Kelling Heath
Holiday Park
Weybourne
Norfolk

Archaeological
Watching Brief Report

July 2014

Client: Bidwells/ Blue Sky Leisure

OA East Report No: 1641
OASIS No: oxfordar3-185700
NGR: TG 1171 4140
Kelling Heath Holiday Park, Weybourne, Norfolk

Archaeological Watching Brief

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Report Date: July 2014
Report Number: 1641
Site Name: Kelling Heath Holiday Park
HER Event No: CNF 45216
Date of Works: March 2014
Client Name: Bidwells/ Blue Sky Leisure
Client Ref: -
Planning Ref: PF/13/1026
Grid Ref: TG 1171 4140
Site Code: ENF 132533
Finance Code: XNFKEL14
Receiving Body: NCC Museums Service
Accession No: 2013.270
Prepared by: Kathryn Nicholls Gareth Rees
Position: Assistant Supervisor Project Officer
Date: 12th June 2014 24th July 2014
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Summary

Oxford Archaeology East carried out an archaeological watching brief at Kelling Heath Holiday Park, Weybourne, Norfolk (TG 1171 4140). The proposed development (Area B in the Design and Access Statement) involves the construction of hard-standings, access roads, parking bays and services for lodges and static caravans.

Prior to this work a desk-based assessment and level 1 earthwork survey had been carried out in October 2013 on a site nearby (Site A) which revealed potential for Medieval, Post Medieval and Modern features.

Site B consisted of a field under pasture which had previously been the location of a carting/motor-cross track. Three visits were made during the current works and observations were made of a number of service trenches and footings. No archaeological remains were uncovered.
1 **Introduction**

1.1 **Location and scope of work**

1.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was conducted at Kelling Heath Holiday Park, south of Weybourne, North Norfolk, centred on TG 1171 4140 (Figure 1).

1.1.2 This archaeological watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by David Robertson of Norfolk Environment Service (NES; Planning Application PF/13/1026).

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 NES, 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 predominantly on the Wroxham Crag formation of sand and gravel with superficial Head deposits (BGS 2003). The land on which the site is located forms part of the Cromer Ridge which consists of Pleistocene glacial outwash. The ridge rises to around 80m O.D. at Kelling Heath where the deposits slope gently to the south. The coast line lies 2.5km to the north.

1.2.2 The proposed development area lies in the south of the parish of Weybourne, 0.7km to the south of the village of Weybourne. The site being developed is approximately 220m by 120m and is located towards the western side of the Holiday Park in an area of grassland with a tree boundary. It is bounded to the north by plots for static homes, to the east by Sandy Hill Lane, which runs north to south between Weybourne and Bodham, and to the south by a fenced property boundary with Breck Farm. There was no marked boundary to the west.

1.3 **Archaeological and historical background**

1.3.1 A Desk-Based Assessment has been carried out for this site (Rees 2013), taking in to account historical, cartographic, and aerial photograph resources as well including information from the Norfolk historic environment record for sites and monuments within 1km of the development area. This background is reproduced below.

**Historical Sources**

1.3.2 The site currently lies in parish of Weybourne but its name indicates that this land may once have lain within the bounds of the parish of Kelling or the manors there in. The parish boundary with Bodham currently lies 600m to the south of the site, running roughly through the centre of Hundred Acre Wood, whilst that with Kelling parish follows the western boundary of the wood. The place name 'Kelling' may have an Anglo-Saxon origin, meaning *Cylla's/Ceolla's people* (http://kepn.nottingham.ac.uk), whilst the origin of the name 'Weybourne' is less certain, probably meaning a stream with a weir or mill dam (ibid.). In the 11th century *Ilketeshale's Manor* held control of Kelling whilst the first records of a church at Kelling are from 1266 when Robert de Kelling agreed with the
Bishop of Norwich that his grandsons would become the rector of Kelling and Salthouse (Blomefield 1808). The Augustin Priory at Weybourne (NHER6278), established in 1190, was located 1.8km to the north of the site (Fairweather 1930).

The Historic Environment Record (HER)

1.3.3 A search was carried out of the Norfolk Historic Environment Service for known sites within 1km of the proposed development area. The results of this search are described below in chronological order.

Prehistoric

1.3.4 The varied landscape of the north Norfolk coast was an attractive ecotonal environmental for nomadic and semi-sedentary prehistoric communities. The geological formation of the Cromer Ridge not only offered inland shelter from the North Sea winds but also a natural vantage point from which the rich pasture-land along the coast could be seen. A flint working site (NHER6246), now located within the holiday park, dates from the Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods and attests to the early prehistoric activity in this area. A Mesolithic flake, leaf shaped arrowhead and flint axe (NHER6257) have also been found 100m to the north-east of the site.

1.3.5 Occupation of the area continued into the Neolithic period. A large polished flint axehead has been recovered from the field 200m to the south-east (NHER6259) whilst a fragment of another (NHER40546) and evidence of flint working (NHER30417; 51432) was found 300m to the north-east. The Neolithic communities of the area may have ascribed a ritual significance to some parts of the landscape with cropmarks indicating the location an oval barrow (NHER6300) just over 1km from the proposed development area and a mortuary enclosure (NHER22883) 600m to the south-east.

1.3.6 The significance of this part of the landscape continued into the Bronze Age with up to four barrows, generally dating from the beginning of this period, being located close to the proposed development area. It is not uncommon to find these monuments associated with previous Neolithic mortuary structures as well as natural routeways through the landscape, both of which appear to have been a factor in this area. The best preserved of these four barrows, measuring 16m in diameter, is that located 135m to the north-west of the site (NHER6261). Another probable barrow (NHER40492) surviving as an earthwork is located 800m to the north-east. Two ring-ditches observed as cropmarks (NHER32047; 32048), located 1km to the north-east, may be the location of two other early Bronze Age barrows.

1.3.7 There have been no finds or sites identified dating to the Iron Age in this area. The nearest find was that of a miniature copper alloy head (NHER31088) found just over 1km from the current site. The closest major Iron Age site is that of Wareham Camp 16.5km to the west (Davies 1992, 59).

Roman

1.3.8 Evidence of occupation in the immediate vicinity of the site in the Roman period is sparse. Three finds of Roman pottery, the closest of which being 500m to the north-east, have been recovered from fieldwalking and as chance finds (NHER15604; 15606; 30046). Roman coins have been found near Rosedale Farm, Weybourne, to the north.

Saxon and Medieval

1.3.9 Place-name evidence from this part of Norfolk suggests that many of the settlements in this area, including Kelling, were founded during the Saxon period. There is very little evidence for Saxon or medieval occupation in the vicinity of the proposed development area but this landscape does appear to have been exploited for its iron ore deposits at this time. Late Saxon to medieval iron extraction pits and quarries have been tentatively identified to the north and east of the site (NHER6280; 6281; 6282; 6283; 6284; 38637; 38640; 38345). Most of these survive as undated earthworks in the form of pits and banks which may represent strip quarrying.
1.3.10 The only medieval moated site known in the area is that which lies near Rosedale Farm, south of Weybourne (NHER6304). This site, just over 1km from the proposed development area, consisted of fishponds and two moated enclosures that overlooked the settlement of Weybourne. These features, seen as cropmarks, are likely to have related to a medieval manor, the occupants of which may have had control over this area in the 11th to 14th century. Finds recovered from a subsequent metal detecting survey of this area (NHER51430) may indicate that the presence of Roman and Saxon predecessors. Access to many of these sites may have been via the medieval field boundaries and trackways (NHER38266) seen on aerial photographs as cropmarks giving access to Weybourne Woods.

1.3.11 Ridge and furrow cultivation (NHER38646) located 1km to the south of the site maybe associated with the medieval occupation of Bodham.

**Post-medieval**

1.3.12 A boundary bank that may represent the original boundary of Hundred Acre Woods (NHER5109) has been identified 800m to the south-west of the proposed development area, whilst a post-medieval pottery kiln was located just under 1km to the south-east of the site (NHER15604).

1.3.13 A water pumping station associated with the Weybourne Court Hotel once stood 300m to the north of the site (NHER31323). There is also evidence of post-medieval quarrying in Weybourne Wood to the south-east (NHER38641).

**Modern**

1.3.14 There is an abundance of features in this area associated with military training and defences constructed during World War I and II. This is due to the location of the military testing and training facility of Weybourne Camp in this area.

1.3.15 Several features have been identified from aerial photographs as training trenches dating to WWI. These are primarily located on Kelling Heath to the west of the proposed development area (NHER38420; 38419) as well as in Weybourne Woods to the north-east NHER38418).

1.3.16 Two areas of features relating to WWII training have been identified, one on Kelling Heath to the west and the other in Weybourne Woods to the east. Barbed wire enclosures, weapons pits and practice trenches are located on Kelling Heath (NHER38645; NHER38424; NHER38423), whilst earthwork emplacements also formed part of the training camp in Weybourne Woods (NHER38639; 38642; 38348)

1.3.17 Defensive features in this area include two pillboxes (NHER18108, 30m north-east; NHER30708 200m south-east); three spigot mortar bases (NHER40350, 350m to south-east; NHER18109, 400m north; NHER24266, 350m west); a gun emplacement (NHER38421, 980 south-west); a tank trap (NHER40318, 800m east-north-east); and a search light battery (NHER34181, 850m north).

1.3.18 Military earthworks and defensive obstructions have also been identified on Kelling Heath (NHER35551; 38425) and in Hundred Acre Wood (NHER44253).

**Archaeological Excavations and Surveys**

**Sheringham Shoal Pipeline (NHER51430-51434, 51725)**

1.3.19 A metal detecting survey, targeted excavation and watching brief was carried out in advance of the construction of a pipe trench associated with the on-shore grid connection of the Sheringham Shoal offshore windfarm (Westall and Smith 2008; Hickling 2010). The route of this cable passed north to south through the western edge of the proposed development area. An excavation 230m to the north of the current site uncovered no archaeological remains despite being in close proximity to the Weybourne Pits possible Late Saxon quarries and the Bronze Age barrow (NHER6261).
1.3.20 Excavations were also carried out as part of this project at the Rosedale Farm moated site south of Weybourne. These uncovered three furrows, two ditches and a stakehole, sealed by a layer of medieval subsoil (NHER51430).

1.3.21 The metal detecting survey along this route recovered finds dating from the prehistoric to the post-medieval period. Roman finds were recovered predominantly from that part of the cable trench which was located to the north of the current site whilst prehistoric and medieval finds were recovered from the area in Hundred Acre Woods.

**Weybourne Pit (NHER6283)**

1.3.22 An excavation of the Weybourne Pits by Mr. J.D. Nobel in 1956 uncovered iron conglomerate, broken flint and crude hammer stones along with an iron ore layer about 45cm thick. No datable evidence was recovered from this excavation.

**Other Fieldwork**

1.3.23 A fieldwalking survey took place to the south of the development area in 1979 (NHER15606). A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from this survey.

1.4 **Acknowledgements**

1.4.1 The authors would like to thank Paul Timewell of Blue Sky Leisure who commissioned and funded the work. Paul Spoerry managed the project and edited the report. Anj Beckham of the Norfolk Historic Environment Service conducted the search of the H.E.S records. David Robertson wrote the Brief for archaeological works. Gillian Greer produced the illustrations.
2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims
2.1.1 The objective of this watching brief 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 any excavation penetrating the subsoil be observed by an archaeologist. Removal of topsoil did not need to be observed.
2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
2.2.3 Spoil heaps were observed for any topsoil or subsoil finds whilst photographic evidence was taken of empty trenches
3 RESULTS

3.1 Watching Brief

3.1.1 Three sites visits were made of Area B to monitor the excavation of footings and service trenches.

3.1.2 During the watching brief a number of areas were excavated. Firstly topsoil was stripped in twenty separate locations, each area measuring approximately 12m by 6m, where stone-footing were planned to be erected (Plate 1). The subsoil was not disturbed here therefore no archaeology was observed.

3.1.3 A number of small isolated trenches were excavated which varied in size. These trenches varied in depth, however the natural geology was present in all due to the topsoil and subsoil depths being minimal. No archaeology was present.

3.1.4 Finally trenches for services were excavated; these were cut across much of the site. Topsoil and subsoil in these trenches measured approx 0.40m in depth and overlay natural geological deposits (Plate 2).

3.1.5 No archaeological features were uncovered during any of the excavations observed.
4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1.1 A vast area of this field was observed through excavation with natural geology being present no more than 0.5m below the surface. No archaeology was observed in any of the trenches.

4.1.2 Preservation may have been effected by the shallow overlying layers of topsoil and subsoil which may not have provided much protection from ploughing. Remains that do survive in this area are likely to be located in the wooded area (see Rees 2013) where ploughing has not taken place in recent years.
**APPENDIX A. BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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<td>Hickling, S.</td>
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<td>Westall, S. and Smith, N.</td>
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Key to English Place Accessed names: [http://kepn.nottingham.ac.uk/map/place/Norfolk/Kelling](http://kepn.nottingham.ac.uk/map/place/Norfolk/Kelling) 15/10/2013
## APPENDIX B. OASIS REPORT FORM

### Project Details

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### Type of Project/Techniques Used

- Prompt: Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
- Development Type: Rural 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
- 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".

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### 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 showing development areas A and B (red)
Plate 1: Site conditions, facing north-east

Plate 2: Service trench under excavation showing impact depth