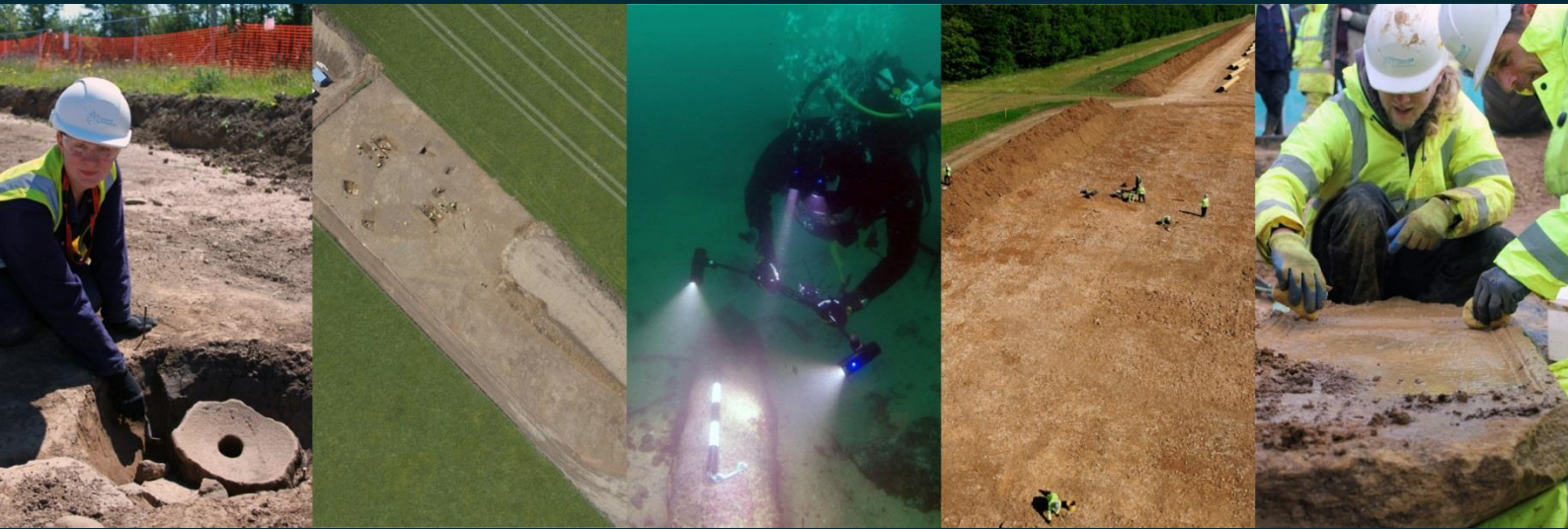


**Cranford House School,
Moulsford
Oxfordshire**
Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Cranford House School Trust, Ltd.

CA Project: 770663
CA Report: 18105

February 2018



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Moulsford
Oxfordshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Cranford House School
Location:	Moulsoford, Oxfordshire
NGR:	458851 184126
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	12-16 February 2018
Planning Reference:	P16/S4099/FUL
Location of Archive:	Oxfordshire Museum Service
Site Code:	CHSM18

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2018 during groundworks associated with extensions and alterations to school buildings to include extensions to the Junior School and STEM centre at Cranford House School, Moulsoford, Oxfordshire.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundwork, and no artefacts pre-dating the modern period were recovered. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that activity associated with the prior evaluation (TVAS 2012) either diminishes further away from the main road, was not exposed by the development, or may have been removed during previous development.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2018 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Cranford House School Trust, Ltd at Cranford House School, Moulsoford, Oxfordshire (centred at NGR 458851 184126; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent granted by South Oxfordshire District Council for extensions and alterations to school buildings to include extensions to the Junior School and STEM centre. New 6th Form college to replace previously approved performance centre and alterations to car park layout (P16/S4099/FUL), conditional on a programme of archaeological work.
- 1.3 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a brief (OCC 2017) prepared by Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), archaeological advisor to South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC), and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2017b) and approved by the SODC acting on the advice of Richard Oram. The fieldwork also followed Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief (ClfA 2014), and the Management of Archaeological Projects 2 (English Heritage 1991), the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide (EH 2006).

The site

- 1.4 The proposed development area is approximately 1.8ha in extent. The eastern edge of the site is bounded by the A329, the northern extent by Willow Court Lane, the school buildings stand to the west, and housing to the south.
- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation with no superficial deposits recorded. The site lies at approximately 55m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) sloping down towards the river to 50m aOD in the east.



2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The archaeological background below is a succinct summary of archaeological provided within a previous evaluation of the site (TVAS 2012), a brief by Richard Oram (Oram 2017), and the results of a watching brief by Cotswold Archaeology (2017b).

2.2 The site lies in an area of archaeological potential (Oram 2017). To the west, cropmarks visible from the air indicate the presence of a trackway and field system, perhaps of Iron Age or Roman date. A Roman cemetery was also located in the same area and partially explored following a chance discovery of a Bronze Age gold torc during ploughing in the 1960s (Oram 2017). Elsewhere, Roman coins have been recovered 150m to the west of the site and within the grounds of the Old Vicarage, while Roman pottery was recovered from the playing fields immediately to the south. Two Neolithic axes have also been recovered to the south-west (Oram 2017). Fieldwork in advance of a pipeline located an Iron Age and Roman settlement on Halfpenny Lane to the west with another Late Iron Age settlement to the south (Ford 1990). Finally, the projected course of the Roman road from Dorchester to Silchester lies somewhere in the vicinity of the site and may follow the main road forming the eastern boundary of the school (Margary 1955, 151).

2.2 An archaeological evaluation by TVAS (2012) carried out on the proposed site of the pitch and water treatment area to the east of the proposed development recorded a number of archaeological features including a ditch, a gully and a grave. Although these are undated it is likely that they are related to the archaeological features identified in the wider area and are therefore probably Roman or Iron Age in date.

Recent works

2.3 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology (2017a) during groundwork associated with the construction of a single storey extension to an existing art block within Cranford House School. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundwork, and no artefacts pre-dating the modern period were recovered.



3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2017b). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising all intrusive groundworks, including the excavation of foundations and service trenches (Figure 2).

4.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

4.3 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Andover. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the archive will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Service. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGURES 2-3)

5.1 The natural geology was confirmed to be a weathered chalk with clay at a depth of between 1.5m to the east and 0.9m to the west of **Trench 4** below current ground level. The natural was overlaid by light brown grey silt/clay subsoil (**405**) at a depth of between 0.85m and 0.6m, covered by a buried topsoil of mid-grey brown silt/clay

(403), between 0.45 and 0.6m deep. To the east of **Trench 4** dark grey/brown silty/clay (408) was located at 1.3m below current ground levels, overlaid by subsoil 405, and is presumed to be a darker deposit of natural clay.

5.2 The current ground level varies between pavement slabs to the east (409), concrete to the west (411), and tarmac (400) all measuring on average a depth of 0.1m, which covered a levelling deposit of modern aggregates (401) up to a depth of 0.2m. A buried modern topsoil of dark grey/brown silt/clay (407), with abundant charcoal flecks, was located in the southern half of **Trench 4**, between 0.18 and 0.45m covered by modern aggregate 401. Made ground 402, light brown/grey silt/clay, was covered by the modern topsoil and was located, on average to a depth of 0.7m.

5.3 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that activity associated with the prior evaluation (TVAS 2012) either diminishes further away from the main road (A329 – supposed course of Roman road) and was not exposed by the current development, or may have been removed during previous development.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Bush. The report was written by Steve Bush and Ray Kennedy. The illustrations were prepared by Charlie Patman. The archive has been compiled by Zoe Emery, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ray Kennedy.



8. REFERENCES

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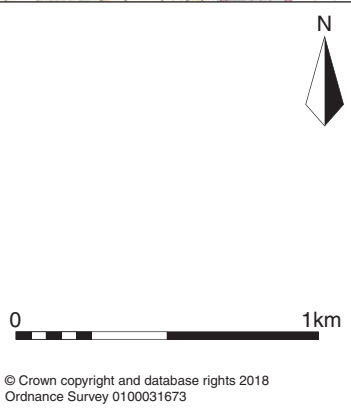
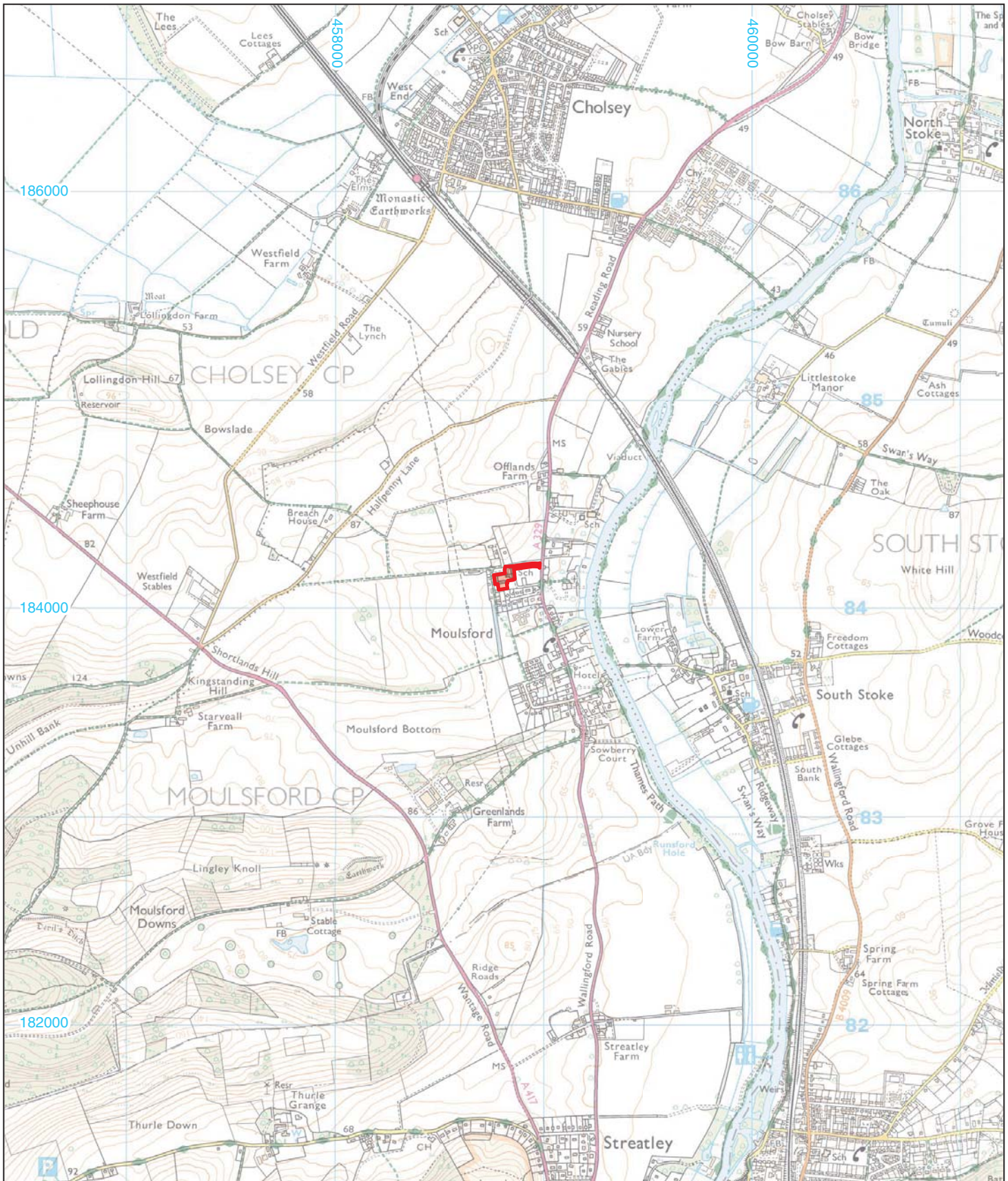


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No	Context	Type	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
4	400	Layer		Tarmac	Dark grey black tarmac.			0-0.05 (0.05)
4	401	Layer		Modern Aggregates	Mid red grey clayey sand, 95% inclusion of sub angular aggregates.			0.05-0.15 (0.1)
4	402	Layer		Made ground	Light brown grey silty clay, common angular CBM inclusions.			0.15-0.65 (0.45)
4	403	Layer		Buried topsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay, common sub-angular flint and rounded pebbles inclusions same as or less than 70x50mm.			0.6-0.85 (0.25)
4	404	Layer		Made ground	Dark grey brown crushed tarmac and aggregates.			0.15-0.45 (0.3)
4	405	Layer		Subsoil	Light brown grey silty clay with flecks of chalk and flint.			0.85-1.3 (0.45)
4	406	Layer		Natural	Mid red brown silty clay with weathered chalk, common flint inclusions.			>1.5
4	407	Layer		Buried topsoil-modern	Dark grey brown silty clay with abundant charcoal inclusions.			0.15-0.3 (0.15)
4	408	Layer		Natural	Dark grey brown silty clay.			1.3-1.5 (0.2)
4	409	Layer		Pavement slabs	Concrete pavement slabs			0-0.05 (0.05)
4	410	Layer		Made ground	Dark brown grey sandy clay, 80-90% inclusion of angular CBM inclusions.			0.1-0.3 (0.2)
4	411	Layer		Concrete surface	Modern concrete.			0-0.1 (0.1)
4	412	Cut		Modern drain	Linear drain running on a east-west alignment.			0.1 -1.5 (1.4)
4	413	Fill	412	Backfill of drain	Mixed deposit of subsoil, topsoil and aggregates.			0.1-1.5 (1.4)

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Cranford House School, Moulsoford, Oxfordshire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2018 during groundworks associated with extensions and alterations to school buildings to include extensions to the Junior School and STEM centre at Cranford House School, Moulsoford, Oxfordshire.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundwork, and no artefacts pre-dating the modern period were recovered. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that activity associated with the prior evaluation (TVAS 2012) either diminishes further away from the main road, was not exposed by the development, or may have been removed during previous development.</p>	
Project dates	12-16 th February	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Field evaluation (CA 2017)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Cranford House School, Moulsoford, Oxfordshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	1.8ha	
Site co-ordinates	458851 184126	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Oxford County Council Archaeology Advisors	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ray Kennedy	
Project Supervisor	Steve Bush	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.) Oxfordshire Museums Service	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper		Context sheets, matrices
Digital		Database, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology), 2018, Cranford House School, Moulsoford, Oxfordshire: Archaeological Watching Brief, CA typescript report 18105</p>		




Cotswold Archaeology
 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Cransford House School, Moulsoford, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY CP PROJECT NO. 770663 FIGURE NO.
 CHECKED BY DJB DATE 07/03/2018 1
 APPROVED BY RK SCALE@A4 1:25,000

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- site boundary
- Area of observed works
- modern



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Cotswold Archaeology

Andover	01264 347630
Cirencester	01285 771022
Exeter	01392 826185
Milton Keynes	01908 564660
w	www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e	enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
Cranford House School, Moulsoford, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan

DRAWN BY CP	PROJECT NO 770663	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY DJB	DATE 07/03/2018	2
APPROVED BY RK	SCALE@A3 1:750	



Oblique angle photograph of modern wall foundations, looking north-west (scale 1m)



North facing representative section in trench 4 (scale 1m)



Working photograph of trench 4, looking west



Working photograph of foul sewer

Andover Office

Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover
Hampshire
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

Cirencester Office

Building 11
Kemble Enterprise Park
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

Exeter Office

Unit 53
Basepoint Business Centre
Yeoford Way
Marsh Barton Trading Estate
Exeter
EX2 8LB

t: 01392 826185

Milton Keynes Office

Unit 8 - The IO Centre
Fingle Drive
Stonebridge
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK13 0AT

t: 01908 564660

e: enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

