

**LAND AT THE FORMER PEN PARK  
SCHOOL  
SOUTHMEAD**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

*For*

**TAYLOR WOODROW**

CA PROJECT: 2117  
CA REPORT: 07174

DECEMBER 2007


**COTSWOLD**  
ARCHAEOLOGY



LAND AT THE FORMER PEN PARK SCHOOL  
SOUTHMEAD  
BRISTOL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

CA PROJECT: 2117  
CA REPORT: 07174

prepared by	Katharine Aston (Supervisor)
date	18 December 2007
checked by	Simon Cox (Head of Fieldwork)
date	20 December 2007
approved by	Simon Cox (Head of Fieldwork)
signed	
date	21 December 2007
issue	01

*This report is confidential to the client. Cotswold Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.*

## CONTENTS

SUMMARY .....	2
1. INTRODUCTION .....	3
2. RESULTS .....	4
3. DISCUSSION.....	5
4. CA PROJECT TEAM .....	5
5. REFERENCES .....	6
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS .....	7
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM .....	8

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 The site, showing location of observed groundworks (1:2,000)

## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Land at the Former Pen Park School  
**Location:** Southmead, Bristol  
**NGR:** ST 58990 78850  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date:** 23 January – 14 December 2006  
**Planning Reference:** 02/02632/FB  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery  
**Accession Number:** BRSMG 2006/2  
**Site Code:** PPB 06

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the residential development on land at the former Pen Park School, Southmead, Bristol.

A plough furrow was the only feature observed during groundworks. No artefactual material was recovered with which to date this feature, and despite visual scanning of the spoil no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered during the course of groundworks associated with the new development.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Between January and December 2006 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Taylor Woodrow on land at the former Pen Park School, Southmead, Bristol (centred on NGR: ST 58990 78850; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for residential development (Planning ref: 02/02632/FB). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.

1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2006) and approved by the Bristol City Archaeologist Bob Jones. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001), and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

### ***The site***

1.3 The site encloses an area of approximately 10 hectares, and comprises playing fields and the site of the now-demolished buildings of Pen Park School. The school was built in the 1950s and demolished in 2001.

1.4 The site generally slopes from north to south, and the underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Lower Lias Clays with bands of limestone of the Jurassic era (BGS 1974). The natural observed during the groundworks was recorded as Lias Clays, with occasional limestone fragments.

### ***Archaeological background***

1.5 A site investigation report compiled by Jenkins and Potter Consulting Engineers suggested the school site was developed on farmland belonging to the former Pen Park Manor House (Jenkins and Potter 2001).

1.6 Prior to commencing the archaeological programme of works Cotswold Archaeology obtained a Sites and Monuments Record trawl of the site area from Bristol City Council to inform compilation of the WSI. A desk-based assessment of the site was undertaken in 2001, which reported evidence for prehistoric and Roman activity in

the vicinity, but none from the site itself (BSMR 20913). The site historically lay within Pen Park, a 13th-century deer park belonging to the Bishop of Worcester (BSMR 3336). The 1841 tithe survey of Westbury-on-Trym records the land use within the site area as agricultural, with one field dedicated to arable and the rest to pasture. One of the pasture fields bore the name 'Conygre' suggesting the presence of a rabbit warren. The SMR also reports that a geophysical survey of the school site was undertaken by Stratascan in 2002, although no summary is included on the results of the survey, which was presumably negative (BSMR 21209).

### **Methodology**

- 1.7 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2006). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising topsoil stripping, ground reduction and trenches for footings (Fig. 2).
- 1.8 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.9 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the archive will be deposited with Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery under accession number BRSMG 2006/2. 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.

## **2. RESULTS**

- 2.1 The natural geological substrate, 102, consisting of light greenish brown clay with limestone fragments, was revealed at an average depth of 1.0m below present ground level. This was overlain by mid reddish brown sandy silt subsoil, 101, averaging 0.5m in thickness, which was in turn sealed by mid greyish brown sandy clay topsoil, 100.
- 2.2 The only archaeological feature observed was a shallow linear feature c.1.70m wide on a northeast-southwest orientation across the area of the new road entrance and

was interpreted as a furrow, but no dating evidence was recovered from within the fill.

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

### **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the watching brief only identified a possible furrow within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of further archaeological deposits may indicate that structural remains associated with the prehistoric and Roman activity in the vicinity (BSMR 20913), and the 13th-century deer park (BSMR 3336), either do not extend as far as or were not exposed by the development, or that they may have been removed during the construction of the school in the 1950s, or its demolition in 2001.

### **4. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Steven Sheldon and Samantha Thorogood. The report was written by Katharine Aston. The illustrations were prepared by Peter Moore. The archive has been compiled by Katharine Aston, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Simon Cox.

## 5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1974 Sheet 264: Bristol

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2006 *Land at Pen Park School, Southmead, Bristol: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Jenkins and Potter Consulting Engineers 2001 *Report on Site Investigation for Pen Park School Site on behalf of Bristol City Council*



**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

## Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Depth (m)
100	Layer	Topsoil	0.15
101	Layer	Subsoil	0.50
102	Layer	Natural lias clay with limestone fragments	L.O.E.

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Land at the Former Pen Park School	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the residential development on land at the former Pen Park School, Southmead, Bristol.</p> <p>A plough furrow was the only feature of archaeological interest observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered with which to date this feature.</p>	
Project dates	23 January – 6 November 2006	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Archaeological watching brief	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	Site investigation report compiled by Jenkins and Potter Consulting Engineers (2001), desk-based assessment, geophysical survey undertaken by Stratascan (BSMR 21209) (2002).	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Land at the Former Pen Park, Southmead, Bristol	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	Approximately 10 hectares	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	ST 58990 78850	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	n/a	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Simon Cox	
Project Supervisor	Steven Sheldon and Samantha Thorogood	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	n/a	None
Paper	Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery	Trench sheet, plan
Digital	n/a	None
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2007 <i>Land at the Former Pen Park School, Southmead, Bristol: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> CA Report No. <b>07174</b>		





**COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE

**Pen Park School, Southmead,  
Bristol**

FIGURE TITLE

**Site location plan**

DRAWN BY

**PJM**

SCALE

**1:25,000@A4**

PROJECT NO.

**2117**

FIGURE NO.

**1**





- site
- observed groundworks



PROJECT TITLE  
Pen Park School, Southmead,  
Bristol

FIGURE TITLE  
**The site, showing location of  
observed groundworks**

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
PJM	1:2000@A3	2117	<b>2</b>