

Warren Wood Prototype Lodges, Center
Parcs Holiday Village, Elveden
ELV 077

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2011/103

Client: Jackson Design Associates

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August/2011

HER Information

Report Number: 2011/103

Site Name: Warren Wood Prototype Lodges, Center Parcs Holiday Village

Planning Application No: F/2008/0715/FUL

Date of Fieldwork: 16th June 2011

Grid Reference: TL 803 801

Client/Funding Body: Jackson Design Associates

Curatorial Officer: Dr Jess Tipper

Project Officer: Rob Brooks

Oasis Reference: Suffolkc1-102596

Site Code: ELV 077

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:

<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting services cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Prepared By: Simon Picard

Date: 8th August, 2011

Approved By: Dr Abby Antrobus

Position: Curatorial Officer

Date:

Signed:

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at Warren Wood in Center Parcs Holiday Village, Elveden on the 16th June 2011 in an area of cleared woodland, prior to development. Two evaluation trenches were excavated in which no archaeological features were found. In addition, no artefacts were recovered and no environmental samples were taken

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Warren Wood in Center Parcs Holiday Village, Elveden on the 16th June 2011 (Fig. 1). The work was carried out in accordance with a Brief and Specification (Appendix 1) issued by Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team). The work was undertaken after the clearance of some trees prior to the construction of five prototype lodges. The work was commissioned by Jackson Design Associates on behalf of Center Parcs Holiday Villages. The aim of the evaluation was to determine if any archaeological deposits existed on the site, with particular reference to an excavation 100m to the south east, recorded under Historic Environment Record (HER) code ELV 067 (Fig. 1). These works will then be used to inform any further mitigation strategy.

2. Geology and topography

The site lies at TL 803 801 within an area of plantation woodland enclosed by footpaths in the Center Parcs Forest Holiday Village in Elveden Forest to the west of the village of Elveden (Fig. 1). The evaluated area was irregularly shaped and contained a number of stumps of recently felled trees. The localised topography was generally flat and sited at approximately 45m above the OD. The underlying glaciofluvial drift geology comprises unconsolidated sand (BGS, 2011).

3. Archaeology and historical background

The site was formerly part of the Elveden sporting estate and Warren Wood itself was a tree plantation created to provide cover for game birds, probably around the turn of the nineteenth century and is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1882. Warren Wood lies to the northwest of the village of Elveden in an area of prehistoric and Roman activity. Within 100m to the south east an excavation uncovered various late Iron Age and Roman occupation features showing multi phase settlement (ELV 067, Fig. 1, Craven, 2010). Approximately 800m to the south-east of the site archaeological evaluations found further evidence of prehistoric and Roman activity (ELV 059 and ELV 060). Two undated skeletons were found 400m and 950m west of the site (ELV 011 and

012), close to a prehistoric flint and pot scatter (ELV 010). To the north-east of the site, further findspots include a scatter of Roman coins (ELV Misc), a Palaeolithic hand-axe, a Neolithic arrowhead, further Roman coins and a Roman enamelled brooch (ELV 006).

4. Methodology

An evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Brief and Specification provided by Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team – Appendix 1). This required the excavation of 5% of the development area, which covered 750sqm.

Two trenches, measuring a total of 28.6m in length and covering an area of 51.5sqm were excavated, constituting 6.86% of the development area. These were dug with a 180° JCB excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Prior to the start of the evaluation the trees within the development area had been felled but the stumps left in place. Trench 1 was dug in two lengths in order to avoid a large stump.

The position and levels of the trenches were recorded using a Total Station Theodolite. The trenches were recorded on SCCAS *pro forma* record sheets and photographs of both trenches were taken on 35mm monochrome print film and with a high resolution digital camera.

An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-102596) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>. The site archive is kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under HER code ELV 077.



Figure 1. Location of site, showing development area (red), trenches (black) and Historic Environment Record entries as mentioned in the text (green)

5. Results

5.1 Introduction

No archaeological features or finds were encountered within the two excavated trenches and neither trench contained any modern disturbance other than tree roots. No environmental samples were taken.

5.2 Trench 1

This trench was divided into two to avoid a large tree root and measured 13.4m long in total and 1.8m wide and was northwest/southeast aligned. The topsoil measured 0.14m deep and consisted of dark grey silty sand. The natural mid orange sand was encountered directly below the topsoil at 0.14m. There were no archaeological features and the trench was disturbed by tree roots.

5.3 Trench 2

Trench 2 was aligned from north to south and measured 15.2m long and 1.8m wide. Topsoil depth in this trench was 0.26m and the topsoil was made up of dark grey silty sand. Again the natural mid orange sand was encountered directly below the topsoil at 0.26m. As in Trench 1 there were no archaeological features and the trench was disturbed by tree roots.

6. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The evaluation demonstrates that Roman and Iron Age settlement site ELV 067, one hundred metres to the south east, does not extend into the development area for this site. The absence of a buried subsoil layer between the topsoil and the natural sand may suggest that ploughing or other activity has slightly truncated the local soil horizons, but there is no evidence for significant loss of archaeological deposits. Due to the lack of any features or finds, and the lack of any evidence for use of the area other than tree plantation on the early Ordnance Survey maps, it is recommended that this site does not require any further archaeological fieldwork.

7. Archive deposition

Paper, digital and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

8. Acknowledgements

The evaluation was carried out by Rob Brooks and Simon Picard from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team. The project was directed by Rob Brooks and managed by David Gill. Illustrations and graphics were produced by Gemma Adams. The report was edited by Richenda Goffin.

9. Bibliography

BGS, 2011 Information obtained from http://www.bgs.ac.uk/products/digital_maps/data_625k.html and reproduced with the permission of the British Geological Survey ©NERC. All rights Reserved

Craven, J., 2010, *New Executive Villas, Center Parcs, Elveden ELV 067 Archaeological Excavation Report*, SCCAS Report No. 2010/102, SCCAS: Bury St Edmunds



9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall
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Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

CENTER PARCS, ELVEDEN FOREST HOLIDAY VILLAGE, ELVEDEN (F/2008/0715/FUL)

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities.

1. The nature of the development and archaeological requirements
 - 1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Forest Heath District Council (F/2008/0715/FUL) for the erection of 5 villas on land at Center Parcs, Elveden Forest Holiday Village, Elveden (TL 8039 8020). Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site.
 - 1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins in accordance with PPS 5 Planning for the Historic Environment (Policy HE 12.3) (which replaced PPG 16 in March 2010) to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage asset before it is damaged or destroyed (see Condition 5 of the planning permission).
 - 1.3 The area of the villas measures c.50.00 x 15.00m at c.45.00m AOD. The underlying glaciofluvial drift geology comprises unconsolidated sand.
 - 1.4 This application lies in an area of high archaeological importance, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. An archaeological excavation to the south-east produced later prehistoric and Roman occupation features (HER no. ELV 067) that are indicative of multi-period settlement remains. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
 - 1.5 In order to inform the archaeological mitigation strategy, the following work will be required:
 - A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area. This work must be undertaken before any tree stumps are removed; however, in advance of the evaluation, the trees can be felled to ground level to facilitate access to the site.
 - 1.6 The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. Decisions on the need for and scope of any mitigation measures, should there be any archaeological finds of significance, will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of an additional specification.
 - 1.7 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.
 - 1.8 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.
 - 1.9 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute for Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline

specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the WSI as satisfactory. The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to satisfy the requirements of the planning condition.

- 1.10 Neither this specification nor the WSI, however, is a sufficient basis for the discharge of the planning condition relating to archaeological investigation. Only the full implementation of the scheme, both completion of fieldwork and reporting based on the approved WSI, will enable SCCAS/CT to advise Forest Heath District Council that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged (assuming planning permission is forthcoming).
- 1.11 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of SCC (SCCAS/CT) before execution.
- 1.12 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work, e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
- 1.13 Any changes to the specifications that the project archaeologist may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to SCCAS/CT and the client for approval.

2. Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation

- 2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*.
- 2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- 2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- 2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 2.6 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final report preparation may follow. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design; this document covers only the evaluation stage.

- 2.7 The developer or his archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT (address as above) five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.
- 2.8 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected. Alternatively the presence of an archaeological deposit may be presumed, and untested areas included on this basis when defining the final mitigation strategy.
- 2.9 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3. Specification: Trenched Evaluation

- 3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area of that part of the development relating to residential development (c.750.00m² in total area). These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site, following demolition of existing buildings down to ground level. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in a minimum of 21.00m of trenching at 1.80m in width.
- 3.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' 1.80m wide must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed locations of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before field work begins.
- 3.3 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket, down to the interface layer between topsoil and subsoil or other visible archaeological surface. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 3.4 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 3.5 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled. For guidance:
- For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min.) should be excavated across their width;
- For discrete features, such as pits, 50% of their fills should be sampled (in some instances 100% may be requested).
- 3.6 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 3.7 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. The contractor shall show what provision has been made for environmental assessment of the site and must provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the

appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from Helen Chappell, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.

- 3.8 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 3.9 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.10 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.11 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.
- 3.12 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. Any variations from this must be agreed with SCCAS/CT.
- 3.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 3.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 3.15 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT. Suitable arrangements should be made with the client to ensure trenches are appropriately backfilled, compacted and consolidated in order to prevent subsequent subsidence.

4. General Management

- 4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by SCCAS/CT. The archaeological contractor will give not less than five days written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.
- 4.2 The composition of the archaeology contractor staff must be detailed and agreed by this office, including any subcontractors/specialists. For the site director and other staff likely to have a major responsibility for the post-excavation processing of this evaluation there must also be a statement of their responsibilities or a CV for post-excavation work on other archaeological sites and publication record. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 4.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill the Brief.
- 4.4 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.
- 4.5 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.

- 4.6 The Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 5.2 The report should reflect the aims of the WSI.
- 5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 5.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 5.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 5.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.7 The results of the surveys should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the County Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 5.8 A copy of the Specification should be included as an appendix to the report.
- 5.9 The project manager must consult the County HER Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain a HER number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.
- 5.10 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
- 5.11 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the full site archive, and transfer of title, with the intended archive depository before the fieldwork commences. If this is not achievable for all or parts of the finds archive then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, scientific analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.12 If the County Store is not the intended depository, the project manager should ensure that a duplicate copy of the written archive is deposited with the County HER.
- 5.13 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation, and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition. The intended depository should be stated in the WSI, for approval. The intended depository must be prepared to accept the entire archive resulting from the project (both finds and written archive) in order to create a complete record of the project.

- 5.14 If the County Store is the intended location of the archive, the project manager should consult the SCCAS Archive Guidelines 2010 and also the County Historic Environment Record Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive. A clear statement of the form, intended content, and standards of the archive is to be submitted for approval as an essential requirement of the WSI.
- 5.15 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure the proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>) with ADS or another appropriate archive depository.
- 5.16 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.17 An unbound hardcopy of the evaluation report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.
- Following acceptance, two hard copies of the report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT together with a digital .pdf version.
- 5.18 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County HER. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.
- 5.19 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.20 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER, and a copy should be included with the draft report for approval. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

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Date: 7 February 2011

Reference: /CenterParcs_Elveden2011

This brief and specification remains valid for six months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.

If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.

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