

New Playing Fields and Athletics Track Stowe School Buckinghamshire

# Archaeological Watching Brief



July 2009

## **Client: Stowe School**

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## New Sports Field and Athletics Track, Stowe School, Buckinghamshire

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

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#### SUMMARY

In April and May 2009 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Stowe School, Stowe, Buckinghamshire (centred at NGR SP 681 383). The work was commissioned by Stowe School in advance of the construction of new playing fields and the resurfacing of an existing athletics track. The watching brief revealed no archaeological evidence within the area of the new playing fields, possibly due to previous intensive agricultural use of the site. Evidence of the 18thcentury landscaped gardens, including two possible pathways and a stone wall, was observed within the area of the athletics track, together with evidence of the original ground levels prior to the construction of the athletics track.

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 In April and May 2009 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief in an area immediately north-east of Stowe School, Stowe, Buckinghamshire (centred at NGR: SP 681 383). The work was commissioned by Stowe School in respect of the proposed construction of new playing fields and the resurfacing of an existing athletics track.
- 1.1.2 A project brief was set by Julia Wise the Archaeological Officer for Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service (BCAS 2006).
- 1.1.3 OA prepared a written scheme of investigation (WSI) detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief (OA 2008a).

#### 1.2 Location, geology and topography

1.2.1 Stowe School is situated approximately 4 km north-west of the county town of Buckingham (Fig. 1). The development areas are located to the north-east of Stowe School, on the edge of formal gardens surrounding the house (Fig. 1). The site of the new playing fields is generally level, at approximately 135 m OD, while the area of the athletics track has been terraced out of a general south-west facing slope. The underlying geology is glacio-fluvial deposits over Kellaway Bed sands (British Geological Survey of England and Wales, sheet no 219).

#### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background to the watching brief was prepared for the WSI for the project (OA 2008a) and is reproduced below.
- 1.3.2 The earliest known human activity within the study area dates to the Roman period and a Roman villa of early 4th century date lies c 500 m north-west of the site. The main Towcester to Alchester Roman Road runs south-west/north-east c 200 m to the

west and the Fenny Stratford to Buckingham road, lies immediately to the north of the site on a south-east/north-west alignment.

- 1.3.3 Roman pottery kilns were uncovered nearby in the early 1990s. Part of a pottery kiln was salvage recorded in 1990, and further indications of a kiln were noted in 1995. Among the artefacts recovered was a quantity of pink-grogged ware from both kiln locations. This material dates from the 2nd-4th centuries, and similar material has been found by the National Trust's archaeologists during ground disturbance in and around the gardens of Stowe Park.
- 1.3.4 Domesday records four manors, which are likely to have represented the pre-conquest settlements within the area. In the early medieval period these settlements became nucleated around a church and manor house. The four manors recorded in Doomsday comprise Stowe, Boycott, Lamport and Dadford (of which the latter two were divided into two holdings each).
- 1.3.5 Recorded as *Stov* in Domesday, the manor was leased from the Bishop of Bayeux by Robert d'Oilly and Roger of Ivry in 1086. In the 13th century it was granted to Osney Abbey (Oxfordshire), who held it until the Dissolution. In 1591 the manor of Stowe was sold to the Temple family, who had made their wealth from sheep farming.
- 1.3.6 The mansion, which stands in the Grade I listed registered park at Stowe dates originally to the 16th/17th centuries, and was remodelled in the 18th century. The original manor house was demolished and replaced by Sir Richard Temple before his death in 1697. Later his son (the first Lord Cobham) re-built the front and added the wings. The house was further enlarged by Earl Temple, who died in 1779 and afterwards by the Marquis of Buckingham. During this time, the Temple family had begun to invest heavily in the gardens. The first Lord Cobham, who died in 1749, had started to extend the area of parkland (which had been present as a deer park from the 13th century). By the end of the 1720s due to the ever-expanding Stowe Park, the village of Stowe, which in 1712 had 31 houses, had been largely cleared, leaving only the 13th-century church of the Assumption of St Mary the Virgin.
- 1.3.7 The land within Stowe Manor became an extensive, complex pleasure garden, surrounding a country mansion, probably one of the finest examples of later Renaissance houses in England. Developed by a number of famous landscape designers, including Charles Bridgeman and Capability Brown, by the 18th century it was supremely influential to English landscape gardening. At its largest the designed landscape and woodlands covered some 250 hectares.
- 1.3.8 Notable post-medieval structures in the grounds include Conduit House and the Bourbon Tower, both probably of 18th century date.
- 1.3.9 Previous work 100 m to the west of the new playing fields during the construction of an artificial sports pitch in 2007 revealed two Roman-period boundary ditches and two other small features dated to the same period (OA 2008b).

#### 2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

#### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 To determine the location, extent, date, character, and state of preservation of any archaeological remains surviving on the site, in particular those of the Roman period, especially Roman pottery production.
- 2.1.2 To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features within the site and to take samples where appropriate.
- 2.1.3 To clarify the nature and extent of any modern disturbance and intrusion on the site.
- 2.1.4 To inform a mitigation strategy for any archaeological remains revealed during the stripping.
- 2.1.5 To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

#### 2.2 Methodology

#### New playing fields

2.2.1 The site was stripped of topsoil with a tracked mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision. Parts of the site were then reduced and the material used to fill the lower parts in order to produce a level playing surface.

#### Athletics track resurfacing

- 2.2.2 These works comprised of the excavation of a new access road, topsoil stripping at both the south-western and north-eastern ends of the site and within the centre of the running track, excavation into the bank at the north-eastern side of the track and removal of the old running surface. These were accomplished by a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.5 m grading bucket or 0.8 m toothed bucket as appropriate.
- 2.2.3 All archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:100 and any recorded sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. All excavations and recorded sections were photographed using digital photography, colour slide and black and white print film. A general photographic record of the work was also made. Recording followed procedures detailed in the OAU Fieldwork Manual (Wilkinson 1992).

#### 3 **Results**

#### 3.1 **Description of deposits**

#### New playing fields

3.1.1 This area measured approximately 170 m by 170 m and was previously used as arable farmland (Fig. 2). There was a general gentle underlying slope towards the north-east. A shallow dip approximately 40 wide and 1 m deep ran south-east to north-west across the site. No other features were visible prior to stripping.

- 3.1.2 The underlying natural, a light yellow-brown sandy silt clay (3), was encountered throughout the area at a depth of between 0.2 m and 0.3 m below the original ground level. This layer represents the underlying natural glacial deposits. Within the centre of the site it was overlaid by an area of blue-grey clay (2), of unknown depth. This material is a probable lens of glacial deposits. A series of land drains composed of both machine-extruded ceramic pipes and plastic piping could be seen cut into the surface of these layers. In areas the ceramic drains were visibly disturbed and broken in the surface of the glacial deposits (these were old fractures, not due to this phase of activity). No other features were observed cutting into these deposits. Sealing 2 and 3 was a grey orange-brown silt clay loam (1) measuring between 0.2 m and 0.3 m in depth. Many fragments of red ceramic land drain were observed within this context. This layer represents the current ploughsoil. No intervening subsoils or earlier plough soil were observed between the ploughsoil and the natural, this combined with the disturbance to the ceramic land drains suggests that deep (modern) ploughing has occurred throughout the area.
- 3.1.3 At the western edge of the site the ploughsoil (1) was overlaid by a 0.25 m deep lens of light reddish brown silty clay (4). This material was very mixed, with lenses of buried topsoil and turf visible within its make up. It is probable that this deposit represents the surplus material from the excavation for the artificial pitch in 2007 spread out over the western edge of the development area. This lens was sealed below a grey-brown clay loam (5), a landscaping layer of redeposited topsoil, also presumably from the 2007 excavations.

#### Athletics track resurfacing

- 3.1.4 This site measured approximately 120 m by 100 m. The area of the athletics track was terraced out of the original north-west facing sloping ground by excavating the bank on the north-eastern corner of the site and using the material to terrace the north-western side. A raised bank was also constructed around the south-eastern side of the track for spectators.
- 3.1.5 The access road was laid directly upon the existing ground over a layer of geo-textile membrane. No excavation was undertaken as part of this operation.
- 3.1.6 Within the area of the athletics track the higher ground along the north, north-eastern and eastern sides of the track was cut back and a retaining wall constructed in order to allow for widening of the track. The material excavated was used to widen the terrace along the north-western side of the track.
- 3.1.7 Within the central area of the track the concrete and tarmac tennis courts were broken up and removed and any topsoil stripped.
- 3.1.8 A slight bank along the south-western end of the track was also cut back after the felling of a standing yew tree.

#### Cutting back of the northern bank

3.1.9 The bank was cut back approximately 5 m exposing a face measuring 2.7 m high at the north-eastern corner tapering down to the west and south (Figs 3 and 4, sections 10, 11 and 13).

#### Section 10

- 3.1.10 A layer of dull orange brown sandy silt clay (18) was observed at the base of the section. This contained many small rounded pebbles and could be seen to be in excess of 0.5 m deep. This was overlaid by a 1.4 m deep layer of reddish brown silt clay containing many sub-angular river flints (17). This deposit was very clean and represents a layer of colluvium. Overlying this was a 0.3 m deep layer of dark redbrown sandy clay silt (22), also a probable layer of colluvium.
- 3.1.11 Layer 22 was sealed by a 0.4 m deep layer of grey-brown clay silt loam (10). This is a probable layer of landscaping material.

#### Section 11

- 3.1.12 A continuation of the natural orange-brown sandy silt (18) was observed at the base of the section. This was overlaid by a 0.6 m deep continuation of the red-brown colluvium (17). Cut into this deposit was a 2.6 m wide by 0.7 m deep ditch (16) running approximately north-south across the site. Cut into the northern edge of the ditch and also cutting layer 17 was a 0.75 m deep by 0.8 m wide foundation trench (14).
- 3.1.13 A dry stone wall (13) was built within cut 14 using rough-dressed limestone forming a revetment along the northern edge of the ditch. The wall could be traced running in a straight line across the northern part of the site before being buried under made ground. The ditch and wall are suggestive of a ha-ha, although they may also form a boundary wall and associated ditch.
- 3.1.14 It would appear that the ditch was backfilled as part of a later landscaping scene. The southern edge of wall 13 seems to have been partially dismantled (or collapsed) with fragments of stone appearing in section south of the wall. The base of the ditch and the southern face of the wall were sealed by a 0.2 m deep layer of red-brown silt clay (15) containing many fragments of limestone similar to that used to construct wall 13.
- 3.1.15 Overlying this was a 0.5 m deep layer of red-brown clay silt (12). Filling the top of the ditch was a small lens of dark yellow-brown clay silt (11), measuring 1 m wide and 0.2 m deep. (It is probable that both 12 and 11 had been truncated as part of the terracing when the athletics track was originally constructed.)
- 3.1.16 The fills were sealed by a continuation of the landscaping layer of grey-brown topsoil (10).

### Section 13

- 3.1.17 The natural (18) was exposed in the base of this section, overlain by a 0.4 m deep continuation of the red-brown colluvium (17). Laid directly onto this layer was a 5.6 m wide by 0.2 m deep band of dark yellow gravel in a clay matrix (28). The composition of this material suggests that it may have been a path.
- 3.1.18 Sealing this deposit was a 0.25 m deep continuation of the landscaping layer 10.

#### Stripping within the centre of the running track

3.1.19 Within the centre of the running track the concrete and tarmac tennis courts, together with the long jump and high jump pits, were removed, the ground was reduced in depth in areas and an access chamber for the rainwater run-off excavated (Figs 3 and 4, sections 12, 16 and 17).

#### Section 12

- 3.1.20 This was located at the south-western end of the track (Fig. 3) and was exposed during the reduction of the ground level.
- 3.1.21 The natural red-brown sandy silt (18) was encountered at a depth of 0.6 m below the original ground level. This was overlaid by a 0.2 m deep layer of grey-brown silt loam (21), a buried soil horizon, probably the original topsoil layer prior to the construction of the athletics track.
- 3.1.22 Overlying layer 21 was a 0.2 m deep layer of red-brown silt clay (20), a layer of made ground associated with the construction of the athletics track. This was sealed by a 0.2 m deep layer of redeposited topsoil (19), a landscaping layer.

#### Section 16

- 3.1.23 Section 16 was located at the western edge of the inside of the running track (Fig. 3) and was exposed during the excavation of the access chamber and a trench running across the running track.
- 3.1.24 The underlying natural (18) was encountered at a depth of 1.4 m below the current ground level. This was overlaid by a 0.35 m deep layer of grey-brown silt loam, a probable continuation of the buried soil horizon (21). This deposit sloped noticeably down to the north-east, probably reflecting the original topography of the ground prior to the construction of the athletics track.
- 3.1.25 This was sealed by a 1.15 m deep layer of made ground, a continuation of layer 20. A0.2 m deep continuation of the landscaping layer 19 completed the section.

#### Section 17

3.1.26 This was located at the north-western corner of the tennis courts (Fig. 3), and was exposed when the tennis courts were broken out.

3.1.27 A continuation of the underlying natural, a red-brown clay silt (18) was encountered at a depth of 0.28 m below the current ground level. This was overlaid by a 0.18 m deep layer of crushed stone (31). Overlying this was a 0.05 m deep layer of concrete (30), forming a base for the 0.05 m deep tarmac tennis court surface (29).

#### Work outside the south-western end of the track.

3.1.28 In order to widen the track, a small bank running around the southern curve of the track was cut back after the felling of a yew tree (Section 15) and a deep soakaway pit was dug on the lower edge of the terrace (Section 14 and Fig. 3).

#### Section 15

- 3.1.29 A patchy layer of yellow-brown gravel (35), in excess of 0.05 m deep, was exposed both within the section and in the surface of the exposed ground. This deposit is very similar to layer 28 within section 13 which has been identified as a possible path. This layer ran in a general south-east to north-west direction but no positive edge could be established.
- 3.1.30 This was sealed by a 0.13 m deep layer of light orange brown sandy clay (34). This is a probable layer of made ground forming a bank around the southern end of the track. Overlying this was a 0.2 m deep layer of dark orange-brown silt clay (33), another layer of made ground. The bank was covered with a landscaping layer of grey-brown silt loam (32), 0.2 m deep.

#### Section 14

- 3.1.31 This was excavated at the base of the terrace forming the western edge of the athletics track adjacent to the groundkeeper's building, measured 2 m by 2 m and was excavated to a depth of 3.3 m (Fig. 3).
- 3.1.32 At 2.3 m below the current ground level a layer of stiff pale brown clay (27) was encountered. This deposit became increasing more grey with depth, changing to pale grey at the base of the section. This was overlaid by a 0.8 m deep layer of very pale pinkish brown sandy silt clay (26). Overlying this was a 1.1 m deep layer of light red-brown sandy clay silt (25). All these layers were natural deposits.
- 3.1.33 Sealing layer 25 was a 0.25 m deep layer of mid brown clay silt (24). This contained numerous fragments of a hand moulded brick measuring 0.224 m x 0.109 m x 0.07 m. This may have originally formed a layer of hard standing outside the groundkeepers building. Overlying this was a 0.15 m deep layer of grey-brown silt loam (23), probably material washed down off the terrace and over the hardstanding.

#### 3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 The only finds recovered were late post-medieval in date and included brick and tile fragments, sherds of creamware pottery, bottle glass and plastic.
- 3.2.2 These finds were recorded but not retained. No earlier dating evidence was recovered.

#### 3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

3.3.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the watching brief.

#### 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

#### New playing fields

- 4.1.1 Within the area of the new playing fields the watching brief revealed that the entire area had been subject to deep modern cultivation. This process had mixed the topsoil and any potential earlier ploughsoils, as well as impinging on the surface of the underlying natural. No evidence for any archaeological features cut into the natural was observed. While the cultivation may have truncated any shallow features, the absence of any deep features surviving in the natural combined with the absence of any residual finds (other than post-medieval) recovered from the ploughsoil suggests that there was only minimal activity within this area.
- 4.1.2 The presence of the land drains suggests that the land was prone to waterlogging and may have always been regarded as marginal permanent pasture prior to post-medieval cultivation.
- 4.1.3 The recovery of modern plastic bottles within the lens of made ground (4) shows that it is modern in nature, which would correspond with the evidence from the 2007 excavations.

#### Athletics track resurfacing

- 4.1.4 The provision of a map regression of Stowe Gardens by Gary Marshall, the National Trust's resident archaeologist, allowed the impact of the athletics track on the earlier gardens to be accessed.
- 4.1.5 The location of the track was superimposed onto key plans of the gardens (Figs 5, 6 and 7).
- 4.1.6 In Sarah Bridgeman's plan of 1739 (Fig. 5) the athletics track is located in open land north-east of the house, with no evidence of any landscaping.
- 4.1.7 By the 1750s the Grecian Valley was being constructed and the boundary with Hawkwell Field was opened up. The estate accounts for 1751 record payments for the digging and filling [with] earth along the straight walk between Lord Cobham's Pillar (60 m south-east of the track) and the Lady's Temple (now known as the Queen's Temple), 100 m south-west of the track.
- 4.1.8 Similar accounts continued until 1754 when earth was wheeled into the "ditch part on the top of Hawkshill hill by the Lime Grove".
- 4.1.9 An account of 1752 refers to making a gravel path "from the Rotunda in the Grecian Valley to the Captain Grenville Pillar". It is not known what or where the Rotunda

was, the only obvious candidate being an unnamed circular building marked on the 1753 Bickham plan to the south-west of the Lady's Temple.

- 4.1.10 The Grecian Valley was completed and the area of the athletics track enclosed by planting and possible terracing or banks to the south and east by the time of the 1753 Bickham plan, shown more clearly on the 1777 plan of Stowe (published in the Seeley Guidebook) (Fig. 6). This area remained unchanged through to the beginning of the 19th century (Fig. 7). The function of this enclosure is unclear, although by the 1840s the area was shown as kitchen gardens on both the Estate plans and the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map.
- 4.1.11 The cutting back of the embankment along the north-eastern side of the track exposed the remains of a dry-stone wall running east-west across the northern end of the track (Section 11). Examination of the historical records of Stowe house, particularly the plans of the pleasure gardens, shows that this wall is probably the eastern wall (or possible terrace wall) running north-south forming a path between Cobham's Pillar and the Gothic Temple, known as the Gothic walk.
- 4.1.12 The area of yellow gravel exposed at the south-western end of the athletics track (Section 15) probably represents a gravel path, possibly the eastern edge of the Lady's Diagonal running between the Grecian Temple and Cobham's Pillar constructed during the 1750s.
- 4.1.13 The wide area of yellow gravel exposed during the cutting back of the south-eastern side of the track (Section 13) appears to correspond with a east-west running path shown on a map of the area dated 1843 (pers. comm. Gary Marshall). This feature may correspond with the change of use of the enclosed area to a kitchen garden and probably represents a path running parallel to the walk connecting the Queen's (Lady's) Temple and Cobhams Pillar allowing staff to enter the garden without being visible from the walk.
- 4.1.14 The construction of the athletics track in the 20th century would have caused some disruption of the original landscaping with the Gothic walk having to be moved to the east and some of the material excavated during the construction of the track being used to form a bank running along the southern edge of the track, both to form a terrace for spectators and also to hide it from view.
- 4.1.15 Similar banking was constructed along the south-west end of the track, presumably for the same purpose.

#### **APPENDICES**

#### **APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY**

| Context            | Туре                           | Depth            | Width  | Length | Comments   | Finds                                      |  |  |  |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|--------|--------|--|--|--|--|--|
| New Playing Fields |                                |                  |        |        |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1                  | Layer                          | 0.2 m –<br>0.3 m | -      | -      | Modern ploughsoil  | Ceramic drain pipe                         |  |  |  |
| 2                  | Layer                          | > 0.1 m          | 20 m   | 25 m   | Glacial deposit  | -  |  |  |  |
| 3                  | Layer                          | > 0.1 m          | -      | -      | Natural, glacial deposit                                 | -  |  |  |  |
| 4                  | Layer                          | 0.25 m           | 25 m   | 140 m  | Lens of surplus<br>material from the<br>2007 excavations | Plastic bottles,<br>geo-textile<br>matting |  |  |  |
| 5                  | Layer                          | 0.2 m            | 25 m   | 140 m  | Landscaping layer of redeposited topsoil                 | -  |  |  |  |
| Resurfaci          | Resurfacing of Athletics Track |                  |        |        |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10                 | Layer                          | 0.5 m            | -      | -      | Landscaping layer of redeposited topsoil                 | -  |  |  |  |
| 11                 | Fill                           | 0.25 m           | 1 m    | -      | Backfill of 16   | -  |  |  |  |
| 12                 | Fill                           | 0.5 m            | 2.2m   | -      | Backfill of 16   | -  |  |  |  |
| 13                 | Structure                      | 0.55 m           | 0.95 m | > 10 m | Garden wall  | -  |  |  |  |
| 14                 | Cut                            | 0.6 m            | 0.95 m | > 10 m | Construction cut for wall 13                             | -  |  |  |  |
| 15                 | Fill                           | 0.15 m           | 0.7 m  | -      | Primary fill of 16                                       | -  |  |  |  |
| 16                 | Cut                            | 2.2 m            | 0.7 m  | -      | Cut for possible ha-ha                                   | -  |  |  |  |
| 17                 | Layer                          | 1.4 m            | -      | -      | Colluvium  | -  |  |  |  |
| 18                 | Layer                          | > 0.5 m          | -      | -      | Colluvium  | -  |  |  |  |
| 19                 | Layer                          | 0.2 m            | -      | -      | Landscaping layer,<br>topsoil and turf                   | -  |  |  |  |
| 20                 | Layer                          | 0.2 m            | -      | -      | Made ground  | -  |  |  |  |
| 21                 | Layer                          | 0.2 m            | -      | -      | Buried soil horizon                                      | Pottery                                    |  |  |  |
| 22                 | Layer                          | 0.3 m            | -      | -      | Truncated colluvium<br>?, possible<br>landscaping        | -  |  |  |  |
| 23                 | Layer                          | 0.15 m           | -      | -      | Topsoil and turf   | -  |  |  |  |
| 24                 | Surface                        | 0.25 m           | 5 m    | > 5 m  | Hard standing  | Brick                                      |  |  |  |
| 25                 | Layer                          | 1.1 m            | -      | -      | Colluvium  | -  |  |  |  |
| 26                 | Layer                          | 0.8 m            |        | -      | Colluvium  | -  |  |  |  |
| Context            | Туре                           | Depth            | Width  | Length | Comments   | Finds                                      |  |  |  |

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| 27 | Layer   | > 1 m    | -       | -      | Colluvium                        | - |
|----|---------|----------|---------|--------|----------------------------------|---|
| 28 | Surface | 0.25 m   | 5.7 m   | > 2 m  | Garden path                      | - |
| 29 | Surface | 0.05 m   | >10 m   | > 10 m | Tarmac tennis court surface      | - |
| 30 | Layer   | 0.05 m   | >10 m   | > 10 m | Concrete base for tarmac surface | - |
| 31 | Layer   | 0.18 m   | >10 m   | > 10 m | Hardcore base for tennis courts  | - |
| 32 | Layer   | 0.2 m    | > 5 m   | > 5m   | Landscaping layer                | - |
| 33 | Layer   | 0.2 m    | > 5 m   | > 5 m  | Made ground                      | - |
| 34 | Layer   | 0.13 m   | > 5 m   | > 5 m  | Made ground                      | - |
| 35 | Layer   | > 0.05 m | > 1.5 m | >5 m   | Possible gravel path             | - |

#### APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

BCAS, 2006 Brief for Archaeological Excavation, Bourbon Fields, Stowe School, Stowe, Buckinghamshire County Archaeology Service unpublished document

OA 2008a Artificial Sports Pitch at Bourbon Fields, Stowe School, Buckinghamshire, Oxford Archaeology Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological strip and record exercise

OA 2008b Artificial Sports Pitch at Bourbon Fields, Stowe School, Buckinghamshire: Archaeological watching brief report, Oxford Archaeology unpublished report

Wilkinson, D, (ed.) 1992 Oxford Archaeological Unit field manual, Oxford Archaeology unpublished document

#### APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

**Site name:** New Playing Fields and Athletics Track, Stowe School, Buckinghamshire **Site code:** STSCAP 08

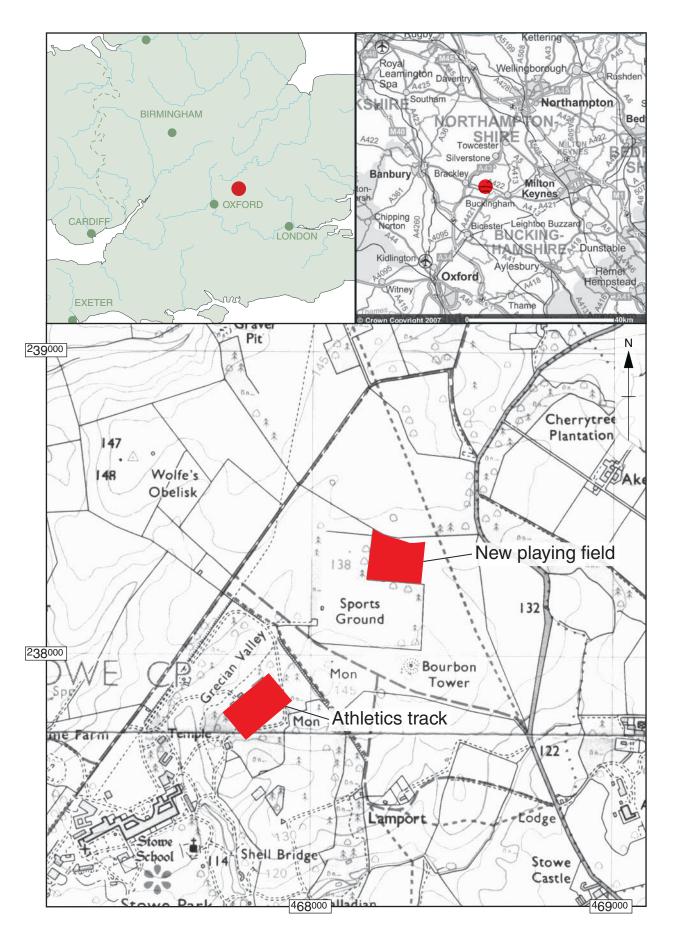
Grid reference: Centred at NGR SP 681 380

**Type of watching brief:** Ground works for the construction of new playing fields and the refurbishment of an existing athletics track.

**Date and duration of project:** 5 weeks work starting on the 1st of April 2009. 8 site visits in total.

**Area of site:** Area of the new playing fields approximately 140 m by 140 m. Area of the athletics track approximately 120 m by 100 m.

**Summary of results:** No significant archaeology was observed in the area of the new playing fields but evidence of two gravel paths and a boundary wall dating to the late 18th-century landscaping of the grounds were observed during the refurbishment of the athletics track. **Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museums Service in due course, under the following accession number: AYBCM 2008.190



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Figure 1: Site location and new sports ground

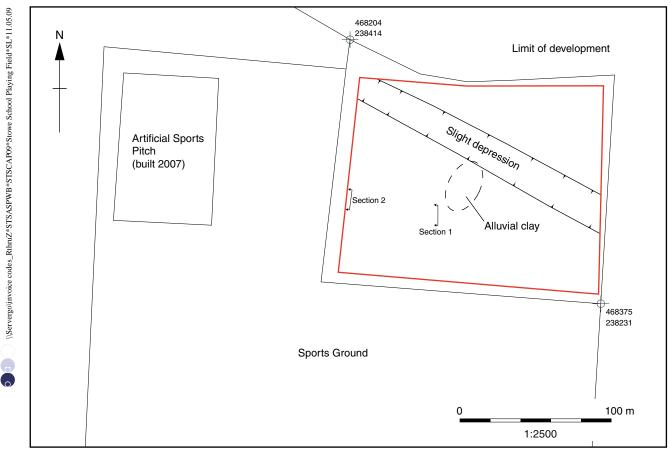


Figure 2 : Plan of new playing field

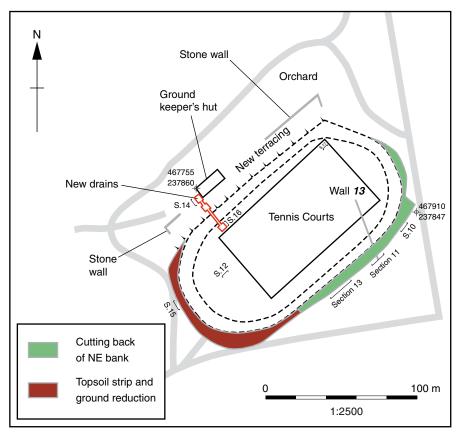
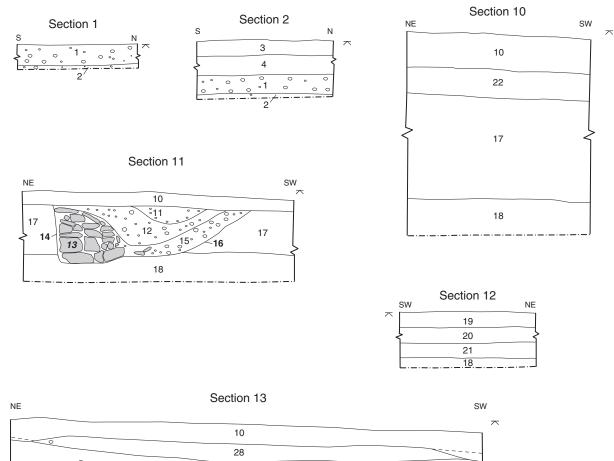
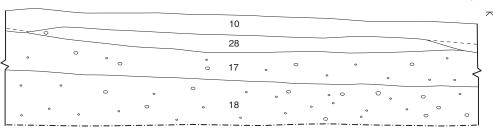
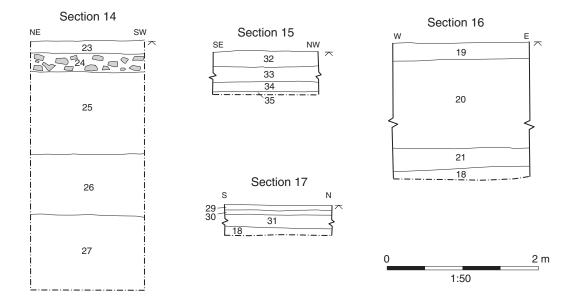


Figure 3: Plan of athletics track

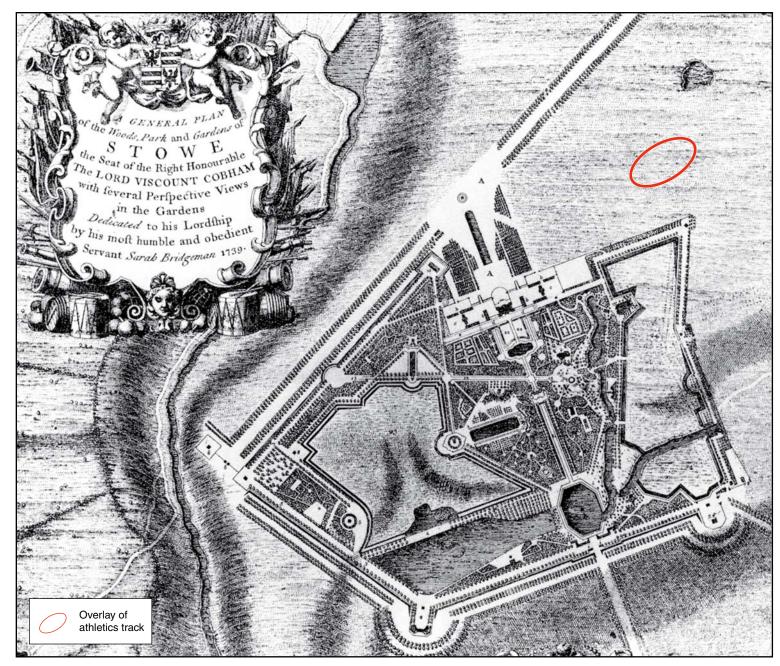








#### \\Servergo\invoice codes\_RthruZ\*STSASPWB\*STSCAP09\*Stowe School Playing Field\*SL\*11.05.09



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Figure 5 : 1739 Plan of Stowe Gardens

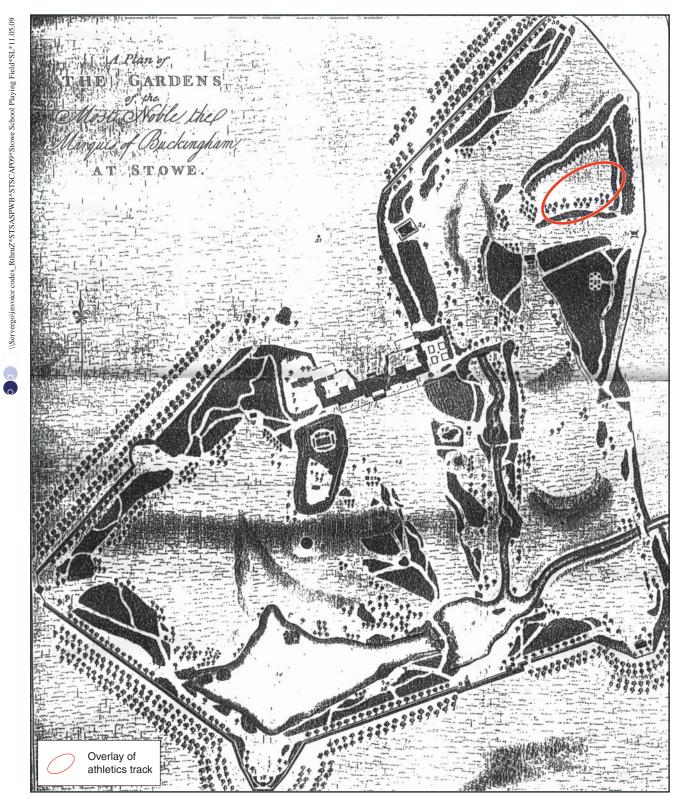


Figure 6 : 1777 Plan of Stowe Gardens

6

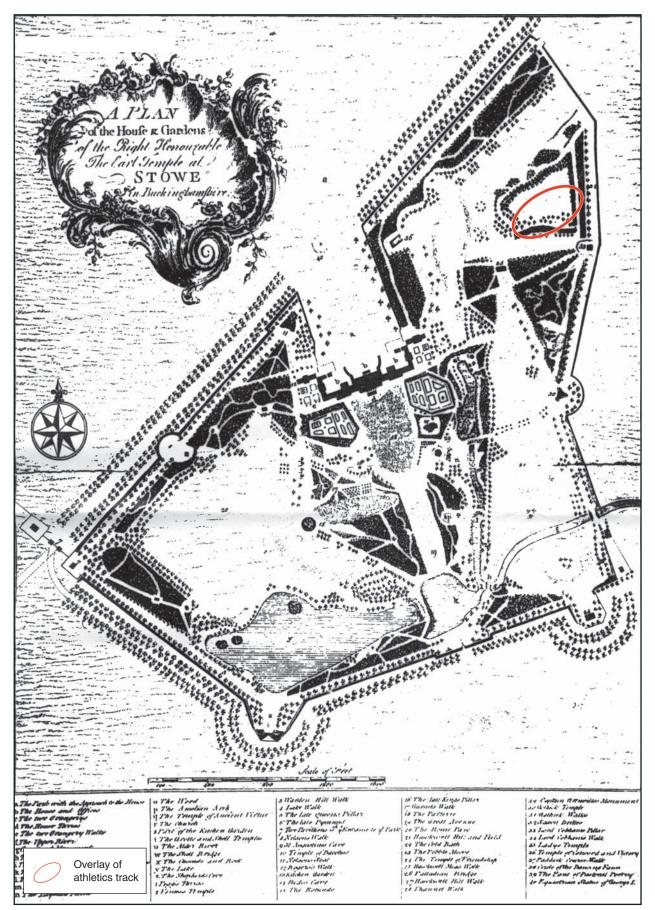


Figure 7: 1820 Plan of Stowe Gardens



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