusive form of evaluation that will demonstrate the presence of archaeological deposits that may exist within the area.

Methodology

All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct in accordance with their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008). The archaeological work followed the *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological work* prepared by ULAS (Appendix IV).

Initially it was proposed to excavate two 10m x 1.6m trenches within the line of the haul road and one 3 x 1.6m trench within the footprint of the proposed school extension (see WSI, Appendix IV). As the playground at the western side of the site was still in use and would also support the site traffic, it was not disturbed. Therefore, a 21m trench was placed across the grassy bank following the rest of the course of the haul road.

Access to the rear of the school building was severely restricted by a large metal and glass canopy and underground services. A small 1.8m x 1.1m was squeezed in between the concrete hard standing at the rear door of the school and a large manhole. The deficit in the size of the trench was added to the end of Trench 01 (Figure 2).

Both were excavated down to natural substratum or archaeological layers, whichever was the higher. Trench 01 was excavated using a JCB 3CX back-actor and Trench 02, due to space restrictions, was excavated using a small tracked excavator. They were fitted with a 1.6m wide and 1m wide ditching bucket respectively.

All archaeological features were excavated by hand. Trenches were backfilled and levelled after they were recorded and geotextiles and landscaping replaced.

The work was carried out between 17/02/11 and 18/02/11.

Results

Trench 01

Trench 01 was excavated across a grassy bank moving down-slope from north to south-west (Plate 1). The branches and roots of a tree lay in the path of the machine and so the trench was diverted to the south-west to avoid it.

The trench was between 0.35m and 0.85m deep; becoming shallower to the south-west.

At the northern end of Trench 01 the sequence was 0.2m-0.3m of mid-brown sandy silt topsoil over 0.3m-0.55m of made-up ground, consisting of mixed mid-brown sandy silt, with frequent small and medium sized pieces of limestone, the occasional piece of broken modern brick and a large amount of roots from the nearby trees (Plate 2).

This lay over the natural sub-stratum of yellow limestone.

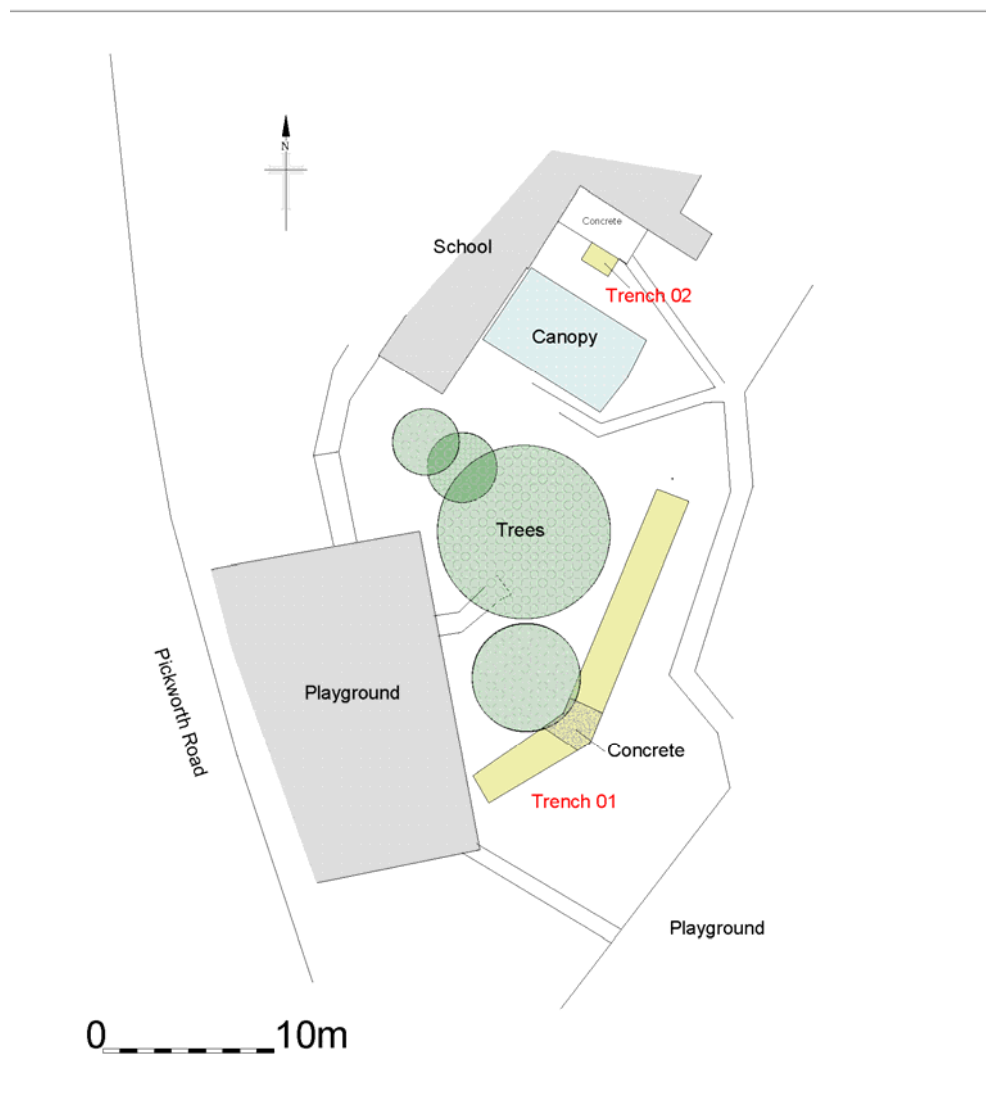


Figure 2: Trench location plan

At around 14m from the northern end of the trench, at the break in the slope, was a slab of concrete, measuring around 2m wide. The concrete was overlain by 0.3m of topsoil.

To the south-west of the concrete the trench was shallower and the soil sequence consisted of 0.26m of topsoil overlying 0.14m of reddish-brown sand silt subsoil over the natural limestone sub-stratum (see Trench Summary Appendix I).

There were no archaeological features or artefacts present.

The northern end of the trench lay at 46.46m aOD, with the bend in the trench (and the break in the bank) lying at around 45.12m aOD. The south-western end of the trench lay at 44.56m aOD.

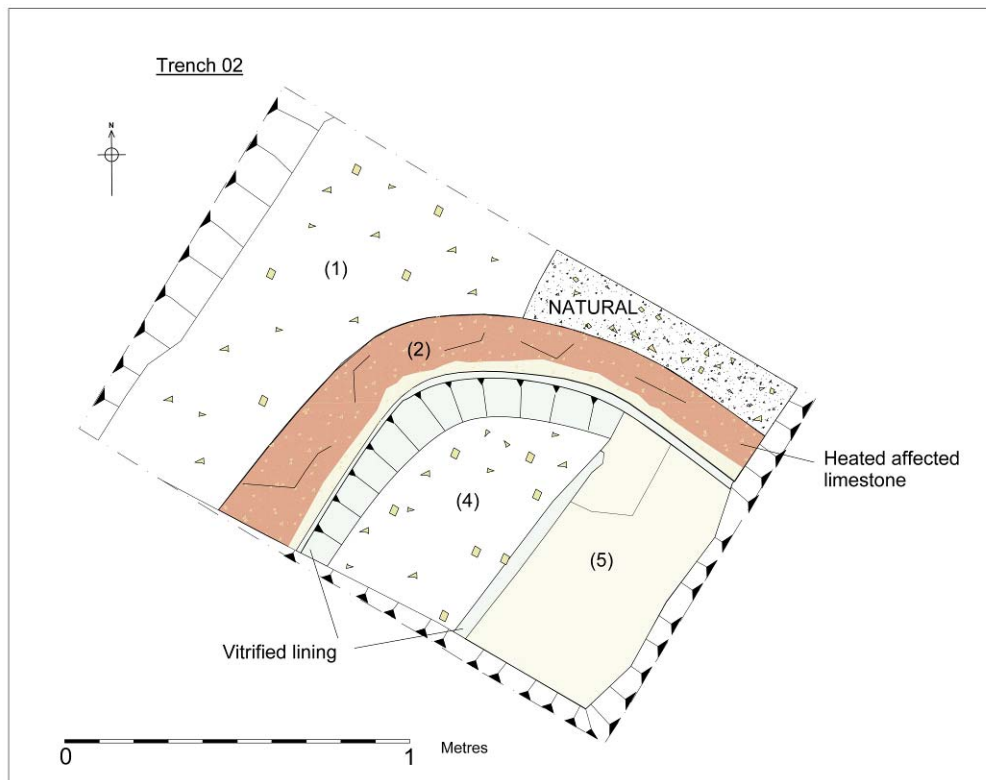


Figure 3: Post-excavation plan of Trench 02

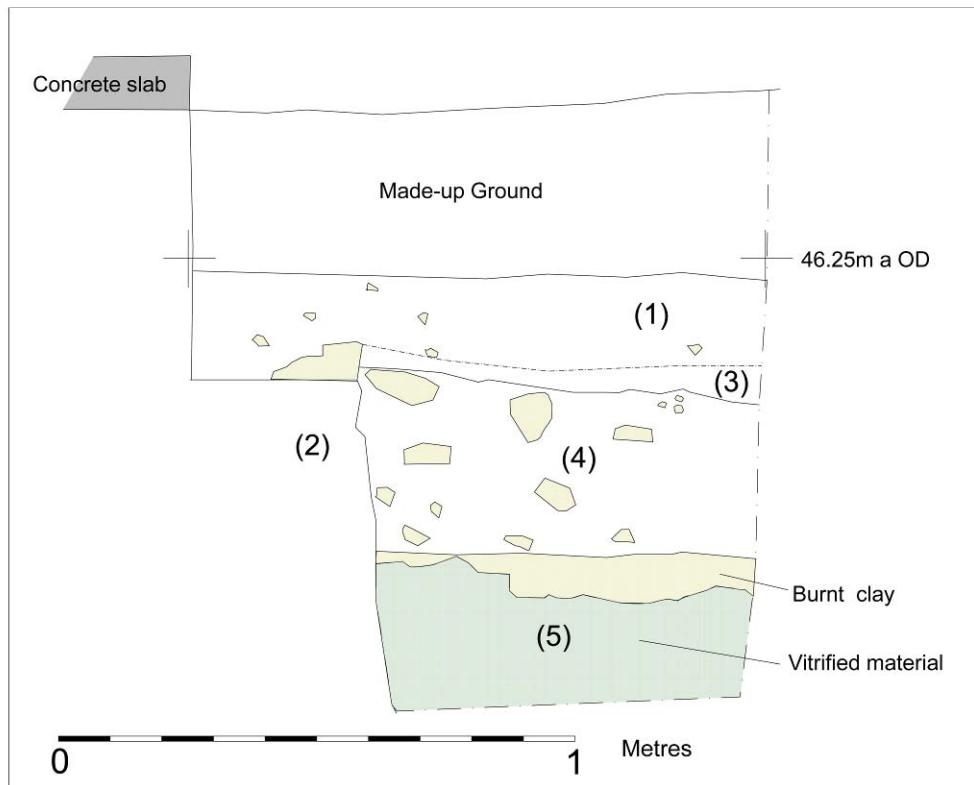


Figure 4: North-west facing section of Trench 02

Trench 02

Trench 02 was excavated on a piece of ground covered by bark mulch over geotextile fabric between a concrete slab and a large manhole, servicing a junction of drains close to the south-eastern side of the school building (Plate 3).

The bark and fabric were removed and the trench excavated through a thin layer of hardcore onto a 0.35m layer of mid-brown sandy silt, similar to the made-up ground layer in Trench 01 (Plate 4). This overlay a subsoil layer of 0.2m-0.25m depth.

The subsoil consisted of a slightly compacted yellowish brown silty clay (1), containing many small and medium sub-angular limestone fragments and 7 sherds of Romano-British pottery. This lay at a greater depth in the north-western corner of the trench, with natural limestone sub-stratum visible in the north-eastern corner of the trench (Figure 3).

At 0.55m depth a wall was revealed in a curve, leading from the north-east facing section into the south-west facing section (see Trench Summary Appendix I).

Within the wall (2) was a 0.1m layer of yellowish brown silty clay (3), also containing medium sub-angular pieces of limestone and Romano-British pottery sherds. Below this was a layer of similar material (4), containing large pieces of limestone and a larger quantity of Romano-British pottery, including many rims and bases (for full list see Appendix II). Pieces of kiln lining and fragments of kiln furniture were also retrieved from this context. This layer (4) was removed to a depth of around 0.6m, within the curve of the wall.

As work progressed and the soil layer (4) was removed the inner surface of the wall was revealed. The wall (2) consisted of a 0.9m curved section of dry limestone walling, made up of rough pieces of stone measuring on average 170mm x 100mm x 100mm, with some larger pieces measuring 250mm x 150mm x 80mm. Crude horizontal tool marks were visible on some stones. The inner surface was heavily heat affected and was dark bluish grey, with the stonework becoming yellowish brown and then orange progressing through the stone to the outer surface.

At around 0.9m depth the inner surface curved inwards shallowly and the last 0.3m was lined with a kind of mortar material, which was also heavily heat affected and grey/blue in colour.

At around 0.85m-0.9m depth, another wall (5), lying within the feature oriented north-east to south-west was revealed. This appeared rectangular, measured 0.4m by 0.8m, and also consisted of rough limestone pieces of similar dimensions to the blocks used in the outer wall (2). This was also lined but with a glassy vitrified green material, facing into the feature (to the north-west).

The fill (4) within the two lined walls was removed to a depth of around 0.6m, 1.2m below the top of the trench. The base of the feature was not reached. The top of the trench lay at 46.55m aOD, with the top of the wall (2) lying at around 45.95 aOD (Figures 3 & 4; Plates 5 & 6).

Conclusion

With addition text by N. Cooper

Trench 01 contained a section of made-up ground, suggesting that the area was landscaped, presumably during the construction of the school, or the flat playground areas lying to the south of the school. The original land level may have been more uneven and shallower here; the south-western end of the trench is probably close to the original land surface, as no made-up ground was visible, but subsoil was.

The concrete platform is modern and possibly relates to an earlier building or landscape. It may be the remains of an earlier playing area or the base for a shed.

The feature within Trench 02 represents the remains of a circular Roman pottery kiln. The soil within the kiln wall (contexts (3) and (4)) contained a large number of fragments of kiln lining and kiln furniture along with 42 pottery sherds, mainly from the four recognised fabrics of the Lower Nene Valley Industry; colour-coated ware using either a white firing clay (C2NV) or an orange firing clay (C3NV), a white ware (WW2) and a reduced (grey) ware (GW4).

The thin, patchy nature of the slip coating on many of the pieces, the random occurrence of iron rich slip and paint on vessel surfaces, together with sintered or vitrified or encrusted surfaces and burning after breakage all indicate that these vessels were never retrieved from the kiln or were wasters specifically used to patch the lining of the kiln. The pottery types point to a date of around the late 2nd and 3rd century A.D.

The most intriguing vessel form is a shallow bowl or mortarium with an angular bead and flanged rim, which is not paralleled in the market place. There are at least two vessels represented, both in a fine white ware (fabric WW2) and identical in form and size; one unlined and one with a sprinkling of small rounded stones (trituration grits) on the internal identifying it as a mortarium. The grits are not those usually used on mortaria made in the Lower Nene Valley and no examples have come from the other

two kilns previously excavated at Great Casterton. They might be regarded as experimental pieces that were never intended to reach the consumer.

A total of 4.8kg of fired clay lining and kiln furniture were retrieved from the lower filling of the kiln (4). The ledge seen in the base and north-west facing section (5) is most likely part of a tongued pedestal projecting into the centre which, in the case of the typical Lower Nene Valley kilns, would then support radiating bars resting on a surrounding ledge, between which were wedge-shaped perforated plates (Swan 1984). The lining is very fragmentary; there is possible evidence for relining and very heavy vitrification of external surfaces closest to the source of heat, indicated by a green glazing, suggesting prolonged use at high temperatures approaching 1000 degrees C.

The character and the content of the pottery kiln suggest that it is undoubtedly part of the same industry as the two kilns lying immediately to the south on the line of the Ryhall Road. The Great Casterton colour-coated ware industry is the only one, besides the much more extensive Lower Nene Valley industry, to use kilns with tongue pedestals and bar flooring (Swan 1984) and this strongly suggests that the former was an offshoot of the latter in its early stages. The products identified in the present kiln are very similar to the early products of the Lower Nene Valley and of those from the 1958 kiln at Great Casterton which included bag-shaped beakers and Castor box casseroles (Corder 1961). The opportunity to undertake a full excavation of this kiln would represent an important contribution to this little known industry and to Roman pottery studies in Britain in general.

The potential for more Romano-British industrial features to be discovered during the ground-works for the school extension may be limited by the previous works in the area, such as service trenches and foundations. However, the amount of made-up ground in the area, along with the evidence from this one small trench shows that there is potential for preserved features in parts of the area.

References

Corder, P. 1961 *The Roman Town and Villa at Great Casterton: 3rd interim report for excavations 1954-58*. University of Nottingham.

Swan, V.G. 1984 *The Pottery Kilns of Roman Britain* RCHM Supplementary Series 5. London: HMSO.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to the staff and pupils of the school, who were very helpful and co-operative during the excavations. Particular thanks are due to Head Teacher Clare Rowbotham and the ground staff of the school.

Thanks are also due to Linden Baker of HSP Consulting and Hitch Plant who provided the machinery. Leon Hunt and Andrew Hyam of ULAS excavated the site. Nicholas Cooper identified the pottery and kiln furniture and researched the previous kiln sites in Great Casterton. Richard Buckley managed the project for ULAS.

Archive

An archive will be prepared for the site and will be lodged at Rutland County Museum, Oakham with accession OAKRM: 2011.5.

A record of the project will be submitted to the Oasis project with number **universi11-95023**. Oasis is an online index to grey literature reports (Website: ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis), see summary Appendix III.

The archive will consist of the following:

- 1 Unbound copy of this report
- 2 Trench recording sheets
- 1 Context Record
- 3 Context sheets
- 2 Masonry recording sheets
- 1 B&W Photo record
- 1 Set of B&W photos (contact sheet)
- 1 Set B&W Negatives
- 1 Digital photo record
- 1 Contact Sheet of digital photos
- 1 CD of Digital Photos
- 1 Drawing record
- 1 A3 Sheet of permatrace containing scale drawings
- 1787g of pottery
- 2.8kg of kiln lining and kiln furniture



Plate 1: Site of Trench 01, looking north-east



Plate 2: Post-excavation shot of Trench 01, from north-east end looking south-west



Plate 3: Location of Trench 02 at rear of school building, looking north-west



Plate 4: Work in progress on Trench 02, looking north-east



Plate 5: Post-excavation shot of Trench 02, showing kiln, looking north-east



Plate 6: Trench 02: Kiln, looking north

Appendix I: Trench Summaries

Trench 01

Size: 21m x 1.6m

Orientation: N-SW (L-shaped)

Depth Min: 0.35m **Depth Max:** 0.85m

Topsoil: Weak Mid brown sandy silt, with common sub-angular limestone fragments and occasional modern brick fragments. Many roots.

Subsoil: Only visible at SW end. Reddish brown sandy silt with common limestone fragments. Roots

Natural: Limestone

Depths of soils measured from top of trench:

Interval	(N) 0	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	21 (SW)
Ground OD	46.46m	-	-	-	-	-	-	45.12m	-	-	44.56m
Topsoil Depth	0.2m	0.2m	0.2m	0.2m	0.22m	0.2m	0.2m	0.3m	0.3m	0.26m	0.26m
Subsoil depth	0.85m	0.8m	0.6m	0.5m	0.5m	0.52m	0.52m	concrete	concrete	0.4m	0.35m
Base of trench	0.85m	0.8m	0.6m	0.5m	0.5m	0.52m	0.52m	0.3m	0.3m	0.4m	0.35m

Contexts: None

Trench 02

Size: 1.8m x 1.1m

Orientation: NW-SE

Depth Min: 0.6m (nat): **Depth Max:** 1.2m (within feature)

Topsoil: None, made-up ground for 0.35m (mid-brown sandy silt)

Subsoil: Yellowish brown silty clay with many small/medium sub-angular stones (1)

Natural: Limestone

Depths of soils measured from top of trench:

Interval	(NW) 0	1	1.8 (SE)
Ground OD	46.55m	46.55m	46.55m
Made-up Grd Depth	0.33m	0.33m	0.35m
Subsoil Depth	0.53m	0.53m	0.60 m
Top of Nat	Not seen	0.53m	0.6m
Base of trench	0.53m	0.53m	0.6m

Contexts: Subsoil (1), Kiln wall (2), Inner upper fill (3), Inner lower fill (4) & Inner wall (5)

Appendix II: The Finds

Roman Pottery and Kiln Furniture from Excavations at Great Casterton, Rutland OAKRM2011.5

Nicholas J. Cooper

Introduction

A total of 42 sherds of Roman pottery weighing 1787g (average sherd weight 42.5g) and with an EVEs value of 2.26 (total 4.52 vessels based on rims and bases) were retrieved from two contexts (3) and (4), the upper and lower fills of the partially excavated kiln structure. Additionally seven sherds (61g) were retrieved unstratified. This is a highly significant group of material since this is only the third kiln excavated at Great Casterton and its content is very similar to that of the other kilns which together appear to form an offshoot of the Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware industry based around Peterborough (Howe, Perrin and Mackreth 1980). The other two kilns lie just 50m or so to the south on the line of the Ryhall Road and were discovered in 1958 and 1966 (Burnham and Wachter 1990, 131, Fig.35; Corder 1961, 50-53; Whitwell and Dean 1966, 46) and the present discovery might indicate that the remains of a more extensive potters field of later 2nd or early 3rd century date might lie under the playing field immediately south of the school and adjacent to the late Roman cemetery discovered under the school when it was built in 1959 (Corder 1961, 50).

Methodology

The material was classified using the Leicestershire Museums Fabric Series (Pollard 1994, 112-114) and with reference to local Rutland assemblages excavated at Great Casterton (Corder 1961) and quantified by sherd count, weight and estimated vessel equivalents (EVEs based on rims and bases and divided by two) as detailed in Table 1.

Analysis by Form and Fabric

Table 1 Roman Pottery from the Kiln and Unstratified

Great Casterton OAKRM11.5 Roman Pottery								
Context	Fabric	Form(gen)	Type(spec)	Decoration	Sherds	Weight	EVEs	Diam
3	C2NV	Bowl	chamf base	greyslip	1	30	0.12	120
4	WW2	bowl/mortarium	Flanged	red paint	8	675	0.7	220
4	WW2	bowl/mortarium	Flanged	trit grits	3	315	0.5	220
4	WW2	flanged bowl	HPM99	red paint	1	25	0.1	200
4	C2NV	castorbox	HPM89	orange slip	7	313	0.5	200
4	C2NV	bag beaker	HPM29	barbotine	1	10		
4	C2NV	bag beaker	HPM29		1	15		

4	C2NV	bag beaker	HPM26-29		1	10		
4	C3NV	bag beaker	HPM26-29		1	35		
4	C3NV	indented beaker	HPM40?	plain	1	5		
4	C2NV	beaker	misc	plain	1	4		
4	GW4	jar	misc	burnish	3	25		
4	GW	misc	misc		4	30		
4	C3NV	jar base	misc	thin extslip	2	60	1	75
4	C3NV	jar base	misc	thin extslip	3	52	0.6	85
4	C3NV	jar base	misc	thin extslip	1	25	0.5	75
4	C3NV	jar base	misc	thin extslip	1	72	0.5	95
4	CG	jar	storage		2	86		
US	C2NV	beaker	misc		1	6		
US	GW	jar	misc		4	35		
US	GT	jar	misc		2	20		
Total					49	1848	4.52	

Of the stratified material all but the two shell-tempered (Fabric CG) jar sherds and four miscellaneous grey ware sherds (Fabric GW) from (4) are in the four recognised fabrics of the Lower Nene Valley Industry; colour-coated ware using either a white firing clay (C2NV) or an orange firing clay (C3NV), a white ware (WW2) and a reduced (grey) ware (GW4). The thin, patchy nature of the slip coating on many of the pieces, the random occurrence of iron rich slip and paint on vessel surfaces, together with sintered or vitrified or encrusted surfaces and burning after breakage all indicate that these vessels were never retrieved from the kiln or were wasters specifically used to patch the lining of the kiln. The most diagnostic pieces are the fragments of colour-coated ware bag-shaped beakers from lower fill (4), one of which has *en barbotine* decoration consistent with a later 2nd or early third century date (Howe *et al.* 1980, no.29). The plain indented beaker sherd from (4) would also support this date (Howe *et al.* 1980, no.40). The only diagnostic rim is from a flanged bowl with red painted slashes on the rim (Howe *et al.* 1980, no.99) which are thought to date to the second or third century. The most intriguing and best preserved vessel form is a shallow bowl or mortarium with an angular bead and flanged rim which is not paralleled in the market place to the writer's knowledge. There are at least two vessels represented, both in a fine white ware (fabric WW2) and identical in form and size; one unlined and one with a sprinkling of small rounded stones (trituration grits) on the internal identifying it as a mortarium. The grits are not those usually used on mortaria made in the Lower Nene Valley and no examples have come from the other two kilns previously excavated at Great Casterton. They might be regarded as

experimental pieces that were never intended to reach the consumer. The other notable feature of the assemblage from (4) is the occurrence of vessel bases, one certainly from a 'Castor box' casserole dish (Howe *et al.* 1980, no.89) and the others from small jars (Howe *et al.* 1980 nos.1-4) with a thin slip coating on the external surface. Some of these have clay lining from the kiln adhering to them suggesting they were selected out as flat fragments to line the kiln and block out draughts perhaps.

Kiln Furniture and Lining

A total of 4.8kg of fired clay lining and kiln furniture were retrieved from the lower filling of the kiln (4) another 0.3kg from (2). The excavation photographs suggest the kiln was circular with the base of a tongued pedestal projecting into the centre which, in the case of the typical Lower Nene Valley kilns, would then support radiating bars resting on a surrounding ledge, between which were wedge-shaped perforated plates (e.g. Swan 1984 71, fig. XI or, just with bars and spacers 72, Fig. XII). The lining is very fragmentary; there is possible evidence for relining and very heavy vitrification of external surfaces closest to the source of heat, indicated by a green glazing, suggesting prolonged use at high temperatures approaching 1000 degrees C. There is one fragment which may be from a radiating kiln bar (of tapering square section 70mm in width), again with green glaze adhering, which might suggest it was an integral feature rather than being portable or replaced. Other fragments are suggestive of perforated flooring in fresher, less vitrified clay which may have been part of temporary floor, 25mm thick, replaced or maintained with each firing. This floor was smoothed on the upper side, on which the vessels were stacked and rough on the lower surface and one fragment preserved part of a circular perforation about 50mm in diameter.

Discussion

The character and the content of the pottery kiln suggest that it is undoubtedly part of the same industry as the two kilns lying immediately to the south on the line of the Ryhall Road. The Great Casterton colour-coated ware industry is the only one, besides the much more extensive Lower Nene Valley industry, to use kilns with tongue pedestals and bar flooring (Swan 1984, 97 and 22, Map 14) and this strongly suggests that the former was an offshoot of the latter in its early stages. The products identified in the present kiln are very similar to the early products of the Lower Nene Valley and of those from the 1958 kiln at Great Casterton which included bag-shaped beakers and Castor box casseroles (Corder 1961, fig. 18). The opportunity to undertake a full excavation of this kiln would represent an important contribution to this little known industry and to Roman pottery studies in Britain in general.

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Appendix II: OASIS Information

Oasis Code	Universi1-95023
Project Name	An archaeological evaluation at Great Casterton Primary School, Pickworth Road, Great Casterton, Rutland
Project Type	Evaluation by trial trenching
Project Manager	R. Buckley
Project Supervisor	L Hunt
Previous/Future work	Not known
Current Land Use	School grounds
Development Type	Extension. Haul road
Reason for Investigation	Planning request
Position in the Planning Process	Pre determination
Site Co ordinates	SK 999 092
Start/end dates of field work	17-02-2011- 18-02-2011
Archive Recipient	Rutland County Museum
Study Area (school grounds)	0.72 hectares

Appendix IV: Written Scheme of Investigation

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological work

Great Casterton Primary School, Pickworth Road, Great Casterton, Rutland
NGR SK 999 092

WSI for trial trench evaluation

For: HSP Consulting

Planning Authority: Rutland County Council

1 Introduction

1.1 *Definition and scope of the specification*

This document is a Written Scheme of Investigation for an initial phase of archaeological field evaluation (AFE) at the above site, in accordance with PPS 5: Planning for the Historic Environment. The fieldwork specified below is intended to provide preliminary indications of character and extent of any buried archaeological remains in order that the potential impact of the development on such remains may be assessed by the Planning Authority.

- 1.2 The definition of archaeological field evaluation, taken from the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standards and Guidance: for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2008) is a limited programme of non-intrusive and/ or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.

2. Background

Context of the Project

- 1.1 A planning application has been submitted for building extensions to the existing school buildings and a temporary haulage road to the site at Great Casterton Primary School, Pickworth Road, Great Casterton, Rutland (NGR: SK 999 092)
- 1.2 The proposed development area is within an area rich in archaeological data included in the Historic Environment Record (HER). The school is adjacent to a Roman Fort (HER ref MLE5293) and close to the walls of a Roman small town (HER ref MLE5294) and the medieval and post-medieval village of Great Casterton (HER ref: MLE8829). Other recorded remains in the vicinity of the application area include the alignment of Ermine Street, the Roman road (HER ref. MLE5748) a few hundred metres to the west. There are also several findspots for prehistoric material around the town, including Iron Age settlement evidence from within Roman contexts. The site lies adjacent to a known Roman burial ground (MLE5302), which itself lies adjacent to an Anglo-Saxon burial ground (MLE5304) and suggests the continuity of settlement from the Roman period into the Anglo-Saxon period. Recent archaeological work in this area has confirmed the presence of Romano-British burials,

with the discovery of 133 inhumations dating to the late 3rd and early 4th centuries (McConnell & Grassam 2005)

- 1.3 In view of the high archaeological potential of the site, the Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council, has recommended trial trenching of the site prior to determination of the planning application in order that the potential impact of the proposals on buried archaeological remains may be assessed.

2. Geology and topography

- 2.1 The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 157 indicates that the underlying geology of the site is likely to consist of Lincolnshire Limestone. The site lies at a height of 45m aOD and is currently in use as part of the school grounds.

3. Archaeological Objectives

- 3.1 The main objectives of the evaluation will be:

- 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 produce an archive and report of any results.

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

- 3.3 Trial trenching is an intrusive form of evaluation that will demonstrate the existence of earth-fast archaeological features that may exist within the area.

4. Methodology

General Methodology and Standards

- 4.1 All work will follow the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct (2008) and adhere to their Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2008).

- 4.2 Staffing, recording systems, health and safety provisions and insurance details are included below.

- 4.3 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site by the project manager. These will ensure that project targets are met and professional standards are maintained. Provision will be made for external monitoring meetings with the Planning Authority and the Client, if required.

Trial Trenching Methodology

- 4.4 Prior to any machining of trial trenches general photographs of the site areas may be taken.

- 4.5 The site comprises three areas. Area B, which will not be examined. Area A, in which will be excavated one trench (3m x 1m) within the footprint of the new build and area C, in which two trenches (both 10m x 1.6m) will be excavated along the line of the proposed haul road (Fig 1). The size and position of the trenches indicated on the provisional trench plan may vary due to unforeseen site constraints or archaeology.

- 4.6 Topsoil and overburden will be removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket. Trenches will be excavated down to the top of archaeological deposits or natural undisturbed ground, whichever is reached first.

- 4.7 Trenches will be examined by hand cleaning and any archaeological deposits located will be planned at an appropriate scale. Archaeological deposits will be sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.
- 4.8 Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan. All plans will be tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Relative spot heights will be taken as appropriate.
- 4.9 Sections of any excavated archaeological features will be drawn at an appropriate scale. At least one longitudinal face of each trench will be recorded. All sections will be levelled and tied to the Ordnance Survey Datum, or a permanent fixed benchmark.
- 4.10 Trench locations will be recorded by an appropriate method. These will then be tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.
- 4.11 Any human remains encountered will initially be left in situ and will only be removed if necessary for their protection, under Ministry of Justice guidelines and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations.
- 4.12 In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the project a contingency may be required to clarify the character or extent of additional features. The contingency will only be initiated after consultation with the Client and the Planning Archaeologist and Planning Authority. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the Planning Archaeologist, ULAS shall, if required, implement an amended scheme of investigation on behalf of the client as appropriate.
- 4.13 The trenches will be backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation.

Recording Systems

- 4.14 Any archaeological deposits encountered will be recorded and excavated using standard procedures as outlined in the ULAS recording manual. Sufficient of any archaeological features or deposits will be hand excavated in order to provide the information required.
- 4.15. Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets.
- 4.16 A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made on drawing film, related to the OS grid and at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Elevations and sections of individual layers of features should be drawn where possible. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans.
- 4.17 An adequate photographic record of the investigations will be prepared illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.
- 4.18 This record will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the project.

6. Finds

- 6.1 The IfA *Guidelines for Finds Work* will be adhered to.
- 6.2 Before commencing work on the site, a Site code/Accession number will be agreed with the Planning Archaeologist that will be used to identify all records and finds from the site.
- 6.3 All antiquities, valuables, objects or remains of archaeological interest, other than articles declared by Coroner's Inquest to be subject to the Treasure Act, discovered in or under the Site during the carrying out of the project by ULAS or during works carried out on the Site by the Client shall be deemed to be the property of ULAS provided that ULAS after due examination of the said Archaeological Discoveries shall transfer ownership of all Archaeological Discoveries unconditionally to the appropriate authority for storage in perpetuity.

6.4 All identified finds and artefacts are to be retained, although certain classes of building material will, in some circumstances, be discarded after recording with the approval of the Planning Archaeologist.

6.5 All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner. Where appropriate they will be cleaned, marked and receive remedial conservation in accordance with recognised best-practice. This will include the site code number, finds number and context number. Bulk finds will be bagged in clear self sealing plastic bags, again marked with site code, finds and context numbers and boxed by material in standard storage boxes. All materials will be fully labelled, catalogued and stored in appropriate containers.

7. Environmental Sampling

7.1. If features are appropriate for environmental sampling a strategy and methodology will be developed on site following advice from ULAS's Environmental Specialist. Preparation, taking, processing and assessment of environmental samples will be in accordance with current best practice. The sampling strategy is likely to include the following:

- A range of features to represent all feature types, areas and phases will be selected on a judgmental basis. The criteria for selection will be that deposits are datable, well sealed and with little intrusive or residual material.
- Any buried soils or well-sealed deposits with concentrations of carbonised material present will be intensively sampled taking a known proportion of the deposit.
- Spot samples will be taken where concentrations of environmental remains are located.
- Waterlogged remains, if present, will be sampled for pollen, plant macrofossils, insect remains and radiocarbon dating provided that they are uncontaminated.

7.2 All collected samples will be labelled with context and sequential sample numbers.

7.3 Appropriate contexts will be bulk sampled (15 litre or the whole context depending on size) for the recovery of carbonised plant remains and insects.

7.4 Recovery of small animal bones, bird bone and large molluscs will normally be achieved through processing other bulk samples or 30 litre samples may be taken specifically to sample particularly rich deposits.

7.5 Wet sieving with flotation will be carried out using a York Archaeological Trust sieving tank with a 0.5mm mesh and a 0.3mm flotation sieve. The small size mesh will be used initially as flotation of plant remains may be incomplete and some may remain in the residue. The residue > 0.5mm from the tank will be separated into coarse fractions of over 4mm and fine fractions of > 0.5-4mm. The coarse fractions will be sorted for finds. The fine fractions and flots will be evaluated and prioritised; only those with remains apparent will be sorted. The prioritised flots will not be sorted until the analysis stage when phasing information is available. Flots will be scanned and plant remains from selected contexts will be identified and further sampling, sieving and sorting targeted towards higher potential deposits.

8 Report and Archive

8.1 A draft version of the report will normally be presented within four weeks of completion of site works. The full report in A4 format will usually follow within eight weeks. Copies will be provided for the client and the Local Planning Authority and deposited with the Historic Environment Record.

8.2 The report will include consideration of:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the evaluation.
- The nature, location and extent of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered.
- The anticipated degree of survival of archaeological deposits.
- The anticipated archaeological impact of the current proposals.
- Appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs.
- Summary.

- The location and size of the archive.
 - A quantitative and qualitative assessment of the potential of the archive for further analysis leading to full publication, following guidelines laid down in *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage).
- 8.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in the IfA Standard and Guidance for archaeological archives (Brown 2008) will normally be presented to Leicestershire County Council within six months of the completion of fieldwork. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.
- 8.4 The copyright of all original finished documents shall remain vested in ULAS and ULAS will be entitled as of right to publish any material in any form produced as a result of its investigations.

9 Publication and Dissemination of Results

- 9.1 A summary report will be submitted to a suitable regional archaeological journal following completion of the fieldwork. A full report will be submitted to a national or period journal if the results are of significance.
- 9.2 University of Leicester Archaeological Services supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The online OASIS form at <http://www.oasis.ac.uk> will be completed detailing the results of the project. ULAS will contact the HER prior to completion of the form. Once a report has become a public document following its incorporation into the HER it may be placed on the web-site.

10 Acknowledgement and Publicity

- 10.1 ULAS shall acknowledge the contribution of the Client in any displays, broadcasts or publications relating to the site or in which the report may be included.
- 10.2 ULAS and the Client shall each ensure that a senior employee shall be responsible for dealing with any enquiries received from press, television and any other broadcasting media and members of the public. All enquiries made to ULAS shall be directed to the Client for comment.

11 Copyright

- 11.1 The copyright of all original finished documents shall remain vested in ULAS and ULAS will be entitled as of right to publish any material in any form produced as a result of its investigations.

12 Monitoring arrangements

- 12.1 Unlimited access to monitor the project will be available to both the Client and his representatives and Planning Archaeologist subject to the health and safety requirements of the site.
- 12.2 All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with the IfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (2008)
- 12.3 Internal monitoring will be carried out by the ULAS project manager.

13 Timetable and Staffing

- 13.1 A start date during week-commencing 15th February 2011 is proposed. The work is likely to take up to two days to complete and two experienced archaeologists are likely to be present during the work.
- 13.2 The on-site director/supervisor will carry out the post-excavation work, with time allocated within the costing of the project for analysis of any artefacts found on the site by the relevant in-house specialists at ULAS.

14 Health and Safety

- 14.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Statement of Safety Policy and uses the FAME Health and Safety Manual (revised 2005) with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is in the Appendix. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate.

15. Insurance

- 15.1 All ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Public Liability Insurance is with St Pauls Travellers Policy No. UCPOP3651237 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Lloyds Underwriters (50%) and Brit Insurances (50%) Policy No. FUNK3605.

16. Contingencies and unforeseen circumstances

- 16.1 In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the project, ULAS shall inform the site agent/project manager, Client and the Planning Archaeologist and Planning Authority and prepare a short written statement with plan detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the Planning Archaeologist, ULAS shall, if required, implement an amended scheme of investigation on behalf of the client as appropriate.

17. Bibliography

Brown, D., 2008 *Standard and guidance for the preparation of Archaeological Archives* (Institute for Archaeologists)

McConnell, B., & Grassam, A., 2005 *Land Adjacent To Great Casterton Primary School, Pickworth Road, Great Casterton, Rutland: Archaeological Excavation Interim Report* (Archaeological Solutions Ltd)

IfA, 2008 *Codes of Conduct and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*.

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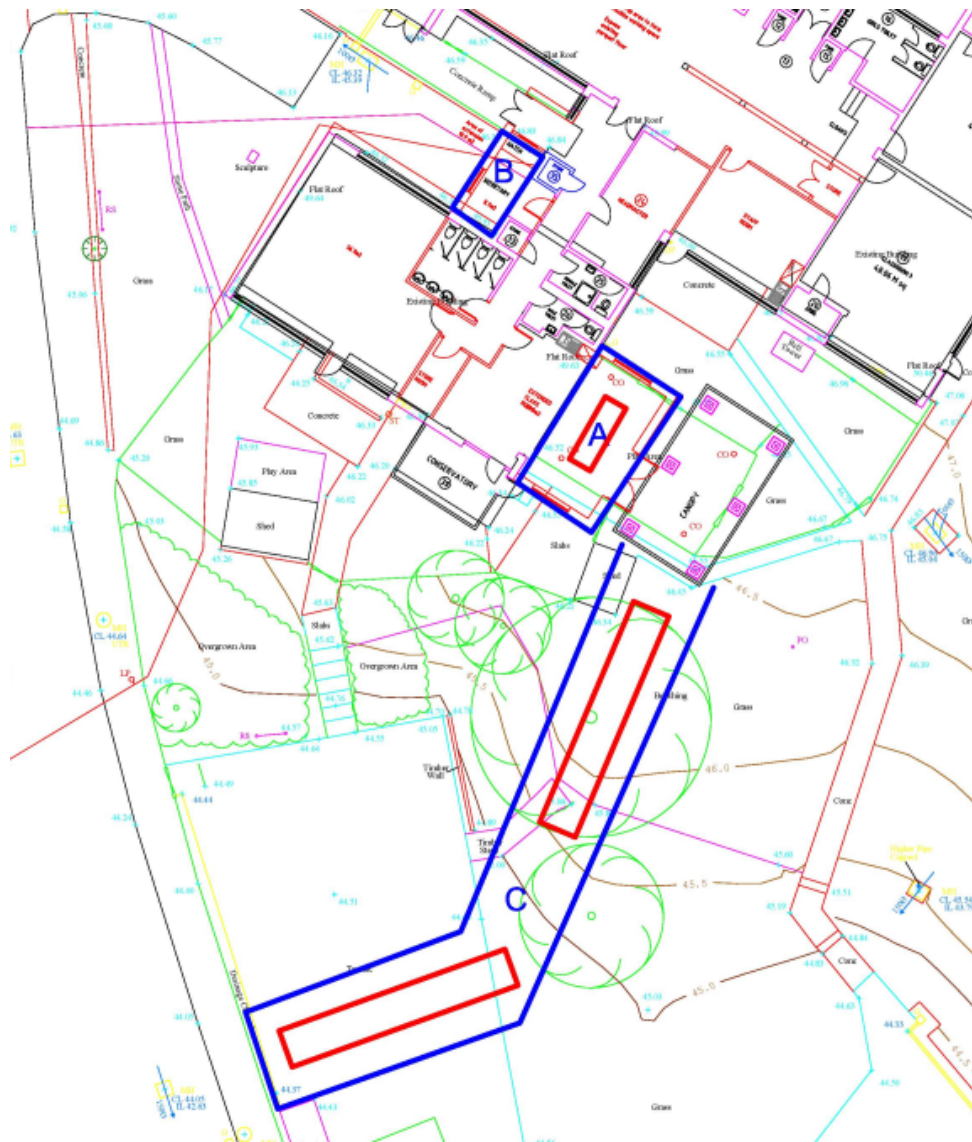


Figure 1 Proposed trench locations

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