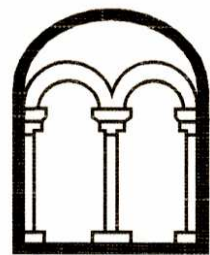


**LAND AT ALL SAINTS' SCHOOL  
DOGSTHORPE ROAD  
PETERBOROUGH**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**Albion**  
archaeology



**LAND AT ALL SAINTS' SCHOOL  
DOGSTHORPE ROAD  
PETERBOROUGH**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

Project: AS1988  
Document: 2012/96  
Version 1.1

16th July 2012

Compiled by	Checked by	Approved by
W. Starke	J. Oetgen	Drew Shotliff

Produced for:  
CgMs Consulting

On behalf of the Diocese of Peterborough



## **1. Background**

Planning permission was granted for a new school hall and temporary classrooms at All Saints' Voluntary Aided Junior School, Dogsthorpe Road, Peterborough (Peterborough City Council planning ref: 11/01902/FUL). The new building comprises Phase 1 of the development and is to be located to the rear of the existing school building, which is proposed to be demolished as part of Phase 2 of the development, subject to separate planning consents.

A planning condition on Phase 1 required the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) approved by the Local Planning Authority, as advised by the Peterborough City Archaeologist. CgMs Consulting has prepared a WSI specifying an archaeological watching brief on remaining groundworks (CgMs 2012) and Albion Archaeology has been commissioned by CgMs to undertake the fieldwork.

## **2. Site Location and Description**

All Saints' School is located on a property to the rear of 20th-century houses along Dogsthorpe Road, with allotment gardens to the west (Figure 1). The current development site measures *c.* 1.2ha and is situated to the rear (west) of the current school building. The area under development was previously occupied by hard standing surfaces/car parking, a swimming pool and changing rooms which have since been demolished (Figure 2).

The development is located on OS grid reference TF 192 006. The geology of the area comprises cornbrash limestone formations overlain by river terrace sand and gravels (British Geological Survey).

## **3. Archaeological Background**

Peterborough City Council's Historic Environment Record (searchable online at <http://her.peterborough.gov.uk/forms/homepage.aspx>) lists a number of archaeological discoveries made within a 500m radius of the site. They are in the majority located to the south-west. In 1911, three Roman burials and pottery dating to the 3rd century AD (HER02224) were discovered to the south of the development area (Alexandra Road/Waterloo Road). A Saxon coin (HER02285) dating to *c.* 860 was found south-west of the development area (Park Road) in 1962. An archaeological trial trench evaluation and subsequent excavation were conducted in 2005 by Northamptonshire Archaeology at Alma Road *c.* 450m to the south of the current development. Both the evaluation (HER1492697) and the excavation (HER1441755) yielded evidence for prehistoric (HER52186, HER51457), Roman (HER52187), medieval (HER52188) and post-medieval occupation of the area in form of settlement features and field systems. These remains mainly date from the late Bronze Age to the 2nd century AD and to the 10th–12th century AD (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2005 and 2006). Evidence from further afield comprises find spots of prehistoric periods (HER02257, HER08264 and HER08264a) and a post-medieval windmill (HER02217).



#### **4. Description of Construction Works**

The development in Phase 1 comprises the school hall, temporary classrooms and associated drainage and service trenches.

The excavation of the drainage system trenches in the corridor between the buildings had to be conducted with a mini digger, fitted with a toothed bucket, due to space restrictions. Other excavation works were carried out by a larger mechanical excavator, fitted with a flat-edged bucket, although a toothed bucket was used to break through the modern surface.

All excavations were reduced for inspection to the level at which archaeological remains would be recognised before the ground was reduced further to meet the construction requirements.

#### **5. Project Objectives**

The immediate objective of the archaeological fieldwork was to monitor the groundworks undertaken for the installation of the surface and foul water drains within the current project phase, which had the potential to reveal archaeological remains. If archaeological remains were encountered, the objective was to investigate, characterise and record them. The significance of any remains was to be assessed in relation to their potential to address local and regional research objectives (Brown and Glazebrook 2000; Medlycott 2011; Medlycott and Brown 2008).

Excavation was limited to the extent of the trenches and pits required for the installation of the surface and foul water drainage system.

#### **6. Results**

Archaeological monitoring of the groundworks occurred between 13th and 26th June 2012. During this time service trenches were excavated along the south-east and north-east side of the new school hall, in a narrow corridor between the current school building and the new hall, and in the former car park area (Figure 2).

The service trenches were 0.6–0.8m wide and 0.75–2m deep. An associated pump chamber (3.2m x 3.2m x 3.5m) and manhole (1.6m x 1.6m x 2.3m) were excavated at the east corner of the new hall.

A soakaway (1.5m x 15m x 2m) was excavated in the north-west corner of the car park area and an area of *c.* 100m<sup>2</sup> at the south-west side of the new building was reduced by *c.* 0.2m.

The overburden in the former car park area, recorded in the soakaway and the service trench, comprised from top to bottom a layer of tarmac (0.1m thick), hardcore (0.15–0.2m thick), buried topsoil (0.15–0.2m thick) and subsoil (0.1–0.2m thick). No archaeological features were encountered. Undisturbed geological deposits of orange brown sandy silt and gravel were encountered at a depth below existing ground level (bgl) of *c.* 0.55m.



The ground in the corridor between the existing school building and the new hall showed a high level of disturbance. This had been caused by either construction works related to the existing school building or the excavation of the foundation trench for the new building, which took up half the width of the service trench. Existing services and drains crossing the trench caused additional ground disturbance. However, undisturbed geological deposits of orange brown sandy silt and gravel were encountered at a depth of 0.4m bgl, beneath a make-up layer of building debris and at the south-east corner of the new building beneath 0.25m topsoil. No archaeological features were encountered.

The overburden in the area south-west of the new school hall, formerly the site of a swimming pool (Figure 2), comprised reworked soil and construction/demolition debris containing brick, glass, and metal fragments, which appeared to have been deliberately dumped in this area. The reduction of this area by c. 0.2m did not reveal any other deposits. To investigate the extent of the layer, a 0.9m x 3.9m sondage was dug across it from the inside to the outside of the existing concrete foundations. This showed that the concrete foundations were not continuous and that the demolition debris was c. 0.3m thick, overlying remains of buried soils (50–100mm thick), which sealed undisturbed orange-brown sandy silt and gravel and a possible feature. The character of this feature could not be ascertained; it extended beyond the edge of the sondage and lay well below the depth of development impact in this area of the site. It yielded a single medieval pottery sherd, a jug handle likely to date to the 13th–15th centuries.

## 7. Conclusion

The areas which were available for archaeological inspection in Phase 1 covered only a very limited area within the groundworks undertaken for the surface and foul water drains. Even though a large percentage of this area had been disturbed by modern construction to a depth where the survival of archaeological remains is highly unlikely, undisturbed geological deposits of orange brown sandy silt and gravels were discovered in places throughout the entire watching brief area at a depth where archaeological remains would have survived.

The small sondage in an area to the south-west of the new building provided some indication of the nature of the deposits likely to be affected by development in Phase 2. It revealed a possible feature, which produced the only find from the development site — a sherd of medieval pottery. This indicates that some level of medieval settlement once existed in the vicinity, but medieval agricultural practices such as manuring are known to have led to wide dispersal of domestic refuse in the open countryside. The feature may simply be a backfilled pond or slope-wash filling a natural depression, but it could equally well have been created during the construction of the former swimming pool.

## 8. Bibliography

British Geological Survey, *Geology of Britain Viewer* [online] Available <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (accessed 04/07/2012)

Brown N and Glazebrook J (eds.) 2000, *Research and Archaeology: A framework for the Eastern Counties: Research Agenda and Strategy* (East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8)



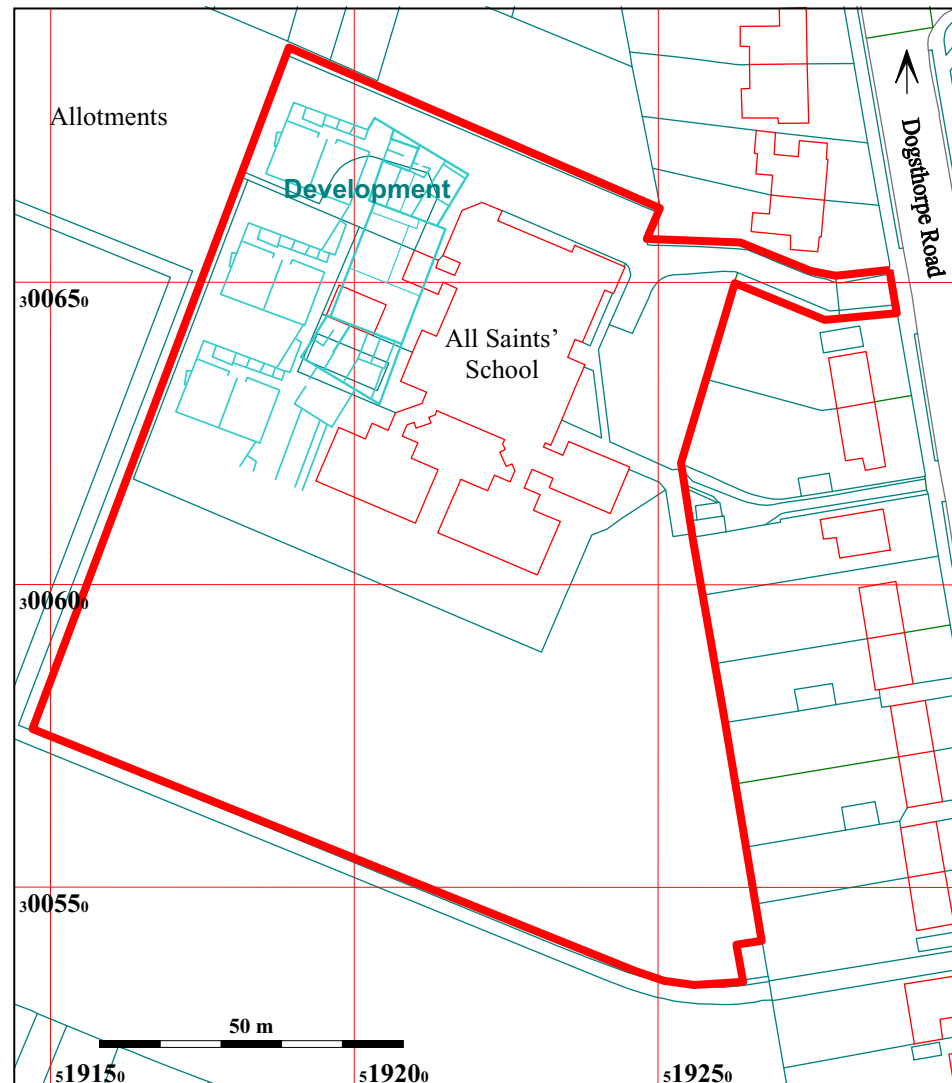
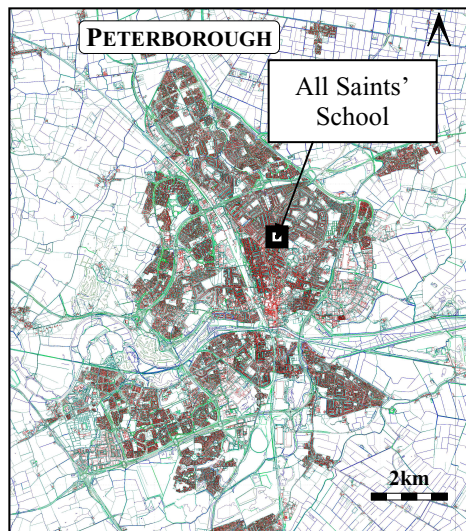
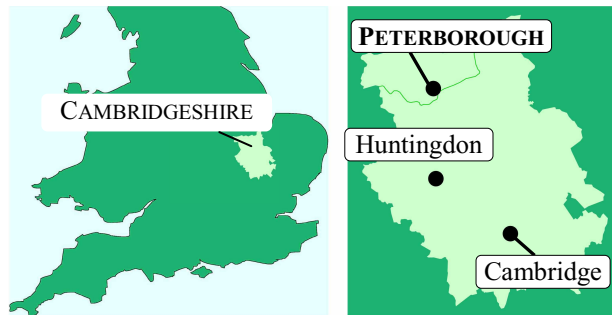
- CgMs 2012, Scheme for an Archaeological Watching Brief: Land at All Saints School, Dogsthorpe Road, Peterborough, CgMs Ref: SM/13837/01
- Medlycott, M. and Brown, N. (eds), 2008, Revision of the Regional Research Framework for the Eastern Region
- Medlycott, M. 2011, *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24.
- Northamptonshire Archaeology 2005, Archaeological Evaluation on Land off Alma Road, Peterborough. Northamptonshire Archaeology Report 05/92
- Northamptonshire Archaeology 2006, Archaeological excavation on land off Alma Road, Peterborough. Northamptonshire Archaeology Report 06/12.

### **Postscript**

*Every effort has been made in the preparation and submission of this document and all statements are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.*

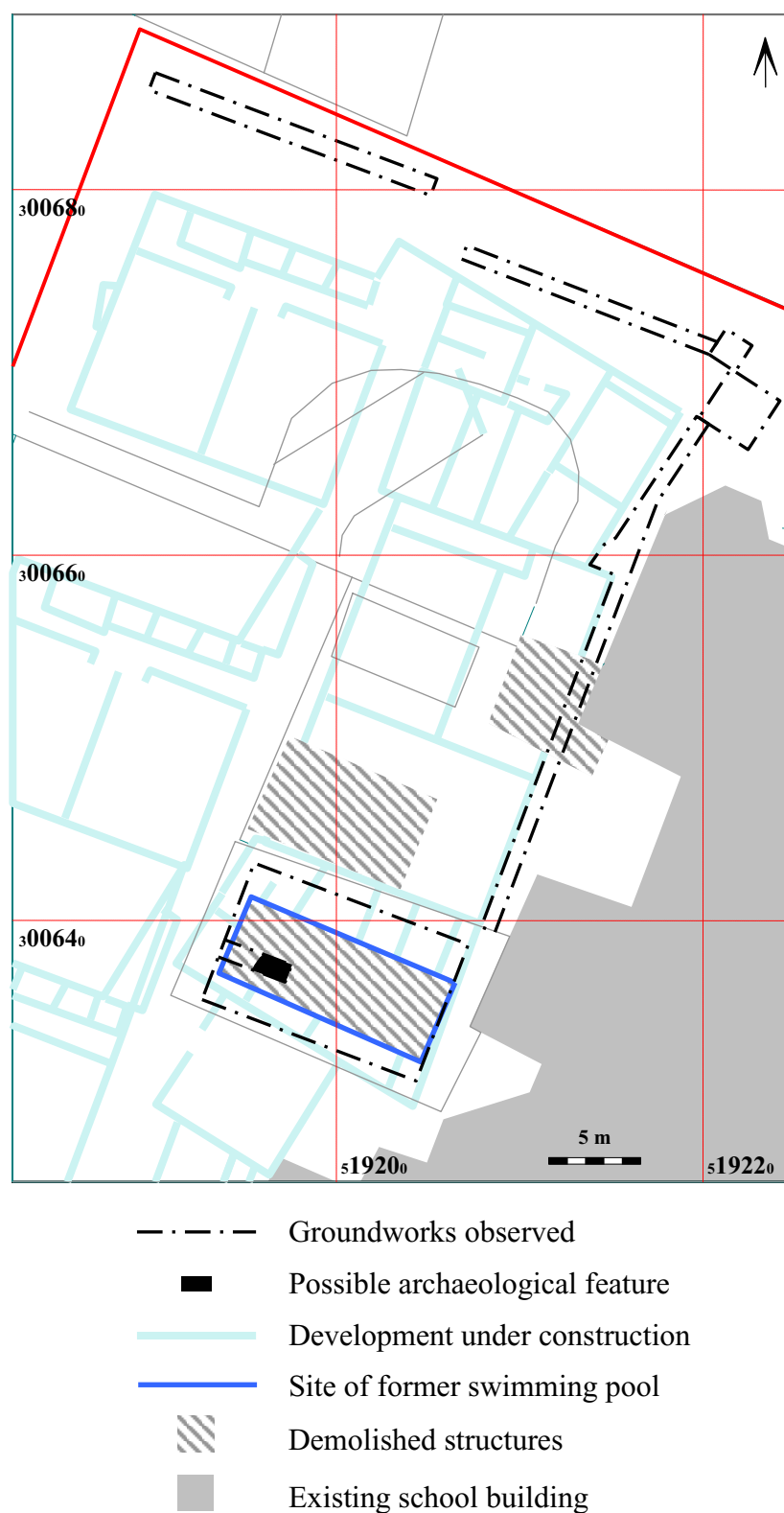
*This document was prepared by Wiebke Starke and approved by Jeremy Oetgen (MIfA).*

Albion Archaeology  
St Mary's Church  
St Mary's Street  
Bedford, MK42 0AS  
☎: 01234 294006  
Fax: 01234 294008  
E-mail: [office@albion-arch.com](mailto:office@albion-arch.com)  
Website: [www.albion-arch.com](http://www.albion-arch.com)



**Figure 1: Site location**

Base map reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by Albion Archaeology, Central Bedfordshire Council. OS Licence No. 100017358(LA). © Crown Copyright.



**Figure 2:** Observed groundworks



Central  
Bedfordshire

**Albion**  
archaeology



Albion Archaeology  
St Mary's Church  
St Mary's Street  
Bedford  
MK42 0AS

**Telephone** 01234 294000  
**Email** [office@albion-arch.com](mailto:office@albion-arch.com)  
[www.albion-arch.com](http://www.albion-arch.com)

