

# DILLEYSMORE COTTAGE, CAPEL ST MARY

## CSM 026

### Archaeological Monitoring Report

**Planning Application No:** B/05/014252/FUL  
**Grid reference:** TM 0804 3710

**Date of Fieldwork:** 23/11/05 – 25/11/05  
**Funding Body:** M R Currell Limited

### Summary

Two monitoring visits were made in November 2005 to observe ground reduction and topsoil stripping during the construction of a kennel complex. Substantial terracing was carried out with up to c. 1.6m of ground reduction at the site's highest point and as little as 0.3m at the lowest point. No incised archaeological features were observed, with topsoil overlying natural drift (terrace gravels) throughout. However a small quantity of pre-Flavian Roman pottery was recovered from the topsoil (one sherd very similar to those from the kiln at Bourne Hill, Wherstead), confirming Roman occupation in the vicinity.

### Introduction

A planning application was made to construct Kennel buildings at Dilleysmore Cottage, Capel St Mary (see Fig. 1). The site is centred on approximately NGR TM 0804 3710 and lies on land that slopes down from c. 37m at the eastern end to c. 35m AOD at the western end of the site.

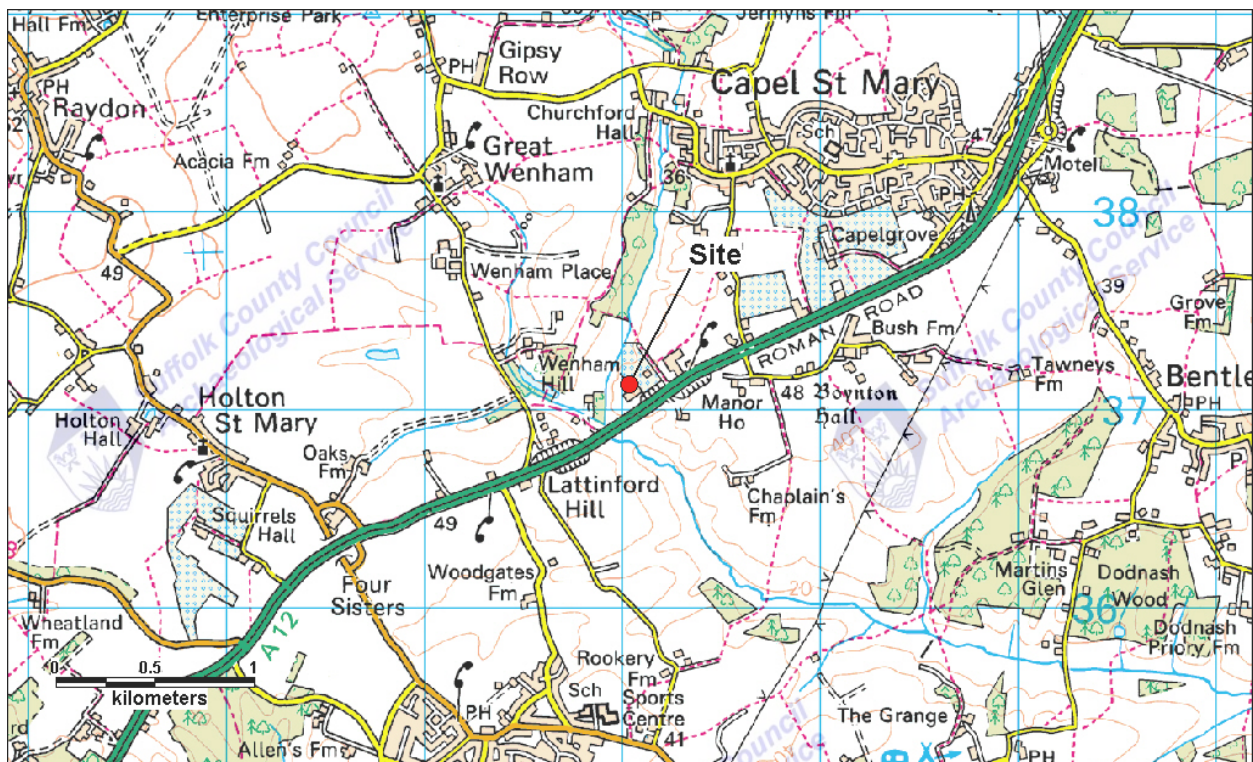


Figure 1. Site location

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No known archaeological sites lie within the area of the proposed development. However, a large number of Roman sites, including settlement evidence and burials are known in the vicinity, along the line of the former Roman road (which lies beneath the modern A12). Despite

this, little is known of the nature of occupation (if any) immediately north of the road. The nearest relevant entries in the Suffolk County Council SMR are:

- **CSM 004.** 240m to the south-south-west in the valley bottom at Lattinford Bridge is an area identified as 'part of Roman settlement area' in the Suffolk CC SMR.
- **CSM 005.** A scatter of Roman and 1<sup>st</sup> century Belgic pottery, found adjacent to the A12 c.; 80m to the south.
- **CSM 007.** Findspot of a sestertius of Nerva (AD 96-98) found in 1961 during roadworks c. 100m to the east.
- **CSM 011.** A section of wall footing and three pits containing 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century Roman pottery were found on the other side of the A12 during construction of the dual carriageway in 1973. c. 190m to the south-south-west.
- **EBG 004.** Findspot of a scatter of Roman pottery and building materials, along with animal bone c. 240m to the south-west.
- **EBG 016.** Large sherds of Roman pottery were recovered during a watching brief (1994) on the construction of a house in the base of the valley at The Meadows, Lattinford Bridge c. 290m to the south-west.

Given the high archaeological potential of the site Judith Plouviez of the SCCAS Conservation Team recommended that planning consent was conditional on a programme of archaeological monitoring being carried out. The SCCAS Field Team was subsequently commissioned by M R Currell Limited to carry out the work.

## Methodology

Two visits were made on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2005 in order to observe the ground reduction and topsoil stripping. Given the substantial slope on the site the amount of terracing required was substantial, with c. 1.6m of ground reduction at the south-eastern corner of the site dropping to less than 0.3m in the north-western corner (see Fig. 2). Stripping operations were carried out using a 360<sup>0</sup> tracked mechanical excavator (hymac) fitted with a toothed bucket. This necessitated some limited hand cleaning of the stripped surface and the face of upstanding sections in order to clarify the nature of the deposits.

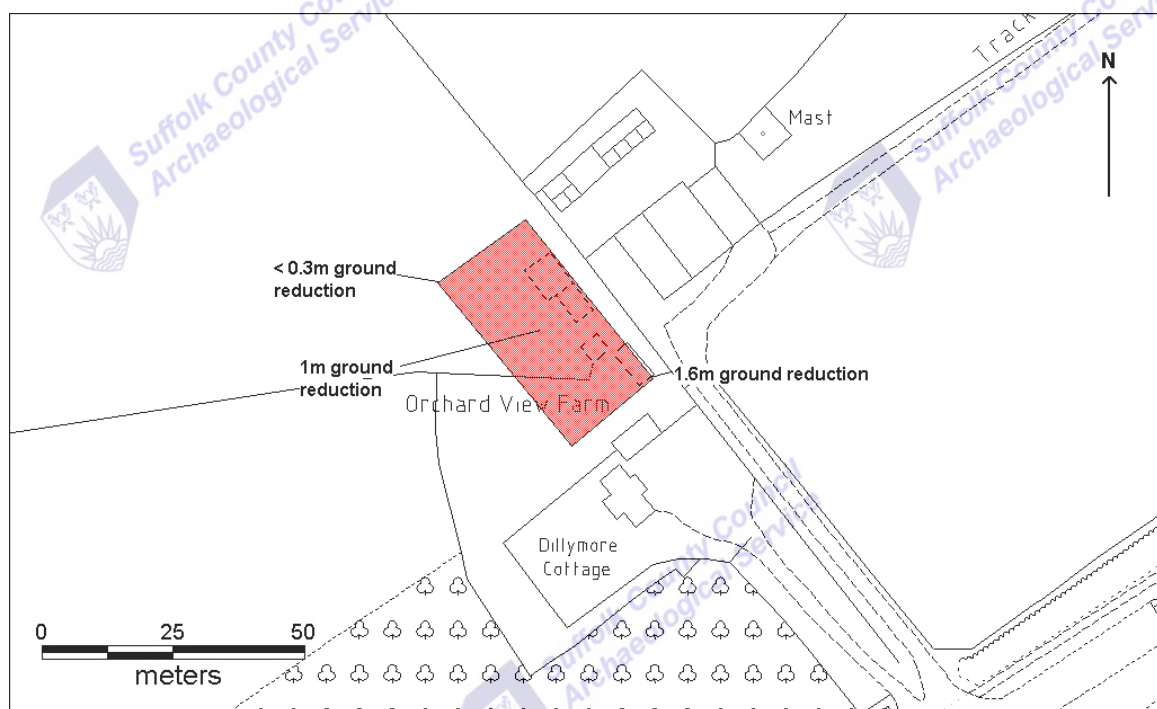


Figure 2. Trench locations

The site was allocated the SMR number CSM 026 and all observed deposits were allocated unique OP (observable phenomena) numbers and recorded on *pro forma* context sheets.

## Results

The following common stratigraphy was recorded throughout the stripped area:

Context	Depth	Description
0002	0.3m	<b>Topsoil.</b> Very soft mid greyish brown sandy silt loam with moderate small to medium sub-rounded flint pebbles.
0003	0.3 – 1.6m+	<b>Natural drift.</b> River terrace gravels. Loose light orange/yellow medium sand with occasional small to medium rounded to sub-rounded flint gravels laid in clear horizontal bands.

No incised pre-industrial archaeological features were recorded in the stripped area. A number of recent pits were observed containing enamelled flatware, glass bottles, blue and white transfer printed pottery and other 20<sup>th</sup> century objects. These disturbed areas were not recorded in detail.

A small quantity of unstratified pottery was recovered from the topsoil, confirming Roman occupation in the vicinity.

## The Finds

By Cathy Tester

Three sherds of wheel-made Roman pottery (31g) were collected from a single context (0002) during the monitoring. The sherds are fairly undiagnostic but the most datable on the basis of fabric are two black-surfaced ware sherds with 'romanising' fabrics that include abundant black grog and are probably pre-Flavian (50-70AD).

The other piece is oxidised with buff surfaces and an orange core and is probably a flagon. It is notable that the fabric which is fine and sandy with visible mica and few other inclusions is very similar to products of the early Roman kilns at nearby Bourne Hill, Wherstead (WHR 037 – Gill *et al.* 2001) and the form was produced there.

## Conclusions

Despite the site's sensitive location the ground reduction operations revealed no incised archaeological features. Nearby Roman settlement was confirmed however, by the presence of a small quantity of Roman potsherds recovered from the topsoil.

## References

Gill, D., Plouviez, J., Symonds, R., and Tester, C., 2001 *Roman pottery manufacture at Bourne Hill, Wherstead.* EAA Occ. Paper No. 9.

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Rhodri Gardner, for SCCAS, April 2006

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