Land at Oak Crescent Eye, Suffolk

Archaeological Evaluation Report

OA East Report No: 1548
OASIS No: oxfordar3-163099
NGR: TM 1144 7439

Client: Lovell Partnerships

December 2013
An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Oak Crescent, Eye, Suffolk

Archaeological Evaluation

By Helen Stocks-Morgan BSc

Editor: Paul Spoerry BTech PhD MIfA

Illustrator: Liz Gardner MA MIfA

Report Date: November 2013
Report Number: 1548
Site Name: Oak Crescent, Eye
HER Event No: EYE 119
Date of Works: November 2013
Client Name: Lovell Partnerships
Client Ref: 16170
Planning Ref: 1877/13
Grid Ref: TM 1447 7439
Site Code: EYE 119
Finance Code: XSF OCE 13
Receiving Body: Suffolk County Stores

Prepared by: Helen Stocks-Morgan
Position: Supervisor
Date: 05/11/13

Checked by: Paul Spoerry
Position: regional Manager, OA East
Date: 3/12/13

Signed: [Signature]

Disclaimer
This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.

Oxford Archaeology East,
15 Trafalgar Way,
Bar Hill,
Cambridge,
CB23 8SQ

t: 01223 850500
f: 01223 850599
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net
w: http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast

© Oxford Archaeology East 2011
Oxford Archaeology Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627
# Table of Contents

Summary...........................................................................................................................................5

1 Introduction.....................................................................................................................................7
   1.1 Location and scope of work........................................................................................................7
   1.2 Geology and topography.............................................................................................................7
   1.3 Archaeological and historical background................................................................................7
   1.4 Acknowledgements....................................................................................................................7

2 Aims and Methodology....................................................................................................................8
   2.1 Aims...........................................................................................................................................8
   2.2 Methodology.............................................................................................................................8

3 Results............................................................................................................................................9
   3.1 Trench 1......................................................................................................................................9
   3.2 Finds Summary........................................................................................................................9

4 Discussion and Conclusions..........................................................................................................10
   4.1 Discussion................................................................................................................................10
   4.2 Recommendations..................................................................................................................10

Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory.................................................................11

Appendix B. Bibliography ................................................................................................................12

Appendix C. OASIS Report Form ....................................................................................................13
List of Figures

Fig. 1    Site location map

List of Plates

Plate 1    Trench one from the north
Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at Oak Crescent, Eye, Suffolk (TM 1447 7439). The fieldwork took place on the 04/11/13. A trench, 56.5m long, was excavated within the easement of the proposed sewer. No archaeological deposits were encountered during this evaluation.
1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at land at Oak Crescent, Eye, Suffolk (TM 1144 7439).

1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Matthew Brudenell of Suffolk County Council (SCC; Planning Application 1877/13), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (Spoerry, 2013).

1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in National Planning Policy Framework (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by SCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site lies on Diamicton of the Lowestoft Formation. Diamicton was formed by glaciers depositing moraines of till with outwash sand and gravel deposits from seasonal and post glacial meltwaters. This lies above Crag Group sand, a marine siliciclastic sediment deposited as mud, silt, sand and gravel (BGS, 2006).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The site overlooks a tributary of the River Dove, in a landscape setting which is topographically favourable for early settlement. The proposed sewer is 400m east of a prehistoric and Roman settlement, located at Hartismere School and Hospital (EYE 094 and 111) and c. 400m west of two large multi-period artefact scatters (EYE 004 and EYE Misc).

1.3.2 Eye is an important medieval settlement which grew around the Norman castle and church of St Peter. The route of the sewer is c.120m north of the medieval core of Eye (EYE 091). The green at Oak Crescent is the last large area of open and potentially undisturbed ground in this developed part of Eye.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The author would like to thank Lovell Partnerships who commissioned the work, especially the site manager Rob Bishop. Thanks are also extended to Pat Moan who carried out all on-site survey and Liz Gardner who created the graphics. The project was managed by Paul Spoerry and monitored by Matt Brudenell of Suffolk County Council.
2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims
2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

2.2 Methodology
2.2.1 One trench, 56.5m long was opened within the easement of the proposed sewer. All archaeological remains were excavated where appropriate.
2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by Pat Moan using a Leica GPS.
2.2.4 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
2.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's pro-forma sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
2.2.6 Site conditions were good, with mild and sunny weather experienced.
3 RESULTS

3.1 Trench 1
3.1.1 No archaeological remains were encountered within the trench. The natural deposits were recorded at 0.35m below modern ground level, consisting of a mid orange clay with chalk inclusions. A subsoil layer of dark greyish orange silty clay (2) 0.05m thick was recorded. This was overlain by the topsoil (1), a dark greyish brown silty clay, 0.3m in thickness.

3.1.2 Towards the centre of the trench lay a sub-rectangular pit (4), 1.5m in diameter. It was filled with a light greyish silt and contained blocks of concrete (3). No excavation was carried out as it was visibly modern.

3.2 Finds Summary
3.2.1 No finds were recovered during the evaluation.
4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Discussion
4.1.1 The evaluation showed that the site was subject to some localised modern disturbance, in the form of a large pit (4) containing concrete. This is unlikely to have caused significant amount of disturbance to any potential archaeological remains.

4.1.2 There is no evidence of any archaeological remains on site, suggesting the medieval settlement of Eye, 120m to the south, did not extend in to this area. During the evaluation the water table was seen to be very high, with water seeping up at the interface between subsoil and natural. Therefore it is likely that the area was seen as unfavourable for settlement.

4.2 Recommendations
4.2.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.
**APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trench 1</th>
<th>Orientation</th>
<th>N-S</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General description</td>
<td>Avg. depth (m)</td>
<td>0.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trench contained one modern pit. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of boulder clay.</td>
<td>Width (m)</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Length (m)</td>
<td>56.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contexts</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>context no</td>
<td>type</td>
<td>Width (m)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Layer</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Layer</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fill</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Cut</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brudenell, M., 2013 Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Land at Oak Crescent, Eye, Suffolk. Suffolk County Council


Maps consulted
British Geological Survey, 2006 Sheet 190, England and Wales 1:50,000
APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

**Project Details**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OASIS Number</th>
<th>OXFORD3-163099</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Name</td>
<td>An Evaluation at Oak Crescent, Eye, Suffolk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Dates (fieldwork) Start</td>
<td>Finish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous Work (by OA East)</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Project Reference Codes**

| Site Code | EYE 119 |
| HER No. | EYE 119 |
| Planning App. No. | 1877/13 |
| Related HER/OASIS No. | |

**Type of Project/Techniques Used**

| Prompt | Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16 |
| Development Type | Service Infrastructure |

**Please select all techniques used:**

- [ ] Aerial Photography - interpretation
- [ ] Aerial Photography - new
- [ ] Annotated Sketch
- [ ] Augering
- [ ] Dendrochronological Survey
- [ ] Documentary Search
- [ ] Environmental Sampling
- [ ] Fieldwalking
- [ ] Geophysical Survey
- [ ] Grab-Sampling
- [ ] Gravity-Core
- [ ] Laser Scanning
- [ ] Measured Survey
- [ ] Metal Detectors
- [ ] Photographic Survey
- [ ] Photogrammetric Survey
- [ ] Rectified Photography
- [ ] Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
- [x] Sample Trenches
- [ ] Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
- [ ] Targeted Trenches
- [ ] Test Pits
- [ ] Topographic Survey
- [ ] Vibro-core
- [ ] Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)

**Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods**

List feature types using the NMR Monument Type Thesaurus and significant finds using the MDA Object type Thesaurus together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monument</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Object</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select period...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select period...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select period...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Project Location**

| County | SUFFOLK |
| District | MID SUFFOLK |
| Parish | Eye |
| HER | Eye 119 |
| Study Area | | | National Grid Reference | TM 1144 7439 |

Site Address (including postcode if possible)
Oak Crescent,
Eye
Suffolk
IP23 7BY
### Project Originators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>OA EAST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Brief Originator</td>
<td>Matthew Brudenell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Design Originator</td>
<td>Paul Spoerry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Manager</td>
<td>Paul Spoerry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervisor</td>
<td>Helen Stocks-Morgan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Project Archives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical Archive</th>
<th>Digital Archive</th>
<th>Paper Archive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OA East</td>
<td>OA East</td>
<td>Oa east</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accession ID ...</td>
<td>Accession ID ...</td>
<td>Accession ID ...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Archive Contents/Media

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal Bones</th>
<th>Ceramics</th>
<th>Environmental</th>
<th>Glass</th>
<th>Human Bones</th>
<th>Industrial</th>
<th>Leather</th>
<th>Metal</th>
<th>Stratigraphic</th>
<th>Survey</th>
<th>Text</th>
<th>Virtual Reality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Digital Media</th>
<th>Paper Media</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Database</td>
<td>Aerial Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIS</td>
<td>Context Sheet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geophysics</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Images</td>
<td>Diary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illustrations</td>
<td>Drawing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moving Image</td>
<td>Manuscript</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spreadsheets</td>
<td>Map</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survey</td>
<td>Matrices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text</td>
<td>Microfilm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual Reality</td>
<td>Misc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research/Notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Survey</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Notes:

---

© Oxford Archaeology East

Page 14 of 14

Report Number 1548
Figure 1: Site location
Plate 1: Trench one
Head Office/Registered Office/ OA South

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
t: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: http://oxfordarchaeology.com

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
t: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: http://oxfordarchaeology.com

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850 500
e: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: http://oxfordarchaeology.com