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SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE

Cobbs Close, Bromeswell (BML 034)

Planning Application no. C/05/0646
Archaeological Evaluation Report no. 2006/05
OASIS ID no. 12589

Summary

Bromeswell, Cobbs Close, Bromeswell (TM/303506; BML 034) Evaluation was carried out prior to construction of two dwellings on land adjacent to Cobbs Close, Bromeswell. Despite the sites proximity to a known medieval findspot and in a location with the potential to be the early village core, no features were present relating to the medieval or any other period. The only find from the site was a single worked flint of Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date, recovered from the topsoil.

(Linzi Everett for S.C.C.A.S. and Framlingham Properties; report no. 2006/05)

1. Introduction

Planning consent for development at Cobbs Close, Bromeswell (Fig 1), required archaeological evaluation of the development area to be undertaken. The site is centred on TM 3027 5061, approximately between the 15-20m OD contours. Immediately to the north of the site is the medieval church of St. Edmund and medieval pottery was found to the south of the site in the 1950's (BML 001). In addition, the site fronts a possible medieval green edge. The site is considered to have high potential for the survival of medieval or earlier settlement evidence.

Evaluation of the site was undertaken by members of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team and was funded by Framlingham Properties.

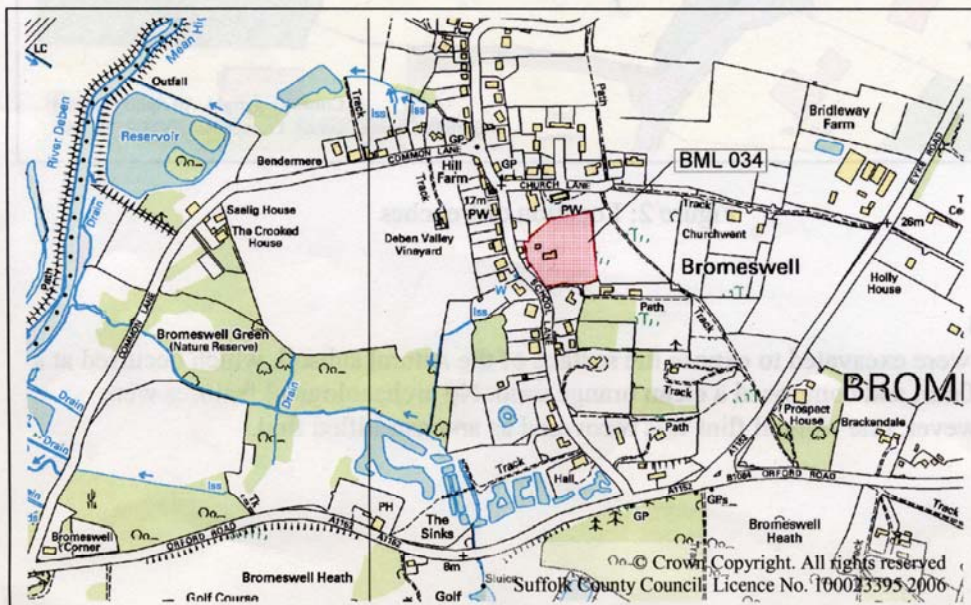


Figure 1:
Site location

2. Methodology

The development area comprises c.9,600 square metres of which only a small portion was sampled by trenching where archaeological potential was considered to be highest. Three trial-trenches, measuring a total of 45m, were opened in locations agreed by the Conservation Team at Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (Fig. 2). This was carried out by a mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.5 metre wide ditching bucket, under the supervision of an archaeologist. Overburden was removed from the trenches to the depth of the naturally occurring subsoil, an orange gravelly sand. Both the excavated soil and the exposed surfaces of the trenches were examined visually for artefactual evidence.

The site was recorded under the SMR code BML 034. The evaluation archive will be deposited in the County SMR at Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

All finds were washed and marked before being quantified, identified and dated by the finds management staff of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service.



Figure 2: Location of trenches

3. Results

The trenches were excavated to expose the surface of the natural subsoil, which occurred at a depth of c.350mm and comprised a clean orange sand. No archaeological features were observed, however, one worked flint was recovered as an unstratified find.

4. Cobbs Close, Bromeswell (BML 034): the finds

R. Goffin, February 2006. Flint identification by Colin Pendleton

Introduction

Finds were collected from a single context, as shown in the table below.

Context	Flint		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	
0001	1	6	Neo/EBA
Total	1	6	

Flint

A single fragment of unstratified worked flint was recovered from the evaluation. It is a long flake with parallel flake scars on the dorsal face. It has been utilised as an end scraper and has a small retouch notch near the butt end and irregular retouch/use-wear along the edges. The flint, which is unpatinated and has a natural striking platform, is Neolithic or Early Bronze Age in date.

5. Discussion

Despite the potential for archaeology to be present, no features relating to occupation or other activity were revealed and only one find was recovered from the topsoil, an unstratified scraper of Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date. Some modern disturbance and significant root activity was observed in the northern trench but there is no evidence to suggest that this may have damaged archaeological deposits, nor was there any evidence for truncation or any other event which may have removed archaeology. Examination of the Bromeswell tithe map also indicates that the green edge may be further to the west along School Lane.

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Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
January 2006