

**POTTERSPURY PRE-SCHOOL
JOHN HELLINS PRIMARY SCHOOL
POTTERSPURY
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION,
INVESTIGATION AND REPORTING**

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Compiled by	Checked by	Approved by
David Ingham	Robert Wardill	Drew Shotliff

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Sursham Tompkins & Partners
Architectural Services & Project Management
on behalf of Potterspury Pre-School



Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete a summary as possible within the terms of the method statement. All statements and opinions in this document 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.

Acknowledgements

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to undertake the project by Sursham Tompkins & Partners, on behalf of Potterspury Pre-School. The project was monitored by Liz Mordue, Northamptonshire County Council's Archaeological Advisor.

Fieldwork was undertaken by David Ingham (Project Officer) and Jo Barker (Archaeological Supervisor). David Ingham prepared this report, which was edited by Robert Wardill (Project Manager) and approved by Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

*Albion Archaeology
St Mary's Church
St Mary's Street
Bedford, MK42 0AS
☎: 0300 300 8141
Fax: 0300 300 8209
e-mail: office@albion-arch.com*

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Introduction

Planning consent (ref. S/2010/0548/FUL) was granted for the demolition of a temporary building and the construction of a new permanent structure to house the Potterspury Pre-school which is located at John Hellins Primary School, Brownswood Drive, Potterspury, Northamptonshire.

As the site lies within an area of high archaeological interest, Northamptonshire County Council's Archaeological Advisor (CAA) recommended a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and reporting to be carried out on ground-works associated with the development, as a condition of planning consent.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Sursham Tompkins & Partners to carry out the programme of archaeological works in accordance with the methodologies described in a Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2010), produced in response to a brief issued by the CAA (CAA 2010).

Site Location and Description

John Hellins Primary School is situated at the junction of High Street and Brownswood Drive, Potterspury (Fig. 1), on land that rises gradually to the south. The site of the Pre-School development lies to the west of the main school buildings at a height of 49.4–50m OD, centred on grid reference SP75907/43085. The geology of the area comprises boulder clay over limestone bedrock.

Archaeological Background

Potterspury lies on the north-east side of the A5, which follows the line of Watling Street, a major Roman road. A possible Iron Age/Romano-British site has been identified to the east of the modern village. In the post-Roman period, Potterspury was significant in the production of medieval and post-medieval pottery, with extensive evidence for medieval pottery-production found immediately north-west of the development site.

Project Methodology

A detailed methodology is provided in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2010). Methods employed during the project complied with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* and *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2009), English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (2009), and Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual* (2001).

Works Description and Results

Archaeological monitoring of the ground-works took place between 2nd and 8th September 2010. The ground-works comprised the removal of a concrete slab which had formed the base of the temporary building, and the excavation of foundation trenches for the footings of the new structure (Fig. 2). This was carried out using a mechanical excavator, working under archaeological supervision.

The foundation trenches were 1–1.5m deep and c. 0.6m wide. The upper 0.8m of the soil profile comprised made ground that had supported the concrete slab; beneath this, the trenches were excavated through undisturbed geological deposits of boulder clay



until they reached the underlying limestone bedrock. No archaeological features or deposits were revealed.

Conclusion

No features or deposits of archaeological significance were revealed during the course of the development. It is possible that any such features or deposits which may once have existed within the footprint of the new building were destroyed during construction of the former temporary structure.

Bibliography

Albion Archaeology 2010: *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Reporting*

CAA 2010: *Brief for Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication of works at John Hellins Primary School, High Street/Brownwood Drive, Potterspury, Northamptonshire*

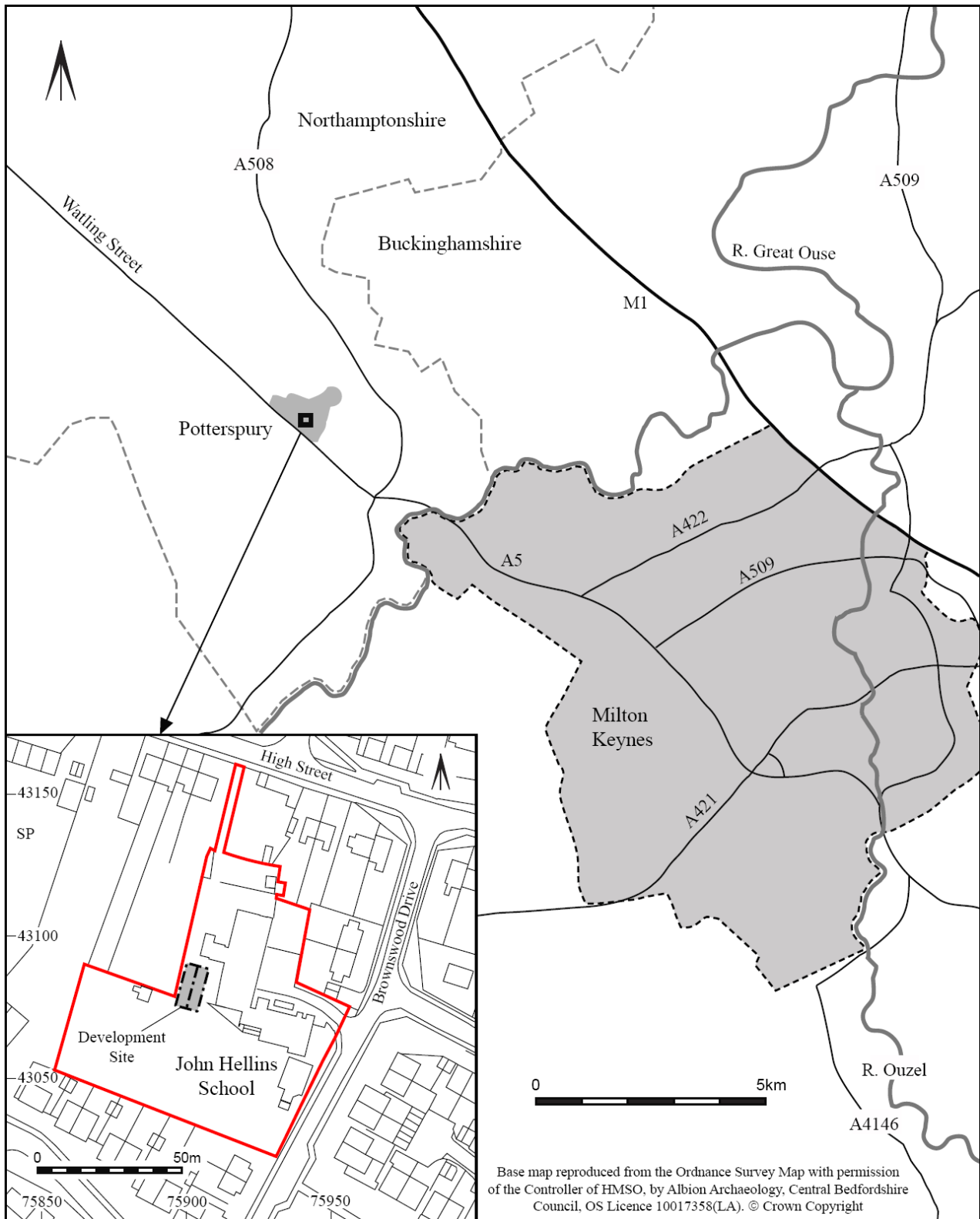


Figure 1: Site location plan



Photograph 1: removal of the concrete slab



Photograph 2: excavation of the foundation trenches

Figure 2: Selected photographs