
SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE

Burnt House Farm, Farnham

FNM 016

Planning application no. C/05/1770/FUL

Archaeological Monitoring Report no. 2006/16

OASIS ID No. 13468

Summary

Farnham, Burnt House Farm (TM/373585; FNM 016) Archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the construction of a new dwelling at Burnt House Farm, Farnham revealed no archaeological features or artefacts within the stripped surface or the upcast spoil.

(Linzi Everett for S.C.C.A.S. and Mr. G. de Bertodano; report no. 2006/16)

1. Introduction

Conditional planning consent for the construction of a new dwelling at Burnt House Farm, Farnham, required a programme of archaeological monitoring. The site is centred on TM 3733 5850, just below the 5m OD contour, on the north side of the Alde valley. The site lies c.250m north east of a Roman bath house excavated in 1971, activity associated with which is known to extend east towards the site. Pottery manufacture is recorded to the south of the site, on the opposite side of the river and scattered Bronze Age and other prehistoric material are recorded within the general vicinity. Burnt House Farm itself appears on Hodkinson's map of 1783 and is likely to be of medieval or earlier origin.

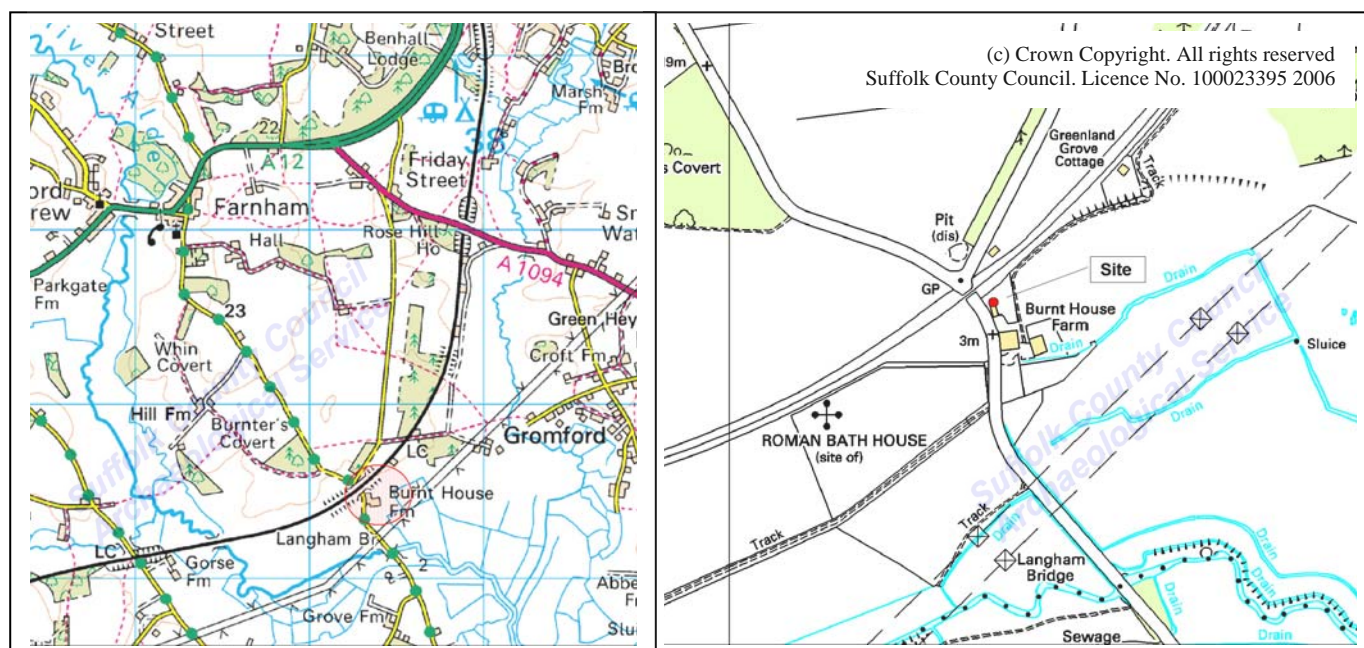


Figure 1: Site location

2. Methodology

Two visits were made to the site by the Field Projects Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) in order to inspect groundworks. The site was recorded under the SMR code FNM 016. A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work was produced by Jude Plouviez of the SCCAS Conservation Team (Appendix I). The monitoring work took place in February 2006 and was funded by the owner, Mr. G. de Bertodano. The monitoring archive is held in the county SMR in Bury St. Edmunds.

3. Results

The site was partially stripped of topsoil, then of subsoil, to the required formation level of c.400mm below the existing ground surface. Dark brown sandy loam topsoil c.200mm thick sealed a clean, bright orange sand natural subsoil. A thin layer of dirty orange silty sand subsoil was present below the topsoil but only along the western edge of the stripped area.

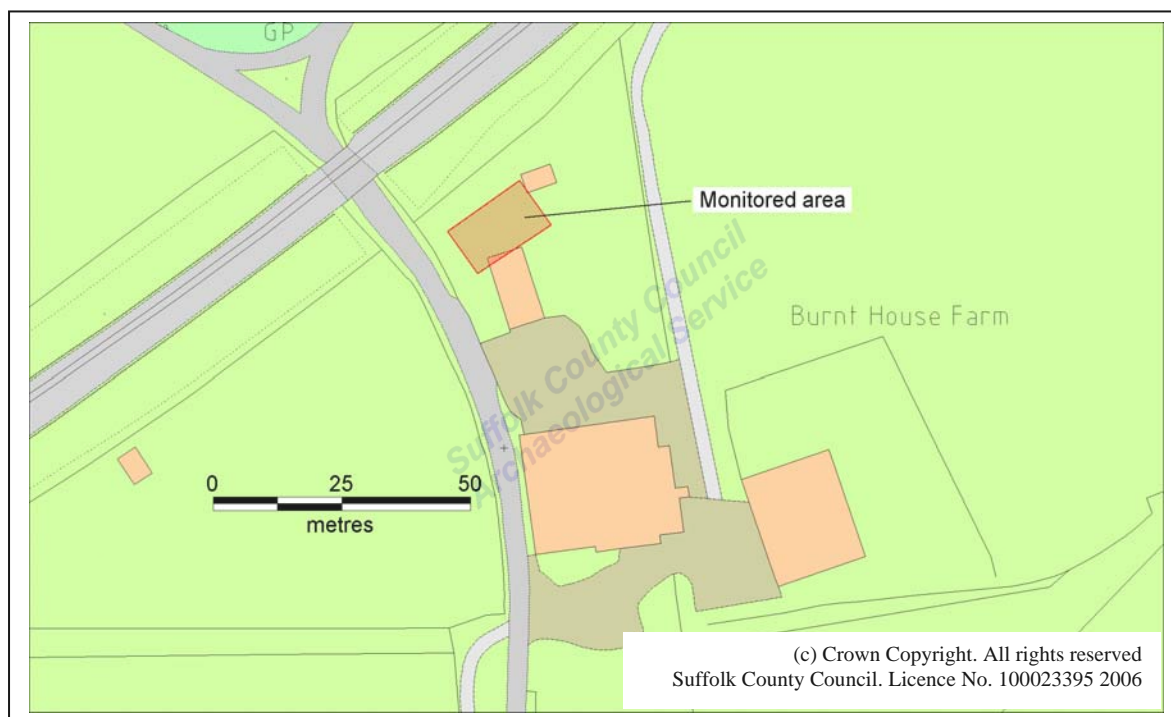


Figure 2: Location of stripped area

5. Discussion

No archaeological evidence was observed within the limits of the site, either in the form of archaeological deposits or unstratified finds within the topsoil. It is possible that the site occupied a location liable to flooding by the river Alde and may thus have been considered unsuitable for occupation in antiquity, particularly during the Roman period when sea levels were higher.

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