



# Bitham Brook Primary School Westbury, Wiltshire

Phase I watching brief interim statement



Planning Ref: 16/07361/FUL  
Accession Number: tbc  
Ref: 112891.03  
February 2017



**Bitham Brook Primary School  
Westbury, Wiltshire**

**Phase I watching brief interim statement**

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**January 2017**

**112891.03**



## Quality Assurance

<b>Project Code</b>	112891	<b>Accession Code</b>	tbc	<b>Client Ref.</b>	
<b>Planning Application Ref.</b>	16/07361/FUL	<b>Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)</b>	387695 151785		

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\* I = Internal Draft; E = External Draft; F = Final

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# Bitham Brook Primary School Westbury, Wiltshire

## Phase I watching brief interim statement

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# **Bitham Brook Primary School Westbury, Wiltshire**

## **Phase I watching brief interim statement**

### **Acknowledgements**

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Ridge and Partners LLP for commissioning the works. Rachel Foster curator for WACS is thanked for her interest and support.

The watching brief was undertaken by Tom Blencowe, Darryl Freer, Jamie McCarthy and Rachel Williams. This report was compiled by Rachel Williams. The illustrations were prepared by Nancy Dixon. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Andrew Crockett.



# Bitham Brook Primary School Westbury, Wiltshire

## Phase I watching brief interim statement

### 1 INTERIM STATEMENT

#### 1.1 The project

- 1.1.1 Between 3rd and 3rd February over the course of 10 days Wessex Archaeology (WA) conducted a watching brief on part of the phase one development at Bitham Brook Primary School. The watching brief covered an L-shaped piece of land measuring approximately 23 m x 20 m and a U shaped pipe trench. The watching brief forms part of the archaeological mitigation works of the planning application ref 16/07361/FUL.
- 1.1.2 A detailed archaeological and historical background to the project has been detailed in the WSI and will not be repeated here.
- 1.1.3 A full report will be compiled when the evaluation and second phase watching brief have been concluded.

#### 1.2 Archaeological results

- 1.2.1 The watching brief was successful in noting two archaeological features and a post-medieval or modern hollow and a modern rubbish dump or spread of material. In the southern area of the Site the ground had been heavily truncated and disturbed by the construction of the school and its associated services. Services noted during the watching brief included two gas pipes, a water pipe, a foul sewer and a several sections of rainwater drains and soakaways. A small trench (2 x 0.3 x 0.5 m) was monitored to facilitate the connection of the constructors compound to the mains services, only topsoil and subsoil were noted in this trench.
- 1.2.2 The overburden across the site consisted of a mid-greyish-brown loam topsoil with sparse sub-angular fine gravel inclusions, moderate fine rooting and moderately compacted with a distinct horizon from the subsoil. The subsoil comprised a mid-greyish-brown clay loam with sparse sub angular fine gravel, moderately compacted with a clear horizon, this overlay a natural of light white/grey silty clay (**Plate 1**). In the southern area the topsoil overlay made ground comprising of dark grey silty clay with common angular and sub angular stone cobble inclusions, and pink/red cobbles in the service trenches, the made ground was moderately compacted and had a distinct horizon from the natural (**Plate 2**).
- 1.2.3 Gully 106 had shallow concave sides and a flat base, it measured 0.98 m wide and 0.09 m deep with one fill, mid-greyish-brown silty clay with rare sub angular gravel inclusions (**Plate 3**). Archaeological remains recovered included animal bone, ceramic building material, struck flint and pottery spot dated as being Iron Age/ Romano-British. This gully had been truncated at the north-western end by hollow 104 and at the south-eastern end by a soakaway.



- 1.2.4 Ditch 108 had steep concave sides and a concave base, it measured 0.58 m wide and 0.3 m deep with one fill, a mid-grey clay with rare fine gravel inclusions (**Plate 4**). One piece of burnt flint was recovered from this ditch. This ditch is likely to extend beyond the area covered by this watching brief.
- 1.2.5 Hollow 104 was an irregular shaped feature with moderately sloped concave sides and a flattish base, not all of the hollow was exposed, the exposed area measured 8.4 m x 6.5 m x 0.38 m and contained a mid-grey silty clay with sparse sub angular medium gravel and moderate sub angular fine gravel inclusions, manganese was also noted suggesting a waterborne derivation of the fill (**Plate 5**). Archaeological components recovered include pottery, animal bone and ceramic building material, which appear to be post-medieval or modern in date. This feature continued in to the gas pipe trench to the north for a further 6.5 m.
- 1.2.6 A dump of modern material was noted in the pipe trench close to the school (**Plate 6**).

### 1.3 Discussion

- 1.3.1 The watching brief has demonstrated the survival of archaeological remains within the vicinity of the school. The archaeological remains, specifically gully 106, recorded by this phase of the watching brief have been heavily truncated by the construction of the school and the groundworks associated with its construction (**Plate 7**). No evidence for Romano-British funerary practices were noted during this watching brief, as the Site investigations move away from the school the potential for archaeological survival improves.



## 2 OASIS ID: WESSEXAR1-276402

### Project details

Project name	Bitham Brook Primary School, Westbury, Wiltshire
Short description of the project	Between 3rd and 3rd February over the course of 10 days Wessex Archaeology (WA) conducted a watching brief on part of the phase one development at Bitham Brook Primary School. The watching brief covered an L-shaped piece of land measuring approximately 23 m x 20 m and a U shaped pipe trench. The watching brief forms part of the archaeological mitigation works of the planning application ref 16/07361/FUL. A full report will be compiled when the evaluation and second phase watching brief have been concluded. 1.2.1 The watching brief was successful in noting two archaeological features and a post-medieval or modern hollow and a modern rubbish dump or spread of material. In the southern area of the Site the ground had been heavily truncated and disturbed by the construction of the school and its associated services. Services noted during the watching brief included two gas pipes, a water pipe, a foul sewer and a several sections of rainwater drains and soakaways. A small trench (2 x 0.3 x 0.5 m) was monitored to facilitate the connection of the constructors compound to the mains services, only topsoil and subsoil were noted in this trench.
Project dates	Start: 03-02-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	112890 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	112891 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	GULLY Uncertain

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	WILTSHIRE WEST WILTSHIRE WESTBURY Bitham Brook Primary School
Postcode	BA13 3UG
Study area	2.16 Hectares
Site coordinates	ST 387796 151787 50.932254746451 -2.871285731999 50 55 56 N 002 52 16 W Point





Height OD / Depth    Min: 60m Max: 61m

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**Project creators**

Name of Organisation    Wessex Archaeology

Project brief originator    Ridge and Partners LLP

Project design originator    Wessex archaeology

Project director/manager    A Crockett

Project supervisor    Rachel Williams

Project supervisor    Darryl Freer

Project supervisor    Jamie McCarthy

Project supervisor    Tom Blencowe

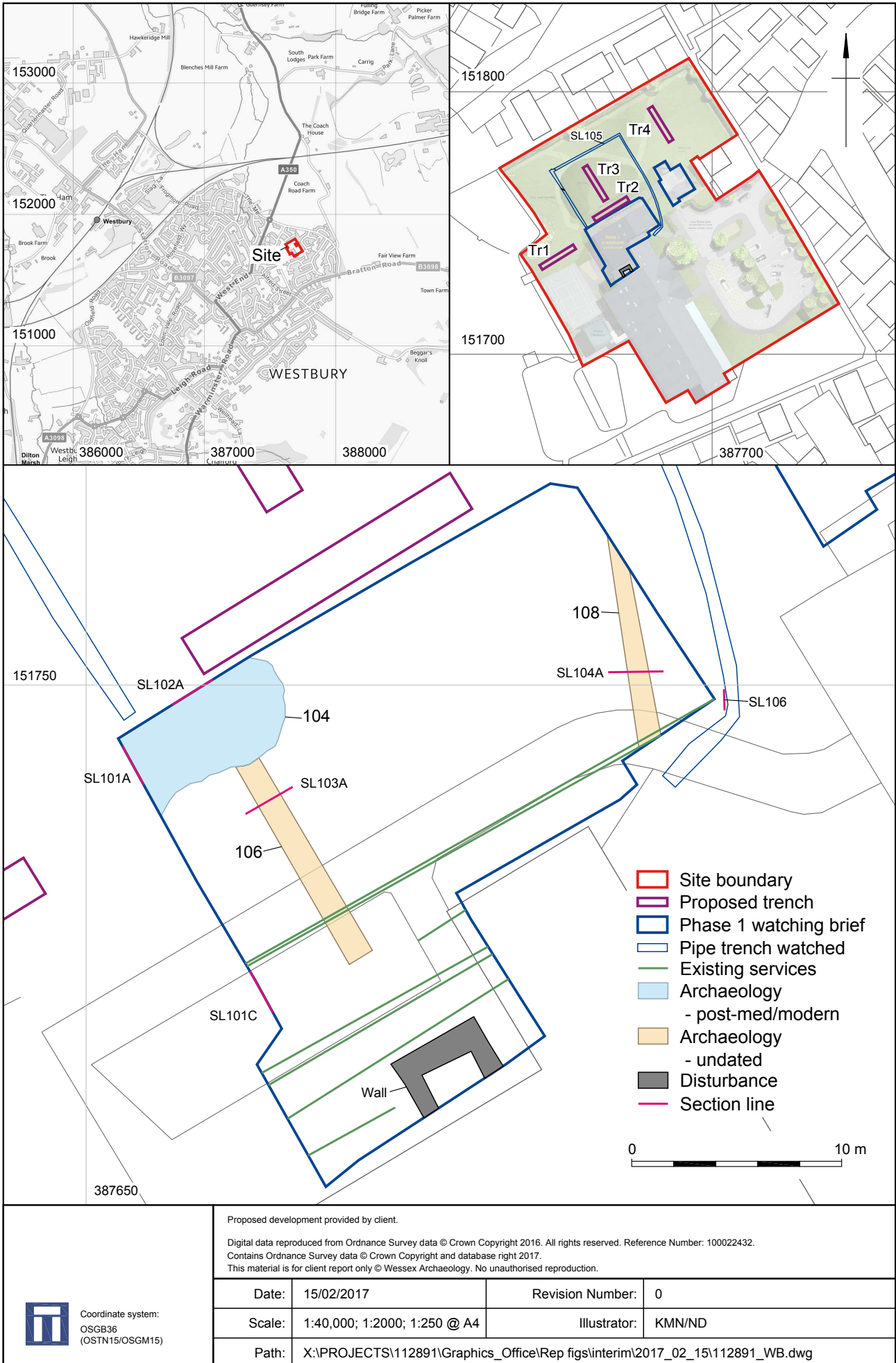
Type of sponsor/funding body    County Council

Name of sponsor/funding body    Wiltshire County Council

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Entered by    Rachel Williams (r.williams@wessexarch.co.uk)

Entered on    15 February 2017



Site location and detail of the watching brief area

Figure 1

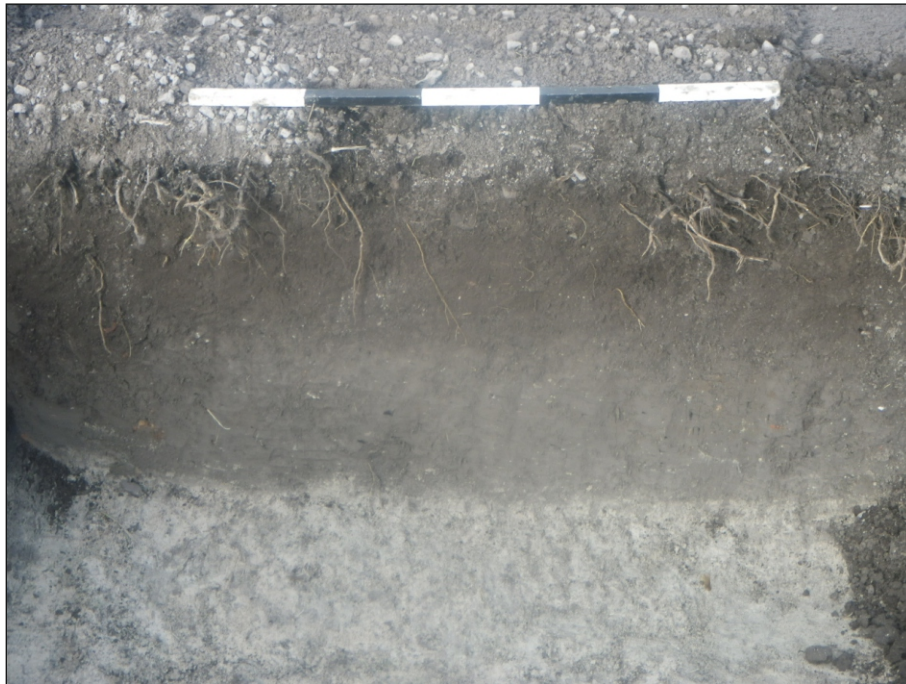


Plate 1: North-east facing representative section 101A



Plate 2: North-east facing representative section 101C



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Plate 3: South-east facing section of gully 106, scales at 0.5 m



Plate 4: North facing section of ditch 108, scales at 0.5 m

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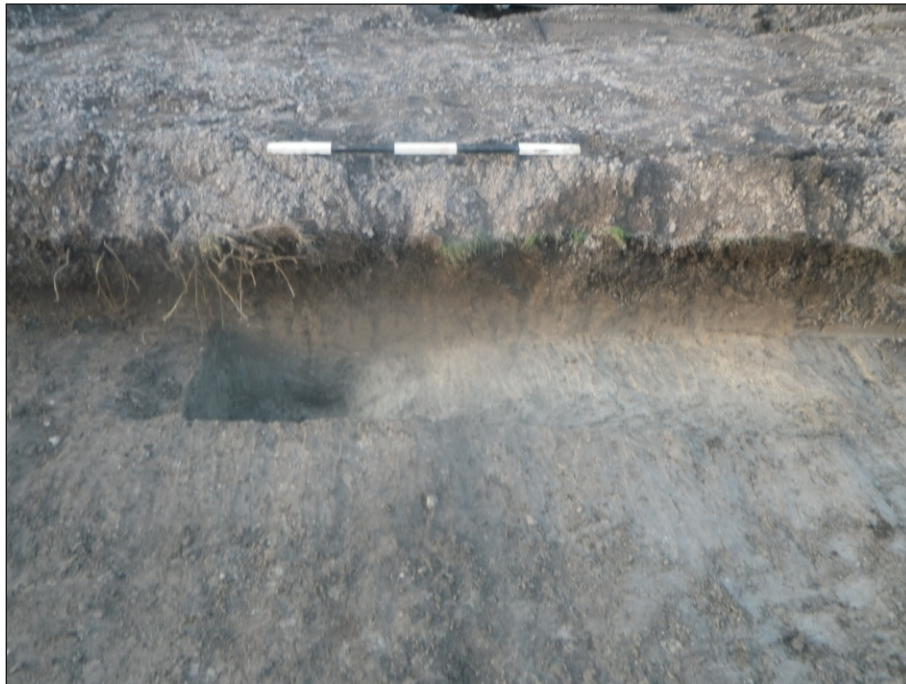


Plate 5: South-east facing section 102A of hollow 104, scales at 0.5 m



Plate 6: East facing section 106, scales at 1 m



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Plate 7: Truncation by services in the southern corner of the site, scales at 2 m and 1 m

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