

# LAND OFF LOWER FARM ROAD, RINGSHALL STOCKS

## RGL 017

### Archaeological Monitoring Report

**Planning Application No:** OL/147/04

**Date of Fieldwork:** 22/11/05

**Grid reference:** TM 0477 5145

**Funding Body:** Bloor Homes

### Introduction

A planning application was made to construct eight dwelling on land off Lower Farm Road, Ringshall (see Fig. 1). The site is centred on approximately NGR TM 0477 5145 and lies on level ground at c. 76m AOD. It is bounded to the north by open agricultural land; to the east and west by neighbouring residential properties; and to the south by Lower Farm Road.

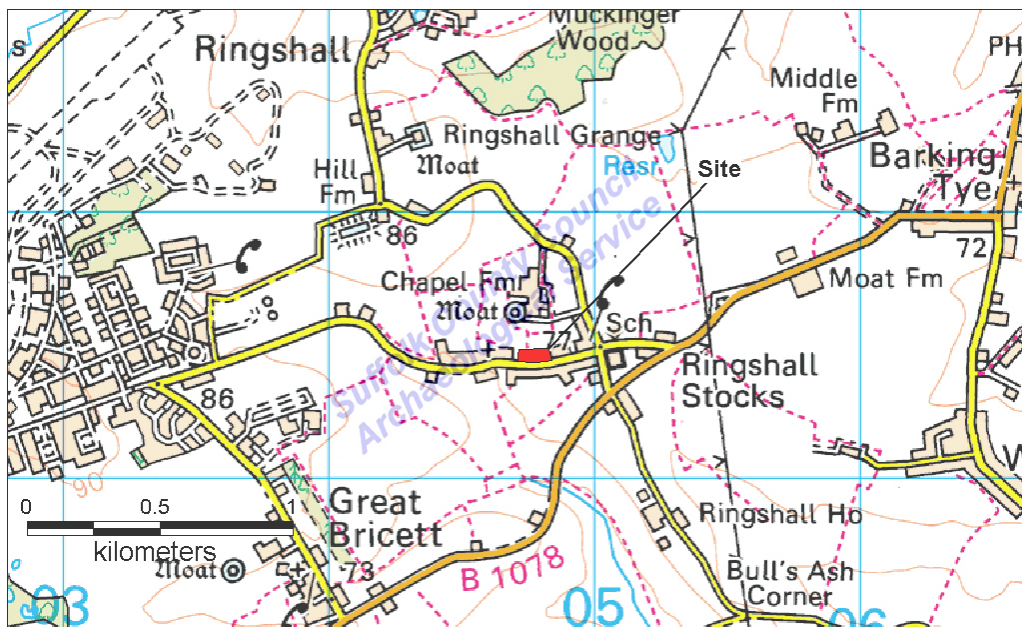


Figure 1. Site location

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No known archaeological sites lie within the proposed development area. The only two entries in the Suffolk SMR within a 1km radius of the site lie c. 120m to the north centred on the extant Chapel Farm. These are RGL 002, which refers to the moated site just to the west of the current farmhouse and RGL 013, which is centred approximately on the present-day farmhouse and is a reference to the possible location of Ringshall Chapel, a Free Chapel built c. 1174. The site's location at the edge of what was Ringshall Green means that it has the potential for medieval settlement. Robert Carr of the SCCAS Conservation Team recommended a trial trench evaluation in the first instance. The SCCAS Field Team were subsequently commissioned by Bloor Homes to carry out the work.

### Methodology

The field evaluation was carried out on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November 2005. Five small trial trenches were excavated as shown in Figure 2. These were all excavated using a 180<sup>o</sup> wheeled excavator (JCB) fitted with a 1.8m wide flat bladed ditching bucket. All mechanical excavation of overburden was carried out under close archaeological supervision until the top of the first appropriate archaeological deposit or undisturbed natural subsoil was encountered. The trench location was recorded by triangulation from existing boundaries.

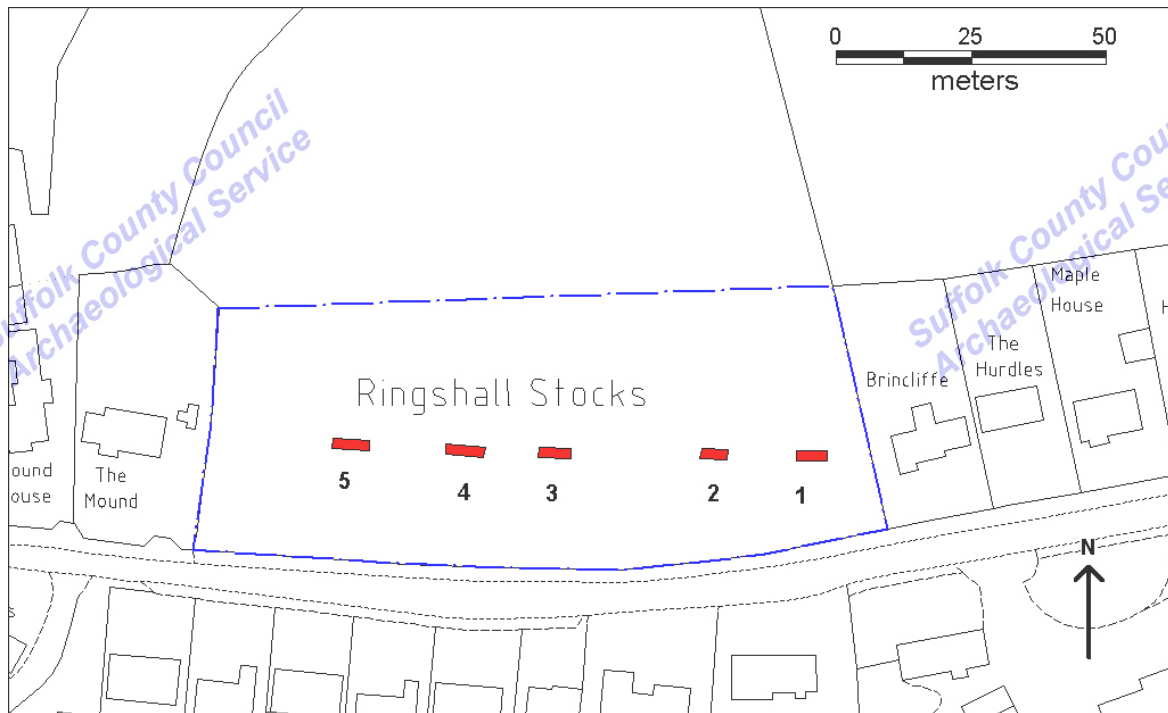


Figure 2. Trench locations

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The site was allocated the SMR number RLM 033 and observed archaeological features and deposits were allocated OP (observable phenomena) numbers and recorded on *pro forma* context sheets.

## Results

The following common stratigraphy was recorded throughout all five trenches:

Context	Depth	Description
0002	0.35m	<b>Topsoil.</b> Soft mid greyish brown silty clay with rare small sub-angular flint pebbles and occasional well rotted organic matter from recent and frequent manuring.
0003	0.35m+	<b>Natural drift.</b> Firm light yellowish brown clay with rare small to medium sub-angular flint pebbles, very rare larger sub-angular flint cobbles, very rare chalk flecks/small nodules.

No archaeological finds or features were observed.

The work was carried out in conjunction with Prior Associates' ground investigation, which revealed that the Boulder clay in the vicinity of the trial trenches was at least 2m thick.

## Conclusions

Despite its proximity to the former green edge no archaeological finds or features were recorded.

However, the total trenched area was somewhat smaller than the 5% usually specified and it is therefore difficult to suggest with sufficient certainty that there would be no archaeological deposits on the site. Consequently a further programme of monitoring of the strip foundations is recommended.