

Holmes Close Norwich



Archaeological Watching Brief Report



May 2013

Client: Lovell

OA East Report No: 1446

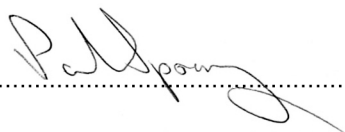
OASIS No: oxfordar3-139139

NGR: TG 2586 0997

Report Number: 1446
Site Name: Holmes Close Norwich
HER Event No: ENF 130409
Date of Works: November 2012 to February 2013
Client Name: Lovell
Client Ref: n/a
Planning Ref: 11/02116/F
Grid Ref: TG 2586 0997
Site Code: XNFHCN12
Finance Code: XNFHCN12
Receiving Body: Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service, Norfolk County Council
Accession No: ENF 130409

Prepared by: Anthony Haskins
Position: Supervisor
Date: 13th May 2013

Checked by: Paul Spoerry
Position: Regional Manager, OA East
Date: 14th May 2013
Signed:



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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>

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Summary

Between 22/11/2012 and 8/2/2013, OA East carried out an archaeological watching brief at the Former Dairy Crest Ltd site, Holmes Close, Norwich, Norfolk (TG 2586 0997). Planning permission (11/02116/F) was granted for the demolition of the existing buildings and the construction of 24 dwellings. The monitoring was carried out during and immediately following demolition, and during the ground works.

No archaeological features were identified or artefacts recovered during the monitoring visits.

1 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

1.1.1 The site lies on sands and gravels of the Happisburgh Glacigenic Formation And Lowestoft Formation, formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the local environment was dominated by ice age conditions (Geology of Britain viewer, British Geological Survey;<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain>). It lies on a plateau at around 30m AOD, around 1.4km north of the river Yare. The location of the site is presented on Figure 1.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1.1 A search of the Norfolk Heritage Environment Record (NHER) was carried out on the 7th December, incorporating a search area of 500m around the watching brief site (the 'Site'). The Site is located in a built up area on the north-eastern side of Norwich, just north of Plumstead Road.

2.1.2 The Site lies to the west of a possible Roman Road (NHER 7598) and approximately 400-500m south-east of an area of undated cropmark features (NHER 51909 and 51910) and a possible Roman kiln (NHER 58194).

2.1.3 Closer to the Site, Roman pottery has been found (NHER 9630) and Post-Medieval or Modern pits recorded (NHER 41906). Additionally, the Site lies within what was formerly Mousehold Heath (NHER 53082).

2.1.4 To the north-west of the Site aerial photography has shown the presence of an aerodrome dating from before World War 2 but still in use into WW2 (NHER 12416). Other WW2 features in this area are a heavy anti-aircraft battery, anti-landing ditches (NHER 51903) and possible training trenches (NHER 51902). It is possible that WW2 ditches or trenches may be extend into the Site. Immediately to the south and west of the Site are WW2 air-raid shelters (NHER 52008 and 52098) and to the east are the site of pillboxes, dug-outs and a gun-pit (NHER 32548) and possible firing ranges and trenches (NHER 51905).

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1.1 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.

3.1.2 The Brief (Albone 2012) required that occasional visits be carried out, tied to key stages in the demolition and clearance programme, with more continuous observation where groundworks were deemed to have potential impact on deposits.

3.1.3 The area of investigation is presented on Figure 1.

3.1.4 Site conditions were mostly fine during visits.

4 RESULTS

4.1.1 Six visits were carried out by staff from OA East.

- 4.1.2 P. Spoerry visited on 22/11/12 to discuss protocols for observation vis a vis slab removal and other impacts below, with C. Cooper.
- 4.1.3 An open trench, excavated using a narrow machine bucket the previous day, was observed across the former site access on the northwest side (A on Figure 2). This trench revealed c 500mm of the upper sequence. In almost all parts of the trench only natural gravel was revealed below modern overburden of c. 150mm, although at the western end there was light brown layer about 200mm thick above the gravels, that appeared to be a buried topsoil. It seemed that this had been buried by 20th century dumping (related to the previous buildings on the site).
- 4.1.4 G. Clarke visited the site on 9/1/13. During his visit a service trench was dug across the central part of the site through a layer of made ground to a depth of 0.5m, underlain by natural mid red-brown flint gravels with mid orange-brown sand (B). An area in the north eastern part of the site was also observed where the ground level was being reduced (C). Again only the natural gravel was observed.
- 4.1.5 P. Spoerry visited on 28/1/13 to assess the impact of slab removal and machine-clearance of slab make-up on the western half of the site. The whole of the western half of the site had been reduced by c 400mm revealing mid brown gravels, within which there were large areas of yellow-brown sand. Study of the sections around three site edges, and in two islands of survival confirmed that in almost all areas the only material removed had been modern make-up for the former hard-standing and buildings. In the extreme western part of the site, however, the section revealed a mid-brown subsoil below a small area of topsoil/rubble mix (D). This deposit sat at around 150mm below the 20th century ground level and was c. 200mm deep, thinning towards the east before being truncated entirely at around 6m along the southern site boundary. This deposit appeared similar to that observed on 22/11/12, and was deemed to be a buried former topsoil, now de-natured. Modern glass and slate roof tile fragments were recovered from this deposit.
- 4.1.6 A. Haskins visited the site on 31/1/13, 6/2/13 and 8/2/13. Two drainage sumps were observed, during the first visit, on the north eastern edge of the site (C on Fig 2). Both were cut through the natural mid red-brown gravel.
- 4.1.7 The later visits observed the foundation trenches towards the eastern end of site prior to the pouring of concrete. The trenches again cut through the mid red-brown natural gravel.
- 4.1.8 No archaeological deposits or artefacts were uncovered during the works.

5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 Despite the development site lying close to known remains of Roman-British date, no pre-modern activity was identified. This may, however, not be a true indication of potential at this location, as the site had for the most part been formerly cleared of topsoil, and any other deposits, down to a truncated natural gravel subsoil. Thus any former layers and shallow features at the topsoil base, would have been removed.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 6.1.1 The author would like to thank Lovell who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by Paul Sperry.
- 6.1.2 The brief for archaeological works was written by James Albone of Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Albone, J., 2012, Updated Brief for the Monitoring of Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control; Dairy Crest Ltd., Holmes Close. Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service, dated 13th July 2012.

APPENDIX A. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-139139			
Project Name	Land at Former Dairy Crest Ltd, Holmes Close, Norwich. Monitoring of Works Under Archaeological Supervision and Control			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	22-11-2012	Finish	08-02-2013
Previous Work (by OA East)	No		Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	XNFHNC12	Planning App. No.	11/02116/F
HER No.	ENF130409	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt: Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5

Please select all techniques used:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Field Observation (periodic visits)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Record
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Excavation (100%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Field Walking
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Recorded Observation	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Metal Detector Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pit Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Open-Area Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Excavation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Watching Brief

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
None	None	None	None
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Norfolk	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Norwich	(Former) Dairy Crest Ltd, Holmes Close Norwich NR7 9XN	
Parish	na		
HER	Norfolk		
Study Area	0.3 hectare	National Grid Reference	TG2586 0997

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	James Albone - Norfolk HES
Project Design Originator	Paul Spoerry (OA East)
Project Manager	Paul Spoerry (OA East)
Supervisor	G.Clarke, A. Haskins

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
None	OA East	Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service
None	ENF130409	ENF130409

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Map
<input type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input checked="" 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



All dimensions to be verified on site by Main Contractor before the start of any shop drawings or work whatsoever either on their own behalf or that of sub-contractors.
Report any discrepancies to the Contract Administrator at once.
This drawing is to be read with all relevant Architects and Engineers' drawings and other relevant information.
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LEGEND: DO NOT SCALE

SCHEDULE OF ACCOMMODATION

Plot 1	2b/4p	80 m ²
Plot 2	2b/4p	80 m ²
Plot 3	3b/5p	89 m ²
Unit 4	3b/5p	89 m ²
Unit 5	3b/5p	89 m ²
Unit 6	5b/7p	139 m ²
Units 7 - 10	2b/4p flat	76 m ²
Unit 11	2b/4p flat	85 m ²
Units 12 - 13	2b/4p flat	76 m ²
Unit 14	2b/4p flat	85 m ²
Units 15	2b/4p flat	76 m ²
Units 16 - 18	1b/2p	50 m ²
Unit 19	1b/2p	53 m ²
Units 20 - 21	1b/2p	50 m ²
Units 22 - 24	1b/2p	52 m ²

Site Area - 0.33 Ha
71 Dwellings/Ha
Parking Spaces - 24



H	27.05.12	Landscaping and parking revised to Planning Officer comments. Issued for Planning Approval	JCS
G	26.01.12	Final plan submitted to external works contractor	JCS
F	12.01.12	Planning Application issued for comment	JCS
E	26.11.11	Planning Application	JCS AD
D	31.10.11	Planning drawings issued to client for comment	JCS AD
C	19.10.11	Revised to client comments for discussion	JCS AD
B	17.10.11	Issued for comment	JCS AD
A	26.06.11	As per plan amended	JCS
-	16.06.11	Issued for costing	JCS AD



Norwich
43 All Saints Green
Norwich NR1 3JL
T: 01603 466847
F: 01603 429798
www.ingletonwood.co.uk

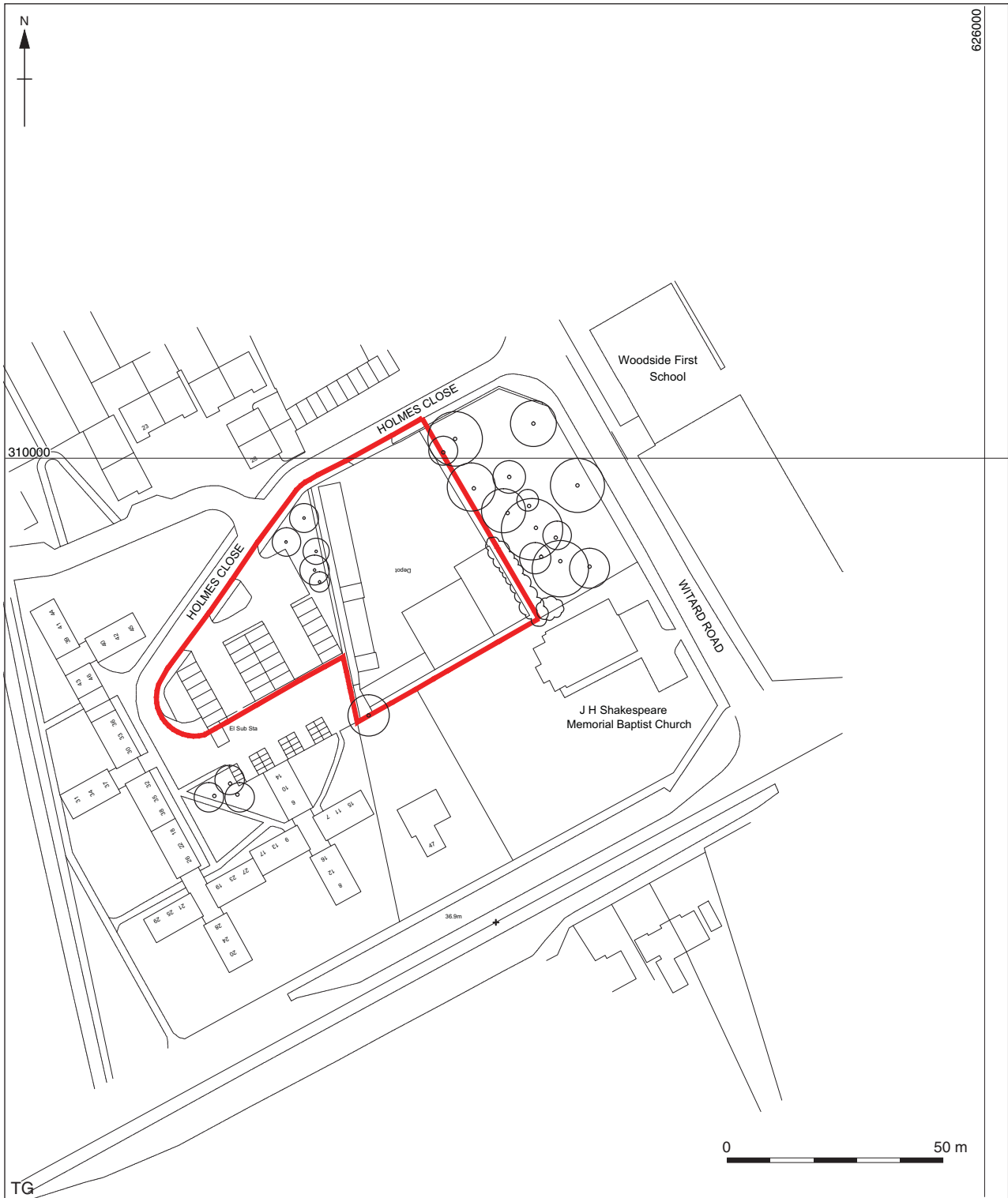
Project: Residential Development
Holmes Close
Norwich

Drawing Title: General Arrangement

Client: Orbit Housing Group

Drawn:	Checked:	Date:	Scale:	Paper Size:
JCG	AD	10.03.11	1:200	A1
Job No.:	Dep. No.:	Stage:	Rev.:	
30783	102	PLANNING	H	

Figure 2



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Figure 2b:



**Head Office/Registered Office/
OA South**

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: [oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
e: [oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>



Director: Gill Hey, BA PhD FSA MIFA
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