

Lea and Garsdon School Expansion
Project
Lea and Cleverton
Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



for:
Wiltshire Council

CA Project: CR0474
CA Report: CR0474_1

September 2021



Lea and Garsdon School Expansion Project Lea and Cleverton Wiltshire

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Fig. 2 Area location plan, showing field drains and geophysical survey results (1:750)

Fig. 3 Photographs

SUMMARY

Project name:	Lea and Garsdon School Expansion Project
Location:	Lea and Cleverton, Wiltshire
NGR:	396259 187015
Type:	Watching brief
Date:	06–27 April 2021
Planning reference:	18/08362/DP3
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Wiltshire Museum, Devizes and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
Site Code:	LEA 21

In April 2021, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the expansion of Lea and Garsdon School, Lea and Cleverton, Wiltshire.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed, and no artefactual material was recovered.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In April 2021, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Lea and Garsdon School, Lea and Cleverton, Wiltshire (centred at NGR: 396259 187015; Fig. 1). This watching brief was undertaken for Wiltshire Council Housing and Commercial Development (WCHCD).
- 1.2. Wiltshire Council (WC) has granted planning permission, subject to conditions, for the expansion of Lea and Garsdon CE Primary School, including the development of a new school playing field and temporary car park (planning ref: 18/08362/DP3). Condition 12 of the planning permission requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI).
- 1.3. The scope of this watching brief was defined by Mike Cepak, the former archaeological advisor to WC. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a WSI prepared by CA (2021).
- 1.4. The watching brief was also in line with *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015).

The site

- 1.5. The proposed development site is approximately 0.8ha in extent. It lies on the western side of The Street, Lea, immediately to the north of Lea and Garsdon Primary School. The site comprised a pasture field on the northern edge of the village, bounded by hedgerows to the south and east. The site lies at approximately 70m AOD, sloping gently away to the north and east.
- 1.6. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as Kellaways Clay Member - Mudstone, which formed in the Jurassic Period; no superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2021).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. Prehistoric activity in the local area is attested by the chance find of two flint blades and a core, dated to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic period, approximately 690m south-west of the site (HER: ST98NE050).
- 2.2. The site lies between a number of settlements with Anglo-Saxon or medieval origins. Garsdon is situated approximately 1000m to the north-east and was recorded as Gersdune in AD701 (HER: ST98NE400). Further nearby settlements with medieval origins include Tanner's Bridge (HER: ST98NE460), approximately 820m to the north-west, Lea (HER: ST98NE451) and Combe Green (HER: ST98NE463), approximately 880m and 1110m to the south-west respectively.
- 2.3. A 16th-century deer park belonging to the Abbot of Malmesbury is situated approximately 520m to the north-east of the site.
- 2.4. Evidence of late post-medieval agricultural activity in the local area includes the sites of a number of 19th-century farmsteads and outfarms between 120m and 250m to the south of the site (HER: MWI66421, MWI66422, MWI66423, MWI71357, MWI71358, MWI71359). Similar sites lie further to the south-west in the village of Lea as well as an isolated site near Little Winkworth, approximately 483m to the south-east of the present site (HER: MWI71364).
- 2.5. The original Victorian school building of Lea and Garsdon CE Primary School, immediately to the south of the present site is shown on the OS 1st Edition map but is not recorded on the 1840s tithe map.
- 2.6. The site itself includes part of a group of rectangular and linear cropmarks, continuing to the north and west (HER: ST98NE607). Two other possible sites have been identified through cropmarks in the local area: a possible deserted medieval village (HER: ST98NE610), approximately 750m to the south-east, and earthworks (HER: MWI45062), possibly a former pond, approximately 980m to the north.
- 2.7. A geophysical survey (AS 2020), conducted in 2020, identified a possible bank and ditch aligned south-west/north-east across the site, and correlating with a former boundary indicated with a dashed line on the 1840s tithe map. Further linear anomalies, and discrete responses were identified across the survey area. Some of

these may correspond to linear cropmarks (see HER: ST98NE607, discussed above).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1. The general objectives of the watching brief were:

- to monitor the development groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record any significant buried archaeological deposits/features thus revealed;
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated project archive and a report setting out the watching brief results and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. The watching brief comprised the observation by a competent archaeologist of intrusive groundworks associated with the proposed development (Fig. 2). These works comprised machine excavation associated with a temporary car park (Area 1) and a new games court (Area 2).

4.2. Records were maintained in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

4.3. Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*. No deposits were identified that required sampling.

4.4. CA will make arrangements with Wiltshire Museum, Devizes for the deposition of the project archive. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020).

4.5. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix B will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the watching brief results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A.
- 5.2. Natural geological substrate, comprising light orange-yellow sandy clay, was only identified within Area 2, at approximately 0.6m below present ground level (bpgl). It was overlain by sandy clay subsoil that measured approximately 0.3m in depth. Subsoil was also identified at the limit of excavation within Area 1. It was overlain by silty-clay or sandy-clay topsoil that measured between 0.09m and 0.32m in depth.
- 5.3. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed, and no artefactual material 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.
- 6.2. The absence of archaeological features within Area 2 suggests anomalies previously identified through cropmarks and the preceding geophysical survey (AS 2020) were not archaeological in nature. Within Area 1, natural substrate was not exposed and while archaeological features may have been present, the maximum depth of the works was above the archaeological horizon.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Christian Day. This report was written by Christian Day. The report illustrations were prepared by Aleks Osinska. The project archive has been compiled by Christian Day and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

8. REFERENCES

AS (Archaeological Surveys Ltd) 2020 *Land north of Lea and Garsdon CE Primary School, Lea, Wiltshire*: Magnetometer Survey Report, unpublished client report ref. **J813**

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2021 Geology of Britain Viewer

<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geology-of-britain-viewer/> Accessed 1 April 2021

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2021 *Lea and Garsdon School Expansion Project, Lea and Cleverton, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Area	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown-grey silty clay, loose	>19	>10	0.09-0.21	
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow-brown silty clay, friable	>19	>10	>0.18	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown-grey sandy clay, loose	>45	>24	0.32	
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow-brown sandy clay, friable	>45	>24	0.28	
2	202	Layer		Natural Substrate	Light orange-yellow sandy clay, compact	>45	>24	-	

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Lea and Garsdon School Expansion Project	
Short description	In April 2021, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the expansion of Lea and Garsdon School, Lea and Cleverton, Wiltshire. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed, and no artefactual material was recovered.	
Project dates	06–27 April 2021	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work	Geophysical survey (Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2020)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Lea and Garsdon School, Lea and Cleverton, Wiltshire	
Study area (m ² /ha)	0.8ha	
Site co-ordinates	396259 187015	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	N/A	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Christian Day	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Wiltshire Museum, Devizes	Trench recording forms, photographic register
Digital	Wiltshire Museum, Devizes	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2021 <i>Lea and Garsdon School Expansion Project, Lea and Cleverton, Wiltshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> CA Report No. CR0474_1		



 Site boundary



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Ordnance Survey 0100031673

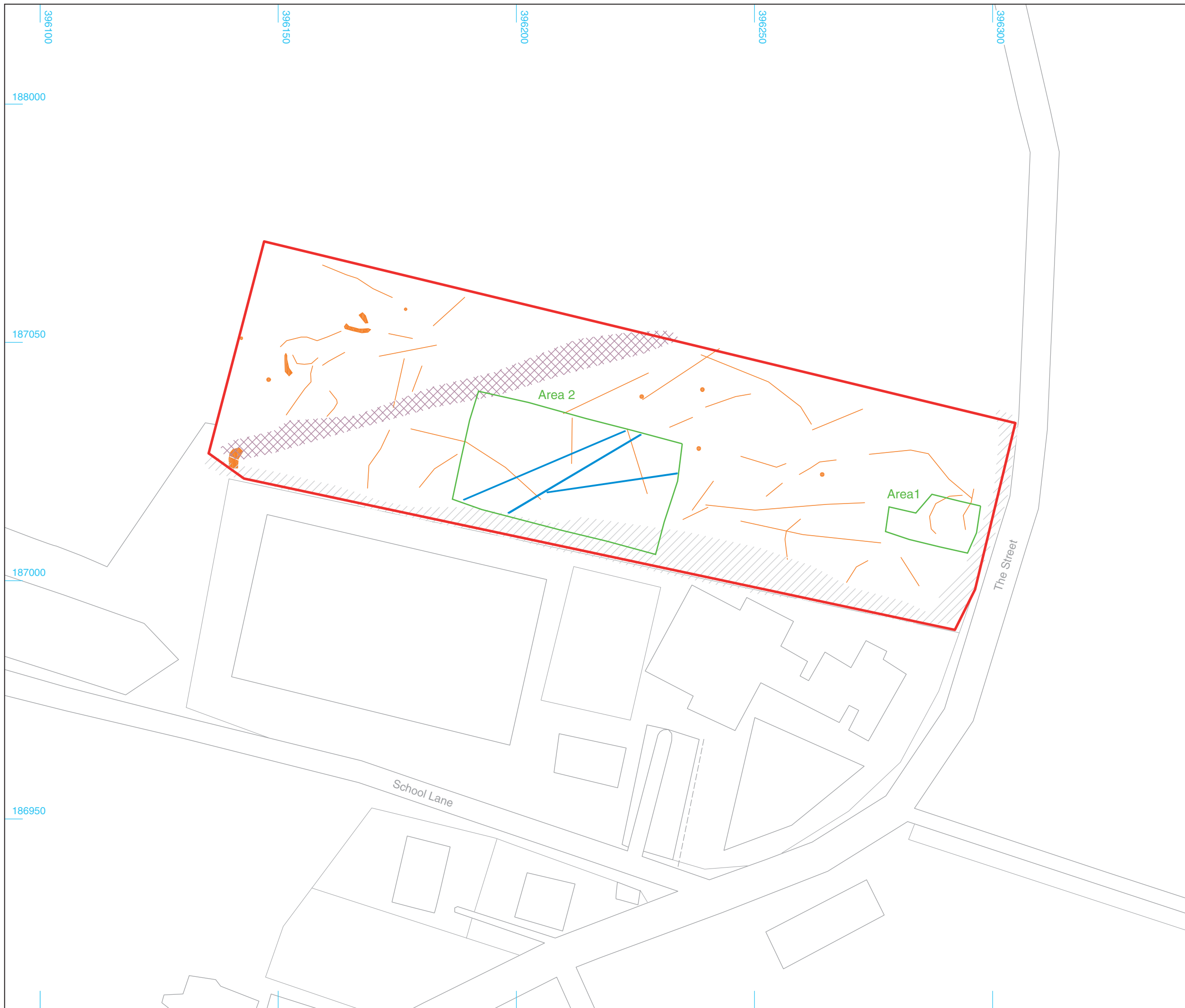


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PROJECT TITLE
Lea and Garsdon School Expansion
Project, Lea and Cleverton, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	AO	PROJECT NO.	CR0474	FIGURE NO.	1
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	07/05/2021		
APPROVED BY	REY	SCALE@A4	1:25,000		



- Site boundary
- Area of observed groundworks
- Field drain

- Geophysics Key**
(Archaeological Surveys 2020)
- Positive linear anomaly - of uncertain origin
 - Discrete positive response - of uncertain origin
 - Broad positive & negative anomaly - possible former field boundary
 - Magnetic disturbance from ferrous material
 - Strong dipolar anomaly - ferrous object



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PROJECT TITLE
Lea and Garsdon School Expansion Project, Lea and Cleverton, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Area location plan, showing field drains and geophysical survey results

DRAWN BY	AO	PROJECT NO.	CR0474	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	07/05/2021	2
APPROVED BY	REY	SCALE@A3	1:750	



Area 1 overview, looking north-west (scale 1m)



Area 2 overview, looking north-east (scales 1m)



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PROJECT TITLE

Lea and Garsdon School Expansion
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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	20/09/2021	3
APPROVED BY	DS	SCALE@A4	NA	

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