

Land at Oak Crescent Eye, Suffolk



Archaeological Evaluation Report



December 2013

Client: Lovell Partnerships

OA East Report No: 1548

OASIS No: oxfordar3-163099

NGR: TM 1144 7439

An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Oak Crescent, Eye, Suffolk

Archaeological Evaluation

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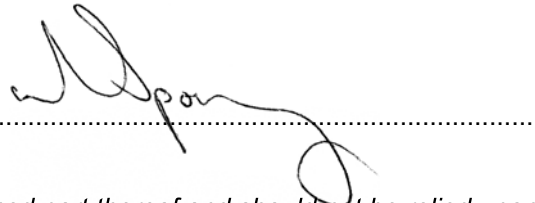
Report Date: November 2013

Report Number: 1548
Site Name: Oak Crescent, Eye
HER Event No: EYE 119
Date of Works: November 2013
Client Name: Lovell Partnerships
Client Ref: 16170
Planning Ref: 1877/13
Grid Ref: TM 1447 7439
Site Code: EYE 119
Finance Code: XSF OCE 13
Receiving Body: Suffolk County Stores

Accession No:

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Date: 05/11/13

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at Oak Crescent, Eye, Suffolk (TM 1447 7439). The fieldwork took place on the 04/11/13. A trench, 56.5m long, was excavated within the easement of the proposed sewer. No archaeological deposits were encountered during this evaluation.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at land at Oak Crescent, Eye, Suffolk (TM 1144 7439).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Matthew Brudenell of Suffolk County Council (SCC; Planning Application 1877/13), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (Spoerry, 2013).
- 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 SCC, 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 on Diamicton of the Lowestoft Formation. Diamicton was formed by glaciers depositing moraines of till with outwash sand and gravel deposits from seasonal and post glacial meltwaters. This lies above Crag Group sand, a marine siliciclastic sediment deposited as mud, silt, sand and gravel (BGS, 2006).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The site overlooks a tributary of the River Dove, in a landscape setting which is topographically favourable for early settlement. The proposed sewer is 400m east of a prehistoric and Roman settlement, located at Hartismere School and Hospital (EYE 094 and 111) and c. 400m west of two large multi-period artefact scatters (EYE 004 and EYE Misc).
- 1.3.2 Eye is an important medieval settlement which grew around the Norman castle and church of St Peter. The route of the sewer is c.120m north of the medieval core of Eye (EYE 091). The green at Oak Crescent is the last large area of open and potentially undisturbed ground in this developed part of Eye.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Lovell Partnerships who commissioned the work, especially the site manager Rob Bishop. Thanks are also extended to Pat Moan who carried out all on-site survey and Liz Gardner who created the graphics. The project was managed by Paul Spoerry and monitored by Matt Brudenell of Suffolk County Council.

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 One trench, 56.5m long was opened within the easement of the proposed sewer. All archaeological remains were excavated where appropriate.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by Pat Moan using a Leica GPS.
- 2.2.4 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.
- 2.2.5 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.
- 2.2.6 Site conditions were good, with mild and sunny weather experienced.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Trench 1

- 3.1.1 No archaeological remains were encountered within the trench. The natural deposits were recorded at 0.35m below modern ground level, consisting of a mid orange clay with chalk inclusions. A subsoil layer of dark greyish orange silty clay (2) 0.05m thick was recorded. This was overlain by the topsoil (1), a dark greyish brown silty clay, 0.3m in thickness.
- 3.1.2 Towards the centre of the trench lay a sub-rectangular pit (4), 1.5m in diameter. It was filled with a light greyish silt and contained blocks of concrete (3). No excavation was carried out as it was visibly modern.

3.2 Finds Summary

- 3.2.1 No finds were recovered during the evaluation.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Discussion

- 4.1.1 The evaluation showed that the site was subject to some localised modern disturbance, in the form of a large pit (4) containing concrete. This is unlikely to have caused significant amount of disturbance to any potential archaeological remains.
- 4.1.2 There is no evidence of any archaeological remains on site, suggesting the medieval settlement of Eye, 120m to the south, did not extend in to this area. During the evaluation the water table was seen to be very high, with water seeping up at the interface between subsoil and natural. Therefore it is likely that the area was seen as unfavourable for settlement.

4.2 Recommendations

- 4.2.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
Trench contained one modern pit. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of boulder clay.				Avg. depth (m)	0.35	
				Width (m)	1.8	
				Length (m)	56.5	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
3	Fill	1.5	-	Fill of pit	concrete	Modern
4	Cut	1.5	-	Cut of pit	-	Modern

APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Brudenell, M., 2013 Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Land at Oak Crescent, Eye, Suffolk. Suffolk County Council
- Spoerry, P., 2013 *Specification for Archaeological Evaluation*. Oxford Arch. East Tender Ref No, Sept 115/08 (unpublished)

Maps consulted

British Geological Survey, 2006 Sheet 190, England and Wales 1:50,000

APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	<input type="text" value="oxfordar3-163099"/>		
Project Name	<input type="text" value="An Evaluation at Oak Crescen, Eye, Suffolk"/>		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	<input type="text" value="04-11-2013"/>	Finish	<input type="text" value="04-11-2013"/>
Previous Work (by OA East)	<input type="text" value="No"/>	Future Work	<input type="text" value="Unknown"/>

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	<input type="text" value="EYE 119"/>	Planning App. No.	<input type="text" value="1877/13"/>
HER No.	<input type="text" value="EYE 119"/>	Related HER/OASIS No.	<input type="text"/>

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	<input type="text" value="Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16"/>
Development Type	<input type="text" value="Service Infrastructure"/>

Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/> Grab-Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-Core	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch	<input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
<input type="checkbox"/> Augering	<input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits
<input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search	<input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core
<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography	

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".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>

Project Location

County	<input type="text" value="SUFFOLK"/>	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	<input type="text" value="MID SUFFOLK"/>	<input type="text" value="Oak Crescent,
Eye
Suffolk
IP23 7BY"/>
Parish	<input type="text" value="Eye"/>	
HER	<input type="text" value="Eye 119"/>	
Study Area	<input type="text"/>	National Grid Reference <input type="text" value="TM 1144 7439"/>

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Matthew Brudenell
Project Design Originator	Paul Spoerry
Project Manager	Paul Spoerry
Supervisor	Helen Stocks-Morgan

Project Archives

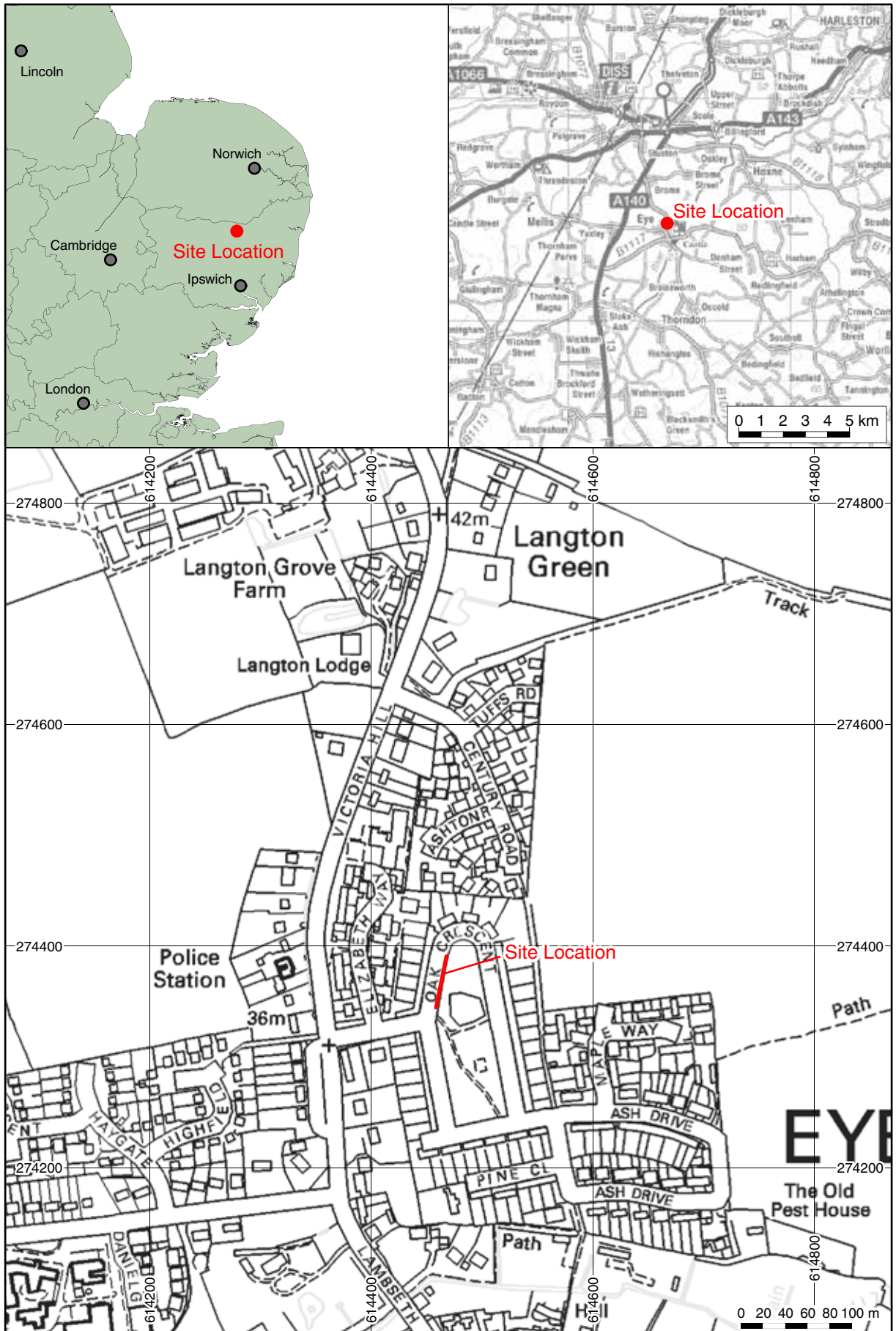
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OA East	OA East	Oa east
Accession ID ...	Accession ID ...	Accession ID ...

Archive Contents/Media

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Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
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<input type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing
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<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/> Map
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
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	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location



Plate 1: Trench one



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