

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON LAND AT WISBECH GRAMMAR SCHOOL, NORTH BRINK, WISBECH CAMBRIDGESHIRE

WIGS13

Work Undertaken For Carter Design

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Report Compiled by Liz Murray BA (Hons)

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# Quality Control Wisbech Grammar School, North Brink, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire (WIGS13)

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# **Table of Contents**

1.	SUMMARY	.1
2.	INTRODUCTION	.1
2. 2. 2. 2.	2 PLANNING BACKGROUND 3 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY	.1 .1
3.	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	
4.	METHODS	.2
5.	RESULTS	.3
6.	DISCUSSION	.4
7.	CONCLUSION	.4
8.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	.4
9.	PERSONNEL	.4
10.	BIBLIOGRAPHY	.4
11.	ABBREVIATIONS	.5

# Appendices

- 1 2 3 4
- Specification Contexts The Finds *by Alex Beeby* Glossary The Archive
- 5

# List of Figures

Figure 1	General location map
Figure 2	Site location map
Figure 3	Site plan showing trench layout
Figure 4	Extract from 1889 OS map 1:2,500
Figure 5	Trench plans
Figure 6	Sections

# List of Plates

Plate 1	Trench 1 – general shot
Plate 2	Trench 1 – Representative section
Plate 3	Trench 2 – general shot
Plate 4	Trench 2 – Section 1
Plate 5	Trench 3 – general shot
Plate 6	Trench 3 – Representative section
Plate 7	Trench 4 – general shot
Plate 8	Trench 4 – Representative section

# 1. SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological trial trenching was undertaken in advance of development of land at Wisbech Grammar School, North Brink, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire.

Repeated flooding episodes have lead to the creation of multiple settlement horizons in the area and previous investigations have confirmed the depth and richness of archaeological remains in the town. Cartographic evidence shows that the site was located in the once extensive grounds of Harecroft House built in 1844.

A single archaeological feature which may represent processes associated with a former garden or parkland was identified during the evaluation.

The deposits on the site appear to be mainly alluvial silts, with the upper layers likely to be medieval in date. Datable material finds in a subsoil layer suggest that there was a period of activity in the mid 16th to early 17th century which may have comprised landscaping or levelling of the site.

# 2. INTRODUCTION

# 2.1 Definition of an Evaluation

An archaeological evaluation is defined as '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 If area or site. such archaeological remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent, quality and preservation, and it enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate' (IfA 2008).

### 2.2 Planning Background

The Historic Environment team at Cambridgeshire County Council has advised that an archaeological evaluation is required in advance of development at Wisbech Grammar School.

The archaeological evaluation comprised a programme of trial trenching to date and characterise any archaeological remains which survive at the site.

The trial trenching was carried between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013, in accordance with the specification designed by Archaeological Project Services and approved by Cambridgeshire County Council.

# 2.3 Topography and Geology

Wisbech is located 20km from the coast of the Wash and 28km northeast of Peterborough in the Fenland Administrative District of Cambridgeshire (Fig 1).

The development area lies in the southwest outskirts of the town to the north of North Brink and the River Nene at TF 4554 0958 (Fig 2). The site is currently a landscaped area at the edge of maintained playing fields. Mature trees are present on the site boundary, a small copse of trees and maintenance buildings lie immediately to the south of the site.

The site lies between 2m and 4m OD on tidal flat deposits. The site surface is underlain by sand, silt and clay layers which comprise the post-glacial Terrington beds which in turn overlay Ampthill clays (Seale et al 1976).

## 2.4 Archaeological and Historical Background

Investigations in the area have confirmed the depth and richness of archaeological remains in the core of the town with flooding episodes leading to the creation of multiple settlement horizons.

The settlement of Wisbech was well established by the time of Domesday and a late Saxon Manor is thought to have been located in the area. Saxon and Roman material has also been recovered in and around the town and two bronze Early Saxon brooches were discovered at Wisbech in 1858 (Phillips 1939).

The development lies to the north of the Old Market, which is potentially of pre-Norman origin (Pugh 2002). The new market was established on the east bank in 1221. A late Saxon manor was thought to exist in the area but remains have yet to be found, although there has been very little investigation in the area.

Cartographic evidence (Fig 3) shows that the site appears to be located in the once extensive grounds of Harecroft House. Built in 1844 by Algernon Peckover, the building was vacant by 1903 and in 1905 was set up as Wisbech High School for Girls. The building still stands and is part of the current school. There was a large formal garden to the rear of the building and landscaped gardens and parkland including a sizable sheepfold.

# 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the work was to gather sufficient information for the archaeological curator to be able to formulate a policy for the management of any archaeological resources present on the site.

The specific objectives of the work were to:

- Establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation that may be present within the development site.
- Determine the state of preservation of the archaeological features present on the site.

- Establish the way in which the archaeological features identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.
- Recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region
- Recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

# 4. METHODS

Four thirty metre long and 1.6 metre wide trial trenches were used to determine the location, nature and density of archaeological features present on the site.

The trenches were stripped of overburden under archaeological supervision by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. The exposed surfaces of the trench were cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains.

At the end of each trench, in an area free from archaeology, a deeper section was machined in order to observe the sequence of any alluvial deposits.

deposit exposed during Each the investigation was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled using colour digital and black and white print formats. Measured plans and sections were drawn. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 1.

The locations of the trial trenches were surveyed using a Sokkia GRX1 GPS system. Raw satellite data is calibrated via the OS NET service resulting in extremely accurate readings. The calibrated data is logged in the field to a mobile device running Fast Survey and subsequently processed in the office by  $n^4$ ce data processing software which is used to produce customised CAD files.

# 5. **RESULTS**

# Trench 1

Trench 1 was located to the southwest of the site on a northwest-southeast alignment within the footprint of a proposed building. Due to the presence of a possible service and an adjacent cable only the last 19 metres at the northern end of the trench were excavated.

The earliest deposit within the trench was a compact, mottled mid greyish-brown and orangey-brown silt (103). This was laminated and appears to be alluvial in nature. Overlying this was a friable, mid greyish brown silt (102) up to 0.2m thick. The layer was generally clean and homogenous apart from occasional pieces of pottery, including a piece of  $12^{\text{th}} - 13^{\text{th}}$  century Stamford ware.

Following this in the sequence was a plastic mid greyish brown silty clay (101) which was overlain by a friable dark greyish brown humic silt topsoil (100) which extended across the trench. This contained several fragments of pottery dating from the mid-16<sup>th</sup> to the early 17<sup>th</sup> century.

# Trench 2

Trench 2 was located to the northwest of the development site on a northeastsouthwest alignment.

The earliest deposit observed in the trench was a laminated but firm, mottled orangey grey brown alluvial silt (204). Overlying this was a friable but sticky mid greyish brown clayey silt (203).

Cutting these layers was a possible 1m wide x 0.6m deep ditch, [200], on a northwest-southeast alignment. This had

steep but irregular sides with a gradual break of slope to an undulating base.

A plastic, dark greyish brown clayey silt with rare charcoal flecks (201), formed the only fill of the feature. No finds were retrieved from this deposit. The irregularity of the feature may suggest that it was the line of a former hedgerow.

Extending across the trench was topsoil layer (202), a friable mid to dark greyish brown clayey silt up to 0.1m thick.

No finds were recovered from Trench 2.

# Trench 3 & 4

Trenches 3 and 4 were arranged in a Tshape and therefore share the same deposits. However these have been numbered uniquely for clarity.

A borehole and a modern ceramic field drain were both noted at the northeast end of Trench 3.

The earliest deposit observed in both trenches was the same laminated alluvial silt observed elsewhere on site (303)/ (403).

Overlying this was what initially appeared to be a mixed deposit of friable mid greyish brown silt and a compact and dry mid yellowish-brown silt (302)/ (402). In both trenches this layer contained pottery and other finds. The pottery retrieved from this layer was both medieval and Postmedieval in date with two apparent phases of 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century and 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century dates.

In places this was overlain by a thin mid greyish brown silty clay subsoil layer (301)/(401) that often contained a mix of small fragments of pottery, ceramic building material and shell. Again the finds within these layers were dateable to the  $12^{\text{th}}$  to  $13^{\text{th}}$  century and the  $16^{\text{th}}$  to  $17^{\text{th}}$  century.

Extant across both trenches was a friable

mid to dark greyish brown clayey silt (300)/(400) up to 0.1m thick.

# 6. **DISCUSSION**

The earliest deposit encountered in all the trenches was a compact but laminated alluvial silt. Overlying this was a much less compact and unlaminated layer of silt. This contained both material from the  $12^{th}$  to  $13^{th}$  century as well as later pottery from the  $16^{th}$  to  $17^{th}$  century.

In Trenches 2 - 4 this layer did appear to contain features whilst they were being machined in dry conditions. The 'fill' of the features was a slightly darker stickier silt than the dry and compact lighter surrounding silt. However, once the deposits were re-wetted the deposit became homogenous, having the same colour and consistency throughout, and the once present 'features' became indistinguishable.

It is possible that this effect is due to processes associated with the former gardens and parkland of Harecroft House. This stood to the south of the site, on North Brink, with the formal garden and parkland to the rear of the property. The mature trees that still around the site are the likely remnants of this and therefore the features are more likely to be the remains of both formal and informal planting across the site.

The same silt layer in Trench 1 showed no signs of being affected by the same processes and only contained 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century pottery.

The subsoil layer, present above the silt, contains material of 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century date. It is likely that this deposit was created at that time perhaps during a programme of landscaping. The silt layer might therefore be a medieval alluvial layer that due to later 19<sup>th</sup> century processes, associated with the former gardens, has had material introduced from the later 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century activity.

# 7. CONCLUSION

Trial trenching was undertaken in advance of development of land at Wisbech Grammar School, North Brink, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire.

The site lies in an archaeologically sensitive area to the southwest of the historic core of Wisbech on the north bank of the River Nene.

Apart from modern features, a single possible linear was identified during the investigation. Other potential features were interpreted as the effect of mature planting and previous landscaping of the site as the gardens of Harecroft House.

# 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Carter Design who commissioned this investigation. The work was co-ordinated by Dale Trimble who edited this report along with Tom Lane.

# 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Dale Trimble Supervisor: Liz Murray Site staff: Alex Beeby Finds Processing: Denise Buckley Photographic reproduction: Liz Murray CAD Illustration: Liz Murray Post-excavation analysis: Liz Murray

# 10. **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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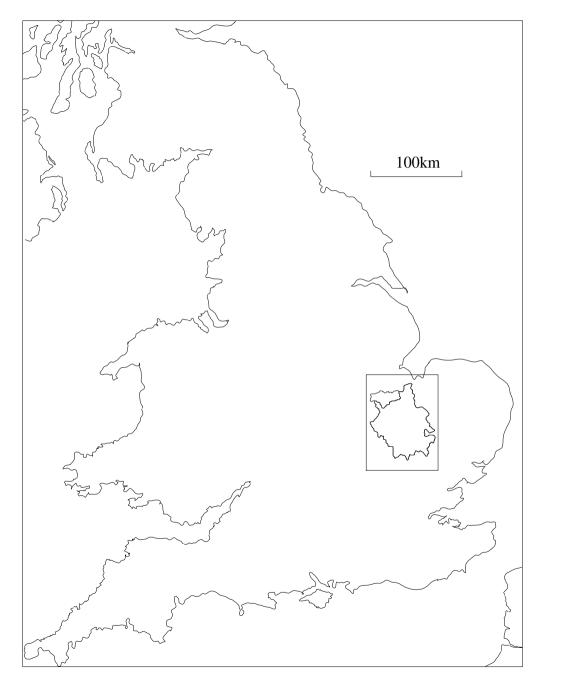
County of Cambridge and the Isle of Ely: Volume 4: City of Ely; Ely, N. and S. Witchford and Wisbech Hundreds

Seale, RS and Hodge, CAH, 1976 Soils of the Cambridge and Ely District, Soil Survey Special Survey No. 10

www.old-maps.co.uk

### **11. ABBREVIATIONS**

- APS Archaeological Project Services
- If A Institute for Archaeologists (formerly Institute of Field Archaeologists)
- OD Ordnance Datum (height above sea level)



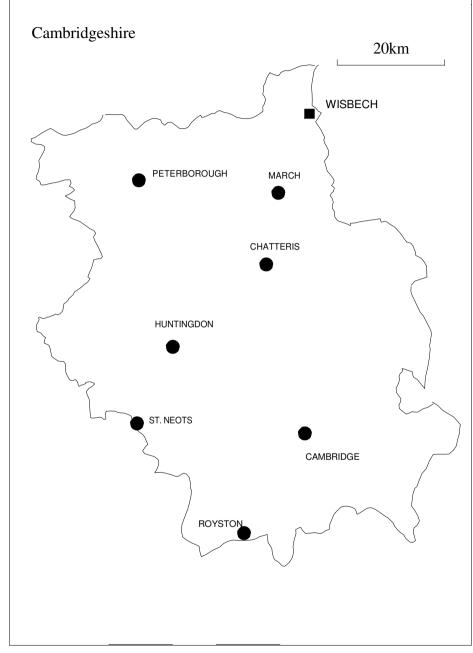


Figure 1 General Location Plan

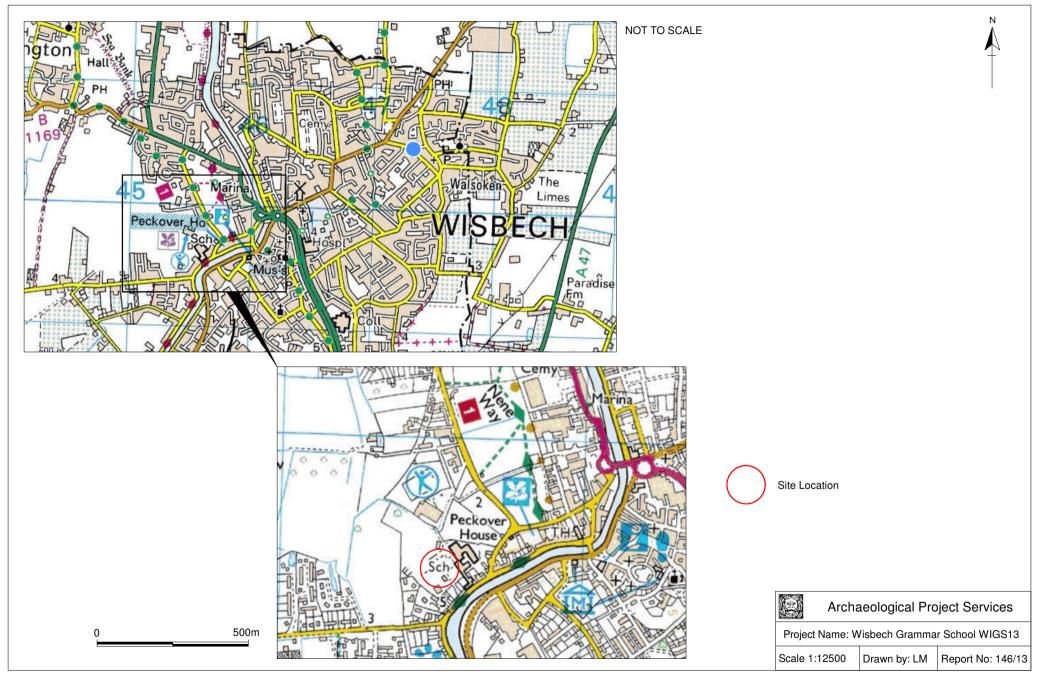


Figure 2: Site Location

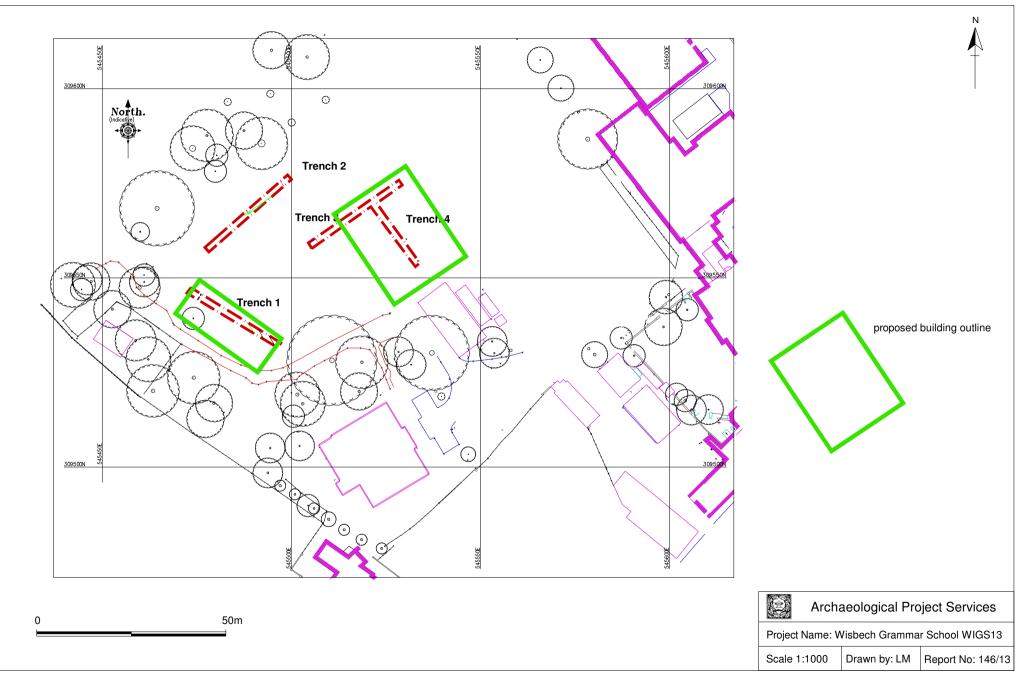


Figure 3: Site layout with trench location

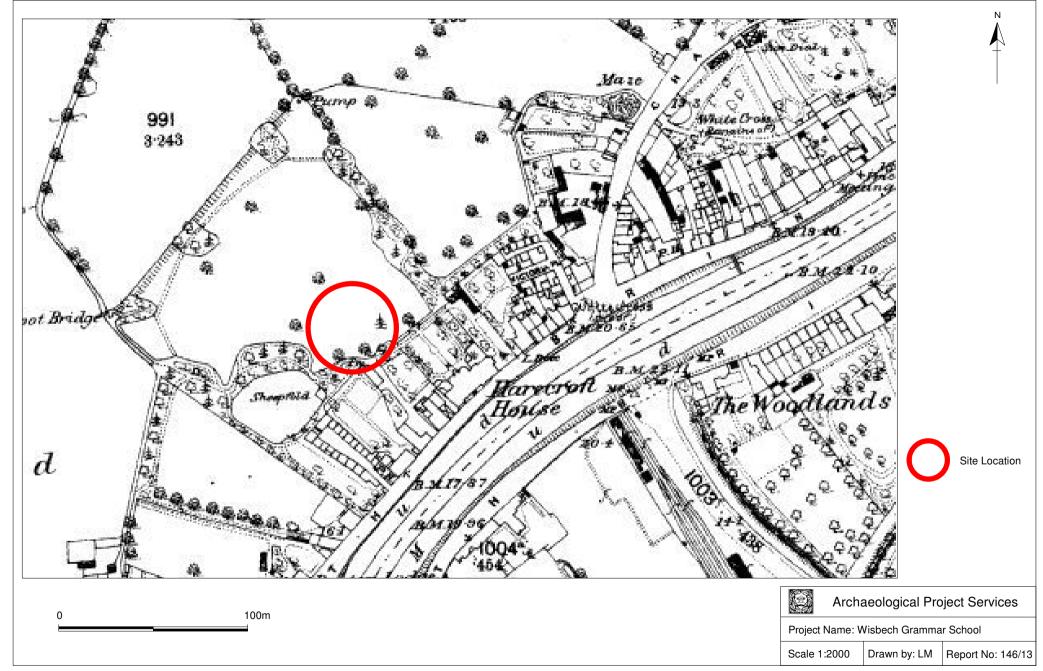
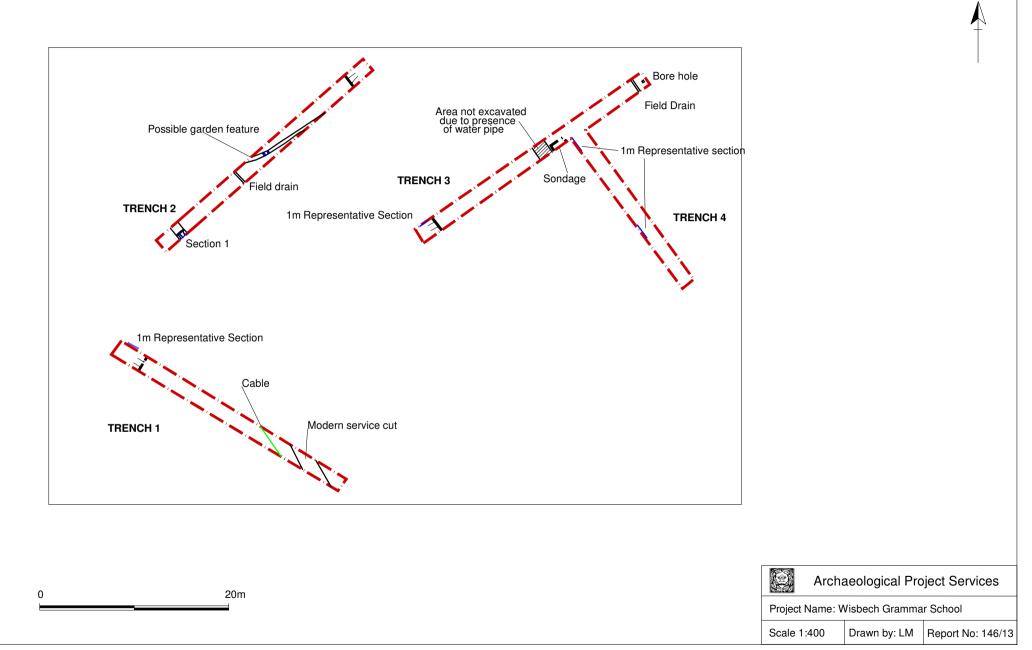


Figure 4: Extract from 1889 OS map 1:2500



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Figure 5: Trench plans

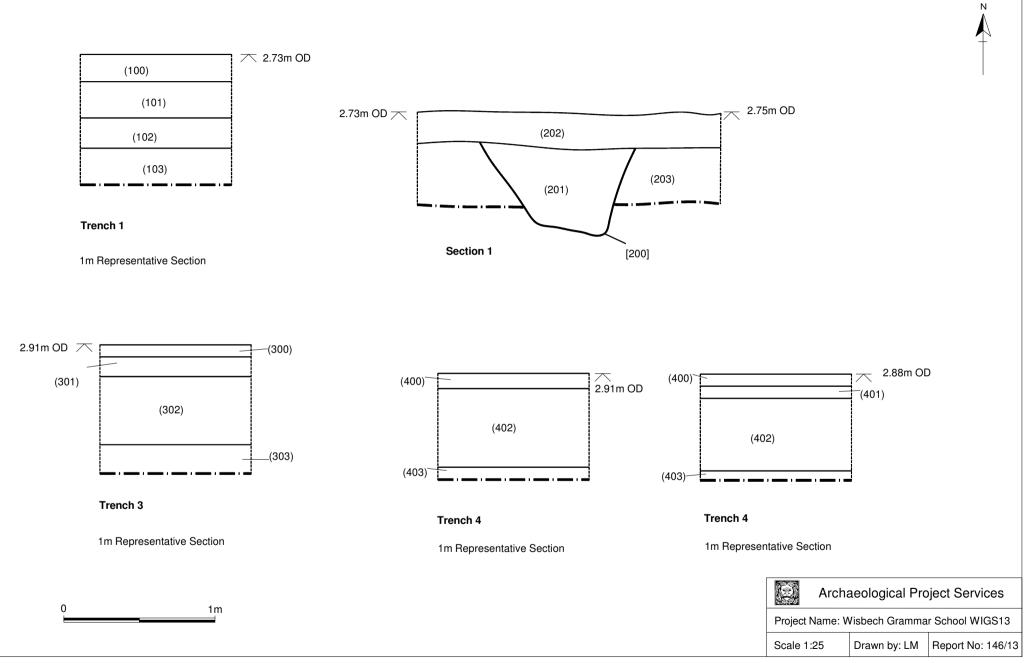


Figure 6: Sections

Plates



Plate 1: Trench 1 – general shot



Plate 2: Trench 1 – Representative section



Plate 3: Trench 2 – general shot



Plate 4: Trench 2 – Section 1



Plate 5: Trench 3 - general shot



Plate 6: Trench 3 – Representative section



Plate 7: Trench 4 – general shot



Plate 8: Trench 4 – Representative section

Appendix 1

# LAND AT WISBECH GRAMMAR SCHOOL CAMBRIDGESHIRE

# WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION PREPARED FOR CARTER DESIGN OCTOBER 2013

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	SUMMARY	2
2	INTRODUCTION	2
3	SITE LOCATION	2
4	PLANNING BACKGROUND	2
6	ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW	3
7	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	3
9	POST-EXCAVATION	6
10	REPORT DEPOSITION	7
11	ARCHIVE	7
12	PUBLICATION	3
13	CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY	3
14	VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES	3
15	PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS	3
16	SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT	3
17	INSURANCES	9
18	COPYRIGHT	9
Locatio	n map and development plan at back of document	

### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 An archaeological investigation comprising an archaeological evaluation is required on land at Wisbech Grammar School, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire.
- 1.2 The site lies in an archaeologically sensitive area, identified as of significant archaeological potential based upon an assessment of the records held in the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record.
- 1.3 The archaeological work will consist of a programme of archaeological trial trenching in order to characterise any archaeological remains which may be preserved on the site.
- 1.4 On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the scheme of works. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for an archaeological investigation comprising a programme of trial trenching on land at Wisbech Grammar School, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire at NGR TL 4554 0958.
- 2.2 This document contains the following parts:
  - 2.2.1 Overview.
  - 2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.
  - 2.2.3 List of specialists.
  - 2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

## 3 SITE LOCATION

3.1 Wisbech is located 20km from the coast of the Wash, and 28km northeast of Peterborough, in the Fenland district of Cambridgeshire (Fig. 1). The historic core of the town is laid out around the Norman castle and market. The proposed area of development is located at Wisbech Grammar on the west side of the Nene River, on western periphery of the historic core of the town.

## 4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The planning archaeologist of the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment team has advised that an archaeological evaluation of the site is required in advance of the construction of new school buildings and ancillary works at Wisbech Grammar School
- 4.2 The aim of the evaluation is to characterise any archaeological deposits which survive on the site so that the curatorial archaeologists is able to make an informed judgement on any mitigation measures which may be required to

protect archaeological remains at the site.

### 5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 The site was at a height of between 2m and 4m O.D. The site surface is underlain by sand silt and clay layers which comprise the post-glacial Terrington beds which in turn overly the dark stiff clays of the Ampthill Series (Hodge et al 1984).

### 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 Investigations in the area have confirmed the depth and richness of archaeological remains in the core of the town with flooding episodes leading to the creation of multiple settlement horizons.
- 6.2 The settlement was well established by the time of Domesday and a late Saxon Manor is thought to have been located in the area. Saxon and Roman material has also been recovered in and around the town.
- 6.3 The development lies to the north of the Old Market, which is potentially of pre Norman origin. The new market was established on the east bank in 1221. A late Saxon Manor was thought to exist in the area but remains have yet to be found, although there has been very little investigation in the area is defined in the modern landscape by Workhouse Drove to the east.

## 7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aim of the work will be to gather sufficient information for the archaeological curator to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resources present on the site.
  - 7.2 The objectives of the scheme of works will be to:
    - 7.2.1 Establish the type of archaeological activity that may be present within the site.
    - 7.2.2 Determine the likely extent of archaeological activity present within the site.
    - 7.2.3 Determine the date and function of the archaeological features present on the site.
    - 7.2.4 Determine the state of preservation of the archaeological features present on the site.
    - 7.2.5 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features present within the site

- 7.2.6 Determine the extent to which the surrounding archaeological features extend into the application area.
- 7.2.7 Establish the way in which the archaeological features identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

### 8 TRIAL TRENCHING

- 8.1 Reasoning for this technique
  - 8.1.1 Trial trenching enables the in situ determination of the sequence, date, nature, depth, environmental potential and density of archaeological features present on the site
  - 8.1.2 It is proposed that 4 trenches each measuring 30m x 1.6m will be excavated laid out as shown on Fig 1.
- 8.2 General Considerations
  - 8.2.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the investigation
  - 8.2.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practice issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA). Archaeological Project Services is an IFA Registered Archaeological Organisation (No. 21).
  - 8.2.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office. Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
  - 8.2.4 Excavation of the archaeological features exposed will only be undertaken as far as is required to determine their date, sequence, density and nature. All archaeological features exposed will be excavated and recorded unless otherwise agreed with the Cambridgeshire Archaeology Office. The investigation will, as far as is reasonably practicable, determine the level of the natural deposits to ensure that the depth of the archaeological sequence present on the site is established
  - 8.2.5 Open trenches will be marked by hazard tape attached to road irons or similar poles. Subject to the consent of the archaeological curator, and following the appropriate recording, the trenches, particularly those of excessive depth, will be backfilled as soon as possible to minimise any health and safety risks.
- 8.3 Methodology

- 8.3.1 Removal of the topsoil and any other overburden will be undertaken by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. To ensure that the correct amount of material is removed and that no archaeological deposits are damaged, this work will be supervised by Archaeological Project Services. On completion of the removal of the overburden, the nature of the underlying deposits will be assessed by hand excavation before any further mechanical excavation that may be required. Thereafter, the trenches will be cleaned by hand to enable the identification and analysis of the archaeological features exposed.
- 8.3.2 Investigation of the features will be undertaken only as far as required to determine their date, form and function. The work will consist of half- or quarter-sectioning of features as required and, where appropriate, the removal of layers.
- 8.3.3 The archaeological features encountered will be recorded on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma context record sheets. The system used is the single context method by which individual archaeological units of stratigraphy are assigned a unique record number and are individually described and drawn.
- 8.3.4 Plans of features will be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10. Should individual features merit it, they will be drawn at a larger scale.
- 8.3.5 Throughout the duration of the trial trenching a photographic record consisting of black and white prints (reproduced as contact sheets) and colour slides will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
- the site before the commencement of field operations.
- the site during work to show specific stages of work, and the layout of the archaeology within individual trenches.
- individual features and, where appropriate, their sections.
- groups of features where their relationship is important.
- the site on completion of field work

# 9 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

9.1 During the investigation specialist advice will be obtained from an environmental archaeologist. If necessary the specialist will visit the site and will prepare a report detailing the nature of the environmental material present on the site and its potential for additional analysis should further stages of archaeological work be required

### 10 POST EXCAVATION

### 10.1 <u>Stage 1</u>

- 10.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the scheme of works will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- 10.1.2 All finds recovered during the field work will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

### 10.2 <u>Stage 2</u>

- 10.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- 10.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

### 10.3 <u>Stage 3</u>

- 10.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the scheme of works will be prepared.
- 10.3.2 This will consist of:
  - A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.

• A description of the archaeological setting of the scheme of works.

- Description of the topography of the site.
- Description of the methodologies used during the scheme of works.
- A text describing the findings of the scheme of works.
- A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the scheme of works findings.
- Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of

archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.

- Sections of the archaeological features.
- Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
- Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
- Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

# 11 **REPORT DEPOSITION**

11.1 An unbound draft copy of the report will be supplied initially to the County Archaeological Office for comment. Copies of the final report will be sent to: RG Carter the contractor for Wisbech Grammar School; the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Office (2 copies); and the Cambridgeshire County Historic Environment Record.

## 12 ARCHIVE

- 12.1 The documentation, finds, photographs and other records and materials generated during the evaluation will be sorted and ordered in accordance with the procedures in the Society of Museum Archaeologists' document Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Museums (1994), and any additional local requirements, for long-term storage and curation. This work will be undertaken by the Finds Supervisor, an Archaeological Assistant and the Conservator (if relevant). The archive will be deposited within an approved County store as soon as possible after completion of the post-excavation and analysis. Accession number ECB \*\*\*\* has been assigned to the archive.
- 12.2 If required, the archive will be microfilmed. The silver master will be transferred to the RCHME and a diazo copy will be deposited with the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Service Historic Environment Record.
- 12.3 Prior to the project commencing, the Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Office will be contacted to obtain their agreement to receipt of the project archive and to establish their requirements with regards to labelling, ordering, storage, conservation and organisation of the archive. An event number for this project will be obtained from Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record.
- 12.4 Upon completion and submission of the evaluation report, the landowner will be contacted to arrange legal transfer of title to the archaeological objects retained during the investigation from themselves to the receiving museum. The transfer of title will be effected by a standard letter supplied to the landowner for signature.

### 13 PUBLICATION

- 13.1 Details of the investigation will be input to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS).
- 13.2 If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: Britannia for discoveries of Roman date, and Medieval Archaeology for findings of medieval or later date.

## 14 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

14.1 Curatorial responsibility for the project lies with Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team. As much notice as possible will be given in writing to the curator prior to the commencement of the project to enable them to make appropriate monitoring arrangements.

### 15 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

- 15.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- 15.2 In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the archaeological curator.
- 15.3 Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation additional resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.
- 15.4 Any contingency requirement for additional fieldwork or post-excavation analysis outside the scope of the proposed scheme of works will only be activated following full consultation with the archaeological curator and the client.

## 16 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 16.1 It is expected that the fieldwork programme will last two to three days and utilise 4 person days of staff time.
- 16.2 An archaeological project office or supervisor with experience of such monitoring will undertake the work.
- 16.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists.

# 17 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

17.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principle and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect

of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

Task	Body to be undertaking the work	
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln	
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust	
	Roman – Alex Beeby, in house IFA bursary trainee mentored by Barbara Precious independent Roman pottery specialists.	
	Anglo-Saxon and Medieval – A Boyle APS	
	Post-medieval - G Taylor, APS	
Non-pottery Artefacts	G Taylor APS or J Cowgill, Independent Specialist	
Animal Bones	Matilda Holmes, independent faunal remains specialist	
Environmental Analysis	J Rackham or V Fryer, Independent Specialists	
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, Independent Specialist	

### 18 INSURANCES

18.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability Insurance of £10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

### 19 COPYRIGHT

- 19.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.
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### 20 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Specification: Version 1, November 04<sup>th</sup> 2013

# Appendix 2

# CONTEXTS

Trench Context Description Interpretation	_				
		Trench	Context	Description	Interpretation

1	100	Friable, dark grey brown, humic silt, rare	Topsoil
		flint gravel	
1	101	Plastic, mid dark grey brown, silty clay with	Subsoil
		rare charcoal flecks	
1	102	Friable, mid grey brown silt, generally clean	Silt layer
		and homogenous	
1	103	Friable, mottled mid grey brown and	Alluvial silt
		orangey brown silt	

2	200	Linear cut, 0.6m deep x 1m wide, steep sides with a gradual break of slope to an undulating base. NW-SE aligned	Irregular linear cut that appears to cut through the subsoil – possible garden feature
2	201	Plastic, dark greyish brown, clayey silt with rare charcoal flecks,	Fill of [200]
2	202	Friable, mid to dark greyish brown, clayey silt, 0.1m thick	Topsoil
2	203	Friable but sticky, mid greyish brown clayey silt. Occasional small fragments of charcoal, pottery and ceramic building material (CBM)	Silt layer
2	204	Very cohesive and firm, mottled orangey grey brown laminated silt	Alluvial silt

3	300	Friable, mid dark greyish brown, clayey silt	Topsoil
3	301	Mid greyish brown silty clay with frequent	Subsoil
		pottery, CBM and shell fragments	
3	302	Mixed deposit of mottled friable mid	Silt layer
		greyish brown silt and compact mid-	
		yellowish brown silt	
3	303	Firm/cohesive, mid to light mottled orangey	Alluvial silts
		grey silts with frequent small stone	
		fragments	

4 400 Friable, mid to dark greyish brown clayey	Topsoil
---	---------

		silt	
4	401	Soft, dark greyish-brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles, 0.13m thick	Subsoil – not extant across trench
4	402	Mixed deposit of mottled friable mid greyish brown silt and compact mid- yellowish brown silt	Silt layer, part of garden landscaping?
4	403	Compact, mid orangey brown and brownish grey laminated silt	Alluvial silt

### Appendix 3

### THE FINDS

#### POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Alex Beeby

#### Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001). The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* (2005), which can also be used to record material from surrounding counties. A total of 20 sherds from 19 vessels, weighing 338 grams was recovered from the site.

#### Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Archive Catalogue 1, with a summary of fabric types shown in Table 1 below. The pottery ranges in date from the Medieval to the Post Medieval period.

#### Condition

The pottery is fragmentary, although not overly abraded. None of the pottery shows obvious signs of use over a hearth or fire, with no soot deposits recorded.

#### Results

Period	Cname	Full name	Earliest date	Latest date	NoS	NoV	W(g)
Medieval	EMHM	Early Medieval Handmade Ware	1100	1250	1	1	2
Medieval	BOUA	Bourne-type Fabrics A, B, C, E, F and G	1150	1400	2	1	68
Medieval	DST	Developed Stamford Ware	1150	1230	1	1	7
Medieval	ELY	Ely Type Ware	1175	1350	2	2	40
Late Medieval to Post Medieval	BOU	Bourne D Ware	1350	1637	4	4	44
Late Medieval to Post Medieval	GRIL	Late Grimston Ware	1350	1550	2	2	48
Post Medieval	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware	1500	1650	2	2	20
Post Medieval	BERTH	Brown Glazed Earthenware	1550	1700	5	5	91
Post Medieval	BL	Black Glazed Earthenware	1550	1700	1	1	18
				Total	20	19	338

Table 1, Summary of the Post Roman Pottery

### Provenance

Pottery was recovered from layers (101) and (102) in Trench 1, (301) and (302) in Trench 3 and (401) and (402) in Trench 4.

#### Range

There is a mix of Medieval and Post Medieval ceramics, with a good range of types from both periods.

#### Trench 1

Subsoil layer (101) – This Context produced sherds from seven vessels. This group consists entirely of Late Medieval or post Medieval types, with pieces of Black and Brown Glazed Earthenwares (BL, BERTH), Late Grimston Ware (GRIL), Bourne 'D' Ware (BOU), and Glazed Red Earthenware (GRE) recovered. Although some pieces may be residual, these

are broadly contemporary and common domestic types. A date of mid 16<sup>th</sup> to Early 17<sup>th</sup> century is suggested for this group, with a mid to late 16<sup>th</sup> century date perhaps most likely.

Layer (102) - A single sherd from a jug or pitcher in developed Stamford ware (DST) was recovered from this deposit. This was manufactured between the mid  $12^{th}$  and early  $13^{th}$  century.

#### Trench 3

Subsoil layer (301) and layer (302) yielded a range of Medieval and Post Medieval types with both deposits producing pieces of both eras. The Medieval pottery, including pieces of Ely Ware (ELY), Early Medieval Handmade Ware (EMHM) and Bourne Medieval Ware (BOUA) are of Late 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century date. The Post Medieval types here include Brown Glazed Earthenware (BERTH), Glazed Red Earthenware (GRE) and Bourne 'D' ware (BOU)

#### Trench 4

Subsoil layer (401) and layer (402) produced three sherds of M16th to early 17<sup>th</sup> century date, with Bourne 'D' ware (BOU) and Brown Earthenware (BERTH) retrieved from here.

There are clearly two phases of material here, with individual groups of domestic pottery of mid 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century and mid 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century recovered. It is possible that the upper 'subsoil' layers (101), (301) and (401/402) represent a distinct phase of activity, perhaps landscaping, whilst the earlier material derives from an Early Medieval flood deposit or buried topsoil, perhaps represented in Trench 1 by (102). The curious mix of earlier and later material from layers in Trench 3 may be caused by bioturbation or other intrusive activities.

### Potential

The pottery should be retained as part of the site archive and should pose no problems for long term storage. The material indicates that domestic waste disposal was taking place on or near the site in the Early Medieval and Post Medieval periods. Further work on the site is likely to lead to the recovery of more pottery, and may help to throw light on the nature of the earlier and later phases of activity on the site.

#### Summary

A moderately sized group of pottery of Early Medieval and Post Medieval date was recovered from six silt layers on the site, although pottery of both periods was mixed within two of these layers (301 and 302). The material indicates at least two phases of deposition here.

### **CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL**

By Alex Beeby

#### Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (2002). A total of five fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 45 grams was recovered from the site.

### Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments were counted and weighed within each context. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Table 2 below.

#### Results

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Fabric	Comment	Date	NoF	W(g)
3	301	RTMISC	Miscellaneous Tile	Oxidised; medium- coarse sandy	Single curved surface	Roman or Post Roman	1	10
3	301	RTMISC	Miscellaneous Tile	Gault	Single rough flat surface - struck?; abraded	Post Roman	1	12

Table 2, Ceramic Building Material Archive

3	302	CBM	Ceramic Building Material	Oxidised; calcareous	Abraded; surfaceless; possibly fragments of 'Fenland' type brick	Roman or Post Roman	2	19
3	302	CBM	Ceramic Building Material	Oxidised; fine	Single curved surface; sanded	Roman or Post Roman	1	4
						Total	5	45

### Provenance

All of the ceramic building material was recovered from Trench 3, with layers (301) and (302) producing fragments.

#### Range

A single piece from (301), probably from a tile, is Post Roman in date. The remainder are largely undiagnostic.

#### Potential

There is limited potential for further work. The material should be retained as part of the site archive and should pose no problems for long term storage.

#### Summary

Five pieces of ceramic building material were recovered during the evaluation, all from layers in Trench 3. Most of the pieces are undiagnostic.

### FAUNAL REMAINS

By Paul Cope-Faulkner

#### Introduction

A total of 3 (15g) fragments of faunal remains were recovered from stratified contexts.

#### Methodology

The faunal remains were laid out in context order and reference made to published catalogues (e.g. Schmid 1972; Hillson 2003). All the animal remains were counted and weighed, and where possible identified to species, element and side. Also fusion data, butchery marks, gnawing, burning and pathological changes were noted when present. Ribs and vertebrae were only recorded to species when they were substantially complete and could accurately be identified. Undiagnostic bones were recorded as micro (mouse size), small (rabbit size), medium (sheep size) or large (cattle size).

The condition of the bone was graded using the criteria stipulated by Lyman (1996). Grade 0 being the best preserved bone and grade 5 indicating that the bone had suffered such structural and attritional damage as to make it unrecognisable.

#### Provenance

The faunal remains were recovered from a silt layer (302), dating to the  $16^{th} - 17^{th}$  century.

#### Condition

The overall condition of the remains was good to moderate, averaging at grades 2-3 on the Lyman Criteria (1996).

#### Results

Table 3, Fragments Identified to Taxe	Table 3,	3, Fragment	s Identified to	Taxa
---------------------------------------	----------	-------------	-----------------	------

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	W (g)	Comments
	large mammal	skull	L	1	12	
302	sheep/goat	incisor	-	1	2	slightly eroded
	oyster	shell	-	1	1	

#### Summary

As a small assemblage of three items, it has little potential. All items are likely to represent food waste. It should be retained as part of the site archive for which it is stable.

### CLAY PIPE

By Gary Taylor

### Introduction

Analysis of the clay pipes followed the guidance published by Davey (1981) and the material is detailed in the accompanying table.

### Condition

The clay pipes are in good condition, though slightly-moderately worn.

### Results

Table 4, Clay Pipes

Context	Bore	ore diameter /64" N		meter /64"		NoF	W(g)	Comments	Date
no.	8	7	6	5	4				
101		2	1			3	11	stems only, slightly abraded	17 <sup>th</sup>
									century
401	1	1				2	7	stems only	17 <sup>th</sup>
									century
Totals	1	3	1			5	18		

### Provenance

The clay pipes were recovered from subsoils (101, 401). They are probably local Wisbech products.

### Range

Only stems were recovered and they are probably all of 17<sup>th</sup> century date, with no later pieces retrieved.

#### Potential

Other than providing dating evidence the clay pipes are of limited potential.

### **OTHER FINDS**

By Gary Taylor

### Introduction

A single other find weighing 5g was recovered.

### Condition

The other find is in moderate condition.

### Results

Table 5,	Other Materials	
----------	-----------------	--

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
302	Mortar?	beige mortar (?), grog-tempered, sandy	1	5	

### Provenance

The other find was recovered from a silt layer.

### Range

A single piece of probable sandy mortar was retrieved.

#### Potential

The other find is of limited potential.

#### SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 6 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 6, Spot dates	Table	6.	Spot	dates
---------------------	-------	----	------	-------

Context	Date	Comment
		Good but fragmentary group; Probably mid to late 16th;
101	M16th-E17th	clay pipe suggests 17th century
102	M12th-E13th	Based on a single sherd
301	M16th-17th	
302	16th-E17th	
401	17 <sup>th</sup> century	based on clay pipe
402	M16th-E17th	

### **ABBREVIATIONS**

ACBMG	Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group
BS	Body sherd
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
LHJ	Lower Handle Join
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
TR	Trench
UHJ	Upper Handle Join
W (g)	Weight (grams)

#### REFERENCES

~ 2002, *Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material*, version 3.2 [internet]. Available at <a href="http://www.tegula.freeserve.co.uk/acbmg/CBMGDE3.htm">http://www.tegula.freeserve.co.uk/acbmg/CBMGDE3.htm</a> >

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#### **ARCHIVE CATALOGUES**

Cxt	Cname	Sub Fabric	Form	NoS	NoV	W(g)	Dec	Part	Comment	Date
101	BERTH		Drinking Vessel	1	1	11		BS	Slightly mottled dark/mid brown glaze	M16th-17th
101	GRIL		Jug	1	1	22		BS		M14th-M16th
101	GRIL		Jug	1	1	26		BS	Oxidised over break	M14th-M16th
101	BOU		Jar or Bowl	1	1	17		Rim	Thick everted rim with groove along top	15th-E17th
101	GRE	Bright orange	?	1	1	16		BS		16th-M17th
101	BL	GRE type	Jug	1	1	18		BS		M16th-E17th
101	BERTH		Bowl	1	1	21		BS	Amber glaze	M16th-17th

Cxt	Cname	Sub Fabric	Form	NoS	NoV	W(g)	Dec	Part	Comment	Date
102	DST	B/C	Jug or Pitcher	1	1	7		BS	Cu glaze	M12th-E13th
301	BERTH		Drinking Vessel	1	1	10		BS	Amber glaze	M16th-17th
301	ELY		Jug	1	1	12		BS	Very abraded	L12th-M14th
302	BOUA	B/C	Jug	2	1	68		Bases	Joining sherds; abraded	M12th-14th
302	BOU	Smooth	?	1	1	14		BS		15th-E17th
302	GRE	Bright orange	Jug	1	1	4		BS		16th-M17th
302	ELY		Jar	1	1	28	Combed lines	BS		L12th-M14th
302	EMHM		Jar	1	1	2		BS	Abraded; ?ID	12th-M13th
302	BOU		Jug	1	1	3	Applied Fe strip	BS	?ID	15th-E17th
401	BERTH		Bowl	1	1	38		Rim	Everted rim; M16th- 17th; amber glaze	M16th-17th
402	BERTH		Drinking Vessel	1	1	11		BS	Abraded; amber glaze	M16th-17th
402	BOU	Slightly Bumpy	Jug	1	1	10		BS	Thick white slip	15th-E17th

#### **Appendix 4**

#### GLOSSARY

- Alluvium Deposits laid down by water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea, and fresh water alluvium is laid down by rivers and in lakes.
- **Context** An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, *e.g.* [004].
- **Cut** A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, *etc.* Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
- **Domesday Survey** A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
- **Fill** Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
- **Intrusive** Artefacts of later date found in deposits that must pre-date them are said to be intrusive. Such intrusive artefacts will usually be small and have worked down in the soil through cracks, or by root, worm or rodent action. Intrusive artefacts will generally be isolated and be distinctively later than a larger assemblage of earlier artefacts, for example, a single 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery fragment found in a large collection of medieval ceramics in a refuse pit.
- Layer A layer is an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut
- **Medieval** The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
- Natural Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
- **Post-medieval** The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
- **Prehistoric** The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
- **Romano-British** Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
- SaxonPertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled<br/>by tribes from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas.
- *Sondage* Small investigative excavation, from French meaning 'sounding'.

### Appendix 5

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 2 Context records
- 4 Trench record sheet
- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 1 Section record sheet
- 1 Plan record sheet
- 3 Daily record sheet
- 2 Sheets of scale drawings

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services The Old School Cameron Street Heckington Sleaford Lincolnshire NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Cambridgeshire Archaeology Cambridgeshire County Council Environment Management and Climate Change CC1008 Shire Hall Cambridgeshire CB3 0AP

Accession Number	ECB 4071
Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	WIGS13
OASIS ID:	archaeol1-165889

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### **Printable version**

# OASIS ID: archaeol1-165889

### **Project details**

Project name	Wisbech Grammar School - Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	A trial trench evaluation on playing fields to the rear of Wisbech Grammar School. An archaeological evaluation was necessary due to the depth and richness of archaeological remains in the core of the town. Material finds suggest that a silt layer observed was 12th to 13th century in date and the presence of 16th to 17th century pottery in the subsoil may imply that there was a period of activity at this point, probably levelling or landscaping.
Project dates	Start: 11-11-2013 End: 13-11-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	WIGS13 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	3455 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Large/ medium scale extensions to existing structures (e.g. church, school, hospitals, law courts, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

### **Project location**

### 19/2/2014

### OASIS FORM - Print view

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE FENLAND WISBECH Wisbech Grammar School
Postcode	PE13 1LA
Study area	1000.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 4554 0958 52 0 52 39 50 N 000 09 08 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 2.00m Max: 4.00m

# **Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Project Services
Project brief originator	Cambridge Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice
Project design originator	Dale Trimble
Project director/manager	Dale Trimble
Project supervisor	LIZ MURRAY
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner

# **Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Store
Physical Archive ID	ECB4071
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Archaeological Project Services
Digital Archive ID	WIGS13
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Store
Paper Archive ID	ECB4071
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation on land at Wisbech Grammar School

Author(s)/Editor(s)	Murray, L.
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	Archaeological Project Services
Place of issue or publication	Heckington
Entered by	Liz Murray (info@apsarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	2 December 2013



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