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# Eastergate CE Primary School Chichester, West Sussex

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



Planning ref. WSCC/099/13/EG  
Ref: 103330.01  
March 2014



**Eastergate CE Primary School  
Chichester, West Sussex**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

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## Quality Assurance

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

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# Eastergate CE Primary School Chichester, West Sussex

## Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Figure 1: Site location plan (after HNW Architects drawing no. P001)

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Plate 1: South-east facing representative section of trench



# **Eastergate CE Primary School Chichester, West Sussex**

## **Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

### **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by HNW Architects to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the development works at Eastergate CE Primary School, Church Lane, Eastergate, West Sussex. The Site is located partly within the St George's Church, Manor Farm and Eastergate Manor Conservation Area. The watching brief was undertaken on the 25th February and the 3rd March 2014.

The watching brief monitored the ground works associated with the excavation of the foundation trenches and the reduction of the ground level. The works revealed approximately 0.8m of topsoil and subsoil at the Site, overlying natural gravel. No deposits or remains of archaeological significance were revealed during the watching brief.



# **Eastergate CE Primary School Chichester, West Sussex**

## **Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

### **Acknowledgements**

Wessex Archaeology would like to gratefully acknowledge HNW Architects for commissioning the work, and in particular the assistance of Stuart Large. The assistance of Chris Shoult and Kevin Banks of Tasker Catchpole Construction throughout the course of the fieldwork was also very much appreciated. Wessex Archaeology also thanks Mark Taylor, County Archaeologist with West Sussex County Council, for his advice and assistance throughout.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Oliver Good, who also compiled this report. The report was edited by Gareth Chaffey. The drawings were prepared by Karen Nichols. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Andy Crockett.



# Eastergate CE Primary School Chichester, West Sussex

## Archaeological Watching Brief Report

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by HNW Architects to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the development works at Eastergate CE Primary School, Church Lane, Eastergate, Chichester, West Sussex, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 494308 105205 (hereafter referred to as the 'Site') (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The proposed works comprise a single storey extension to the existing school, as well as associated alterations to car parking layout and external pedestrian areas, provision of an external garden/play area, erection of two canopies and the installation of new school gates and fencing. The development proposals are predominantly located on the north side of the existing school, between the school and the adjacent Church Lane.

1.1.3 Planning Consent was awarded on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2014, to which the following condition (Condition 6) relating to archaeology had been attached:

*Following the demolition of any structures, and prior to the commencement of building works hereby permitted, and archaeological investigation (investigation and recording) of the site shall be carried out in accordance with specification (written scheme of investigation) to be submitted to and agreed in advance and in writing with WSCC's archaeology advisers. Once agreed, the specification shall be implemented in full as agreed.*

*Reasons: to accord with paragraphs 128, 129, 131, and 132 of NPPF (2012) to ensure the undertaking of appropriate monitoring and recording, and any subsequently required mitigation works, of any archaeological assets on the site.*

1.1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; WA 2014) detailing the methodology to employed during the archaeological watching brief and the final reporting was submitted to, and approved by, the West Sussex County Council (WSCC) County Archaeologist before the commencement of work.

1.1.5 The watching brief was carried out on the 25<sup>th</sup> February and the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2014.

#### 1.2 The Site

1.2.1 The Site is located on Church Lane, on the south western outskirts of Eastergate village, approximately 8km to the west of Chichester. It is bounded to the north by Church Lane, to the west by an unnamed stream and to the east and south by farmland associated with the adjacent Manor Farm.

1.2.2 The Site occupies a shallow west-facing slope overlooking an unnamed south-flowing stream, at a height of approximately 6-7m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The stream



flows south, and eventually discharges into Lidsey Rife between Shripney and Flansham, which then merges with Aldingbourne Rife on the eastern outskirts of Bognor Regis.

- 1.2.3 The British Geological Survey (BGS) lists the Site as situated on superficial deposits of sand and gravel of uncertain age and origin, overlying bedrock comprising Lambeth Group clay, silt, sand and gravel. In a broader context, the Site is overlooked by the Cretaceous Chalk South Downs to the north, forming the south face of the Wealden Anticline.

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Designated sites

- 2.1.1 There are no designated sites in close proximity to the Site, the nearest being the 12<sup>th</sup> century Keep of Tote Copse Castle (Scheduled Monument ref. 1012180) approximately 2km to the west at Aldingbourne. Many properties within Eastergate are Listed Buildings, as a result of which the village contains two Conservation Areas (see below).

### 2.2 Eastergate

- 2.2.1 Evidence has previously been recorded for Romano-British remains, possibly representative of a villa site, near St George's Church, approximately 150m to the east of the Site. To the north, the Roman Road from Chichester to Brighton is believed to be the origins for a section of the modern Chichester to Arundel A27 road.
- 2.2.2 The church itself has structural elements (in the chapel) that are certainly 11<sup>th</sup> century in origin, and probably indicative of Saxon origins for the building. The majority of the church today is 13<sup>th</sup> century, though substantially 'restored' in the Victorian period, and again in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 2.2.3 Documentary sources indicate a small settlement existed at Eastergate from the medieval period onwards, and a number of Listed Buildings within the village are relatively early post-medieval in origin (i.e. the 17<sup>th</sup> century timber-framed 'Old House', and 'Flint House' at the junction of Church Lane and Fontwell Avenue).
- 2.2.4 As a result of the architectural heritage of Eastergate, it contains two Conservation Areas, statutorily defined as "*areas of special architectural or historical interest, the character or appearance of which is desirable to preserve or enhance*", and comprising:
- *To the north of the Site, the junction of Church Lane, the A29 Nyton Rd/Fontwell Avenue and the B2233 Barnham Road; and*
  - *Predominantly to the east of the Site, a larger area focussed on St George's Church, Manor Farm and Eastergate Manor, and encompassing various additional properties fronting on to Church Lane.*

## 3 AIMS AND METHODS

### 3.1 General aims and objectives

- 3.1.1 The aim of the watching brief was to provide further information concerning the presence/absence, date, nature and extent of any buried archaeological remains and to investigate and record these within the proposed development area. The works also sought to:
- *To place any identified archaeological remains within their context;*





- *Where significance archaeological remains or deposits were identified, to inform discussions on the final extent and scope of the required archaeological mitigation.*

## **3.2 Fieldwork methodology**

- 3.2.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out within the WSI (WA 2014). All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the guidance and standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and guidance for archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008).
- 3.2.2 The watching brief consisted of the monitoring of all groundworks on land to the immediate north-east of the existing school buildings. The groundworks consisted of the excavation of foundation trenches and reduction of the ground level, carried out by a 3 ton 360° digging machine using a toothless bucket.
- 3.2.3 Works were observed by an experienced archaeologist. Where practicable and safe to do so, all deposits and features observed during the watching brief were cleaned manually to an acceptable standard by the archaeologist on site and located on a site plan. The excavated spoil from the groundworks were scanned for artefacts.
- 3.2.4 Recording was undertaken using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* record sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. Representative soil profile sections of the excavations were drawn.
- 3.2.5 A full photographic record was compiled using digital images. The record illustrates both the detail and the general context of the principal features, finds excavated, and the site as a whole. Digital images have been subject to a managed quality control and curation process which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and ensures the long term accessibility of the image set.

## **4 RESULTS**

- 4.1.1 The natural stratigraphic sequence of the Site was seen to be largely uniform, differing only in the depth of the layers encountered (**Plate 1**). Topsoil was typically a very dark greyish brown silty clay loam with moderate stone inclusions, averaging 0.37m in thickness. This overlay an undifferentiated dark/mid brownish grey silty clay subsoil of approximately 0.42m thickness.
- 4.1.2 Natural sandy gravel was noted at the base of subsoil in all groundwork, the upper contact encountered approximately 0.79m below ground surface. Foundation trenching to a maximum depth of 1.4m below ground surface demonstrated that this gravel was at least 0.61m thick.
- 4.1.3 No archaeological features were identified during the watching brief.
- 4.1.4 Following discussion regarding the ongoing results of the archaeological watching brief with the Archaeological Advisor to WSCC, and the likelihood on the basis of those results that archaeological remains were unlikely to be encountered, it was agreed to curtail the archaeological watching brief following the second day of monitored groundwork.

## **5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE**

- 5.1.1 No artefacts were recovered during the course of the fieldwork.



## 6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

- 6.1.1 No archaeological features or deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the course of the fieldwork.

## 7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1.1 The watching brief identified no evidence for archaeological activity (deposits, features or finds) within the areas investigated on the Site, albeit during the course of groundwork of limited impact.

## 8 STORAGE AND CURATION

### 8.1 Museum

- 8.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with The Novium Museum, Chichester. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project, and has issued Museum Accession Code **CHCDM 2014.8** for that purpose. There are no finds requiring landowner agreement prior to deposition with the Museum.

### 8.2 Preparation of archive

- 8.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by The Novium Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013). Details of the watching brief, including digital photographs and an electronic version of this report, will also be entered into the online "Oasis" database maintained by the Archaeological Data Service (ADS). A copy of the Oasis report is provided in **Appendix 1**.

- 8.2.2 All archive elements have been marked with both the WA site code **103330** and the Museum Accession Code, and a full index prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

- *1 file/document cases of paper records & A3/A4 graphics*

### 8.3 Discard policy

- 8.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out by the Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA 1993) and other appropriate guidance (e.g. SMA 1995; EH 2002 etc.), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. However, in this instance no such material was recovered.

### 8.4 Security Copy

- 8.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011) on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.



## 9 REFERENCES

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- Walker, K, 1990, *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term Storage*, UKIC Archaeology Section
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## 10 APPENDIX 1: OASIS FORM

**OASIS ID: wessexar1-175461**

### Project details

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Project name                           | Eastergate CE Primary School  |
| Short description of the project       | Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by HNW Architects to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the development works at Eastergate CE Primary School, Church Lane, Eastergate, West Sussex. The watching brief monitored the ground works associated with the excavation of the foundation trenches and the reduction of the ground level. No archaeological significance was revealed during the watching brief. |
| Project dates                          | Start: 25-02-2014 End: 03-03-2014   |
| Previous/future work                   | No / Not known  |
| Any associated project reference codes | 103330 - Sitecode   |
| Type of project                        | Recording project   |
| Site status                            | None  |
| Current Land use                       | Other 15 - Other  |
| Monument type                          | NONE None   |
| Significant Finds                      | NONE None   |
| Investigation type                     | "Watching Brief"  |
| Prompt                                 | Planning condition  |

### Project location

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Country           | England  |
| Site location     | WEST SUSSEX CHICHESTER CHICHESTER Eastergate CE Primary School, Chichester |
| Postcode          | PO20 3UT   |
| Study area        | 0 Square metres  |
| Site coordinates  | SU 494319 105202 50.8914936743 -1.29710380725 50 53 29 N 001 17 49 W Point |
| Lat/Long Datum    | Unknown  |
| Height OD / Depth | Min: 7.00m Max: 8.00m  |

### Project creators

|                              |                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Name of Organisation         | Wessex Archaeology |
| Project brief originator     | HNW Architects     |
| Project design originator    | Wessex Archaeology |
| Project director/manager     | A Crockett         |
| Project supervisor           | Oliver Good        |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Developer          |



**OASIS ID: wessexar1-175461**

Name of sponsor/funding body  
HNW Architects

**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists? No  
Digital Archive Exists? No  
Paper Archive recipient The Novium Museum  
Paper Archive ID 103330  
Paper Contents "Stratigraphic"  
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Diary", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report"

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
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Site location plan (after HNW Architects drawing no. P001)

Figure 1



salisbury rochester sheffield edinburgh



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