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# SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE

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**Land Adjacent Church Hill Cottages, Farnham**  
**FNM 015**  
**Planning application no. C/05/1013/FUL**  
**Archaeological Monitoring Report no. 2006/07**  
**OASIS ID No. 12802**

## *Summary*

*Farnham*, Land adjacent Church Hill Cottages (TM/363601; FNM 015) Archaeological monitoring of various groundworks was carried out prior to development on land adjacent to Church Hill Cottages, Farnham. A small quantity of medieval pottery was recovered from unstratified contexts but no pre-modern interventions were revealed in the monitored groundworks. Part of the site appears to have been terraced at some point which may have disturbed or destroyed any archaeological deposits once present.

(Linzi Everett for S.C.C.A.S. and Newport Developments (UK) Ltd; report no. 2006/07)

## **1. Introduction**

Conditional planning consent for the construction of three new houses on land adjacent to Church Hill Cottages, Farnham, required a programme of archaeological monitoring. The site is centred on TM 3627 6006, between the 10m and 15m OD contours, and may previously have been terraced into the south east to north west slope. The development are comprised approximately 940 square metres of land 70m north of St. Mary's church and within 30m of a previously recorded scatter of medieval pottery. The eastern part of the site fronts the line of a medieval roadway. As such, there is high potential for the presence of medieval and earlier deposits within the development area.

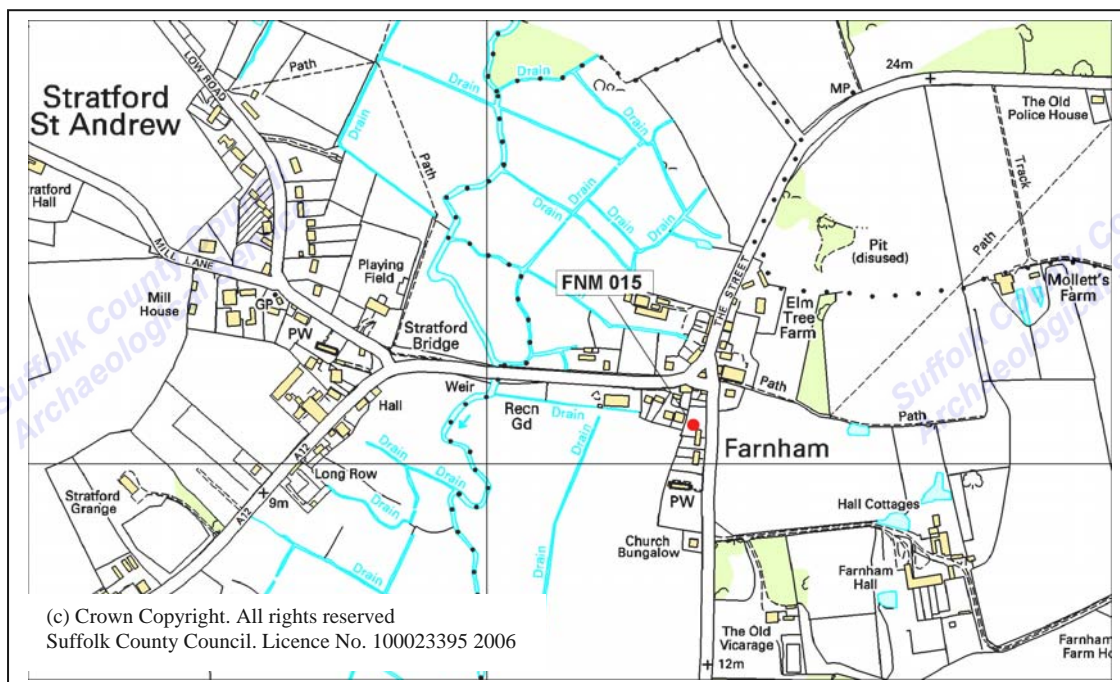


Figure 1: Site location

## 2. Methodology

Various visits were made to the site by the Field Projects Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) in order to inspect the groundworks. The site was recorded under the SMR code FNM 015. A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work was produced by Jess Tipper of the SCCAS Conservation Team (Appendix I). The monitoring work took place between December 2005 and January 2006 and was commissioned by Newport Developments (UK) Ltd.

All finds were washed and marked before being quantified, identified and dated by the finds management staff of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service. The monitoring archive is held in the county SMR in Bury St. Edmunds.

## 3. Results

The southern half of the site was partially stripped to the required formation level, which was between 500mm and 1m below the existing ground surface. A layer of dark brown sandy loam topsoil c.400mm thick sealed a clean, bright orange sand natural subsoil. Modern rubbish was observed in the topsoil and some modern disturbance was seen to cut the natural along the eastern boundary but no archaeological interventions were observed. No footings were monitored following the site strip as the formation level reached was already well into natural subsoil.

A soakaway excavated in the north west corner of the site was excavated to a depth of c.2m and comprised disturbed topsoil throughout, with modern rubbish pits visible in section. Footings were observed in the northern part of the site. The trenches were machine excavated to a depth of c.1.3m, comprising 400mm of dark brown sandy loam topsoil over 900mm of a mid-pale brown sandy silt subsoil, likely to be a hillwashed deposit. The natural orange sandy subsoil was visible in the base of the trenches in the southern half of the plot. Medieval pottery was recovered from the spoil from the footings and while the sherds are technically unstratified, they are believed to have come from the hillwash deposit.

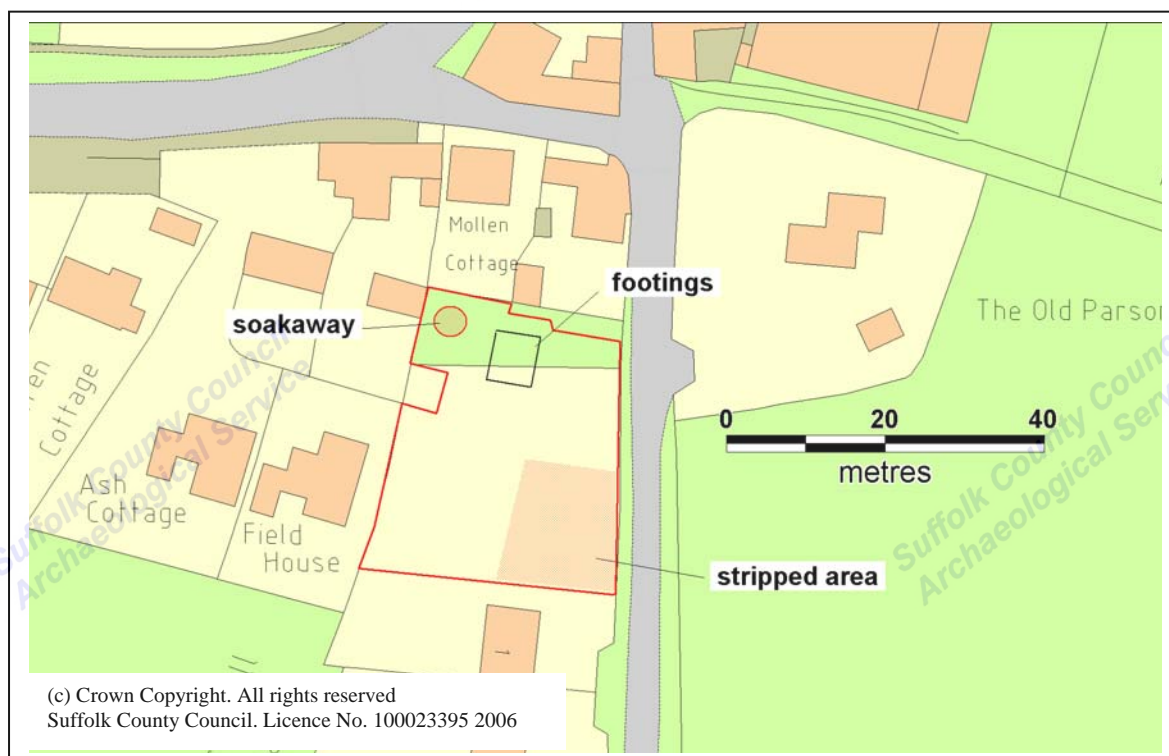


Figure 2: Location of monitored groundworks

## **5. Discussion**

No archaeological evidence was observed in the southern half of the site, either in the form of archaeological deposits or unstratified finds within the topsoil. It is possible that the site has, at some point, been terraced, which is likely to have removed any features associated with earlier occupation of the site. In the northern half of the site, where hillwashed deposits were present, and terracing does not appear to have taken place, the presence of medieval pottery was not surprising given the potential for evidence of earlier activity on the site.

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