Continuous Archaeological Recording on Land at Bromeswell Suffolk

DRAFT

Grid reference: TM 307 515
Planning Application: C/12/0683
Oasis No: 129669
HER No: BML 040

Commissioned by:
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Contents

Summary

This is a report for archaeological continuous archaeological recording in advance of the erection of an array of a ground-mounted photovoltaics (PV) system. It has been written in response to an archaeological brief written

by Jess Tipper of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services Conservation Team, dated the 3rd of July 2012.

Monitoring of the ground-works took place between the 9th and the 19th of July 2012, during which no archaeology was encountered.

1. Introduction and Planning Background

Planning permission (No: SE/11/1152) was granted by Suffolk Coastal District Council for the erection of an array of a ground-mounted photovoltaics (PV) system.

The planning permission was granted, conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage asset before it is damaged or destroyed. This is in accordance with National Planning Policy Statement 5 (policy 12.3).

This site of the proposed ground mounted PV system lies in an area of archaeological importance recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, on a known Iron Age occupation site (HER nos. BML 013 and BML 004). Geophysical survey (fluxgate gradiometry) by Britannia Archaeology in June 2012 has defined several anomalies of potential archaeological origin (as magnetic interference/disturbance)..

Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief will be sought in standards for 'Field Archaeology in the East of England,' (East Anglian Occasional papers 14, 2003). In addition, this brief has been compiled respecting the following standards: Regional Research Framework (East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 3, 1997, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. resource assessment'; Occasional Paper 8, 2000, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy'; and Revised Research Framework for the Eastern Region, 2008.

Figure 1. Bromeswell Location

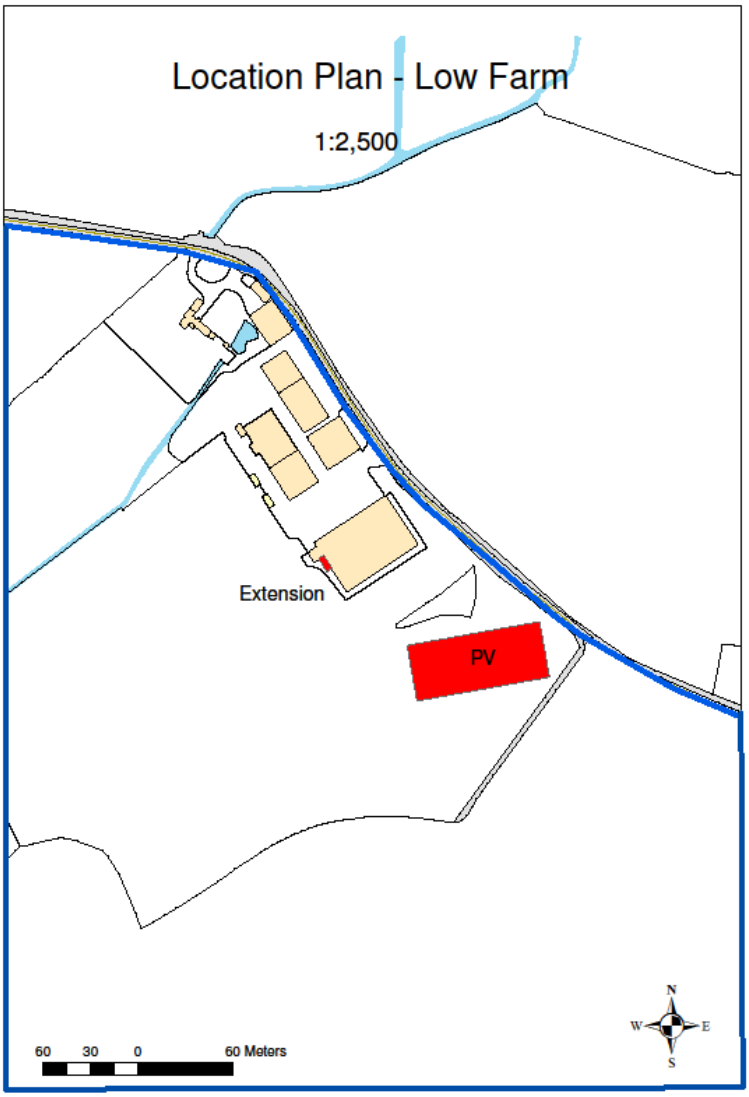

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Figure 2. Site Location Showing PV grid area

2. Site Location and Geology

Grid Reference: TM 307 515

The site lies to the north of the village of Bromeswell, one mile north-east of Sutton Hoo and two miles north-east of Woodbridge.

The Bedrock comprises Red Crag Formation sand, a sedimentary bedrock formed *c.*2 – 4 million years ago in the Neocene Period when the local environment was dominated by shallow seas. The overlying superficial geology is Lowestoft Formation sand and gravel, deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the

Quaternary Period when the local environment was dominated by ice age conditions, with glaciers scouring the landscape and depositing moraines of till, outwash sand and gravel (BGS 208 & 205).

3. Methodology

Fieldwork

A plan of the posthole array was drawn to a scale of 1:100; sections were not drawn due to the cylindrical shape of each hole that was excavated.

A metal detector survey was carried out at all stages of the project.

A full photographic archive was produced consisting of colour slide, monochrome print and digital at 10 million pixels resolution, and will form part of the site record to be curated at Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

Relative site levels were taken from a TBM on the road adjacent the site; the section was recorded at 27.49 OD; the base of the trench at 27.24 OD and the top of the trench at 27.80 OD.

4. Results

Excavation of the post holes in an array of six parallel grids (10 metres apart; 240 in total, measuring 0.40m wide by one metre deep) was carried out for the ground-mounted photovoltaics (PV) system by mechanical auguring machine. Each hole was inspected for possible finds. No finds or archaeology of any kind could be seen within any part of the groundworks, including the bases for the sub-stations (three of, measuring 1m long by 0.75m width) that were excavated down to c.0.40m. A cable trench (approximately one metre deep by 0.40m width) ran down a recently landscaped slope towards the modern farm building, and no archaeology was noted within the trench, which revealed a re-deposited material of make-up for the gradient of the slope. No finds were found from metal detecting or from inspection of the up-cast soils.

5. Contexts

Context (01) was the top soil of mid-brown silty sand to a maximum depth of 0.34m; (02) a sub soil of brownish orange, predominantly of sandy composition to maximum depth of 0.65m.

6. Discussion

In spite of the location of the site, close to a known Iron Age settlement, continuous archaeological recording has shown that no archaeology was compromised during the excavation of the post holes and the associated associated groundworks.

No further work is recommended for this site.

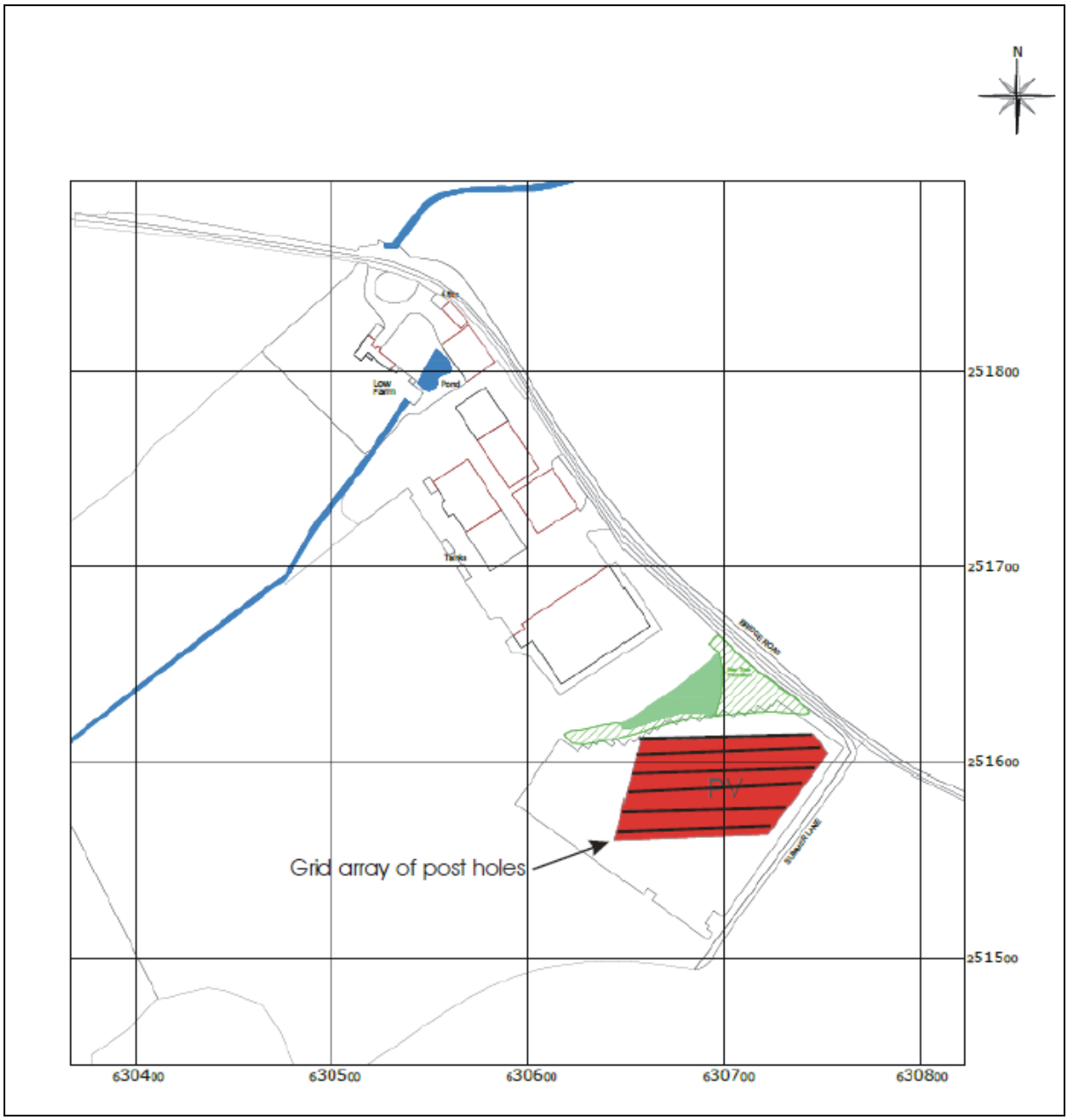

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Figure 3. Post-excavation schematic grid of the post holes within the red highlighted area

7. Post Excavation

Site plans digitized to archive standard, reduced versions of which are included in this report.

The author would like to thank Ruth Goodfield of Mosscliff Environmental Ltd. who commissioned and funded the archaeological work.

This report for archaeological evaluation was written by Dennis Payne Archaeoserv (DPAS), who also managed the project and carried out the field-work.

Bibliography

British Geological. Survey. 1990

ONLINE REFERENCES

PastScapes http://www.pastscape.org/homepage/index.htm

Photographs

Plate 1. Sample of post holes excavated for the PV system

Plate 2. Sample of posthole showing typical deposit model

Plate 3. Cable trench showing re-deposited material

Plate 4. Cable trench showing re-deposited material

Plate 5. Grid of post holes looking east

Plate 6. General view of site looking north