8 Beccles Road
Loddon
Norfolk

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Client:
CgMs for Taylor Wimpey
East Anglia Ltd

OA East Report No: 1325
OASIS No: Oxfordar3-117846
NGR: TM 365 982

January 2012
An archaeological evaluation at Beccles Road, Loddon, Norfolk

Archaeological Evaluation

By Rob Atkins BSocSc DipArch

Editor: Rachel Clarke BA AlmA

Illustrator: Stuart Ladd MA

Report Date: January 2012
Report Number: 1325
Site Name: No. 8 Beccles Road, Loddon
HER Event No: ENF 128357
Date of Works: 16th and 17th January 2012
Client Name: CgMs for Taylor Wimpey East Anglia Ltd
Client Ref: 13969
Planning Ref: 2011/1184/F
Grid Ref: TM 365 982
Site Code: ENF 128357
Finance Code: XNFBER12
Receiving Body: Gressenhall, Norfolk County Council Store

Accession No:
Prepared by: Rob Atkins
Position: Project Officer
Date: January 2012

Checked by: James Drummond-Murray
Position: Senior Project
Date: January 2012
Signed: 

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 there from. 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. 285827
# 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 ............................................................................................... 8

2 Aims and Methodology ............................................................................................. 9
   2.1 Aims ........................................................................................................................ 9
   2.2 Methodology .......................................................................................................... 9

3 Results ...................................................................................................................... 10
   3.1 Introduction ......................................................................................................... 10

4 Discussion and Conclusions ..................................................................................... 12
   4.1 Overview .............................................................................................................. 12
   4.2 Significance .......................................................................................................... 12
   4.3 Recommendations ............................................................................................... 12

Appendix A. Context Inventory .................................................................................... 13

Appendix B. Bibliography ............................................................................................ 14

Appendix C. OASIS Report Form ................................................................................. 15
List of Figures
Fig. 1      Site location with development area outlined (red)
Fig. 2      Trench plan within development area (red)

List of Tables
Table 1     Trench summary

List of Plates
Plate 1     General view of site looking south with Trench 4 on western side of photograph
Plate 2     Trench 2 looking north-west
Plate 3     Trench 9 looking north-west
Summary

On the 16th and 17th January 2012 OA East conducted an archaeological evaluation at a proposed housing development site (3.09ha) within the former Express Plastics Site, Beccles Road, Loddon (TM 365982). The evaluation comprised ten evaluation trenches spread across the northern and western parts of the proposed development area and located away from standing buildings. The results of the evaluation demonstrate that the site had been heavily truncated on the northern (and presumably eastern sides) and had been partly truncated and then landscaped along the western side, with more than 1.76m of made ground recorded in some places. No pre-modern archaeological features or artefacts were uncovered.
1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work
1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at No. 8 Beccles Road, Loddon, Norfolk, ahead of a proposed residential development of 87 houses.

1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by James Albone (Albone 2011) of Norfolk County Council (NCC; Planning Application 2011/1184/F), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (Macaulay 2011).

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 Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010). The results will enable decisions to be made by NCC, 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 solid geology of the study site is shown as Norwich and Red Crag formations by the British Geological Survey (BGS 1985). This solid geology is overlain by Glacial Sand and Gravel and Alluvium along the western boundary of the site, towards Loddon Beck (BGS 1991). The Loddon Beck runs in a north to south direction, adjacent to the west of the site, and is a tributary of the River Chet. A geotechnical investigation was undertaken at the study site in April 2005 and recorded the underlying geology in the east of the study area as Kesgrave Sand and Gravel and the underlying geology in the west of the study area as Breydon Formation Peat (quoted in Mayo 2011, 6). This geotechnical survey recorded up to c.2m of made ground deposits on this western side of the site, whilst the eastern side had been truncated.

1.2.2 The topography of the site has been affected by terracing and landscaping which took place presumably at the same time that the former Express Plastics factory was built. This work transformed the ground to create two level platforms (4m and 5m OD respectively). The eastern part of the site was heavily truncated whilst the western side was raised up. Formerly, before the terracing etc., the study site lay on a gradual slope from east to west, sloping down from c.9m OD along the eastern boundary down to c.4m OD along the western boundary of the site, close to the Loddon Beck (Mayo 2011, 6).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background
1.3.1 An Archaeological Impact Assessment was carried out on the site prior to the archaeological evaluation (Mayo 2011). This assessment concluded that the study site "occupies an archaeological significant location between a known Roman and Middle Saxon settlement and the Loddon Beck" (ibid, 8). The assessment also noted that the impact of terracing and land forming on the site ahead of the development of the plastics factory had reduced the archaeological potential of the site.

1.3.2 The cartographic evidence for the site was also analysed by Mayo (2011, figs. 3-8). The 1884 Ordnance Survey map showed that the south-east corner of the study site was occupied by Town Farm. No significant changes were apparent on the study site on the
1906 Ordnance Survey map. By 1957 Ordnance Survey map a large warehouse building was constructed to the south-east of Town Farm. By 1973 the study site was used as a boat building works, and for plastics manufacture since 1985 until it closed a few years ago.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The author would like to thank the client Taylor Wimpey East Anglia Ltd and their agent CgMs. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray. The project was monitored by James Albone, Planning Archaeologist for Norfolk County Council Heritage Environment Service. The fieldwork was carried out by Rob Atkins and Stephen Morgan. The site was surveyed by Rachel Clarke who also edited this report.
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.

2.1.2 In the event that archaeological remains were present the evaluation was to seek to consider appropriate methodologies and suitable resourcing levels for excavation.

2.2 Methodology
2.2.1 The Brief required that there would be ten 20m long by 1.8m wide evaluation trenches (Albone 2011). These were located on the northern, western and southern parts of the development area (Fig. 2; Plate 1) away from standing buildings located within the remaining areas of the site.

2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled 360°-type excavator using a toothless 2m wide ditching bucket. The site survey was carried out using a Leica GPS with Leica Smartnet on board.

2.2.3 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. No environmental samples were taken due to absence of pre-modern deposits. The evaluation took place under good conditions.

2.2.4 Around the deeply excavated trenches an orange plastic bunting was installed. The lower trench sides, where they had been stepped, were unstable, partly due to the high water table, and here the sides of the trenches collapsed. The water level was encountered at c.1.6m below ground level. Once permission had been granted from Norfolk County Council, the deeper trenches were backfilled.
3 Results

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 No archaeological features pre-dating the modern era were found in the ten evaluation trenches; the results are recorded in Table 1.

Trenches 1-5

3.1.2 Trenches 1-5 were located within the northern part of the site. This area had been severely truncated with the thin grass/topsoil directly overlaying the natural Glacial Sands in Trenches 1, 2 and 4 (Plates 1 and 2). In the north-western parts of Trenches 3 and 5, the ground was slightly disturbed. Partly cutting the natural in this area was an additional deposit (6), more than 0.35m thick in places. This disturbance probably related to landscaping during construction of the plastics factory. Layer 6 was a mid brown silty sand and contained 20th century brick, concrete and plastic. The topsoil (1) on this northern side of the site was a mid brown silty sand with occasional sub-rounded stones <50mm in length. The natural Glacial Sands encountered in Trenches 1-5 comprised a fine light brown sand with occasional sub-angular stones <50mm in length. A small machine sondage was excavated through the natural within Trenches 3, 4 and 5 to ensure that this identification was correct.

Trenches 6-10

3.1.3 Trenches 6-10 were located along the western side and south-western corner of the site. The natural was exposed in Trench 6 and the northern part of Trench 7 and this consisted of pinkish orange sandy, silty clays with patches of rounded flint gravels. Sealing this natural was a 0.4m thick modern build up deposit (4). There was no evidence of the former topsoil/ground level. In the southern part of Trench 7, the truncation was deeper and the natural was not encountered. Within Trenches 8, 9 and 10, the build up layers comprised two substantial modern deposits (4 and 5), which according to the 2005 geotechnical report were 2m thick. The lower make up deposit (5) was only exposed in the stepped trenches (8 and 9). It was a compacted dark grey silty clay more than 0.2m thick, with occasional sub-rounded stones <40mm in length. The upper levelling deposit (4) comprised a compacted light brown clay mixed with topsoil (mid brown silty sand) and was up to 1.6m thick. These two deposits contained concrete, plastic and 20th century brick. In an attempt to find the natural, two of the trenches (8 and 9) had been stepped up to 1.8m deep (Plate 3). The sides in these lower areas collapsed, at least partly due to the high water level, which was encountered at c.1.6m below ground level. Natural was therefore not encountered due to these conditions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trench Number</th>
<th>Size (length/width/depth)</th>
<th>Height (surface)</th>
<th>OD</th>
<th>Natural</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trench 1</td>
<td>20m x 2m x 0.1m</td>
<td>5.1m OD</td>
<td>Glacial Sand</td>
<td>Modern pit (2) 0.66m by 0.52m and 0.19m deep. With its fill (3) there was a c.19th/20th century roof tile fragment (not retained)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trench 2</td>
<td>20m x 2m x 0.12m</td>
<td>5.05m OD</td>
<td>Glacial Sand</td>
<td>No features</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trench 3</td>
<td>20m x 2m x 0.15 (eastern side) and 0.51m (western side)</td>
<td>5.1m OD (eastern side), 5.51m OD (western side)</td>
<td>Glacial Sand</td>
<td>Disturbed modern layer (6) containing 20th century brick</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trench Number</td>
<td>Size (length/width/depth)</td>
<td>Height (surface)</td>
<td>OD (eastern side)</td>
<td>Natural</td>
<td>Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trench 4</td>
<td>20m x 2m x 0.2m</td>
<td>5.1m OD</td>
<td></td>
<td>Glacial Sand</td>
<td>Modern concrete block and pipe in centre of trench</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trench 5</td>
<td>20m x 2m x 0.24m (eastern side) and 0.46m (western side)</td>
<td>5.05m OD (eastern side); 4.65m OD (western side)</td>
<td>Glacial Sand</td>
<td>Disturbed modern layer (6) containing plack plastic, 20th century brick and concrete</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trench 6</td>
<td>20m x 2m x 0.35m (northern side) and 0.62m (southern)</td>
<td>3.8m OD</td>
<td></td>
<td>Norwich and Red Crag</td>
<td>No features</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trench 7</td>
<td>20m x 2m x 0.52m (northern) and 0.98m (southern)</td>
<td>4.26m OD (northern); 4.56m OD (southern)</td>
<td>Norwich and Red Crag</td>
<td>Modern deposit containing plastic and concrete cutting into natural on southern side.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trench 8</td>
<td>18m x 2m x 1.76m</td>
<td>4.22m OD</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Modern deposits (4 and 5) only found</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trench 9</td>
<td>20m x 2m x 1.68m</td>
<td>3.95m OD</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Modern deposits (4 and 5) only found</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trench 10</td>
<td>20m x 2m x 0.95m</td>
<td>3.91m OD</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Modern deposits (4 and 5) only found</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Trench summary
4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Overview
4.1.1 The evaluation revealed no pre-modern features or artefacts. The evaluation has shown that a significant part of the site (northern and presumably eastern areas) had been truncated in recent times, presumably during construction of the plastic factory. The western areas have been landscaped and then levelled up in places by more than 1.76m.

4.2 Significance
4.2.1 The site has no archaeological potential.

4.3 Recommendations
4.3.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.
## Appendix A. Context Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Cut</th>
<th>Trench</th>
<th>Feature Type</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1-5</td>
<td>Topsoil</td>
<td>Modern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fill of pit</td>
<td>Modern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Cut of pit</td>
<td>Modern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7-10</td>
<td>made up ground layer</td>
<td>Modern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8-9</td>
<td>made up ground layer</td>
<td>Modern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3 and 5</td>
<td>made up ground layer</td>
<td>Modern</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Albone, J., 2011 *Brief for archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at former Express Plastics, 8 Beccles Road, Loddon* Norfolk County Council report dated 30th November 2011 (unpublished)

British Geological Survey (BGS), 1985 Sheet 52N 00 Solid Geology at 1:250,000

British Geological Survey (BGS), 1991 Sheet 52N 00 Quaternary at 1:250,000


Mayo, L., 2011 *Archaeological Impact Assessment at former Express Plastics site, Beccles Road, Loddon, Norfolk CgMs report* dated October 2011 (unpublished)
**APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM**

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OASIS Number</td>
<td>Oxfordar3-117846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Name</td>
<td>An archaeological evaluation at Beccles Road, Loddon, Norfolk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Dates (fieldwork)</td>
<td>Start: 16-01-2012  Finish: 17-01-2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous Work (by OA East)</td>
<td>No  Future Work: No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Project Reference Codes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Site Code</td>
<td>ENF 128357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HER No.</td>
<td>ENF 128357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning App. No.</td>
<td>2011/1184/F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related HER/OASIS No.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

- Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
- Urban Residential

### 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
- [ ] 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>Select period...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select period...</td>
<td></td>
<td>Select period...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select period...</td>
<td></td>
<td>Select period...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Project Location

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>Norfolk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>South Norfolk Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish</td>
<td>Loddon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HER</td>
<td>Norfolk County Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Area</td>
<td>3.09ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site Address (including postcode if possible)</td>
<td>Former Express Plastics Site 8 Beccles Road Loddon Norfolk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Grid Reference</td>
<td>TM 365 982</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Project Originators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>OA EAST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Brief Originator</td>
<td>James Albone, Norfolk County Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Design Originator</td>
<td>Stephen Macaulay, OA East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Manager</td>
<td>James Drummond-Murray, OA East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervisor</td>
<td>Rob Atkins, OA East</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>N/A</td>
<td>OA East</td>
<td>Gressenhall, NCC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>XNFBER12</td>
<td>ENF 128357</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Archive Contents/Media

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal Bones</th>
<th>Physical Contents</th>
<th>Digital Contents</th>
<th>Paper Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ceramics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Bones</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leather</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stratigraphic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survey</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textiles</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worked Bone</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worked Stone/Lithic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Digital Media

- Database
- GIS
- Geophysics
- Images
- Illustrations
- Moving Image
- Spreadsheets
- Survey
- Text
- Virtual Reality

### Paper Media

- Aerial Photos
- Context Sheet
- Correspondence
- Diary
- Drawing
- Manuscript
- Map
- Matrices
- Microfilm
- Misc.
- Research/Notes
- Photos
- Plans
- Report
- Sections
- Survey
Figure 1: Site location with development area outlined (red)
Figure 2: Trench plan within development area (red)
Plate 1: General view of site looking south with Trench 4 on western side of photograph

Plate 2: Trench 2 looking north-west

Plate 3: Trench 9 looking north-west