Archaeological Pipeline Monitoring at Ickworth House, Suffolk

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording Report

Client: National Trust

OA East Report No: 1681
OASIS No: oxfordar3-195727
NGR: TL 8135 6105

November 2014
Archaeological Pipeline Monitoring at Ickworth House, Suffolk

Archaeological Watching Brief

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With contributions by Carole Fletcher BA AIfA, Chris Faine MA, MSc, AIfA

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HER Event No: n/a
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Client Name: National Trust
Client Ref: 17356
Planning Ref:
Grid Ref: TL 8135 6105
Site Code: XSFICK14
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Receiving Body: The National Trust
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Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: 27/11/14
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Summary

Oxford Archaeology East undertook an archaeological monitoring over 8 days in September and October 2014 at Ickworth House, Suffolk. A pipe trench was excavated across part of the estate, in an area which had previously been used for agricultural purposes. A known Deserted Medieval Village (DMV) lie at the eastern end of the pipe route, close to the current Ickworth House. Much of the archaeology observed was already known to the landowner The National Trust, this included a trackway and culvert. One fairly large feature was found located close to the medieval village remains, which contained animal bone, tile and pottery dating to the 15th-16th centuries, no other archaeology was encountered during the monitoring.
1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 Archaeological investigation comprising test pitting and watching brief was conducted by Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) on behalf of the National Trust at Ickworth House, Suffolk (Fig. 1).

1.1.2 The archaeological fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with instructions from the National Trust archaeologist.

1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed area of pipeline trench impact, 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 the National Trust, 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 Ickworth House is located on a vast estate to the south west of Horringer. It lies on the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation, Newhaven Chalk Formation and Culver Chalk Formation (British Geological Survey). The River Linnet runs through the Ickworth estate at the Western end of the proposed pipe route.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

Ickworth Estate

1.3.1 There are a number of known Medieval and Post Medieval features and buildings present on the Ickworth estate. The earliest being the Deserted Medieval Village (DMV) known as Ickworth village, located approximately 170m west of the current Ickworth House. The first documentation for this village comes from 942 AD and the village is known to have been deserted by 1670. During this time the size of the village changed. Tax records in 1327 show that there were 26 households present on this site whereas in 1665 there were only 12 households present.

1.3.2 A Parsonage once stood approximately 170m west of the present Ickworth House close to a pond known as ‘Parsonage Pond’ (Phibbs & Gallagher 1980). The Parsonage (NT HBSMR 00288) dates from the Post Medieval period and is written about in documentary evidence from Hervey in 1849 where it is claimed that the Parsonage was pulled down in 1750. According to the deeds the Parsonage consisted of a hall, a parlour, a dairy, a buttery, two small lower chambers and three upper chambers.

1.3.3 The construction of the current Ickworth House commenced in 1796 by the 4th Earl of Bristol and was intended to replace Ickworth Manor House which now only survives as cropmarks approximately 250 south west of Ickworth House (NT HBSMR 00279). The earliest evidence for this Manor House comes from evidence for a timber structure dating to the 13th Century, which later underwent many alterations with brick from the 16th Century onwards (Filemer-Sankey 1986). The house was then demolished in 1710.
1.3.4 Ickworth Lodge is situated on the edge of Ickworth Green and dates from 1665 when it was used as a farmhouse (NT HBSMR 00281). Ickworth was inhabited by the Hervey family during the time Ickworth Manor was demolished in 1710 until the construction of Ickworth house was complete in 1830. Ickworth Lodge is one of three buildings shown on a 1665 survey of Ickworth Green and could potentially be the site of a deserted Medieval village which has associated ditches and banks.

1.3.5 There are a number of other buildings still present on the Ickworth estate. The current church is thought to date to as early as the 13th Century and lies 375m south west of the current house. Other buildings include that of a summer house which is to the south west of the church and dates to 1703. The White House (NT HBSMR 00286) is situated approximately 875m west of Ickworth House and most likely dates between 1830 and 1840 although it may have been built upon an earlier house site. Mordaboys cottages are located 750m north west of Ickworth House and are dated to the 17th Century and underwent alterations in the 18th Century (Phibbs & Gallagher 1980).

**Horringer**

1.3.6 Finds dating to earlier than the Medieval period have been found in Horringer which lies 1km north east of the Ickworth estate. Four scrapers have been found dating to the Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age (HGR 004). Roman activity is noted in the form of pottery and tile (HGR 003) and also a number of more precious objects have been found such as a brooch, coin and a lead model of a votive axe (HGR 018).

1.4 **Acknowledgements**

1.4.1 The author would like to thank the National Trust for commissioning the work and Jonathan Rhodes for his help on site. The author would also like to thank Morrisons for their work and good communication on site and to Stephen Macaulay for managing the project.
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 A trench measuring 0.40m wide and approximately 0.80m deep would be machine excavated along the proposed cable route (Fig. 2) which would then be immediately backfilled. The focus will be on two main areas of interest, the western end of the pipe route and the area surrounding the known DMV to the east. The area within 50m of the house did not need to be monitored due to the area being heavily disturbed by previous cables.

2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 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.
3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction
3.1.1 Before excavation commenced there was some knowledge of the possible location of archaeological features. A brick culvert known to run from the house to the pond would be located close to the cable route. The cable trench would also run close to a known Deserted Medieval Village (DMV) near to the pond. A small trackway can be seen on the surface and would also be encountered.

3.2 Eastern end near Ickworth Village DMV
3.2.1 A brick drain (4) which runs approximately north-west/south-east and measures 0.25m wide is located within the deer park. This drain potentially runs towards a culvert believed to be located south of the cable trench.

3.2.2 An old trackway (5) and (6) appears to run north-west/south-east and is comprised of a chalk and gravel layer (Plate. 1). This trackway measures 0.15m in thickness and is only 0.10m below the surface. This trackway could be seen in earthworks.

3.2.3 A large feature (7) which measures approximately 5m in width with a depth that exceeds 0.80m is located approximately 27m south west from where the culvert crosses the road and is within close proximity to the pond (Plate.1). This feature contained fragments of bone and 4 sherds of pottery dating to 15th-16th Century. There were also metal objects found within this feature dated to later periods of Post-Medieval date.

3.2.4 A culvert, which is circular in shape and approximately 1m wide and deep, runs from the house in a south west direction towards the pond. This culvert has been encountered where the cable trench crosses the road and its location was already known.

3.2.5 No Archaeology was observed between the location of the brick culvert and Ickworth House.

3.3 Western end
3.3.1 No archaeology was observed within the cable trench west of where the brick drain (4) was located.

3.4 Finds Summary
3.4.1 Finds were only recovered from one feature (7). This feature contained four sherds of pottery dating to the 15th-16th Centuries and included one body sherd of East Anglian redware. A small number of metal finds were recovered from pit (7) these include a possible lead weight, a large iron masonry nail and two fragments of iron window/door fitting. All of which are Post-Medieval or modern in date, indicating a degree of later truncation of this feature. Other finds included a small amount of animal bone and ceramic building material.
4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Discussion

4.1.1 Very little archaeology was uncovered during this monitoring of the pipe trench, despite its proximity to known areas of archaeology. The majority of features uncovered was to be expected, as its existence and location was already known thanks to records kept by the National Trust. Only one feature (7), a possible pit, was of significance and this is because of its close proximity to known medieval archaeology. Although pottery recovered from this feature dates to the 15th-16th Centuries, i.e. the later medieval period, finds of later dates was also recovered, indicating a degree of truncation. The metal finds from this feature all date to the Post Medieval period or in deed later modern dates. Ickworth Village had a small number of households present throughout the Medieval period and these persisted into the Post-Medieval period. It is possible that this feature is a rubbish pit used by the occupants of the village.

4.1.2 Unfortunately no more can be said about this feature due to the limited area of the trench cut. This watching brief has helped to clarify the areas of archaeological interest across the Ickworth estate and largely supports information that was already known about the presence of archaeology here.
APPENDIX A. FINDS REPORTS

A.1 Pottery

by Carole Fletcher

Introduction

A.1.1 Archaeological works produced a pottery assemblage of four sherds, weighing 0.016kg from a single context. The assemblage spans the medieval and late medieval-transitional period. The condition of the overall assemblage is moderately abraded and the mean sherd weight is low at 0.004kg.

Methodology


A.1.3 Recording was carried out using OA East's in-house system based on that previously used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described medieval and post-medieval types. All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed on a context-by-context basis. The assemblage is recorded in the summary catalogue. The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition.

A.1.4 The assemblage is domestic in nature, indicating low levels of pottery deposition. The Late medieval and transitional fabrics may be relatively local, although the fabrics could not be identified to specific production centres. Sue Anderson discusses the late medieval pottery industry in Medieval Ceramics 20 (Anderson et al, 1996).

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<td>Unidentified fine quartz temper, occasional shell, dull red-brown surfaces and margins with grey-brown core</td>
<td>Body sherd</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.016</td>
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Table: Pottery

Bibliography

Anderson, S., 1996 'The late medieval pottery industry on the North Suffolk border', Medieval Ceramics 20, MPRG

Breen, A., Caruth, J. and Gill, D

Medieval Pottery 1998 A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic
A.2 Metal Small Finds Catalogue

By Chris Faine 26/11/14

A.2.1 SF 1 (8): Cast lead object. Length: 56.9mm Width: 17mm. Two oval objects conjoined at their ends with a small rim (flashing?), surrounding both in their entirety. Function and date unknown. They could represent net weights discarded after casting.

A.2.2 SF 2 (8): Large Iron square section masonry nail with square head. Length: 108mm. Head width: 47.9mm. Date: Post-Medieval/Modern.

A.2.3 SF 3 (8): Two fragments of iron window/door fitting. Length: 101/132mm. Date: Post-Medieval/Modern
APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY


Online resources

APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM
All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

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- [ ] Annotated Sketch
- [ ] Augering
- [ ] Dendrochronological Survey
- [ ] Documentary Search
- [ ] Environmental Sampling
- [ ] Fieldwalking
- [ ] Geophysical Survey
- [ ] Grab-Sampling
- [ ] Gravity-Core
- [ ] Laser Scanning
- [ ] Measured Survey
- [ ] Metal Detectors
- [ ] Photogrammetric Survey
- [ ] Photographic Survey
- [ ] Phosphate Survey
- [ ] 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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<td>Project Manager</td>
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<td>Supervisor</td>
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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 cable route (red)
Dismantle and remove HV overhead line from pole 1G to 10G & pole 4 G to pole 3D. (12 spans).

Abandon existing .04Cu underground cable from the House S/S to pole 1G.

Lay 185ax from the ring main unit in House S/S to a pole term on pole 1W.

Install 100kVA padmount transformer.

Br. joint 95ax off 185ax and lay to the new transformer position.

Lay new u/g mains and services.

Transfer existing u/g service to new 95Ew mains.

Dismantle and remove the existing overhead line and all poles.
Plate 1: Photo of Trackway (5)

Plate 2: Photo of possible pit (7)
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