

Bourton-on-the-Water Primary Academy and Preschool Bourton-on-the-Water Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Allard Construction

CA Project: CR0047
CA Report: CR0047_1

May 2019



Bourton-on-the-Water Primary Academy and Preschool Bourton-on-the-Water Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Bourton-on-the-Water Primary Academy and Preschool
Location: Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire
NGR: 416677 220987
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 25 February, 8-12 April 2019
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Corinium Museum
Site Code: BOTP 19

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during February and April 2019 on groundworks associated with improvements to fencing and playground facilities at Bourton-on-the-Water Primary Academy and Preschool, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire.

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



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between February to April of 2019 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Allard Construction at Bourton-on-the-Water Primary Academy and Preschool, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire (centred at NGR: 416677 220987; Fig. 1). The watching brief was maintained during improvement to the existing fencing and playground facilities at the site.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out as part of a programme of archaeological works recommended by Charles Parry, Archaeologist, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), the archaeological advisor to Cotswold District Council (CDC), and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)* produced by CA (2019) and approved by Charles Parry. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014).

The site

- 1.3 The development area is approximately 0.75ha in extent and comprises the buildings and grounds of Bourton-on-the-Water Primary Academy and Preschool. The site is bounded to the south by School Hill, to the west by residential properties, to the north by the playing fields of the Cotswold School and to the east by a footpath and sports' fields. The site lay at approximately 135m AOD and was broadly level.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Charmouth Mudstone, formed during the Jurassic Period, overlain by superficial deposits of Sherborne Member gravels, formed in the Quaternary Period (BGS 2019). The natural substrate was observed in Trenches 5 and 7 and consisted of limestone gravel.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological background to the immediate area is contained within an article published by Cotswold Archaeology (Lang 2008), which summarises the extensive archaeological work carried out at the primary school and the adjacent Cotswold School site. These investigations were largely undertaken by CA and Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service (GCCAS) between 1995 and 2011.



- 2.2 In summary, previous work in and around Bourton-on-the-Water has revealed strong evidence of settlement or occupation from the Neolithic onwards. The school sites lie between two principal areas of past investigations in the village. Approximately 400m to the east lies Salmonsbury Camp, where excavation in the 1930s and modern surveys have revealed evidence for multiple periods of activity. In addition to the substantial Late Iron Age earthwork enclosure, evidence has been recorded for a possible Neolithic enclosure, Iron Age settlement, Roman occupation and Saxon burials. Some 600m to the west is Bourton Bridge, where the Roman Fosse Way crosses the River Windrush. This was the site of a possible Roman *mutatio* or *mansio* (posting house) excavated by Helen O'Neil which appears to have been part of a Roman roadside settlement that developed from the 1st century AD onwards. More recent archaeological investigations have shown that settlement extended eastwards into the Lansdown area of Bourton, with particularly high levels of activity dating from the 4th century AD. There is also evidence of Saxon activity around Bourton, with a number of burials and a sunken-featured building having previously been excavated adjacent to the Fosse Way at Slaughter Bridge (Timby 1998).
- 2.3 In the school sites, Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age pits were identified within the Cotswold School CA 1998 site (Lang 2008). Although no structural remains were identified, the assemblage of pottery and flints recovered might be indicative of settlement of this date, possibly linked to the causewayed enclosure at Salmonsbury Camp. Furthermore, a large number of postholes, pits and ditches were identified during an excavation and watching brief at the Cotswold School in 2011, with Pottery broadly dating from the Late Bronze Age to later Iron Age periods being recovered (CA 2011).
- 2.4 More extensive evidence has been recorded for Early to Middle Iron Age occupation. At the Primary School site Iron Age postholes and structural remains were identified (GCCAS 2003; 2004; Lang 2008). Of the hundreds of postholes identified within the GCCAS sites, many dated to the Early Iron Age. A Middle Iron Age crouched burial of a young female was also identified within the Primary School site (GCCAS 2001). Excavations prior to the construction of the sports hall recorded one small pit/posthole containing a single sherd of pottery dating to the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age (8th to 3rd centuries BC). Four postholes produced pottery more closely dated to the Middle Iron Age, while a number of other pits and postholes and two ditches were given a broader Iron Age date (CA 2009).

- 2.5 Further Iron Age features, including structural remains, were identified within the Cotswold School site (Lang 2008). Further to the north, a smaller number of Iron Age features were also recorded (ibid).
- 2.6 Roman boundary ditches were identified within the Primary School site containing 4th-century pottery and coins.
- 2.7 Recent excavations undertaken prior to construction of the Sports Hall at Cotswold School revealed further evidence of Roman occupation, including part of a large sub-rectangular enclosure, which may have been an enclosed farmstead, and had previously been partially recorded during a geophysical survey undertaken to the east (CA 2009).
- 2.8 Excavations at the New Maths Block identified 240 pits and postholes, ditches and 21 human burials. The burials and the majority of the other features dated to the Roman period although Iron Age activity was also represented (CA 2013).
- 2.9 A small quantity of Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered from the upper fill of one of the Roman boundary ditches at the Primary School site (Lang 2008; CA 1998). A pit containing medieval pottery was identified within the Cotswold School (ibid).
- 2.10 No other recorded heritage assets lie within the site, although investigations to the east at the Cotswold School and Bourton-on-the-Water Primary School have uncovered evidence of activity dating from the Neolithic to the Roman periods. The density of the remains appears to be greater on the eastern side of the schools' grounds, but there remains potential for evidence of prehistoric and Roman activity to be present within the current site.

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 2019). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks, comprising hand excavation of post pits for the improvement to the fencing and playground facilities (see Fig. 2 for locations and extent).
- 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 will be deposited with Corinium Museum. 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 (FIG 2)

- 5.1 An area of topsoil clearance to a depth of 0.05m below present ground level (Trench 2) and the excavation of a total of 48 separate post pits were observed during the course of the watching brief, typically measuring 0.25m in diameter and 0.7m in depth (see Fig. 2 for locations). The following is a summary of the results of the watching brief; detailed context descriptions can be found in Appendix A, with each group of post pits described as Trenches 1-7.
- 5.2 The stratigraphy observed throughout the course of the watching brief was broadly uniform. The natural geological substrate was revealed in Trenches 5 and 7, at an average depth of 0.7m below present ground level. This was overlain by subsoil or made-ground, which was also present within Trenches 1-3 and 5-7, averaging 0.45m in thickness. This was in turn sealed by modern levelling material and surfacing, averaging 0.25m in total thickness. Trench 4 consisted of made-ground to a depth of 0.7m below present ground level.

5.3 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the 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 remains associated with features identified during previous archaeological investigations (see Archaeological Background above) either do not extend as far as, or most probably given the limitations of the current work were not exposed by the development.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Luke Brannlund and Liam Wilson. The report was written by Luke Brannlund. The illustrations were prepared by Aleks Osinska. The archive has been compiled by and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Alex Thomson.

8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2016 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 16 April 2019

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 *New Sports Hall, Cotswold School, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Excavation*, CA Report No. **09113**

CA 2011 *New Classroom Block Cotswold School Bourton-on-the- Water Gloucestershire: Archaeological Excavation*, CA Typescript Report **11045**

CA 2013 *New Maths Block, The Cotswold School, Bourton-on-the- Water, Gloucestershire: Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design*, CA Report No. **12150**

GeoQuest Associates 2001 *Geophysical Survey on the site of a proposed artificial pitch at The Cotswold School, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire*

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Lang, A. 2008 'Excavations at Bourton Primary School and The Cotswold School, Bourton-on-the-Water', *Glevensis*. **41**, 5-11

Timby, J. R. 1998 *Excavations at Kingscote and Wycomb, Gloucestershire. A Roman Estate Centre and Small Town in the Cotswolds with Notes on Related Settlements. Cirencester*, Cotswold Archaeological Trust Ltd

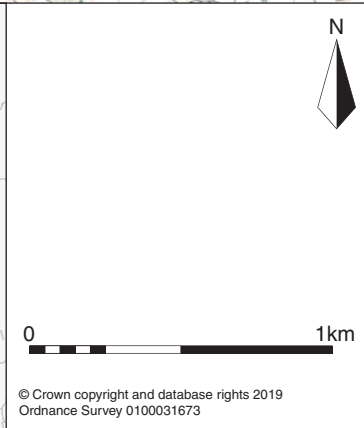
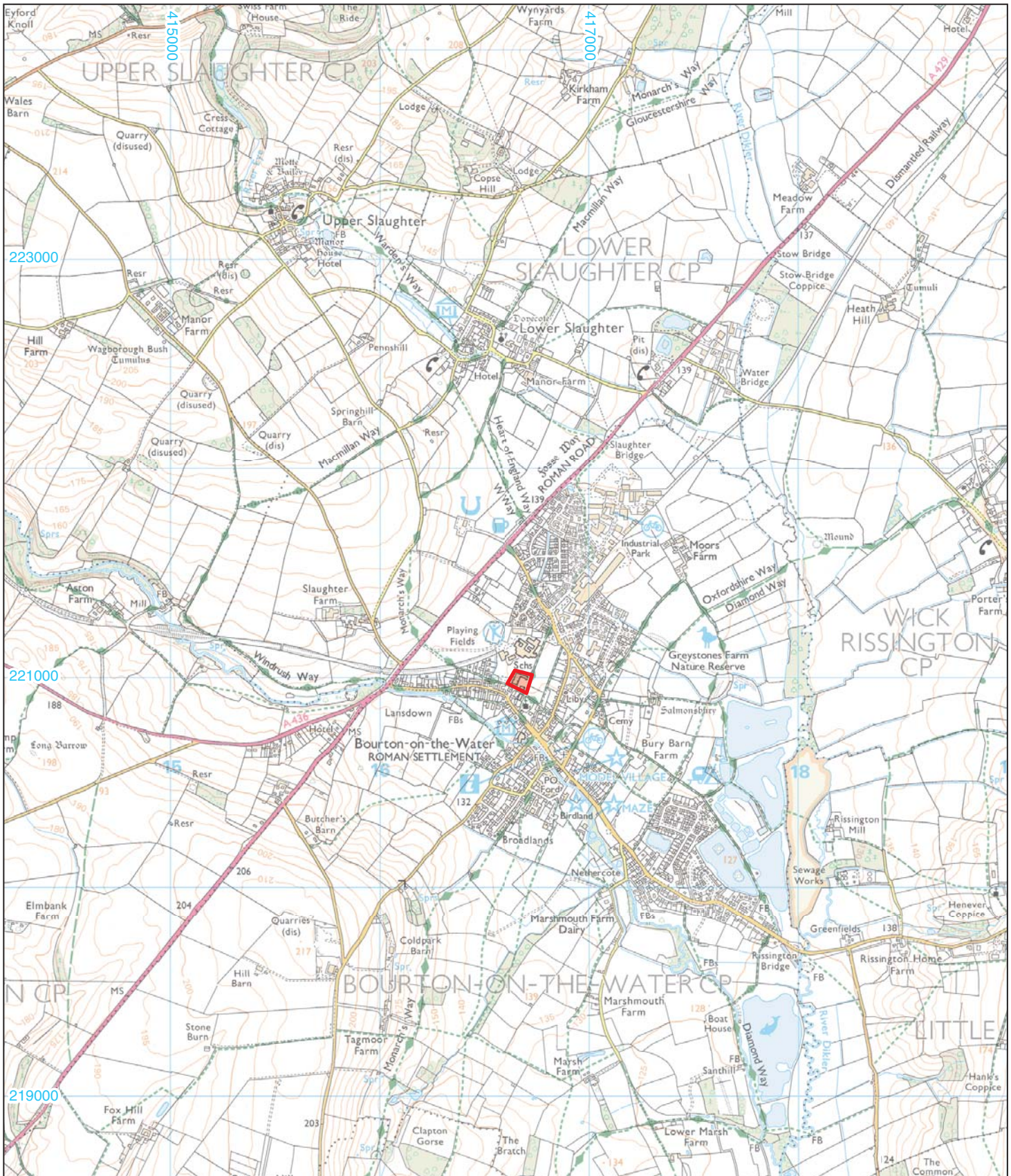


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)
1	1000	Layer	Surface	Tarmac			0.05
1	1001	Layer	Foundation	Hardcore			0.2
1	1002	Layer	Made ground	Mid brown silt-clay with limestone gravel			
1	1003	Layer	Leveling	Mid yellow-brown silty-clay			
2	2000	Layer	Topsoil	Mid brown clay-silt			0.05
3	3000	Layer	Surface	Tarmac			0.05
3	3001	Layer	Foundation	Hardcore			0.2
3	3002	Layer	Made ground	Mid brown silt-clay with limestone gravel			
3	3003	Layer	Leveling	Mid yellow-brown silty-clay			
4	4000	Layer	Made ground	Concrete and mid brown clay-silt			
5	5000	Layer	Surface	Tarmac/Concrete			0.15
5	5001	Layer	Made ground	Mid brown silt-clay with limestone gravel			
5	5002	Layer	Natural	Limestone gravel			n/a
6	6000	Layer	Surface	Tarmac/Concrete			0.2
6	6001	Layer	Made ground	Mid brown silt-clay with limestone gravel			
7	7000	Layer	Surface	Tarmac/Concrete			0.05
7	7001	Layer	Foundation	Hardcore			0.2
7	7002	Layer	Made ground	Mid brown silt-clay with limestone gravel			0.45m
7	7003	Layer	Natural	Limestone gravel			n/a

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Bourton-on-the-Water Primary Academy and Preschool, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during February and April 2019 on groundworks associated with improvements to fencing and playground facilities at Bourton-on-the-Water Primary Academy and Preschool, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	25 February, 8-12 April 2019	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 New Sports Hall, Cotswold School, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Excavation, CA Report No. 09113</p> <p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 New Classroom Block Cotswold School Bourton-on-the- Water Gloucestershire: Archaeological Excavation, CA Typescript Report 11045</p> <p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 New Maths Block, The Cotswold School, Bourton-on-the- Water, Gloucestershire; Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design, CA Report No. 12150</p> <p>GeoQuest Associates 2001 Geophysical Survey on the site of a proposed artificial pitch at The Cotswold School, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire</p> <p>GCCAS (Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service) 2001 An Archaeological Evaluation in the area of a proposed artificial sports pitch at The Cotswold School, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire</p> <p>GCCAS (Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service) 2003 An Archaeological Excavation at Bourton-On-The-Water Primary School Gloucestershire 2003 GCCAS typescript report</p> <p>GCCAS (Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service) 2004 Archaeological Excavations at the Cotswold School Station Road Bourton-On-The-Water Gloucestershire 2001 and 2002 GCCAS typescript report</p>	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Bourton-on-the-Water Primary Academy and Preschool, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.75ha	
Site co-ordinates	416677 220987	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Alex Thomson	
Project Supervisor	Liam Wilson and Luke Brannlund	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	n/a	n/a
Paper	Corinium Museum	Trench sheets, Registers
Digital	Corinium Museum	Photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019 <i>Bourton-on-the-Water Primary Academy and Preschool, Bourton-on-the-Water Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> , CA typescript report CR0047_1		



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PROJECT TITLE
 Bourton-on-the-Water Primary Academy and
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FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY EC	PROJECT NO. CR0047	FIGURE NO. 1
CHECKED BY AO	DATE 17/04/2019	
APPROVED BY LVB	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	



- Observed groundworks
- Previous archaeological works
- Previous archaeological works



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PROJECT TITLE
 Bourton-on-the-Water Primary Academy and
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FIGURE TITLE
 The site, showing location of
 groundworks

DRAWN BY EC	PROJECT NO. CR0047	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY AO	DATE 17/04/2019	2
APPROVED BY LVB	SCALE@A3 1:500	

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