

**Archaeological Evaluation on land at The Walk Garden lane
Rickinghall Superior
Suffolk**

Grid reference: TM 044 754

Planning Application No: 0538/16

HER no: RKS 038

Event No. ESF 23950

Oasis No.: 250349

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Appendix II: Oasis Summary

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried by trial trenching; the work was carried out in response to an archaeological written by Rachael Abraham of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services Conservation Team, dated 12th of April 2016

Two linear trenches were excavated at 10m length x 1.8m width to cover the footprint of the new development.

Neither trench located any archaeology.

2. Planning Background

The planning application No. 0538/16, was granted by Mid Suffolk District Council, for the erection of a single dwelling with attached garage on land Garden walk, garden house lane Rickinghall Suffolk (TM 044 754) .

In order to ensure that satisfactory arrangements are made for the investigation, retrieval and recording of any possible archaeological remains on the site and to comply with Policy of the Council's Local Plan, the conditions states "*No development shall take place within the application site until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority.*

*Reason: To safeguard archaeological assets within the approved development boundary from impacts relating to any groundworks associated with the development scheme and to ensure the proper and timely investigation, recording, reporting and presentation of archaeological assets affected by this development. This condition is required to be agreed prior to the commencement of any development to ensure matters of archaeological importance are preserved and secured early to ensure avoidance of damage or lost due to the development and/or its construction. If agreement was sought at any later stage there is an unacceptable risk of lost and damage to archaeological and historic assets.
(MSDC grant of permission ref: 0538/16).*

This condition is in accordance with the National Planning and Policy Framework (NPPF, DCLD 2012) which replaces Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5, DCLG 2010).

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 Archaeological Background

The Brief for this project, written by the SCCA/CT states: This application lies in an area of high archaeological interest recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, being situated within the historic settlement core (BOT 028) and directly adjacent to a Roman site (RKS 010). As a result, there is a strong possibility that heritage assets of archaeological interest will be encountered at his location. Any groundworks causing significant ground disturbance have potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

3.2 Archaeological Events

Rickinghall & Botesdale have received nine archaeological interventions: only those nearest to the current development have been sited; in 1998 a watching Brief immediately to the north-east of the current proposal in Ryders Way, Rickinghall Superior produced no archaeology (HER ref: ESF 22545).

An archaeological monitoring was carried out on land at the rear of The Homestead, Rickingham, during the groundworks for a new house. The site lies at TM 0464 7559, close to an area from where a Roman inhumation burial RKS 011 was recorded. Archaeological evaluation and monitoring in 2005, RKS 030, on the former garden of the Homestead prior to the redevelopment of the whole site identified post-medieval pits and undated pits identified as possible former mineral extraction features. Seven more similar features were found during this monitoring, all undated and which, when mapped alongside those of RKS 030 form a north-south band c.28m wide. (HER ref:ESF19973)

On land to the rear of The Homestead The Street Rickingham, an archaeological monitoring of footing trenches for new residential development to the rear of The Homestead, Rickingham Superior, located a group of post medieval pits close to the road frontage and a series of large pits set back from the road. The large pits were undated and thought to be for chalk extraction (HER ref: ESF19813).

3.3 The H.E.R Monument Records

Several monuments records are listed for Rickingham, for the purpose of relevance to the current development only the nearer records are included.

The Ordnance Survey map of 1880 (fig. 4) for Rickingham records the site of a Roman kiln in Garden House Lane, adjacent to the site at c 200m south-west (HER ref: RKS 010).

Adjacent to the site and the same location as the kiln mentioned above is a large Roman site extending over two fields, Garden house Lane, south of The Street and west of Garden house Lane, excavated by local archaeologist Basil Brown in 1946 (HER ref: RKS 010). Also found by Basil Brown on the same site were two 17th c. tokens and a Saxon brooch; a silver penny was also found whilst metal detecting the spoil heaps for the new development that now exists on the site.

At the Homestead Rickingham, c. 200m north-east of the current development a Roman inhumation burial was found along with a grey- ware indented vase, now in the Ipswich Museum, noted on Basil Brown's 6 inch OS map (HER ref: RKS 011).

On land c. 80m south of the development, monitoring of a development identified a colluvial deposit containing Roman, Medieval and post-Medieval finds (HER ref: RKS 029).

At 150m north-west of the development Roman grey-ware sherds were found in a sewer trench north of The Street (HER ref: RKN 017).

Clearly Rickingham is the site of fairly extensive Roman occupation which seems to be centred around the current development site.

Very little evidence for the Saxon period is noted except by a Saxon brooch found by Basil Brown of "Sutton Hoo fame" (burial ground of Saxon nobility by the River Deben on the coastal area near Woodbridge) who lived in the village during the 1940's and made several finds at his own home and around the villages of Rickingham and Botesdale and elsewhere in the county. Medieval finds are also evident from a number finds including pits and post-medieval pits, some used for mineral extraction.

3.4 Historical Background

The Domesday Survey of 1086 refers to Rickingham as: " In Rickingham (Superior) Bricflod, a free woman of Edric of Laxfield held 1 carucate of land and 30 acres before 1066. Always 1 villager; 4 smallholders; 1 slave; 2 ploughs in lordship; half mens plough. woodland for 8 pigs; meadow, 2 acres. 4 cobs, 6 cattle, 20 pigs, 60 sheep and 16 goats." (Morris, J., 1985, pp 309b, 310a).

Rickingham, with only 'one villager' as stated in Domesday seems to have been very small by the time of the survey in 1086.

4. Cartographic Information



Figure 3. Hodkinson's map of Rickingham, 1783

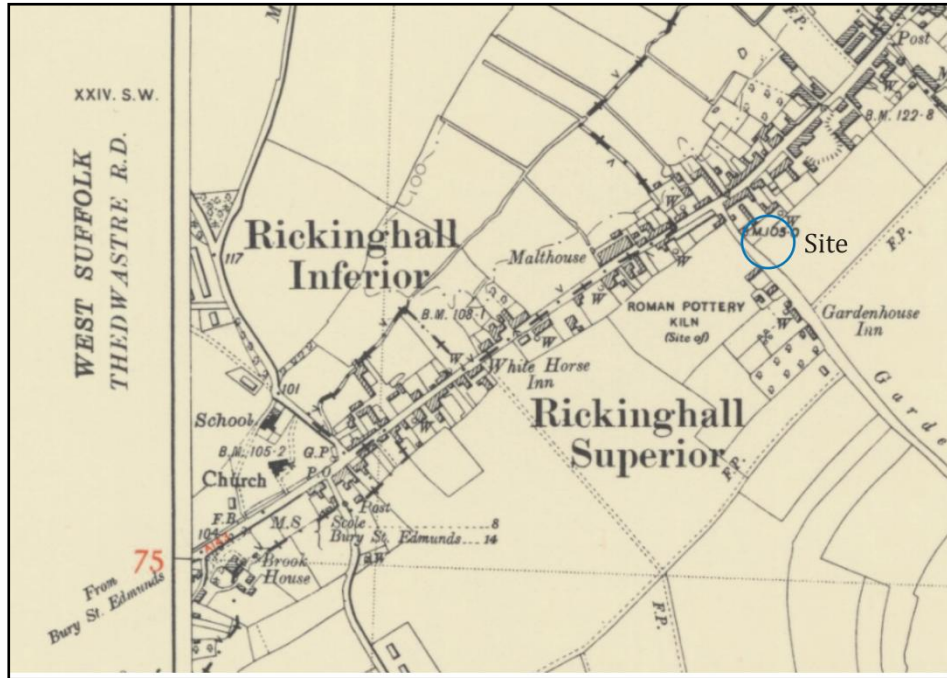


Figure 4. *O.S. map of Rickingham (1st ed., 1880) showing site location opposite a Roman kiln site (maps.nls.uk/view/101576663)*

5. Results

5.1 Fieldwork

5.11 Two trenches of 10m in length by 1.80m in width were excavated across the house footprint and garage footprint..

5.12 The Trenches were drawn to a scale of 1:50; sections of the trenches were drawn to a scale of 1:20.

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

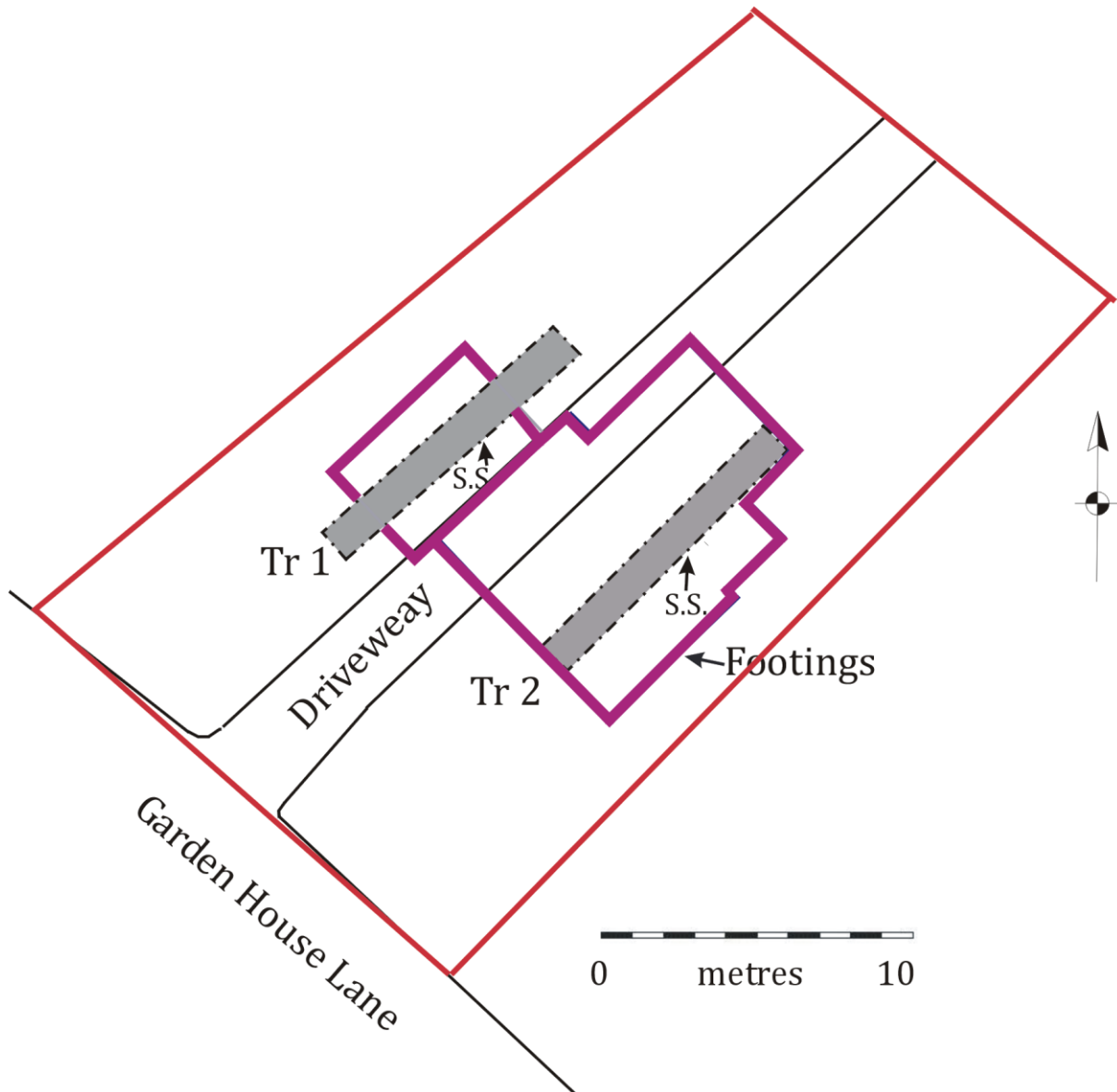
5.14 A digital image archive was produced and will form part of the site record to be curated at Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

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

5.16 The evaluation was carried out using standard practices in archaeology to IFA standards. The work also considered the eastern counties frameworks standards as laid down in : Medlycott, M. 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revised: A Revised Framework for the East of England East Anglian*. Archaeology. Occ. Paper. 24

5.2 The Evaluation Trenches

5.21 Trench 1, orientated south-west-north-east was excavated over the footprint of the proposed garage. No archaeology was seen throughout this trench.



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Figure 5. Post-excitation plan of trenches

5.22 Trench 2, orientated south-west - north-east was excavated over the footprint of the house, no archaeology was seen throughout this trench. two small pits at the northern end contained glass sherds and ceramic material of c. 19th-20th century date.

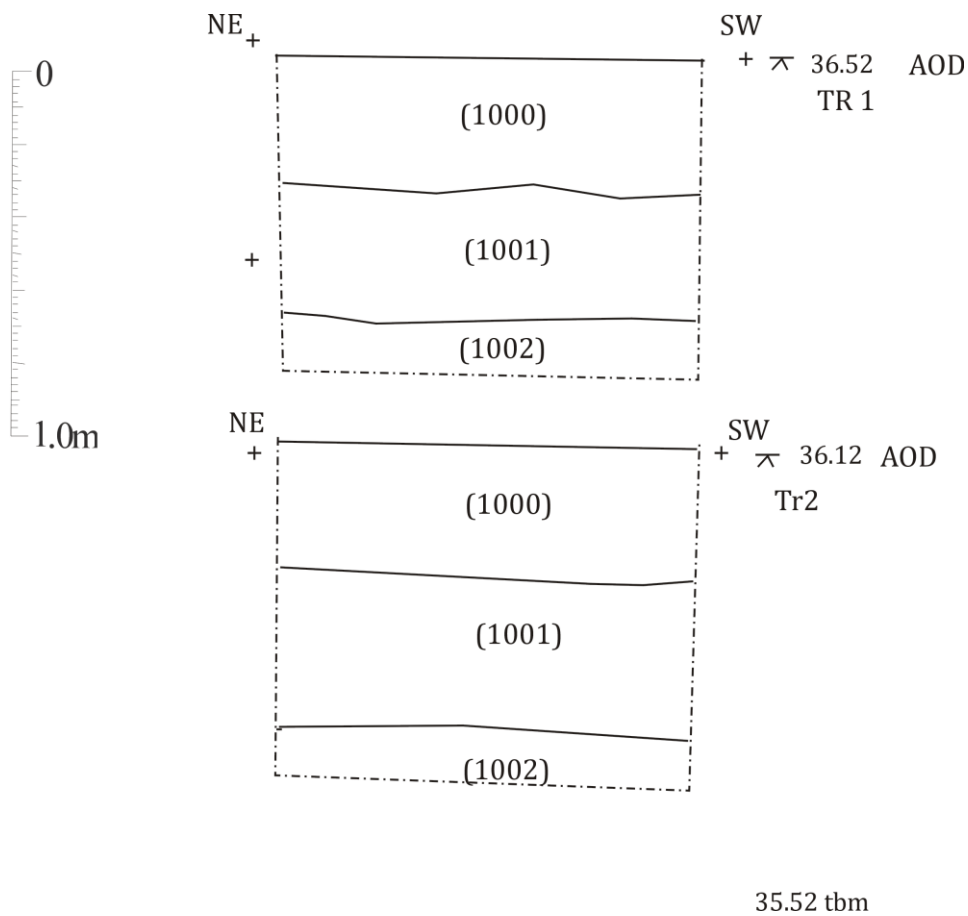


Figure 6. Sample Sections of trench 1 & 2

6. Interpretation and Discussion

In spite of the central village location in Rickinghall and close to known Roman evidence, the two trenches did not produce any archaeology except the 19th century pits

7. Conclusion

The evaluation was successful in demonstrating that no archaeology was present within the area sampled by the evaluation trench and therefore no archaeology will be compromised by the proposed development.

8. Archive Deposition

The paper and photographic archive will be held at the County Store, Suffolk County Council Archaeology, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

A digital record and copies of the report can be viewed at The Historic Environment Record office, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds and online at:

<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>.

9. Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Christine who funded the project and commissioned this work.

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

Rachel Abrahams of the SCCA/CT produced the brief for this project.

Bibliography

British Geological Survey. 1990; sheet 208

Medlycott, M. 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revised: A Revised Framework for the East of England East Anglian*. Archaeology. Occ. Pap. 24

ONLINE REFERENCES

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

Appendix I: Digital Images



Plate 1. Pre-excavation TR1 , from the north-west



Plate 2. Pre-excavation T2 , from the north-west



Plate 3. Sample section, Tr1, from the north-west



Plate 4. Post-excavtion of Tr1, from the north-east



Plate 5. Sample section of Tr2. from the north-west



Plate 6. Post-excavation of Tr2, from the north-east - shallow modern pits in foreground



Plate 7. Excavated shallow pits of 19th- 20th century date in Tr2