

**SHREWTON PRIMARY SCHOOL
SHREWTON
WILTSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

For

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
DEPARTMENT
WILTSHIRE COUNCIL**


CA PROJECT: 2750
CA REPORT: 09189

DECEMBER 2009

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CA PROJECT: 2750
CA REPORT: 09189

prepared by	Alistair Barber, Project Officer
date	21 December 2009
checked by	Richard Young, Project Manager
date	21 December 2009
approved by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
signed	
date	23 December 2009
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Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks (1:1000)

SUMMARY

Project Name: Shrewton Primary School
Location: Shrewton, Wiltshire
NGR: SU 0680 4400
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 7 – 10 February, 6-7 April 2009
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum
Site Code: SPS 09

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a four classroom extension, hall and associated areas at Shrewton Primary School, Shrewton, Wiltshire.

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

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February and April 2009 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Wiltshire Council Environmental Services Department at Shrewton Primary School, Shrewton, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: SU 0680 4400; Fig. 1). A planning application has been approved by Salisbury District Council (SDC) for construction of a four classroom extension, hall and associated external areas (ref. S/08/8004). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to the planning consent, requiring a programme of archaeological recording, in accordance with a request by Helena Cave-Penny, Assistant Archaeologist for Wiltshire Council (WC), the archaeological advisor to SDC. The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.
- 1.2 The fieldwork followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2008), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Wiltshire* (WCC 1995), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (English Heritage 2006).

The site

- 1.3 The development area, 1.104ha in size, lies on the western edge of Shrewton and includes the existing school buildings and a playing field adjoining the eastern edge of Tanner's Lane, and a field adjoining the western edge of Tanner's Lane. The eastern site boundary is formed by the High Street; the northern and southern edges are bordered by residential properties and a surgery, whilst the western site boundary adjoins a public house and fields (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 79m AOD.
- 1.4 The underlying geology of the site is mapped as River and Valley Gravel deposits overlying Upper Chalk (BGS 1959). The natural substrate, comprising flint and chalk gravels, was previously exposed at depths of 0.55m-0.95m below present ground level during an evaluation of the site in 2005 (CA 2005). It was also encountered during the groundworks.

Archaeological background

- 1.5 Archaeological interest in the site arises from the presence of earthworks within the field to the west of Tanner's Lane. These earthworks were surveyed in the 1980s by the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments and were interpreted as part of the medieval village of Maddington, first mentioned in AD 1178 (WCC 2004). The site also lies close to the historic core of Shrewton, and approximately 250m north of St Mary's Church which has Norman origins (Pevsner 1985). Medieval pottery has been recovered from previous works within Shrewton (WCC 2004).
- 1.6 An archaeological evaluation of the site was undertaken by CA in 2005 (CA 2005). This comprised the excavation of four trenches within the existing school playing field (Trenches 1-4) and five trenches within the field to the west of Tanner's Lane (Trenches 5-9).
- 1.7 Within the school playing field a series of modern north-west/south-east and north-east/south-west aligned ditches was identified. Within the field to the west of Tanner's Lane further post-medieval ditches and pits were identified, along with a post-medieval trackway.
- 1.8 The evaluation indicated that the earthworks dated to the post-medieval and modern periods. The lack of earlier features was complemented by the finds assemblage, which consisted of principally post-medieval and modern material with only a single sherd of possible medieval pottery recovered as a residual find from a post-medieval pit.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.9 The objectives of the watching brief were, with the resources available, to preserve by record archaeological deposits, within groundworks associated with the new development, and ensure the agreed foundation scheme was adhered to. In particular, the aim of the watching brief was to monitor the site for the presence or absence of medieval deposits.

Methodology

- 1.10 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2009). An archaeologist monitored all intrusive groundworks, including excavation of foundations for both temporary and new classroom buildings. Non-archaeologically significant deposits were removed by the contractors under archaeological supervision. Where mechanical excavators were used, these were equipped with a toothless bucket.
- 1.11 Written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.12 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Salisbury and South Wiltshire 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.

2. RESULTS

- 2.1 The natural geological substrate, comprising yellow-brown gravels, was encountered at depths of between 0.5m and 0.7m below present ground level (bpgl) within trenches 1 to 6 (temporary classroom footings) and trench 7 (new school building footings). An overlying clay-silt subsoil noted in trenches 1 to 7 was sealed by modern clay-silt topsoil and, within trench 7, by modern tarmac. No continuation of the north-east/south-west-aligned ditch 305 recorded in evaluation trench 3 (CA 2005) was encountered within trenches 3 to 6 during the watching brief, and it appears that this ditch terminates immediately south-west of the observed groundworks.
- 2.2 Modern topsoil was encountered within trenches 8 and 9 (two areas of ground reduction immediately east of the retained classroom building) and within trench 10, west of Tanners Lane (hard court area), where ground reduction did not penetrate as far as the underlying subsoil. No artefacts were encountered across the site other than topsoil finds of modern brick and plastic fragments (not retained).

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Despite the proximity of groundworks to undated and post-medieval features identified during the preceding evaluation (CA 2005) no features or deposits of archaeological interest were encountered during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefacts pre-dating the modern period were recovered. The absence of archaeological deposits is probably due to the very shallow depth of the majority of the intrusive groundworks, which rarely penetrated through the subsoil across most of the site.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jon Hart, Pippa Mitcheson and Sian Reynish. The report was written by Alistair Barber. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Alistair Barber, and prepared for deposition by Victoria Taylor. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

5. REFERENCES

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2005 *Shrewton Church of England Primary School, Shrewton. Archaeological Evaluation* CA typescript report **05032**

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1959 *Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales) Sheet 282: Devizes, 1:63360*

Pevsner, N 1985 *The Buildings of England: Wiltshire*

WCC (Wiltshire County Council) 2004 *Archaeological brief: Field Evaluation, Shrewton primary school and adjoining land*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1 (Temporary classroom strip foundation)

No.	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Spot-date
1000	Deposit	Modern topsoil: grey-brown clay-silt			0.17	
1001	Deposit	Subsoil: grey-brown clay-silt with gravels			0.23	
1002	Deposit	Natural geological substrate: yellow-brown gravel			0.16	
1003	Deposit	Natural geological substrate: grey-yellow gravel				

Trench 2 (Temporary classroom strip foundation)

No.	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Spot-date
2000	Deposit	Modern topsoil: grey-brown clay-silt			0.19	
2001	D posit	Subsoil: grey-brown clay-silt with gravels			0.2	
2002	Deposit	Natural geological substrate: yellow-brown gravel			0.11	
2003	Deposit	Natural geological substrate: grey-yellow gravel				

Trench 3 (Temporary classroom strip foundation)

No.	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Spot-date
3000	Deposit	Modern topsoil: grey-brown clay-silt			0.18	
3001	Deposit	Subsoil: grey-brown clay-silt with gravels				

Trench 4 (Temporary classroom strip foundation)

No.	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Spot-date
4000	Deposit	Modern topsoil: grey-brown clay-silt			0.24	
4001	Deposit	Subsoil: grey-brown clay-silt with gravels			0.12	
4002	Deposit	Natural geological substrate: yellow-brown gravel			0.13	
4003	Deposit	Natural geological substrate: grey-yellow gravel				

Trench 5 (Temporary classroom strip foundation)

No.	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Spot-date
5000	Deposit	Modern topsoil: grey-brown clay-silt			0.25	
5001	Deposit	Subsoil: grey-brown clay-silt with gravels			0.2	
5002	Deposit	Natural geological substrate: yellow-brown gravel			0.13	
5003	Deposit	Natural geological substrate: yellow-brown gravel				
5004	Cut	CA evaluation trench 1				
5005	Fill	Backfill of CA evaluation trench 1: modern topsoil				

Trench 6 (Temporary classroom strip foundation)

No.	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Spot-date
6000	Deposit	Modern topsoil: grey-brown clay-silt				
6001	Deposit	Subsoil: grey-brown clay-silt with gravels				
6002	Deposit	Natural geological substrate: yellow-brown gravel				

Trench 7 (footings for new classroom)

No.	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Spot-date
7001	Deposit	Modern tarmac and make-up layer			0.1	
7002	Deposit	Modern topsoil: grey-brown clay-silt			0.4	
7003	Deposit	Subsoil: grey-brown clay-silt with gravels			0.2	
7004	Deposit	Natural geological substrate: yellow-brown gravel				

Trench 8 (area of previous classroom buildings)

No.	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Spot-date
8001	Deposit	Modern tarmac and make-up layer				

Trench 9 (area of previous classroom buildings)

No.	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Spot-date
9001	Deposit	Modern tarmac and make-up layer				

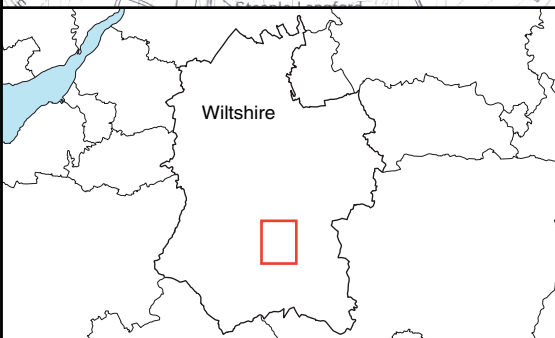
Trench 10 (area west of Tanners Lane)


No.	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Spot-date
10001	Deposit	Modern topsoil: grey-brown clay-silt			0.25	

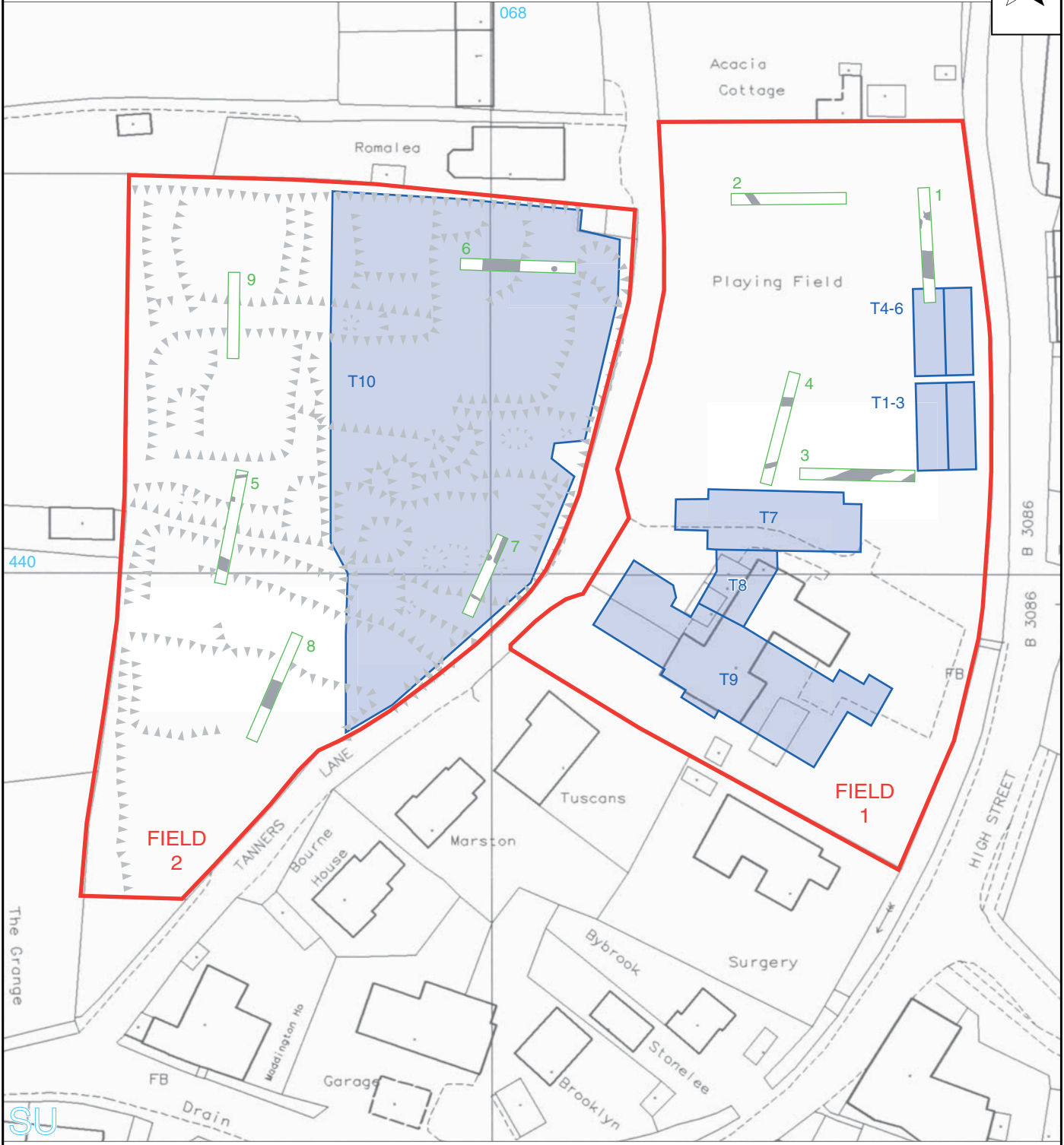
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Shrewton Primary School, Shrewton, Wiltshire. Archaeological watching brief	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with at Shrewton Primary School, Shrewton, Wiltshire.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered</p>	
Project dates	7 – 10 February, 6-7 April 2009	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Archaeological evaluation (CA 2005)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Shrewton Primary School, Shrewton, Wiltshire	
Area	1.104ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SU 0680 4400	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Wiltshire Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Jon Hart, Pippa Mitcheson and Sian Reynish	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum	WSI, pro forma registers, recording forms and photographs.
Digital	Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 <i>Shrewton Primary School, Shrewton, Wiltshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> , CA Report No. 09189		

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 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY		
PROJECT TITLE Shrewton Primary School Shrewton, Wiltshire		
FIGURE TITLE Site location plan		
SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
1:50,000@A4	2750	1



SU

- site
- area of observed groundworks
- CA 2005 evaluation trench showing archaeological feature
- earthworks surveyed by the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE
**Shrewton Primary School
 Shrewton, Wiltshire**

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

<small>SCALE</small> 1:1000@A4	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> 2750	<small>FIGURE NO.</small> 2
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