Archaeological Pipeline Monitoring on Ickworth Estate South of Slough Lane

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Client: PC Groundworks

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December 2014
Archaeological Pipeline Monitoring on Ickworth Estate, South of Slough Lane

Archaeological Watching Brief

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Report Date: December 2014
Table of Contents

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

1 Introduction....................................................................................................................................... 6
  1.1 Location and scope of work ................................................................................................. 6
  1.2 Geology and topography ..................................................................................................... 6
  1.3 Archaeological and historical background ......................................................................... 6
  1.4 Acknowledgements ................................................................................................................ 7

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

3 Results ........................................................................................................................................... 9
  3.1 Introduction ........................................................................................................................... 9

4 Discussion and Conclusions ........................................................................................................ 10
  4.1 Discussion and Conclusion .................................................................................................. 10

Appendix A. Bibliography ................................................................................................................. 11

Appendix B. OASIS Report Form .................................................................................................... 12
List of Figures
Fig. 1    Site location map
Fig. 2    Trench location plan

List of Plates
Plate. 1  Section of Trench looking north
Summary

OA East undertook an archaeological watching brief on Ickworth Estate near Horringer in Suffolk. A 170m long trench was excavated to a depth of 0.3m between an existing cable and the tree-line. No Archaeology was observed.
1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work
1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted on the Ickworth estate just south of Slough Lane, Horringer, 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 The site lies on the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation, Newhaven Chalk Formation and the Culver Chalk Formation. Superficial deposits in the form of the Lowestoft Formation overly the bedrock (British Geological Survey). The River Linnet runs through the Ickworth estate and approximately 700m north of the proposed cable 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 (Filmer-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. Remains of the Ice House, dating to the post-medieval period are located approximately 700m north west of the cable trench. 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. Mordaboy’s 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). A moat lies approximately 100m north of the proposed cable route.

1.3.6 Excavations recently took place on the estate to the west of the house. Mainly post-medieval features were identified including a brick culvert, a trackway and a possible pit which contained post-medieval pottery and metal finds (Nicholls 2014).

**Horringer**

1.3.7 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 PC Groundworks for commissioning the work. Thanks also to The National Trust and to Stephen Maclay 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 The Brief required that excavation of the trench was monitored at all times and would run as close to the existing cable and to the tree line as possible. The depth of the trench would also be kept to a minimum.

2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360-type 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 A cable trench (Fig. 2) 170m in length was excavated to a depth of 0.3m and had a width of 0.2m. There was a large amount of root disturbance from the nearby trees however at this depth subsoil was only just observed (Plate. 1) and no archaeological features could be seen. No finds were noted from the spoil heap.
4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Discussion and Conclusion

4.1.1 This cable trench only reached a depth of 0.3m which was largely made up of topsoil disturbed by roots from nearby trees. Throughout the entire trench either topsoil or subsoil was observed and therefore no archaeology could be seen. It may be that archaeology remains in-situ beneath the subsoil.
APPENDIX A. BIBLIOGRAPHY


Online resources
APPENDIX B. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

**Project Details**

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- [ ] 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
- [ ] Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
- [ ] Sample Trenches
- [ ] Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
- [ ] Targeted Trenches
- [ ] Test Pits
- [ ] Topographic Survey
- [ ] Vibro-core
- [ ] Photogrammetric Survey
- [ ] Photographic Survey
- [ ] Rectified Photography
- [ ] 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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<tr>
<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, Northern end of the Ickworth Estate just south west of Slough Lane (IP29 5PL)
Figure 2: Cable trench plan
Plate 1: Photo of the trench section