

Kelling Heath Holiday Park Weybourne, Norfolk



Archaeological Watching Brief Report



April 2016

Client: Paul Robinson Partnership

OA East Report No: 1918

OASIS No: oxfordar3-248977

NGR: TG 1171 4140

Kelling Heath Holiday Park, Weybourne, Norfolk

Archaeological Watching Brief

Site Code: XNFKEL15

Norfolk HER No. ENF 140517

Date of Works: 01/03/16

Report No: 1918

Excavator: Anthony Haskins

Client: Paul Robinson Partnership

Report Date: April 2015

Table of Contents

Summary.....	5
1 Location and scope of work.....	7
2 Geology and Topography.....	7
3 Archaeological Background.....	7
4 Acknowledgements.....	10
5 Methodology.....	10
6 Results.....	10
7 Discussion and Conclusions.....	10
Bibliography.....	11
Appendix A. OASIS Report Form.....	12

List of Figures

- Fig. 1 Site location showing development area (red)
Fig. 2 Plan showing areas of monitoring, data supplied by the client

List of Plates

- Plate 1 Northern drainage cut, facing west
Plate 2 Caravan base 12, facing north

Summary

On the 1st March 2016, OA East carried out an archaeological watching brief at Kelling Heath Holiday Park, Weybourne, Norfolk (TG 1171 4140). The monitoring was carried out following the stripping of topsoil prior to the construction of new caravan bases. All the caravan bases were shallow, measuring no more than 0.2m deep; no archaeological features were encountered. Several drain pipe trenches were also monitored; they measured up to 2m deep and cut through the topsoil and underlying geology. The only feature was a modern intrusion, which clearly cut through the topsoil.

Prior to this watching brief a level 1 earthwork survey had been carried out in October 2013 on the same block of land. A wall, probably dating to the post-medieval period or later was the only archaeological feature identified within the proposed development area.

1 LOCATION AND SCOPE OF WORK

- 1.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was conducted at Kelling Heath Holiday Park, south of Weybourne, North Norfolk, centred on TG 1171 4140 (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by David Robertson of Norfolk Environment Service (NES; Planning Application PF/13/1026).

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.1.1 The site lies predominantly on the Wroxham Crag formation of sand and gravel with superficial Head deposits (BGS 2003). The land on which the site is located forms part of the Cromer Ridge which consists of Pleistocene glacial outwash. The ridge rises to around 80m O.D. at Kelling Heath where the deposits slope gently to the south. The coast line lies 2.5km to the north.
- 2.1.2 The proposed development area lies in the south of the parish of Weybourne, 0.7km to the south of the village of Weybourne. The site being developed covers approximately 1.3 hectares and is located towards the eastern side of the Holiday Park in an area of grassland with a tree boundary. It is bounded to the north-west by plots for static homes, to the east by Sandy Hill Lane, which runs north to south between Weybourne and Bodham, and to the south by a fenced property boundary with Breck Farm.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1.1 The following text is taken from a Desk-Based Assessment carried out for this site (Rees 2013), taking in to account historical, cartographic, and aerial photograph resources as well including information from the Norfolk historic environment record for sites and monuments within 1km of the development area.

Historical Sources

- 3.1.2 The site currently lies in parish of Weybourne but its name indicates that this land may once have lain within the bounds of the parish of Kelling or the manors there in. The parish boundary with Bodham currently lies 600m to the south of the site, running roughly through the centre of Hundred Acre Wood, whilst that with Kelling parish follows the western boundary of the wood.

The Historic Environment Record (HER)

Prehistoric

- 3.1.3 A flint working site (NHER6246), now located within the holiday park, dates from the Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods and attests to the early prehistoric activity in this area. A Mesolithic flake, leaf shaped arrowhead and flint axe (NHER6257) have also been found 100m to the north-east of the site.
- 3.1.4 Occupation of the area continued into the Neolithic period. A large polished flint axehead has been recovered from the field 200m to the south-east (NHER6259) whilst a fragment of another (NHER40546) and evidence of flint working (NHER30417;

51432) was found 300m to the north-east. The Neolithic communities of the area may have ascribed a ritual significance to some parts of the landscape with cropmarks indicating the location an oval barrow (NHER6300) just over 1km from the proposed development area and a mortuary enclosure (NHER22883) 600m to the south-east.

- 3.1.5 The significance of this part of the landscape continued into the Bronze Age with up to four barrows being located close to the proposed development area. The best preserved of these four barrows, measuring 16m in diameter, is that located 135m to the north-west of the site (NHER6261). Another probable barrow (NHER40492) surviving as an earthwork is located 800m to the north-east. Two ring-ditches observed as cropmarks (NHER32047; 32048), located 1km to the north-east, may be the location of two other Early Bronze Age barrows.

- 3.1.6 There have been no finds or sites identified dating to the Iron Age in this area.

Roman

- 3.1.7 Evidence of Roman occupation locally is sparse. Three findspots of Roman pottery, the closest being 500m to the north-east, have been recovered from fieldwalking and as chance finds (NHER15604; 15606; 30046).

Saxon and Medieval

- 3.1.8 Place-name evidence from this part of Norfolk suggests that many of the settlements in this area, including Kelling, were founded during the Saxon period. There is very little evidence for Saxon or medieval occupation in the vicinity of the proposed development area but this landscape does appear to have been exploited for its iron ore deposits at this time. Late Saxon to medieval iron extraction pits and quarries have been tentatively identified to the north and east of the site (NHER6280; 6281; 6282; 6283; 6284; 38637; 38640; 38345). Most of these survive as undated earthworks in the form of pits and banks which may represent strip quarrying.

- 3.1.9 The only medieval moated site known in the area is that which lies near Rosedale Farm, south of Weybourne (NHER6304). This site, just over 1km from the proposed development area, consisted of fishponds and two moated enclosures that overlooked the settlement of Weybourne. These features, seen as cropmarks, are likely to have related to a medieval manor, the occupants of which may have had control over this area in the 11th to 14th centuries. Finds recovered from a subsequent metal detecting survey of this area (NHER51430) may indicate the presence of Roman and Saxon predecessors. Access to many of these pits may have been via the medieval field boundaries and trackways (NHER38266) seen on aerial photographs as cropmarks giving access to Weybourne Woods.

- 3.1.10 Ridge and furrow cultivation (NHER38646) located 1km to the south of the site maybe associated with the medieval occupation of Bodham.

Post-medieval

- 3.1.11 A boundary bank that may represent the original boundary of Hundred Acre Woods (NHER5109) has been identified 800m to the south-west of the proposed development area, whilst a post-medieval pottery kiln was located just under 1km to the south-east of the site (NHER15604).

- 3.1.12 A water pumping station associated with the Weybourne Court Hotel once stood 300m to the north of the site (NHER31323). There is also evidence of post-medieval quarrying in Weybourne Wood to the south-east (NHER38641).

Modern

- 3.1.13 There is an abundance of features in this area associated with military training and defences constructed during World War I and II. This is due to the proximity of the military testing and training facility of Weybourne Camp.
- 3.1.14 Several features have been identified from aerial photographs as training trenches dating to WWI. These are primarily located on Kelling Heath to the west of the proposed development area (NHER38420; 38419) as well as in Weybourne Woods to the north-east (NHER38418).
- 3.1.15 Two areas of features relating to WWII training have been identified, one on Kelling Heath to the west and the other in Weybourne Woods to the east. Barbed wire enclosures, weapons pits and practice trenches are located on Kelling Heath (NHER38645; NHER38424; NHER38423), whilst earthwork emplacements also formed part of the training camp in Weybourne Woods (NHER38639; 38642; 38348)
- 3.1.16 Defensive features in this area include two pillboxes (NHER18108, 30m north-east; NHER30708 200m south-east); three spigot mortar bases (NHER40350, 350m to south-east; NHER18109, 400m north; NHER24266, 350m west); a gun emplacement (NHER38421, 980 south-west); a tank trap (NHER40318, 800m east-north-east); and a search light battery (NHER34181, 850m north).
- 3.1.17 Military earthworks and defensive obstructions have also been identified on Kelling Heath (NHER35551; 38425) and in Hundred Acre Wood (NHER44253).

Archaeological Excavations and Surveys

Sheringham Shoal Pipeline (NHER51430-51434, 51725)

- 3.1.18 A metal detecting survey, targeted excavation and watching brief was carried out in advance of the construction of a pipe trench associated with the on-shore grid connection of the Sheringham Shoal offshore wind farm (Westall and Smith 2008; Hickling 2010). The route of this cable passed north to south through the western edge of the proposed development area. An excavation 230m to the north of the current site uncovered no archaeological remains despite being in close proximity to the Weybourne Pits possible Late Saxon quarries and the Bronze Age barrow (NHER6261).
- 3.1.19 Excavations were also carried out as part of this project at the Rosedale Farm moated site south of Weybourne. These uncovered three furrows, two ditches and a stake hole, sealed by a layer of medieval subsoil (NHER51430).
- 3.1.20 The metal detecting survey along this route recovered finds dating from the prehistoric to the post-medieval period. Roman finds were recovered predominantly from that part of the cable trench which was located to the north of the current site whilst prehistoric and medieval finds were recovered from the area in Hundred Acre Woods.

Weybourne Pit (NHER6283)

- 3.1.21 An excavation of the Weybourne Pits by Mr. J.D. Nobel in 1956 uncovered iron conglomerate, broken flint and crude hammer stones along with an iron ore layer about 45cm thick. No datable evidence was recovered from this excavation.

Other Fieldwork

- 3.1.22 A fieldwalking survey took place to the south of the development area in 1979 (NHER 15606). A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from this survey. An earlier

phase of watching brief did not identify any archaeological features (Nicholls and Rees 2014).

4 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 4.1.1 The authors would like to thank Simon Nicholas of Paul Robinson Partnership who commissioned and funded the work. Tom Phillips managed the project and edited the report. Field observations were taken by Anthony Haskins.

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1.1 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.
- 5.1.2 The Brief required that a watching brief was carried out during the construction of new caravan bases and associated drainage pipes and ducting.
- 5.1.3 The area of investigation was located near the entrance of the Kelling Heath Caravan Park.
- 5.1.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 5.1.5 Site conditions were generally good, with dry weather and some cloud.

6 RESULTS

- 6.1.1 The watching brief monitored the excavation of the drain pipe trenches and caravan bases (Fig. 2).
- 6.1.2 The drain pipe trenches ranged in depth from 0.3m in the east to 1.5m to the west (Plate 1). The trenches cut through topsoil, subsoil and natural sand and gravel. One cut feature was identified truncating the subsoil (Fig. 2). This feature was modern; it contained a plastic silica sealant tube. No other features were observed.
- 6.1.3 The caravan bases measured up to 0.2m deep and did not expose the natural geology (Plate 2). Some of the caravan bases were in parts of the site where wider areas had been cleared of vegetation and topsoil and no further stripping was taking place

7 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1.1 No archaeological material or features were observed/recovered during the watching brief.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Rees, G. 2013, *Kelling Heath Holiday Park, Weybourne, Norfolk. Earthwork survey and desk-based assessment*. OA East report no. 1537.

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APPENDIX A. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	<input type="text"/>		
Project Name	<input type="text"/>		
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start <input type="text"/>	Finish	<input type="text"/>
Previous Work (by OA East)	<input type="text"/>	Future Work	<input type="text"/>

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	<input type="text"/>	Planning App. No.	<input type="text"/>
HER No.	<input type="text"/>	Related HER/OASIS No.	<input type="text"/>

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt

Please select all techniques used:

<input 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 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
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Project Location

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District	<input type="text"/>		
Parish	<input type="text"/>		
HER	<input type="text"/>		
Study Area	<input type="text"/>	National Grid Reference	<input type="text"/>

Project Originators

Organisation	
Project Brief Originator	
Project Design Originator	
Project Manager	
Supervisor	

Project Archives

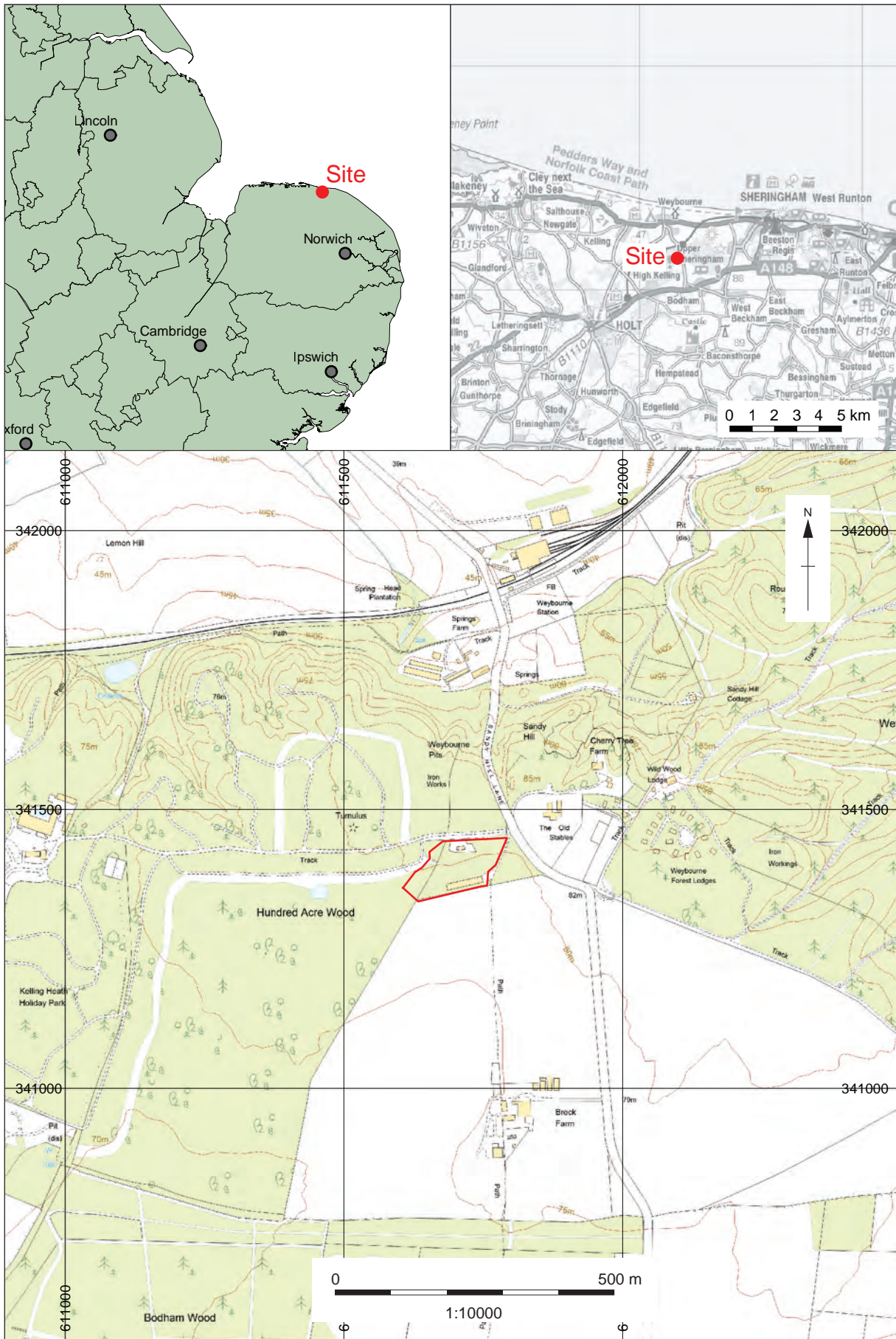
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Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
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Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
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<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
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	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location showing development area (red)





Plate 1: Northern drainage cut, facing west



Plate 2: Caravan base 12, facing north



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