JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT
WALLINGFORD SCHOOL, ST GEORGES ROAD,
WALLINGFORD, OXFORDSHIRE.

NEW ALL WEATHER SPORTS PITCH

SP 4606 1899

On behalf of

WALLINGFORD SCHOOL

JUNE 2011

REPORT FOR	Wallingford School St Georges Road Wallingford OX10 8HH
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Summary

John Moore Heritage Services undertook a watching brief during ground reduction in advance of a new all weather sports pitch at Wallingford School, St Georges Road, Wallingford, Oxfordshire (SU 8066 9000). A total of 15 site visits were made intermittently over the period from 25th October to 8th March 2011. The monitored ground works involved initial topsoil stripping followed by further reduction to finished levels across the area of the new sports field which impacted upon natural geology across the northern side of the new sports pitch. The ground levels were raised across the southern side of the new pitch. The earliest feature was a pit dated by a high density of flintwork to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age. The presence of flint debitage and tools indicate this feature may have been the remains of a cremation or of a short stay camp site with cooking pit. The medieval features consisted of two pits probably contemporary and one late medieval/early post medieval field ditch which once formed a now extinct boundary.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The development site was located on the northern side of the historic town of Wallingford (centred NGR 460651 189960). The underlying geology is First Terrace Gravel Deposits (BGS sheet 253), and the site lies at approximately 50m AOD. The new sports pitch is located north of the Saxon Town Walls and east of Wallingford School buildings.

1.2 Planning Background

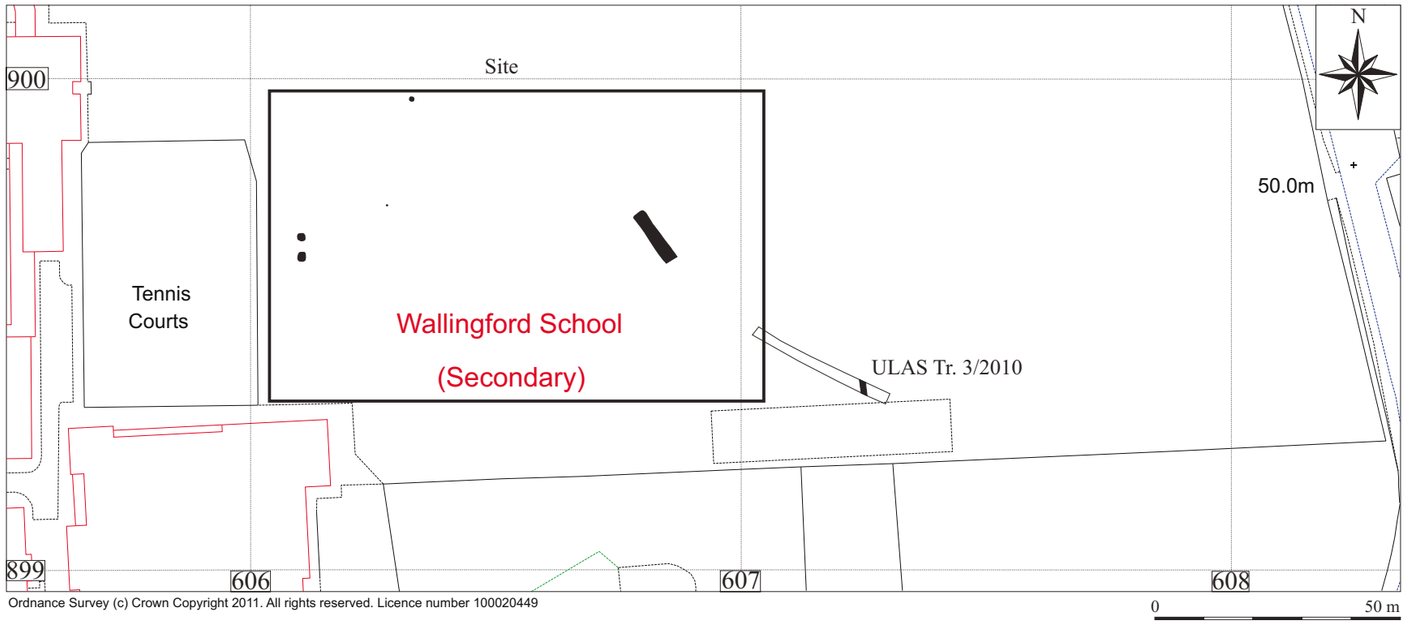
Planning permission (reference R3.0175/09) was granted by Oxfordshire County Council for the formation of an artificially surfaced pitch (all weather pitch). A condition of the permission stated that an archaeological watching brief should be carried out during the work.

Previous archaeological trial trenching had been undertaken at the site by University of Leicester Archaeology Services in 2008. Seven 30m long trenches were excavated across the area of the new haul road and playing field.

The County Archaeological Services, on behalf of South Oxfordshire District Council, prepared a *Brief* for the archaeological work. Based on the brief A W*ritten Scheme of Investigation* was prepared by JMHS (JMHS 2010). This document outlined the method by which the watching brief would be carried out in order to preserve by record any archaeological remains of significance.

Planning Policy statements were highlighted in the Brief (OCC 2010) prepared by Richard Oram archaeological officer for South Oxfordshire District Council. It was stated within the Brief that:

> *This Archaeological Watching Brief has been required in accordance with PPS 5 because of the presence of known sites of archaeological interest within the immediate vicinity of the development.*



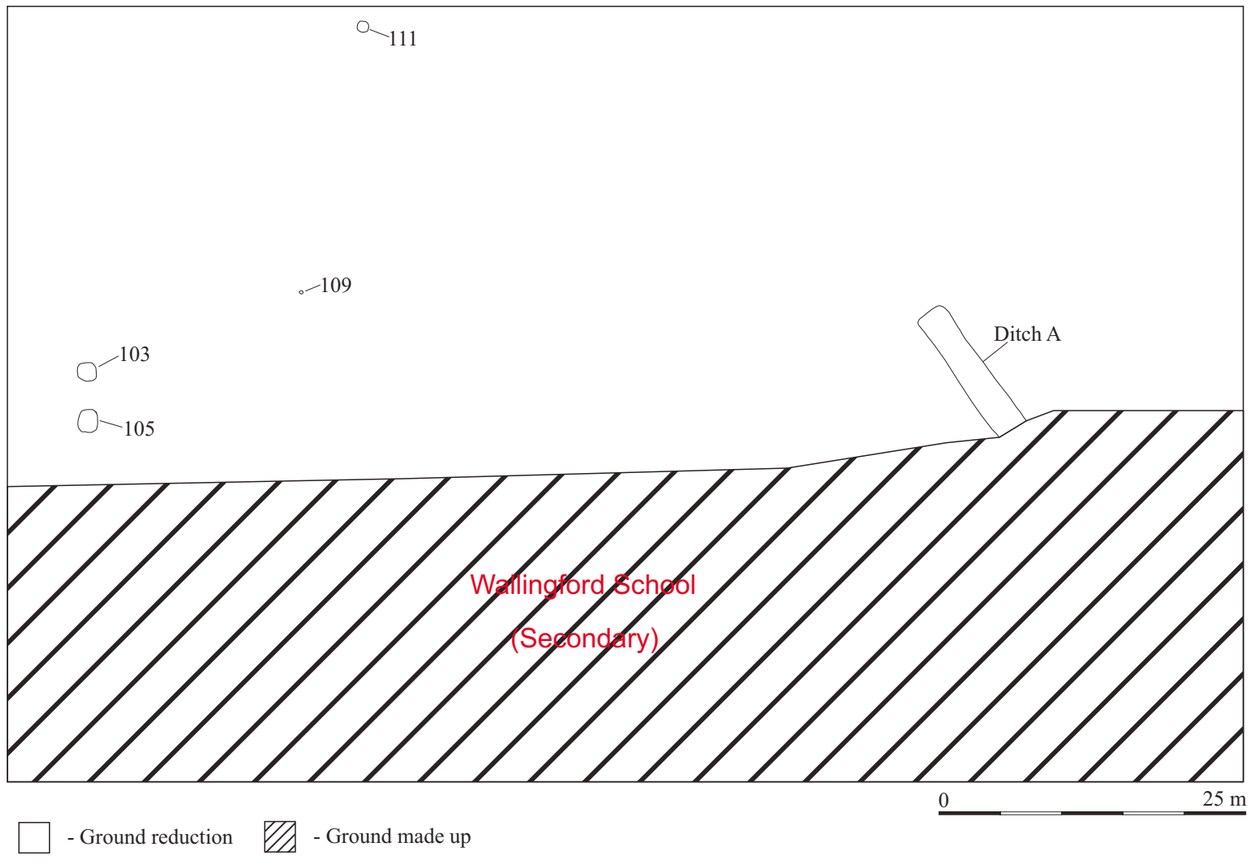


Figure 1. Site location

The Archaeological Watching Brief should, within the resources available, allow the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The area concerned lies within an area of some archaeological interest located immediately north of the Saxon defended town (SAM OX234) and the medieval castle (SAM OX176). During an excavation ahead of the construction of a tennis court 130m SW of the site a Neolithic pit was recorded (PRN 16357). Radio-carbon dating of hazel nut shells found within the pit obtained a date of 3040-2910 BC. Features of this period in this area, especially found with surviving organic material to provide dating evidence, are rare. It is possible that similar remains could be considered of National Importance. A number of post-medieval pits were also recorded in the vicinity of this pit.

A medieval pit was recorded during the excavation of a highway drainage scheme to the west of the site. The University of Leicester Archaeology Service (ULAS) evaluation at the site proved evidence of sand and gravel extraction, probably during the 12th and 13th centuries, observed in Trench 1 located along the eastern boundary of the site close to a north to south road identified during excavations in the summer of 2009. Possible quarrying or later landscaping activity of indeterminate date was also noted in Trench 2 in the south eastern corner of the site. A small north to south gully was seen in Trench 3, which contained a number of medieval roof tiles. A post medieval or later pit was identified in Trench 5 at the western end of the site. No other archaeological features or deposits were observed within any of the other trenches.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

To make a record of any significant remains revealed during the course of any operations that may disturb or destroy archaeological remains.

2.1 Project Objectives

To record:

- any further prehistoric remains that are known in the area
- any evidence associated with the medieval occupation in the area

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (1994), the Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services (OCAS) prepared *Brief* and John Moore Heritage Services *Written Scheme of Investigation* (JMHS 2010).

3.2 Methodology

An archaeologist was present on site during all ground reduction connected to the new all weather astro turf pitch. All ground reduction was achieved using a combination of 360º tracked excavator fitted with a ditching bucket and a flat blade attached to a bulldozer.

A journal, recorded on specially designed record sheets, was maintained which detailed times and durations of site visits as well as notes on areas monitored by the archaeologist. Deposits (overburden) were recorded on context recording sheets. A general photographic record of the work was kept and will form of the part site archive to be submitted to the Oxfordshire County Museums Service.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Field Results

Individual context numbers were assigned on site to deposits encountered during the ground reduction. Context numbers in () indicate deposits of material.

The lowest geological horizon attained was Oxford Clay. The clay consisted of light orange clay silt (03). The depth at which this horizon was attained varied slightly across the site but was generally around *c*. 0.40m from the current ground surface.

Overlying the natural was a layer of orange-brown sandy loam subsoil with numerous small rounded gravels of varying sizes and occasional sub-angular stones throughout (02). This deposit did not contain any significant archaeological material.

The topsoil (01) was *c*. 0.20m in thickness and consisted of a dark grey-brown silty loam. This was highly compacted in places with very low quantities of general finds usually expected from topsoil. No finds were retained although a frequent number of medieval and post medieval peg tile were noted from the western end of the playing field.

4.2 Temporary Haul Road

A temporary haul road was excavated towards the eastern side of the existing sports pitch (Fig. 1). It was monitored intermittently for any archaeological features or finds. The ground reduction was entirely within recent topsoil. Only occasional tile and brick was collected and not retained.

4.3 Main Sports Field

Beneath the overburden described above at the western edge of the playing field two similar sub circular shaped pits were recorded. These pits were 50% excavated and finds within the fills dated to the medieval period.

4.3.1 Prehistoric

Discrete Features (Figure 1; Figure 2)
Pit 111 was circular in shape 0.90m in diameter and 0.80m deep with sharp curving concave sides forming a beaker shaped profile. The primary fill of the pit was dark brown black silty clay with frequent flint flakes, burnt flint fragments, foreign stones and flint tools (112). It also contained moderate quantities of charcoal flecks and very rare minute flecks of burnt bone. The latest fill of the pit was 0.40m thick mid grey brown silty clay (115) with one thumb nail scraper present, but no other flint debitage or burnt flint.

At the base of the pit were four stakeholes of similar dimensions and character. Stakehole 120 was 0.08m wide and 0.05m deep with concave sides and a sharp rounded base. It was filled by dark greyish brown silty clay (121) with no finds.

Stakehole 122 was 0.05m wide and 0.05m deep with sharp concave sides forming a near point at the base. The stake would have entered from the south side and it was filled by dark grey brown silty clay (123).

Stakehole 124 was 0.06m wide and 0.08m deep with straight almost vertical sides forming a tapered point. The stake would have entered from the eastern side, and was filled by dark brownish grey silty clay (125).

Stakehole 126 was subcircular in plan 0.10m deep and 0.08m wide. It had vertical sides which formed a tapered point, and the stake would have entered from the south side of the pit. The stakehole was filled by dark brownish grey silty clay (127).

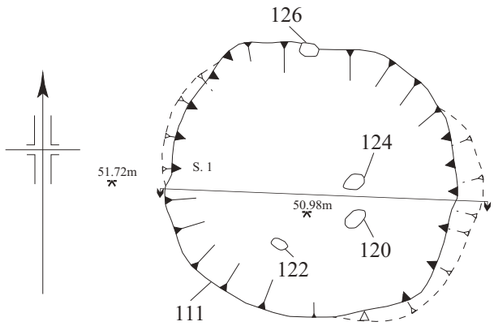
4.3.2 Medieval

Discrete features (Figure 1; Figure 2)
Pit 103 was 1.55m in width and had concave curving sides forming a gently rounded base. It was filled by firm dark grey brown silty clay (104) with frequent gravel inclusions and rare ceramic building material. Two pottery sherds dating to the medieval period were discovered within this fill.

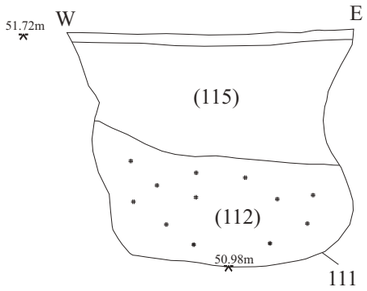
Pit 105 was c. 1.60m in width and 0.23m in depth of sub circular shape with concave curving sides. It was filled by firm dark grey brown silty clay with occasional gravels and ceramic building material (106). Two pottery sherds dating to the medieval period were discovered within this fill.

Pit 109 was a sub circular shape with gradually curving concave sides and a rounded base. It was 0.05m deep x 0.30m wide with a dark greyish brown silty clay fill (110).

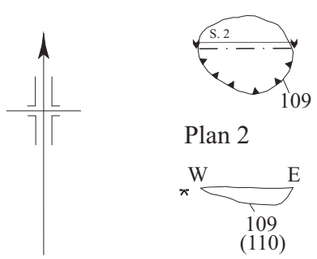
Linear Feature (Figure 1; Figure 2)
A ditch was seen orientated on an approximate NW-SE alignment near towards the eastern half of the site. This ditch was on a similar alignment to that discovered by ULAS (Figure 1; Trench 3). Ditch A had two slots excavated across it 113 & 116, measuring 2.70m in width and 0.15m deep with concave sides and gently rounded base. It was filled by dark black grey silty clay with lighter clay mottling throughout indicating a rapid backfilling (114) & (117). The wide ditch had a recut; Sections 107 & 118, which were 0.70m wide and 0.30m deep with concave sides and gently



Plan 1



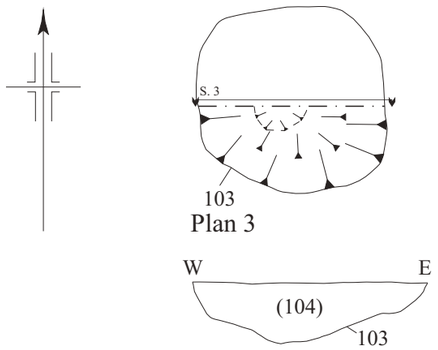
Section 1



Plan 2

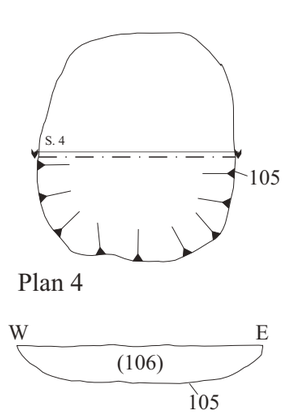
Section 2

Plans 1, 2 & Sections 1, 2



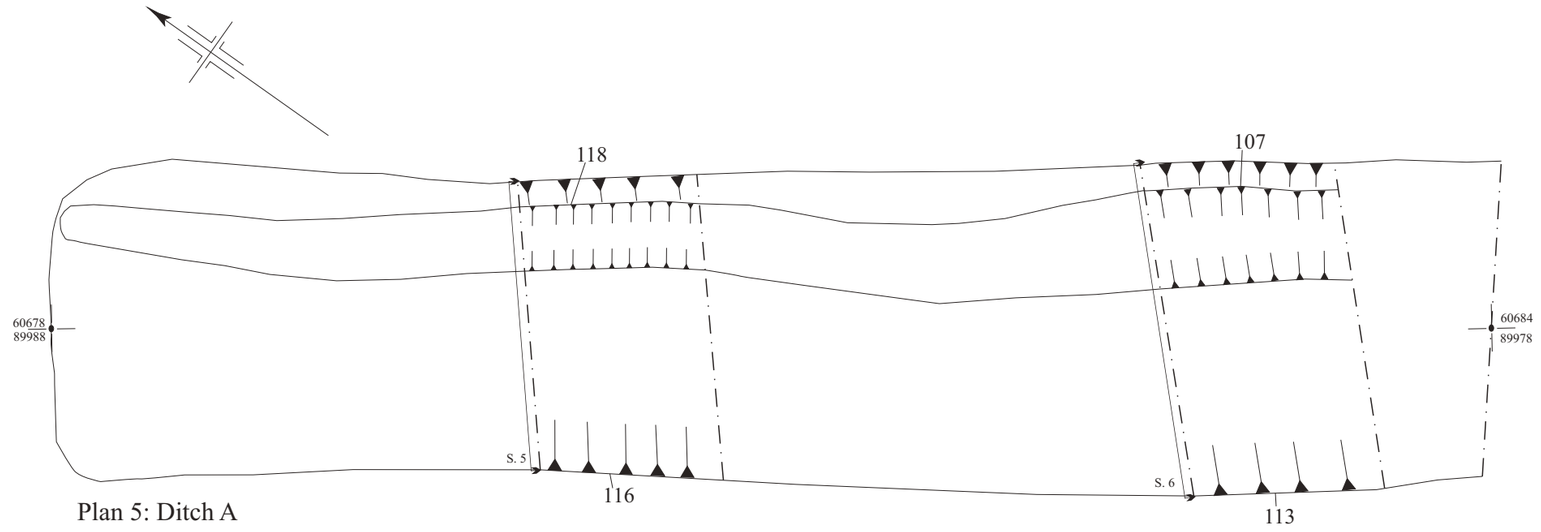
Plan 3

Section 3

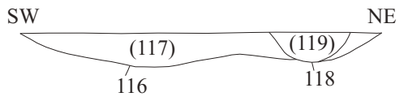


Plan 4

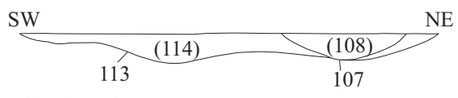
Section 4



Plan 5: Ditch A



Section 5



Section 6

Sections 3, 4, 5, 6

Plans 3, 4, 5

Figure 2. Plans and Sections

rounded base. The fill of the re-cut was mid grey brown silty clay with rare gravel inclusions throughout (108) & (119).

4.4 Reliability of Results

The watching brief was carried out in wintry conditions with good co-operation from the contractor carrying out the groundworks. The methodology employed during groundworks was the 'best case scenario' which could be achieved from the time and resources available from the on site contractors.

Following the topsoil removal by bulldozer, a 21 tonne 360º tracked excavator fitted with a ditching bucket was used to strip the subsoil to the very surface of the natural ground. This enabled proper inspection of the natural horizon across approximately half of the playing field.

The use of the bulldozer to strip the site to natural ground was not ideal as the tracks of the machine ran over exposed surfaces before they could be properly inspected, potentially tracking over any potential discrete or ephemeral archaeological features or finds.

Close inspection of the blade of the bulldozer was undertaken in an attempt to see any archaeological features should they become apparent. This methodology was not perfect for archaeological purposes but sufficient in the circumstances considering the lack of archaeology, artefacts and time pressures of the development within most areas of the sports pitch. Areas around archaeology where reduced with a tracked excavator fitted with a ditching bucket.

5 FINDS

5.1 The Chipped Stone and Burnt/Heated Flint Assemblage

5.1.1 Introduction

Pit 111 with associated fills (112, 115) was identified and excavated. Pit 111 contained a relatively high density of flintwork, most likely dated to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age. Burnt/heated flint was well represented within the pit fills. Recovered from the pit fills were 34 pieces of debitage, 13 pieces of non-worked fire/heat affected flint and 9 scrapers (Tables 1-2).

Table 1

Pit 111	**Fill 112**	
Debitage	Quantity	Weight (g)
Primary Flake	6	49
Secondary Flake	10	45
Tertiary Flake	7	22
Tertiary Blade like	3	12
Irregular waste	5	59
Patinated waste	2	10

Core rejuvenation flake	1	3
Total	34	200

Burnt non retouched flint		
Fire/Heat affected irregular waste fragments	3	41
Fire/Heat affected cobbles and cobble fragments	7	442
Fire/Heat affected flakes	2	5
Fire/Heat affected blade/flake	1	3
Total	13	491

Table 2

Pit 111	Quantities	
Tools	Fill 112	Fill 115
Thumbnail scraper		1
End scraper	5	
Side and end scraper	3	
Total	8	1

5.1.2 Methodology

The flint artefacts were categorised according to a general debitage/tool typology. General type and morphological descriptions were used to describe the flint artefacts (Bordes 1961, 1968; Inizan 1992; Bamford 1985, 72-77; Healy 1988, 48-49; Bradley 1999b, 211-227; Ballin 2000, 2002; Butler 2005). Additionally, descriptive information was recorded regarding the debitage condition and retouch type observed upon the flint tools. Non-worked burnt flint was quantified and weighed.

5.1.3 Raw Material

The majority of the raw material is orange brown coloured flint with a thin veneer of cortical covering. There are a few pieces in the assemblage that are dark grey with translucent edges; these also contain a thin veneer of cortical covering. Other pieces are light grey to off white with high discolouration. Only tertiary pieces, *i.e.* debitage contained no cortication.

5.1.4 The Assemblage

The flint assemblage from the Pit 111 and associated fills (112, 115) was flake dominated. Overall the assemblage consisted of 13 pieces of fire/heat affected non retouched flint, 24 pieces of debitage and 9 scrapers.

Fire/Heat Affected Non Retouched Flint

From context (112) of Pit 111 there were 13 pieces of burnt flint identified with a collective weight of 491g. Some of the un-worked material consisted of palm size pebbles and smaller pebble fragments considered to be pot boilers. One unidentified pebble (more cobble like) appears to be a banded igneous formation. This particular stone may not be a locally sourced material. The colouring of the pebbles and pebble fragments are mainly off white, high in discolouration, indicating a prolonged exposure to fire or heat. The pebbles and fragments show visible thermal fractures and sharp angular breaks. Included in the fire/heat affected category are 2 non retouched flakes and 1 non retouched blade/flake. Each of the debitage pieces are discoloured taking on an off-white appearance and contain damage caused by heat spalling. These pieces also contain visible angular breaks and minute thermal fracture lines.

Debitage

Pit 111 yielded a total of 34 struck flints from context (112). Secondary flakes are most numerous, followed by tertiary and primary flakes. There were no archetypal blades (or bladelets) observed in the assemblage. Blade-like pieces were observed, though these pieces reflect a step the core trimming process as per the *chaîne opératoire* rather than intentionally struck blades. There was a small presence of angular debris represented in the collection. The largest piece of debris contained cortex and exhibited evidence of intentional flake removals as well as thermal spalling. There were other indications of exposure to fire or heat i.e. whitish discolouration and fine thermal fractures. Unretouched flint flakes dominate the assemblage and may indicate a preference for flakes over blades. The flakes are generally small having thicknesses between .02mm (tertiary flake) and .09mm (primary flake). The flake morphology and quantity per assemblage (Blades N=0) may represent the presence of later Neolithic and/or later Bronze Age lithic industries (Pitts and Jacobi 1979; Ford 1987; Butler 2005: 122, 179).

Tools

The retouched tools in the assemblage were formed on flakes. Three tool types were present, a thumbnail scraper, end scrapers and end and side scrapers. Table 3 provides scraper thickness and length. Four scrapers show the results of heavy use-wear, resulting in step fractures along the working distal edge. The fifth end scraper shows evidence of steep angled retouching along the distal working edge. All five end scrapers contain cortex. The three side scrapers are more finely retouched along the left dorsal side, transversing across the distal edge. The angle of removal along the distal edge on all three scrapers is abrupt and cross abrupt. Along the left ventral side two scrapers show abrupt and stepped retouching. A third broken side and end scraper contains nice parallel perpendicular removals along the left ventral edge where the right proximal edge has been broken. Each scraper shows varying degrees of cortical covering.

Table 3

Pit 111	Fill 112	
Tools	Thickness (mm)	Length (mm)
End Scraper 1	0.05	0.25
End Scraper 2	0.08	0.21
End Scraper 3	0.08	0.4

End Scraper 4	0.08	0.34
End Scraper 5	0.14	0.39
Side and End Scraper 1 (Broken)	0.07	0.24
Side and End Scraper 2	0.05	0.33
Side and End Scraper 3	0.05	0.28
	Fill 115	
Thumbnail Scraper	0.03	0.22

5.1.5 Conclusions

The flint assemblage collected from Pit 111 and contexts (112, 115) most likely reflects the presence of a later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age lithic industry. The chipped stone collection is predominately made up of flakes, as there were no intentional blade types reflected in the lithic assemblage.

The flake morphology and quantity per assemblage (Blades N=0) also supports the date range of the later Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age lithic industries. The flint assemblage is fairly typical of later Neolithic/ Early Bronze age assemblages, containing a well represented quantity of formal tools, *i.e.* scrapers, in conjunction with flake based debitage.

5.2 The Pottery *by Paul Blinkhorn*

The pottery assemblage comprised 4 sherds with a total weight of 24g. It was recorded utilizing the coding system and chronology of the Oxfordshire County type-series (Mellor 1984; 1994), as follows:

WA38: Wallingford ware, AD1050 – 1250. 3 sherds, 18g.
OXDR: Red Earthenwares, 1550+. 1 sherd, 6g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 4. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. Both fabric types are common finds in the area. All the sherds are abraded to a degree, and are the products of secondary deposition. The Wallingford Ware assemblage includes a small fragment of a jug rim, the rest of the assemblage consists of plain bodysherds.

Table 4: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

	WA38		OXDR		
Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
104	1	4			M11thC
106	2	14			M11thC
107			1	6	M16thC
Total	3	18	1	6	

5.3 Tile

A selected sample of peg tile was collected from topsoil and subsoil across the site. This was all standard medieval and post medieval tile expected from a site in Wallingford. It should be stated that more tile was present over the far western area of the site closest to the medieval pits 103 & 105, which may indicate a building once occupied a space, perhaps beneath the playing areas or school buildings.

A small amount of tile was collected from ditch (Feature A); slots 113 & 116 and is tabulated below:

Table 5: Tile by occurrence and weight (g) of sherds by per context

Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
114	1	4			P med
117	2	14			P med
Total	3	18			

5.4 Environmental Remains

One palaeoenvironmental sample was taken from a pit of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date. The sample was processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains charred plant remains and charcoal.

Methodology
The samples were processed by Paul Riccoboni, using standard methodology. Samples were processed outside using a 'Siraf' style flotation tank, with meshes of 0.5mm apeture for both retention of the flot and the residue. The residue was additionally bucket floated to obtain maximum possible retrieval of environmental evidence. Following air drying the residue was sorted, weighed and discarded, though it was not fractionated prior to sorting. Little environmental evidence was present in the residue, though finds from these samples – a scraper and flint debitage were retained. The flot was sorted and assessed by eye without the aid of a microscope; it was not fractionated prior to assessment.

Table 6: Sample Information

Phase		Excavation Area					
	No. of samples	Context and Sample no.	Sample Vol (litres)	Flot Vol (litres)	Residue weight (g)	Residue discard weight (g)	Comments
Late Neo/Early Bronze Age	1	<1> (112)	40	/	/	/	-
Totals	1	-	40	/	/	/	-

Wood charcoal

There is a very small amount of wood charcoal present within the samples, making up the bulk of the charred assemblage. It is unlikely that this could be identified to species and provide information on the management and exploitation of the woodland resource, as the fragments were so small.

6 DISCUSSION

The archaeological watching brief at Wallingford School, St Georges Road, Wallingford, Oxfordshire was successful in proving that prehistoric and medieval archaeological remains survived across the site of the new astro turf playing field.

The feature which contained Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age scrapers and flint knapping debitage was of a similar date to the feature found beneath the tennis courts during previous archaeological monitoring (PRN 16357) but of a different character. The pit was beaker shaped in profile and the stakeholes seen at the base of the pit may indicate that four spears once marked its location. A parallel was found at Thirlings in Northumbria where one late Neolithic pit had twelve stakes inserted into it from above (Miket 1976, 119). If the stakes once acted as markers it may be useful to suggest the pit may represent the remains of a cremation burial with the stakes acting as grave markers. The two fills within the pit are evidence that the pit was quickly backfilled after its initial cutting. The primary fill contained the most charcoal and was ‘greasy’ in consistency comparable to the fills of the pits at Spong Hill in Norfolk, which also contained large numbers of artefacts (Darvil 1986, 6). The high ratio of flint implements to waste flakes alongside exotic stones has a parallel to the southern group of pits found close to the Dorset Cursus.

The shape of the pit was unusual as pits from this period are generally shallow and bowl shaped. It has been hypothesised that the act of pit digging was integral to committing an event to social memory (Thomas 1999). With this in mind it may be possible that the shape of the pit was intended to mimic the form of a traditional beaker vessel with the classic hour glass shape.

The latest fill of the pit had a higher clay content and contained no charcoal or knapping waste, with only one thumb nail scraper tool recovered, indicating this clay was deposited rapidly to seal the pit and its contents. The sides of the pit were also fresh with little evidence of weathering or subsidence confirming the impression that the pit was quickly backfilled soon after it was dug. It is likely that the deposition of the flint tools within this pit was more than simple disposal of waste material. The fact that there were exotic stones present does imply that objects were taken to the location with the deliberate intention of formal deposition. The lack of cremated bone suggests that is was not a cremation.

The two medieval pits located at the western end of the playing field were likely to have been garden waste pits. The natural clay geology was seen across most of the area with very few archaeological features indicating this area was never intensively settled on or farmed.

The ditch seen traversing the site may have been associated with the ditch seen in ULAS Trench 3 recorded during the archaeological evaluation (Fig 1). Although different in shape and orientation they were on a similar alignment and may represent the re establishment of a lost boundary across this part of the site during the late medieval and post-medieval period. It was ascertained that ditch 107/108 had been re cut throughout a much wider ditch 113/116.

The topsoil and subsoil were very sterile with only medieval peg tile present within each layer. It was noted that more tile was present across the western half of the playing field, which may indicate a medieval building once existed close to this location perhaps beneath the present school buildings.

7 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents
The archive consists of the following:

Paper Record

The project brief	The project report
Written Scheme of Investigation	The primary site records
The drawn records	The Finds

The archive is currently maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museums /Service under accession number 2010.98.

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Appendix 1: Summary of all contexts

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
100	Deposit	Dark greyish brown topsoil	0.30	Site	Site	Peg tile	Med
101	Deposit	Mid brownish grey silty sand	0.20	Site	Site	Peg tile	Med
102	Deposit	Mid brownish orange clay silt	/	Site	Site	None	./
103	Cut	Cut of pit	0.40	1.55	1.50	/	/
104	Deposit	Fill of 103	0.40	1.55	1.50	Pot	Med
105	Cut	Cut of pit	0.23	1.60	1.80	/	/
106	Deposit	Fill of 105	0.23	1.60	1.80	Pot	Med
107	Cut	Cut of Ditch A	0.30	0.70	11.5	/	/
108	Deposit	Fill of 107	0.30	0.70	11.5	CBM	P med
109	Cut	Cut of feature	0.05	0.30	0.30	/	/
110	Deposit	Fill of 109	0.05	0.30	0.30	None	/
111	Cut	Cut of Pit	0.80	0.90	0.90	/	/
112	Deposit	Fill of 111	0.40	0.80	0.80	Flint tools	Late Neo/E Bronze Age
113	Cut	Cut of Ditch A	0.15	2.70	11.5	/	/
114	Deposit	Fill of 113	0.15	2.70	11.5	CBM	P med
115	Deposit	Fill of 111	0.40	0.90	0.90	Flint tool	Late Neo/E Bronze Age
116	Cut	Cut of Ditch A	0.15	0.70	11.5	/	/
117	Deposit	Fill of 116	0.15	1.70	11.5	CBM	P med
118	Cut	Cut of Ditch A	0.20	0.50	11.5	/	/
119	Deposit	Fill of 118	0.20	0.50	11.5	None	/
120	Cut	Cut of Stakehole	0.08	0.05	0.05	/	/
121	Deposit	Fill of 120	0.08	0.05	0.05	None	/
122	Cut	Cut of Stakehole	0.05	0.05	0.08	/	/
123	Deposit	Fill of 122	0.05	0.05	0.08	None	/
124	Cut	Cut of Stakehole	0.08	0.06	0.06	/	/
125	Deposit	Fill of 124	0.10	0.08	0.06	None	/
126	Cut	Cut of Stakehole	0.10	0.08	0.06	/	/
127	Deposit	Fill of 126	0.08	0.06	0.06	None	/

Site Name: Wallingford School, St Georges Rd, Wallingford, New Astro Sports Pitch	
Site Address: Wallingford School, St Georges Rd, Wallingford, Oxfordshire	
Summary:	
District/Unitary: Oxford City	**Parish:**
Period(s): Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age/medieval & Post medieval.	
NGR (centre of site: 8 figures): 460651 189960	
Type of archaeological work (delete) Watching Brief	
Date of Recording: 25/10/10 – 8/03/2011	
Unit undertaking recording: JMHS	
Geology: First Terrace Gravels	
Title and author of accompanying report: An Archaeological Watching Brief at Wallingford School New Astro turf pitch, St Georges Rd, Wallingford, Oxfordshire Prepared by Paul Riccoboni BA (Hons) Arch AIFA	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) *John Moore Heritage Services conducted a watching brief during ground reduction in advance of a new all weather sports pitch at Wallingford School, St Georges Rd, Wallingford, Oxfordshire (SU 8066 9000). A total of 15 site visits were made intermittently over the period from 25th October to 8th March 2011. The monitored ground works involved initial topsoil stripping followed by further reduction to finished levels across the area of the new sports field which impacted upon natural geology across the eastern side of the new sports pitch. The ground levels were raised across the western side of the new pitch. The earliest feature was a pit dated by a high density of flintwork to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age. The presence of flint debitage and tools indicate this feature may have been a cremation or be the remains of a short stay site camp with cooking pit. The medieval features consisted of two pits probably contemporary and one late medieval/early post medieval field ditch which once formed an extinct boundary.*	
Location of archive/finds:	
Contact at Unit: *:* *Paul Riccoboni* *info@jmheritageservices.co.uk*	**Date:**

Plate 1; General shot of Haul Road ground reduction

Plate 2; Feature 103 medieval rubbish pit

Plate 3; Late Neolithic pit 111 half excavated

Plate 4; General site strip showing Ditch A

Plate 5; Late Neolithic pit 111 full excavation showing stakeholes