

# Thorney Bay Road Canvey Island Essex



## Archaeological Watching Brief



**Oxford Archaeology**

13th March 2002

**Client Name: Wilcon Homes**

Issue N<sup>o</sup>: 1

OA Job N<sup>o</sup>: 1169

Planning Ref N<sup>o</sup>: CPT/731/98/RES

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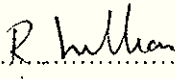
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## Canvey Island, Essex Thorney Bay Road

NGR TQ 790 827

### *ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT*

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## SUMMARY

*In January and February 2002, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Thorney Bay Road, Canvey Island, Essex (NGR TQ 790 827) on behalf of Wilcon Homes. The watching brief was undertaken after a field evaluation of part of the site of a new housing development. The watching brief revealed natural clay layers sealed beneath the topsoil. No archaeological features or finds were revealed.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In January and February 2002 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a watching brief at Thorney Bay Road, Canvey Island, Essex on behalf of Wilcon Homes. The work was in respect of a planning application for a residential development (Planning Application No. CPT/731/98/RES), and followed an archaeological evaluation of part of the development site in January 2002 (OA 2002).
- 1.1.2 The development site is situated between Thorney Bay Road to the north and Thorneycreek Fleet to the south (Fig. 1) and is *c* 4.2 hectares in area. OA monitored the construction of houses to the east of the area evaluated in January 2002 and due north of a caravan and chalet park.
- 1.1.3 A Specification for the project including the watching brief was prepared by Rob Bourn of CgMs Consulting (CgMs 2001) and agreed with Anwen Cooper, the Planning Archaeologist for the Heritage Conservation Branch of Essex County Council.
- 1.1.4 OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation detailing how it would meet the requirements of the Specification.

#### 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The underlying geology of the site is London clay at *c* 2 m above OD. The site is situated in an area of scrub with no record of previous use, although the area is presumably reclaimed land.

#### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background to the watching brief was prepared for the WSI for the project (OA 2001) and is summarised below.
- 1.3.2 The site itself has produced no previous archaeological evidence. No finds were reported from the 2002 evaluation (OA 2002). There are some known sites with archaeological remains adjacent to the development site.
- 1.3.3 A cluster of Roman burials has been recorded to the north-west of the site, and a Roman salt production site, in the form of a red hill, has been recorded to the east of the site.

1.3.4 A World War II pillbox stood in the centre of the site until it was demolished in 1970. The site also contains relict drainage channels, which may have been associated with previous land reclamation.

## 1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 OA extends its thanks to Wilcon Homes and their site manager and the local residents for their assistance and interest. OA's Rob Radford carried out the watching brief.

## 2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

2.1.1 To identify and record the presence/absence, extent, condition, quality and date of archaeological remains in the areas affected by the development.

2.1.2 To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

### 2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 A supervisor from OA visited the site on a regular basis to observe the excavation of the house plots at the east side of the development area.

2.2.2 A site plan was compiled at a scale of 1:100 and sample sections of the trenches and house plots were drawn at a scale of 1:20. A photographic record of the site work was made using colour slide and black and white print film. Site recording followed procedures detailed in the *OA Fieldwork Manual* (ed D Wilkinson, 1992).

## 3 RESULTS

### 3.1 Description of deposits

3.1.1 Plots 104 and 105 were not opened by the contractors. Each of the other house plots was stripped by machine to the construction level prior to the foundation trenches being excavated (Fig. 2).

3.1.2 The sequence of soils across the site was identical in each house plot (Fig. 3 - sections). Compact natural brown clay (1002) was overlain by a compact reddish-brown silty clay (1001) that was clean and may also be natural. This was sealed by the topsoil that was a loose dark-brown silty clay with stones to a depth of 0.1 m.

### 3.2 Finds

3.2.1 No finds were recovered from any of the excavation areas.

### 3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

3.3.1 No deposits were encountered that merited environmental sampling.

#### 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The watching brief confirmed the results of the recent evaluation here, and that the site appears to be archaeologically sterile.

## APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Height</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Finds</i>
1000	Layer	0.1 m	-	-	Topsoil	-
1002	Layer	0.15 m	-	-	Natural clay	-
1003	Layer	-	-	-	Natural Clay	-
1004	Trench notes	-	-	-	-	-

## APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

CgMs Consulting, 2001 *Thorney Bay Road, Canvey Island, Essex. Specification for an archaeological evaluation*

OA 1992 *Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D. Wilkinson, first edition, August 1992)

OA 2002 *Canvey Island, Thorney Bay Road. Archaeological Evaluation Report. Client Report*, January 2002

## APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

**Site name:** Thorney Bay Road, Canvey Island

**Site code:** CITB02

**Grid reference:** TQ 790 827

**Type of watching brief:** Observation of house plots/trenches

**Date and duration of project:** January and February 2002

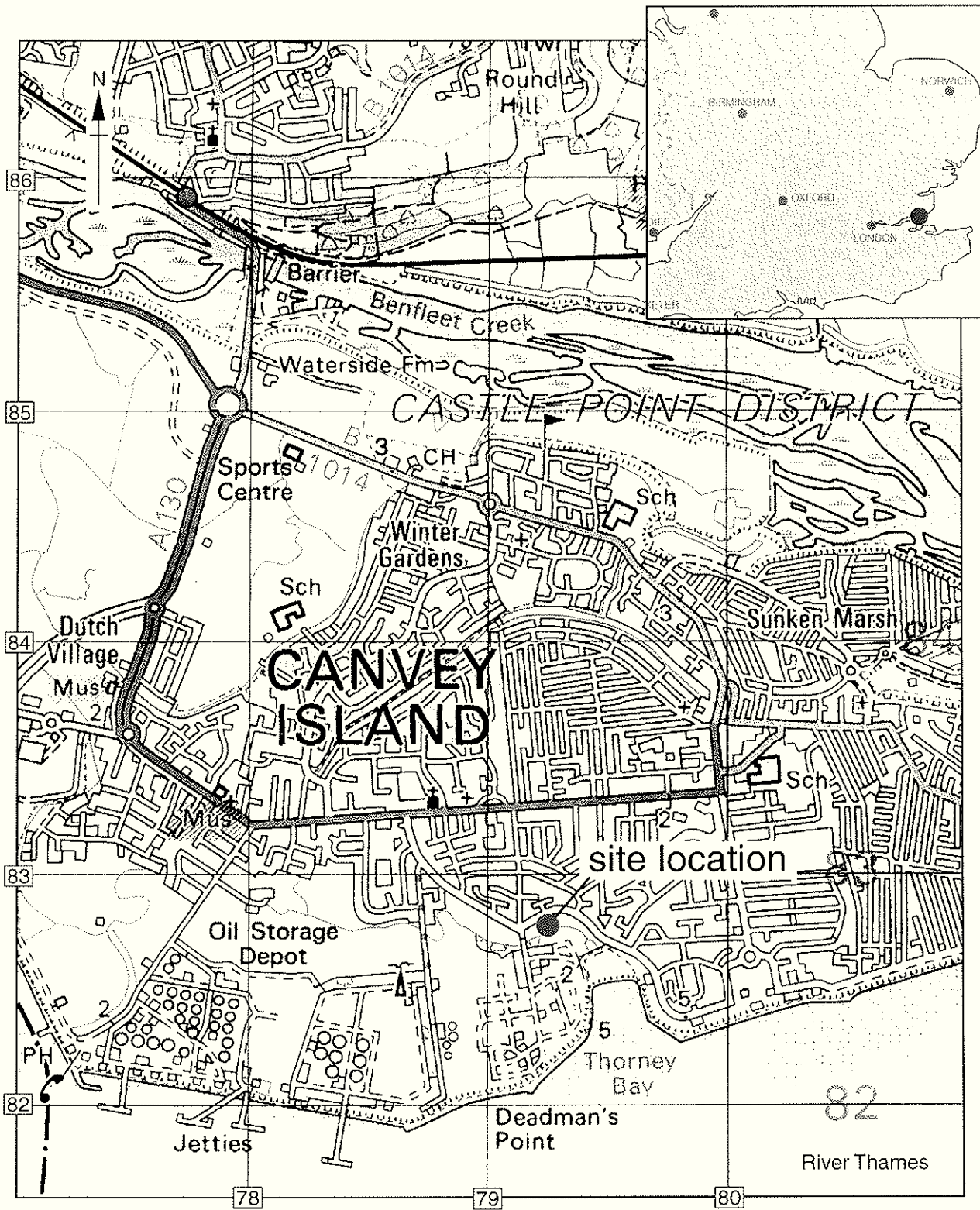
**Area of site:** 4.2 ha

**Summary of results:** No finds or features are reported from the site.

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Southend Museum in due course, under the following accession number: SOUMS2002.A1



Server: 4(W):compubs 1: All drawings \* CHBWB\BTherney\_Bay\_Road\_Canvey\_Island\1\_Admins\95\_05\_02



Scale 1:25,000

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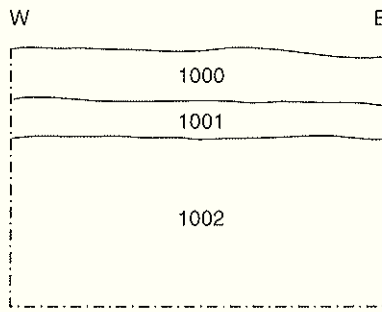
Figure 1: Site location



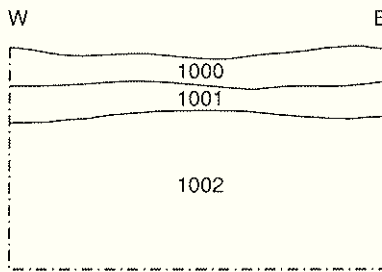


Figure 2: Site plan of house plots

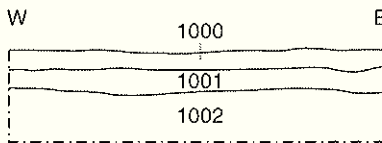
Section 1000



Section 1001



Section 1002



Section 1003

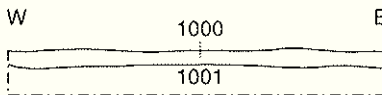


Figure 3: Sections



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