
SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE

Maple Farm House, Kelsale KCC 035

Planning application no. C/05/2092/FUL
Archaeological Monitoring Report no. 2006/18
OASIS ID No. 13537

Summary

Kelsale, Maple Farm House (TM/407650; KCC 018) Archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the construction of a new dwelling replacing an earlier, derelict structure, was undertaken at Maple Farm House, Kelsale. Despite the potential for evidence of medieval settlement, no artefacts were recovered from the topsoil or upcast spoil, and only one feature, a ditch of unknown date, was observed within the exposed trench sections. (Linzi Everett for S.C.C.A.S. and Mr. R. Gawthrop; report no. 2006/18)

1. Introduction

Conditional planning consent for the construction of a new dwelling at Maple Farm, Kelsale, required a programme of archaeological monitoring. The site is centred on TM 4069 6490, at a height of approximately 28m OD, within a complex of linear ponds which may be the remnants of a medieval moated enclosure. In addition, a concentration of medieval sherds are recorded as having been found on the site. It is also possible that the site formed the extreme southern edge of East Green, the remains of which can be seen to the north. As such, there is believed to be potential for medieval settlement evidence to survive here.

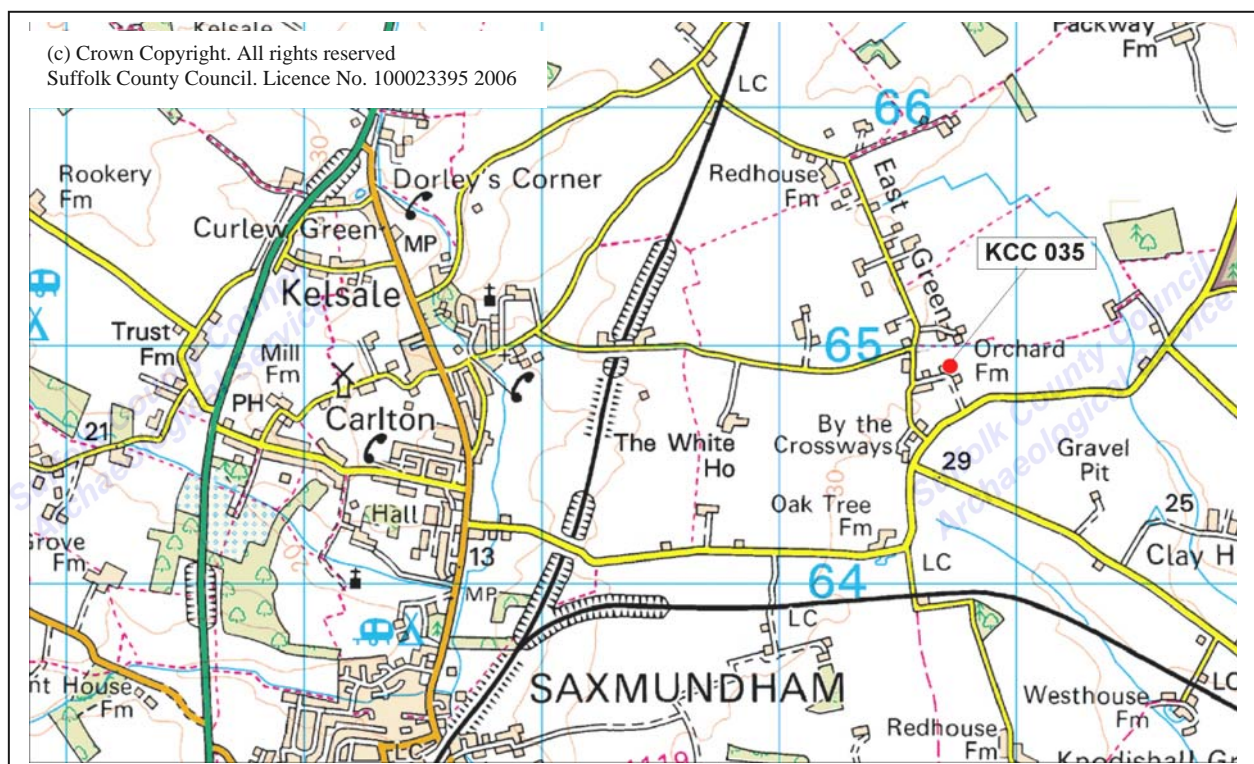


Figure 1: Site location

2. Methodology

One visit was made to the site by the Field Projects Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) in order to inspect the machine excavated footings. The site was recorded under the SMR code KCC 035. 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 in February 2006 and was funded by Mr. R. Gawthrop. The monitoring archive is held in the county SMR in Bury St. Edmunds.

3. Results

The footings followed the footprint of the previous building with an extension to the west side. Trenches were excavated to a depth of c. 2m showing the composition of the soil in the exposed sections. A layer of dark brown clay loam topsoil c. 250mm thick was present throughout, which sealed a mid brown clay subsoil c. 250mm thick. This sealed the undisturbed natural subsoil, a chalky boulder clay. One feature was observed, a possible ditch measuring 800mm wide and 300mm deep cutting the subsoil but sealed by the topsoil (figure 2). It was filled by a greyish brown clay in which no finds were visible.



Figure 2: Location of excavated footings

5. Discussion

Despite the high potential for evidence of medieval settlement, only one undated ditch was recorded and no finds were observed in the overburden exposed in the sections. However, the groundworks only provided a small window into the archaeology of the site and it is still very possible that deposits survive, although they were not revealed during this event.

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