ORTON MEADOWS GOLF SHOP,

HAM LANE,

PETERBOROUGH,

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

NGR REF: TF 15400 96809

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

APRIL 2015

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CONTENTS

Summary

Archaeological monitoring was conducted by Independent Archaeology Consultants between 23 March and 2 April 2015 for the construction of a new Cycling Centre and Golf Reception with associated external works, including landscaping, expanded car park and bin store at Orton Meadows Golf Course, Ham Lane, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. No archaeological deposits or features were encountered during the fieldworks.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The site was located at Orton Meadows Golf Course, Ham Lane, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire (NGR: TF 15400 96809) (Figure 1-3). The development comprised the construction of a new Cycling Centre and Golf Reception with associated landscaping, expanded car park and bin store.

1.2 The project was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2001), as well as discussions with the Peterborough City Council's Historic Environment Team. The project was based on a WSI, which complies with the principles of NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework 2012).

1.3 Independent Archaeology Consultants is an archaeological consultancy company based in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. The company subscribes to the Code of Conduct issued by the CIfA. All relevant CIfA Codes of Practice were adhered to throughout the course of the project.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

2.1 Planning Permission has been granted (14/01481/FUL) for a new development at Orton Meadows Golf Shop, Ham Lane, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. The development comprised the construction of a new Cycling Centre and Golf Reception, including landscaping, expanded car park and bin store.

2.2 The development site was located about 3km southwest of central Peterborough in the parish of Orton Waterville. The site was on the north side of Ham Lane and to the south of the River Nene. It enclosed an area of some 3600m^2 at an average height of 10m AOD. The solid geology comprised Rutland Formations of sandstone overlain by sand and gravel of the First River Terrace (British Geological Survey).

2.3 The site was situated within an area of archaeological potential, as defined by Peterborough HER. Therefore archaeological monitoring was required during the construction works. This condition was mentioned in the Planning Permission granted by Peterborough City Council, and was in line with standards described in NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework).

Figure 1. Site Location

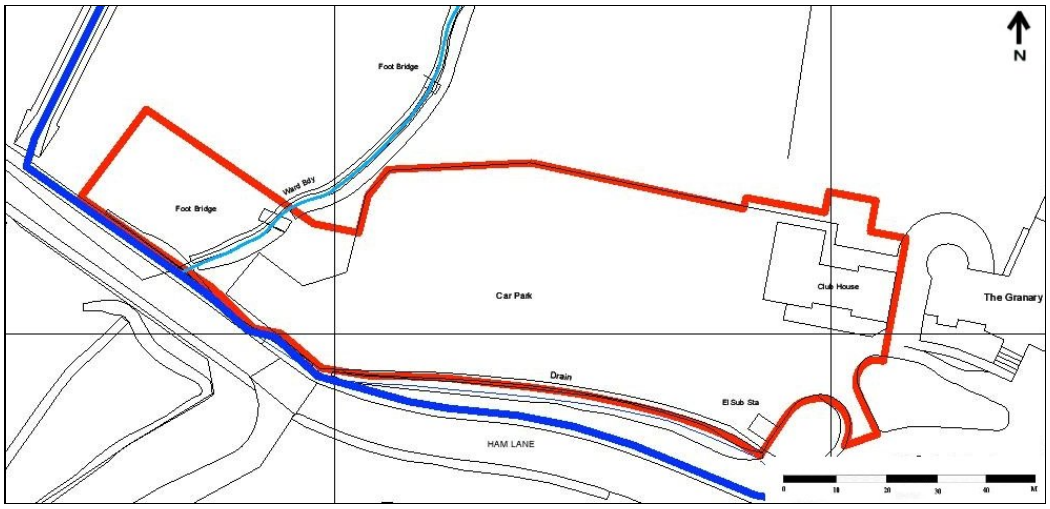

Figure 2. Site Outline

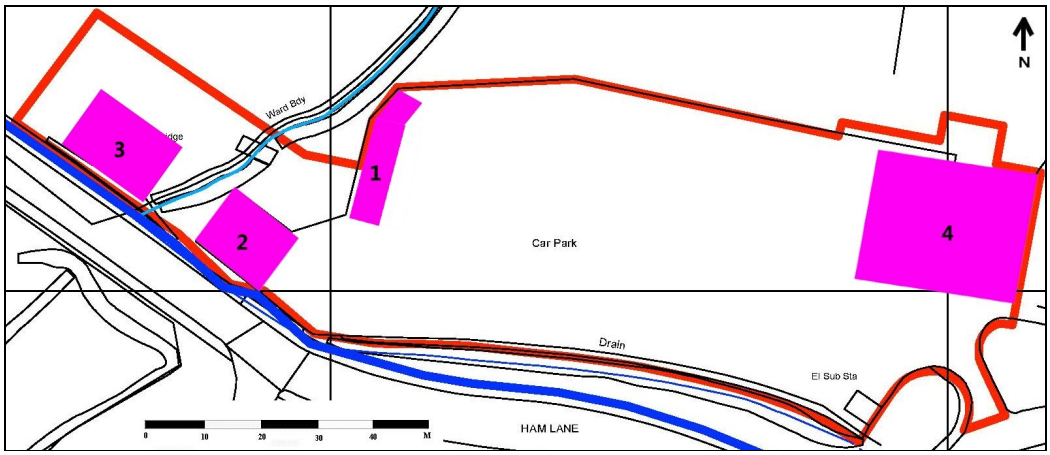

Figure 3. Areas of ground disturbance within the development site. Development areas marked in violet and numbered 1-4.

3 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The proposed development site was located in an area of archaeological interest, being located some 500m to the south-east of Scheduled Monument PE182 - *Prehistoric and Roman site at Lynch Farm, Orton Waterville*. Iron Age and Roman finds have been reported within a 500m radius.

3.2 Cartographic evidence dating from the late 19th century showed that the site was historically used as meadows/pasture, with little alterations until development in the 1970s. On the basis of the available evidence, a programme of archaeological monitoring of all groundworks was recommended.

3.3 The proposed development site, therefore, had the potential for the preservation of archaeological deposits predominately relating to the Iron Age and Roman periods. This did not, however, prejudice the investigation against features and finds relating to other periods.

4 AIMS

4.1 The aims of the archaeological monitoring were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:

i) to gain information about the heritage assets within the proposed development area;

ii) to provide detailed information regarding the date, nature, extent, integrity and degree of preservation of the identified heritage assets,

iii) to inform a strategy for the recording, preservation and/or management of the identified assets;

iv) to mitigate potential threats,

v) to inform proposals for further archaeological investigations (namely targeted area excavations) within the ongoing programme of research;

vi) to define the sequence and character of activity at the site, as reflected by the excavated remains;

vii) to interpret the archaeology of the site within its local, regional and national archaeological context.

4.2 The Archaeological Monitoring also considered the general investigative themes outlined by: Medlycott, M. 2011 (ed.) *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a Revised Framework for the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24; *Research and Archaeology: A Framework*

for the Eastern Counties (Glazebrook 1997; Brown & Glazebrook 2000), *English Heritage Archaeology Division Research Agenda* (1997); *Discovering the Past, Shaping the Future: Research Strategy 2005 - 2010* (English Heritage 2005).

4.3 Specifically, the following investigative aims were accommodated in the programme of archaeological work:

*characterisation of the sites in the broader landscape;
*characterisation of the activities identified on the site;
*characterisation of changes affecting land-use through time

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Monitoring of Groundworks

The archaeological investigation consisted of the continuous observation of removal of overburden in the development areas, followed by the investigation and recording of all deposits that were revealed.

All ground works were made under constant archaeological supervision using a flat bladed ditching bucket. When features and/or deposits were encountered they were investigated and recorded according to the parameters described below. Revisions and amendments of the excavation methodologies were sometimes required in consideration of further details and ongoing fieldwork results.

The program of fieldworks took into consideration potential above- and below-ground constraints and/or hazards, such as trees, utility trenches, overhead cables and areas of modern disturbance.

The development areas were excavated to the upper interface of secure archaeological deposits or, where these were not present, to the upper interface of natural deposits. Thereafter, hand-excavation was required to sample any features exposed.

The mitigation was not carried out at the expenses of the heritage assets and was minimally intrusive to archaeological remains.

5.2 Metal Detecting

Thorough metal detector sweeps of exposed features and spoil heaps were carried out in advance of, and during, the excavation process.

5.3 Hand Excavation

All man-made features were investigated. Apparently natural features (such as tree throws) were sampled sufficiently to establish their origin and to characterise any

related human activity. Hand excavation and feature sampling was sufficient to establish the date and character, and to allow appropriate levels of recording.

Deposits and layers (including buried horizons of top- and subsoils) were sampled sufficiently to enable a confident interpretation of their character, date and relationships with other features. Thereafter, mechanical removal and visual scanning for artefacts was acceptable.

The mitigation provided a representative sample of the site's history at no significant cost to the value or integrity of archaeological remains therein. The developer was informed that provision must be made for delays caused by the need for archaeological recording, or if contingency allowance must be made for more detailed recording of exceptional finds.

5.4 Recording

Measured plans were produced that show all exposed features (including natural features, modern features, etc.) and excavated areas. Individual measured plans and sections in the scales 1:20 and 1:100 were produced for all excavated features and deposits. These were accurately tied in to trench plans/trench location plans, that in turn were accurately related to the Ordnance Survey grid and to suitably mapped local features (boundaries, buildings, roads, etc.). All sections and plans were related accurately to Ordnance Datum.

All drawn records were clearly marked with a unique site number, and was individually identified. The scales of the plans were recorded and all drawings were made on dimensionally stable media.

A photographic record comprising monochrome, colour slides and digital photos formed part of the excavation record. Every photo contains an appropriately sized scale and north arrow. Some digital photos were also used in this report. The site archive was prepared for long time storage to the requirements of Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery (Wass 2003).

6 RESULTS

Area 1

The development in Area 1 comprised the expansion of the existing car park towards northwest (Figure 4). The stratigraphy in this area was largely man-made and had a very modern character. The lowest deposit encountered was (102), consisting of yellow orange brick, mortar and small stones. This layer was a modern fill for the existing car park, but the bottom of the layer was not reached during the development. Therefore it was not possible to study any deeper stratigraphy within this area. Layer (102) was covered by (101), an up to 0.35m thick layer of dark brown, soft silty clay with occasional pieces of modern brick.

Area 2

The development in Area 2 consisted of further expansion of the existing car park towards west (Figure 5). The lowest deposit encountered was (202) consisting of modern yellow orange brick, mortar and small stones. Layer (202) was a modern fill for the existing car park, but the bottom of this layer was not reached during the development. It was therefore not possible to study any deeper stratigraphy. Layer (202) was largely covered by (201), an up to 0.05m thick layer of black, solid Tarmac from the existing car park. It was only in the western end of Area 2 that Tarmac was not present.

Area 3

The development in Area 3 consisted entirely of a new Flood Storage area, which was opened up in the western part of the existing golf course (Figure 6). The stratigraphy in this area was simple and largely man-made. The lowest deposit encountered consisted of the natural ground of yellow sandy silt with occasional roots and small stones. Overlying the natural was (301), an up to 0.85m thick layer of dark brown, soft silty clay with occasional tree roots. This layer had entirely been brought into the site during landscaping works linked to the layout of the original golf course.

Area 4

In Area 4 the development began with the demolition of the existing golf shop. As the old golf shop was slightly smaller than the new one the stratigraphy looked slightly different inside and outside the old footprints. The first golf shop had 1m deep footings of bricks and concrete, that had partly been dug into the natural ground. The new shop, on the other hand, was constructed on 1m large concrete plinths which were laid out and excavated in a grid (Plan 1 and Sections 001, 002 and 003).

The first golf shop had been constructed on a thick bedding layer (401), which was entirely man-made and consisted of up to 0.75m thick yellow, packed gravel. This thick bedding layer was overlaying the original ground level (402), consisting of up to 0.21m thick dark brown, plastic silty clay, which had partly been polluted by oil. It is therefore likely that this surface had been exposed during the construction of the original golf shop. The lowest deposit encountered was the natural ground, which consisted of brown yellow sandy silt with occasional small stones.

The southern part of the new golf shop was stretching into the existing car park. The stratigraphy was therefore slightly different in this area, as the thick bedding layer of yellow gravel was missing completely. The uppermost deposit consisted instead of the up to 0.05m thick, black solid Tarmac (404). The Tarmac was resting on a, up to 0.15m thick, man-made plastic layer of orange yellow brick and mortar (405). This man-made fill for the existing car park was resting upon the original ground surface of dark brown, plastic silty clay, which had partly been polluted by oil (406). The natural ground was, however, not reached in the southern end of the new golf shop.

Figure 4. Area 1 contained modern fills of brick and mortar (102) beneath the topsoil (101) in the expended car park.

Figure 5. Area 2 contained modern fills of brick and mortar (202) beneath the expended car park.

Figure 6. Area 3 contained the new Flood Storage area in the existing golf course. A thick man-made layer of dark brown, silty clay (301) was covering the natural ground.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the archaeological monitoring at Orton Meadows Golf Shop, Ham Lane, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. A number of modern fills and bedding layers were documented, but they contained no archaeological features or artefacts.

7.2 In Areas 3 and 4 man-made layers, and/or modern deposits, were covering the natural ground and no deposits of archaeological interest could be identified. In Areas 1 and 2 the natural ground was not reached during the fieldworks, but thick layers of modern deposits were documented beneath the car park.

7.3 The surrounding area, however, contains well preserved remains, predominately dating from the Iron Age and Roman periods. Future investigations can therefore hopefully contribute to a better understanding of the development of the cultural landscape west of Peterborough.

7.4 As the proposed development site was located in an area of known archaeological interest further investigations of the surroundings would be of great scientific interest. Even if no archaeological remains were found during the monitoring in March and April 2015 rich archaeological deposits are likely to exist in the landscape.

8 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	

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

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

9 REFERENCES

British Geology. (Online resource).

Brown, N. & Glazebrook, J. 2000. *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the eastern Counties, 2. Research agenda and strategy*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8.

English Heritage, 1997. *English Heritage Archaeology Division Research Agenda.*

Glazebrook, J. 1997. *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 1. Resource Assessment*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 3.

IfA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs.*

Medlycott, M. 2011 (ed.) *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a Revised Framework for the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24.

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

Peterborough Historic Environment Record (HER).

Wass, G. 2003. *Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery Standards for Archaeological Archive Preparation.*

APPENDICES

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context Nr	Depth (m)	Description	Younger than	Older than
		Area 1		
(101)	0.35	Dark brown, soft silty clay with occasional pieces of modern brick	(102)	-
(102)	?	Modern fill of yellow orange brick, mortar and small stones	?	(101)
		Area 2		
(201)	0.05	Black, solid Tarmac	(202)	-
(202)	?	Modern fill of yellow orange brick, mortar and small stones	?	(201)
		Area 3		
(301)	0.85	Dark brown, soft silty clay with occasional tree roots	Natural	-
Natural	?	Yellow, sandy silt with occasional roots and small stones	-	(301)
		Area 4		
(401)	0.75	Yellow, packed gravel	(402)	-
(402)	0.21	Dark brown, plastic silty clay. Partly polluted by oil	Natural	(401)
Natural	?	Brown yellow, sandy silt with occasional small stones	-	(402)
(404)	0.05	Black, solid Tarmac	(405)	-
(405)	0.15	Modern fill of yellow orange brick and mortar	(406)	(404)
(406)	?	Dark brown, plastic silty clay. Partly polluted by oil	?	(405)