

**LAND ADJACENT TO
78 CROWLAND ROAD,
EYE,
PETERBOROUGH**



ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was conducted by Independent Archaeology Consultants during the excavation of footings for a new property. No archaeological deposits were encountered within the site, but garden soil and older subsoil horizons were observed. A small amount of finds was also collected during the groundworks.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The site was located at 78 Crowland Road, Eye Peterborough, Cambridgeshire (NGR: TF 2287 0375) (Figure 1-2). The trenches for the footings were dug in the back yard of the existing property. The area affected by the development was ca. 15 x 7m or ca. 105m². The project was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IfA 2008) issued by the Institute for Archaeologists, as well as discussions with Rebecca Casa-Hutton, Archaeological Officer for Peterborough. The project was based on a WSI, which complies with the principles of NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework 2012).

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning Permission has been granted (13/01343/FUL) for development of land adjacent to 78 Crowland Road, Eye, Peterborough. The development comprised the construction of a new two-bedroom dwelling. The site was located within a modern residential area in the northern parts of Eye, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. The site was situated within an area of archaeological potential, as defined by Peterborough HER.
- 2.2 Due to the archaeological potential of the site a condition for a programme of archaeological work was attached to the Planning Permission. This condition was mentioned in the Planning Permission granted by Peterborough City Council, and was in line with standards described in NPPF 2012. The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation, submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Archaeologist for Peterborough.

3 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Until the 20th century the northern parts of Eye consisted mainly of farming land, with only a limited number of buildings. Although, there are no known archaeological remains within the proposed development area, a number of archaeological deposits and artefacts have previously been found along Crowland Road.

- 3.2 Approximately 200m to the south of the site an Anglo-Saxon inhumation cemetery (HER-nr: 03112) was discovered at the beginning of the 20th century during gravel extraction. In the same area unassigned archaeological excavations have revealed Prehistoric remains of uncertain date (HER-nr: 51104 and 51175). In this area has also been found a Post Medieval boundary enclosure (HER-nr: 51856). A Roman coin has been found ca 100m north of the site (HER-nr: 50601), and there is also a ditch or enclosure of uncertain date (visible on old aerial photos) (HER-nr: 50256). Directly south of the site was once a Post Medieval smock mill (HER-no: 50582).
- 3.3 The site therefore contains the potential for the preservation of archaeological deposits predominately relating to the Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods. This did not prejudice the investigation against features and finds relating to other periods.

4 AIMS

- 4.1 The aims of the archaeological Watching Brief were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains; as well as to make recommendations for management of the resource, including further archaeological works if necessary.
- 4.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:
- i) to define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible;
 - ii) to attempt to characterise the nature and preservation of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning and extent of features present within the site;
 - iii) to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence which will attempt to determine the complexity of the horizontal and vertical stratigraphy present, and to recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples;
 - iv) to determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present.
 - v) to define any research priorities that may be relevant should further field investigation be required.

The map shows a rectangular area labeled "SITE" in red, outlined in red. To the left of the site is a hatched area labeled "78". Above the site is a hatched area labeled "80". To the right of the site is a hatched area labeled "82". A north arrow points upwards, labeled "N". A scale bar at the bottom right indicates distances from 0 to 5 meters. A green line runs horizontally across the map, with a small square symbol indicating a boundary or feature. A label "Boundaries" with arrows points to the green line. A label "Refuse storage area" with an arrow points to a small rectangular area within the site.

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5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The trenches for the footings of the new dwelling were entirely situated within the proposed development area. The area affected by the development was ca. 7 x 15m or ca. 105 m². The trenches were in average ca. 0.9m deep and were all dug down to natural deposits. All non-significant overburden was removed to the top of the archaeological deposits or natural substrates, whichever was encountered first.
- 5.2 This was achieved through use of a mechanical excavator with a toothless grading bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Thereafter all cleaning and excavation of the trenches was conducted by hand. The site archaeologist was granted the opportunity to clean and record all revealed remains.
- 5.3 All groundworks were carried out in a way that allowed early identification of archaeological features. In some cases the trenches for the footings were excavated to a lower depth than necessary to allow interpreting of the natural deposits within the site. No features suitable for environmental sampling were encountered.
- 5.4 All man-made features were investigated and all features and deposits were cleaned, recorded and sampled sufficiently to enable a confident interpretation of their character and relationship with other features.
- 5.5 Each excavation context was excavated, wherever possible, in such a way as to produce at least one representative cross-section of the deposit.
- 5.6 Decisions about the relative value of the deposits and features within the site were made in consultation with the Archaeological Officer for Peterborough City Council.
- 5.7 All artefactual and ecofactual remains, whether stratified or not, were collected, bagged and labelled. Artefacts were subject to preliminary study on site in order to interpret the exposed deposits. All artefacts were treated in accordance with *First Aid for Finds* (English Heritage 2001).

6 RECORDING

- 6.1 Each archaeological context was recorded separately by means of a written description. The stratigraphic relationships of each context were also recorded. Independent Archaeology Consultant's *pro forma* record sheets were used throughout. An index was kept of all record types and all trenches were described through written and photographic recording, even where no archaeological deposits were identified.

- 6.2 Each deposit was recorded by means of a measured plan at an appropriate scale. All trenches, sections and features were accurately referenced to the Ordnance Survey grid and given spot heights related to Ordnance Datum.
- 6.3 Cross sections were recorded by means of a measured drawing at an appropriate scale. The locations of all sections were recorded on the site plan.
- 6.4 All drawn records were clearly marked with a unique site number, and was individually identified. The scale of the plan was recorded and all drawings were made on dimensionally stable media.
- 6.5 A photographic record comprising monochrome, colour prints/slides and digital photos formed part of the site record. Each excavation context was recorded photographically prior to removal. A number of overview photos of the site were also taken prior to any groundworks. Every photo contains an appropriately sized scale, a north arrow and labels of all visible deposits.

7 RESULTS

- 7.1 All trenches were excavated down to natural deposits, but no features of archaeological interest were identified during the watching brief. The uppermost layer (101) consisted of 0.18-0.23m thick topsoil of dark brown, loose sandy silt with occasional charcoal, roots and brick. This layer was interpreted as a manmade layer of garden soil, which had been brought into the site from elsewhere. The layer contained a few pieces of modern pottery, modern broken glass, metal, ceramic building material and tobacco clay pipes, which all could have been brought in with the topsoil. Layer (101) was sealing all other deposits within the site.
- 7.2 Sealed by (101) was (102), a layer which was interpreted as forming a part of the subsoil in the area. It is possible, however, that a part of this layer also had been brought into the site from elsewhere. It consisted of 0.20-0.25m thick dark grey, loose sandy silt with occasional small stones, brick and charcoal. No artefacts were collected from layer (102).
- 7.3 Covered by (102) was (103), a 0.20-0.25m thick layer of light yellow, loose sandy silt with occasional small stones. This layer is likely to have formed part of the original subsoil on the site, before the present residential area was built. No artefacts were collected from layer (103).
- 7.4 Underlying all other deposits within the site was yellow beige, loose sand with occasional inclusions of small stones. Forming part of the natural deposits was possibly also a 0.10-0.15m thick lens of white grey, semi-compact limestone (104). No artefacts or archaeological features were visible in the natural deposits.

- 7.5 The watching brief was carried out in good conditions with excellent co-operation from the contractors carrying out the groundworks. The results are therefore felt to be representative for the site.

8 FINDS

- 8.1 A few pieces of tobacco clay pipes were collected from the topsoil (101). As this layer had been brought in to the site the archaeological value of these clay pipes must be seen as rather limited. No manufacturing stamps or decorations are visible on any of the pieces, and they can therefore just be given a rather general date to the 17th-19th centuries.

9 DISCUSSION

- 9.1 No archaeological features were discovered during the watching brief and only a limited number of artefacts were found in the brought-in topsoil. However, the site lies within an area of archaeological potential, as proven by previous investigations in the vicinity. The wider area that surrounds Rowland Road forms part of a well documented cultural landscape, which must be taken into consideration at future development projects in the area.
- 9.2 Being a blank spot of land, with no visible archaeological remains, could indicate that the site described in this report is situated between the Prehistoric and/or Roman settlements that we know are present within 500m from 78 Crowland Road. This road was used as a passage way, transporting people and goods from Peterborough in the south towards Crowland and Spalding in the north. The short distance to Lincolnshire, with its extensive salt industry in the Roman and Medieval periods, is also of interest in this context.

10 ARCHIVE

The archive consists of the following:

Paper Record

The project brief	The project report
Written Scheme of Investigation	The primary site records
The photographic and drawn records	Finds

The archive is currently maintained by Independent Archaeology Consultants. The archive will be transferred to:

Peterborough Museum, Priestgate, Peterborough, PE1 1LF, Cambridgeshire

11 BIBLIOGRAPHY

First Aid for Finds. English Heritage. London 2001.

HER for Peterborough. Peterborough City Council. Peterborough 2014.

NPPF 2012. (National Planning Policy Framework). Department for Communities and Local Government. London 2012.

Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief. Institute for Archaeologists 1994. Revised 2008. Reading.

APPENDICES

CONTEXT DESCRIPTION

Context nr	Description	Younger than	Older than
(101)	Dark brown, loose sand silt with occasional charcoal, roots and brick	(102)	-
(102)	Dark grey, loose sandy silt with occasional small stones, brick and charcoal	(103)	(101)
(103)	Light yellow, loose sandy silt with occasional small stones	(104) Natural	(102)
(104)	Lens of white grey, semi compact limestone	Natural	(103)
Natural	Yellow beige, loose, sand with occasional small stones	-	(103) (104)

FINDS LIST

Find nr	Material	Description	Date
1	Fired clay	Part of broken shank from a tobacco clay pipe	17 th -19 th C
2	Fired clay	Part of broken shank from a tobacco clay pipe	17 th -19 th C
3	Fired clay	Part of a broken bowl from a tobacco clay pipe	17 th -19 th C



