The Wyches,  
Little Thetford,  
Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Client: Little Thetford Sports and Social Club  
OA East Report No: 1044  
OASIS No: oxfordar3-48 266  
NGR: TL 5300 7659
The Wyches, Little Thetford, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation

By Chris Thatcher BA

Editor: James Drummond Murray BA MIFA

Illustrator: Caomhin Ó Coileáin BA

Report Date: September 2008
Report Number: 1044
Site Name: The Wyches, little Thetford
HER Event No: ECB 2990
Date of Works: July 2008
Client Name: Little Thetford Sports and Social Club
Client Ref: none
Planning Ref: 07/01454/FUL
Grid Ref: TL 5300 7659
Site Code: THE WYS 08
Finance Code: THE WYS 08
Receiving Body:

Accession No:
Prepared by: Chris Thatcher
Position: Project Officer
Date: 12-09-2008
Checked by: James Dummond-Murray
Position: Project Manager
Date: 12-09-2008
Signed:

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Fig. 1 Site location map
Fig. 2 Trench plan and sections
**Summary**

An archaeological evaluation was conducted at the Land adjacent to The Sports and Social Club, 31 The Wyches, Little Thetford (TL 5300 7659) by OA East on 9th July 2008, prior to the construction of two Multi-Use Games Areas (total area 37 x 37m). The work was commissioned by the Little Thetford Sports and Social Club Committee.

OA East were commissioned to mechanically excavate a 25m x 2m trench within the footprint of the proposed new changing rooms. The evaluation revealed no archaeological features or remains.
1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at the Sports and Social Club, 31 The Wyches, Little Thetford, Cambridgeshire.

1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Eliza Gore of the Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice team (CAPCA; Planning Application 07/01454/FUL, supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (formerly Cambridgeshire County Council's CAM ARC).

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 Planning and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by CAPCA, 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 development area overlies Kimmerridge Clay with overlying Glacial Tills and is located on the northern edge of the current village in the playing fields to the north of the Wyches.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The background is drawn from the specification for the works (Drummond Murray 2008).

1.3.2 Some previous work has been done in Little Thetford. An evaluation, followed by an excavation at Watsons Lane (CB 15675 – Lucas and Hinman 1996) revealed an iron Age Settlement site overlain by Romano- British occupation. This lay in the western part of the village.

1.3.3 However an evaluation at Holt Fen (ECB 288 - Hatton and Kemp 2001) revealed no archaeological features. This site lay to the south-east of the village and was marginal to the settlement.

1.3.4 Prehistoric evidence is mainly limited to stray finds for instance a Neolithic Arrowhead (HER 02081), Neolithic flint axe (HER 02103) and Bronze Age pottery (HER 06400). A watching brief on the Anglian Water pipeline between Little Thetford and Cawdle Fen did however reveal a dense concentration of Neolithic lithics (CB14676 – Edwards 1996).

1.3.5 A possible Roman Villa Site lies to the north of the village (MCB 16084). Another Roman pottery scatter lay to the north of the village (MCB 16254).

1.3.6 Two possible deserted medieval settlements are recorded in the SMR close to the village. One lies to the south of the village (HER 09226), according to cropmark evidence, the second to the north (HER 06143).
1.3.7 The site was deemed to have potential for uncovering archaeological remains from all periods, with a higher potential for uncovering Iron Age into Romano-British remains.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The author would like to thank Robert Bullen and the Little Thetford Sports and Social Club Committee who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by James Drummond Murray. Chris Thatcher carried out the evaluation with the assistance of Rochelle Wood. The illustrations were produced by Caoimhín Ó Coileáin. James Drummond Murray edited the report.

1.4.2 The brief for the archaeological works was written by Eliza Gore, who monitored the evaluation.
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 The Brief required that a single, 25m x 2m trial trench, located within the bounds of the new Multi-Use Games Areas, be excavated.

2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360° excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.

2.2.3 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.

2.2.4 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.

2.2.5 Conditions on site were overcast and raining, ground conditions were dry down to the base of the trenches.
3 RESULTS

3.1 Trench Summary
3.1.1 The development area was sealed by a layer of dark grey brown, silty clay topsoil with frequent small gravel inclusions, that was 0.08m thick (100). This overlay a subsoil composed of dark brown silty clay with very infrequent gravel inclusions (101) that was up to 0.27m thick.

3.1.2 The underlying natural geological deposit comprised an homogeneous mid orange silty clay (102).

3.2 Discussion and Conclusions
3.2.1 The evaluation revealed no archaeological remains despite its close proximity to known Iron Age and Romano-British remains.

3.3 Recommendations
3.3.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.
APPENDIX A. HEALTH AND SAFETY STATEMENT

A.1.1 OA East will ensure that all work is carried out in accordance with relevant Health and Safety Policies, to standards defined in The Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act, 1974 and The Management of Health and Safety Regulations, 1992, and in accordance with the manual Health and Safety in Fieldwork Archaeology (SCAUM 1997).

A.1.2 Risk assessments prepared for the OA East office will be adhered to.

A.1.3 OA East has Public Liability Insurance. Separate professional insurance is covered by a Public Liability Policy.

A.1.4 Full details of the relevant Health and Safety Policies and the unit’s insurance cover can be provided on request.
APPENDIX B. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

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APPENDIX C. BIBLIOGRAPHY


Gore, E 2008 Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation, The Wyches, Little Thetford, Cambridgeshire

APPENDIX D. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

**Project Details**

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**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
- [ ] Phosphate Survey
- [ ] Photogrammetric Survey
- [ ] Photographic Survey
- [ ] Rectified Photography
- [x] Sample Trenches
- [ ] Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
- [ ] 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”.

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Study Area 0.1ha National Grid Reference TL 5300 7659

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## Drawing Conventions

### Plans
- **Limit of Excavation**
- **Deposit - Conjectured**
- **Natural Features**
- **Sondages/Machine Strip**
- **Intrusion/Truncation**
- **Illustrated Section** - S.14

### Sections
- **Limit of Excavation**
- **Cut**
- **Cut-Conjectured**
- **Deposit Horizon**
- **Deposit Horizon - Conjectured**
- **Intrusion/Truncation**
- **Top Surface/Top of Natural**
- **Break in Section/ Limit of Section Drawing**

### Abbreviations
- **Cut Number**: H18
- **Deposit Number**: 117
- **Ordnance Datum**: 18.45m OD
- **Inclusions**: ◆

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Figure 1: Location of trench in black
Figure 2: Trench plan and sections
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