

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

**45 Pigeon Lane, Fornham All Saints
FAS 032**

**A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF GROUNDWORKS ASSOCIATED WITH
AN EXTENSION AT 45 PIGEON LANE, FORNHAM ALL SAINTS**

Planning Application No. SE/06/1095

NGR: TL 8418 6725

OASIS Ref. Suffolkc1-suffolkc1-13792

Funded by: Mr A & Mrs M Pearce

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2006/49

Summary

An archaeological monitoring of footing trenches for an extension at 45 Pigeon Lane, Fornham All Saints did not locate any archaeological deposits.

Introduction

A single visit was made to the site on 3rd April 2006 to monitor the footing trenches for a house extension and garage. The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by R. D. Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team, Appendix 1) to fulfil a planning condition on application SE/06/1095. The work was funded by the developer, Mr A and Mrs M Pearce.

Interest in the site was based upon its location (Fig. 1) which was immediately adjacent to an extensive multi-period archaeological landscape of national importance (Scheduled Ancient Monument SF 114), including the terminus of a Neolithic cursus, FAS 004, some 90m to the north-west. The development, therefore, had the potential to disturb multi-period archaeological deposits which would require recording by a program of archaeological monitoring.

Methodology and Results

The footing trenches were seen in their entirety once fully excavated (Fig. 2). Measuring 0.6m-8m wide and c.1m deep the trenches showed a general profile of 0.3m-0.5m of modern topsoil overlying a layer, c.0.2m-0.5m thick, of yellow gravel and sands which in turn overlaid a natural subsoil of yellow sand.

In the northern part of the footings a 0.2m thick former soil horizon of dark grey/brown sands lay between the topsoil and natural subsoil.

Modern disturbance, to a depth of up to 1m, was apparent in the western part of the footings and adjacent to the existing house.

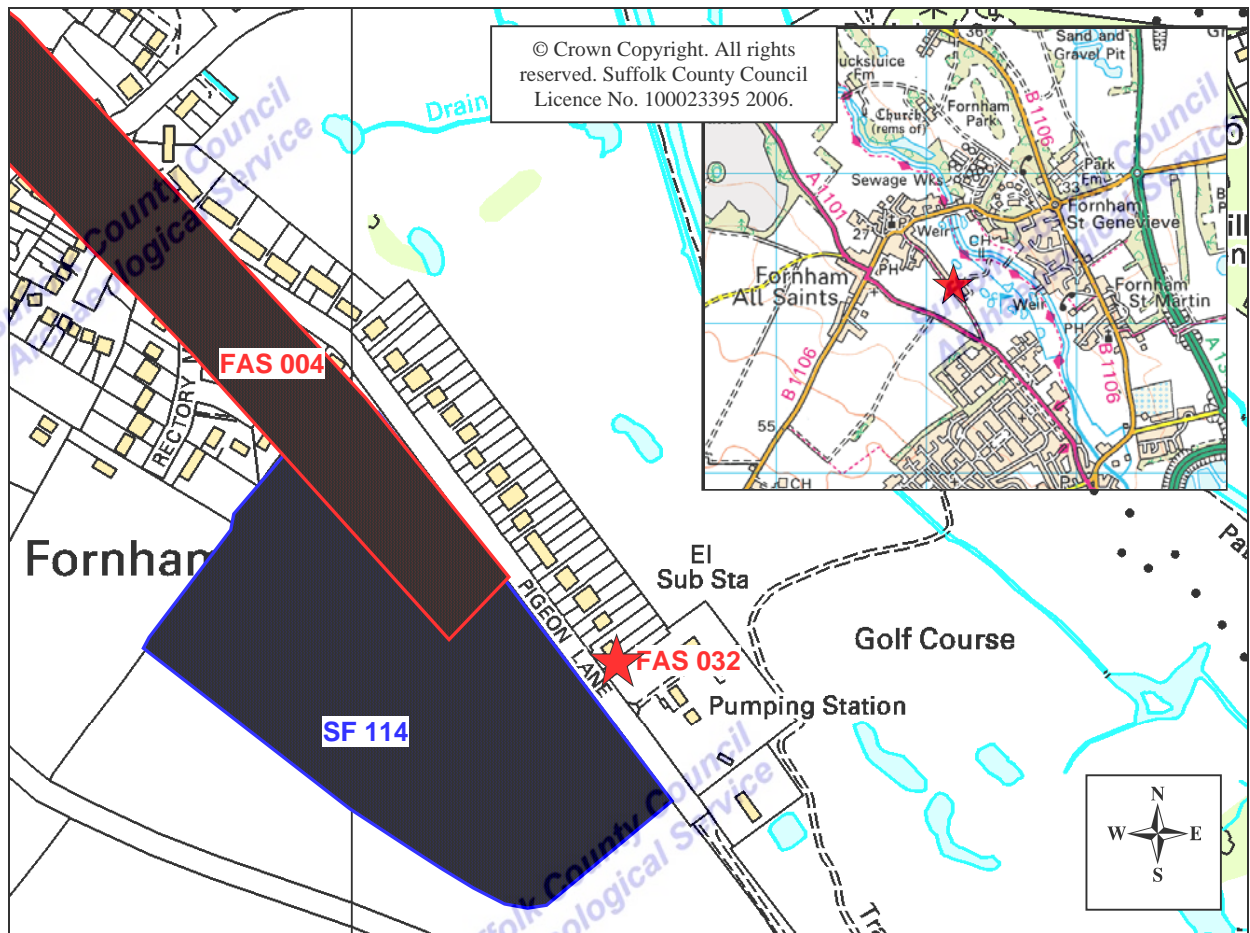


Figure 1. Site location plan

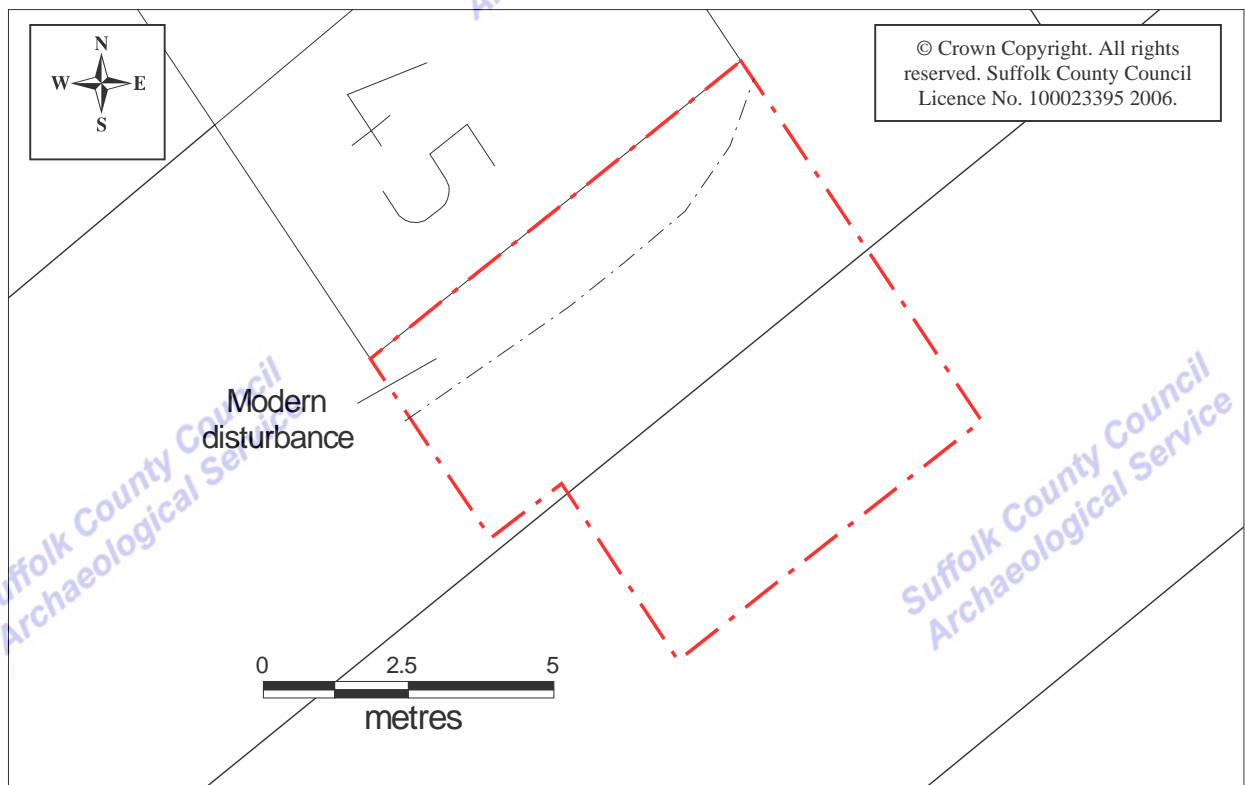


Figure 2. Site plan

Discussion

No archaeological features or material were seen within the footing trenches although the natural ground levels appeared to be reasonably intact with the modern disturbance probably relating to the construction of the existing house.

The lack of archaeological evidence may be largely due to the limited size of the groundworks, and does not necessarily indicate that the known archaeological sites of the SAM SF 114 do not extend to the east.

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Assistant Project Officer
Field Team
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
April 2006

Appendix 1

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM



Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

45, Pigeon Lane Fornham All Saints

Although this document covers the work of the archaeological contractor the developer should be aware that its requirements may affect the work of a building contractor and may have financial implications (e.g. see paragraphs 2.3); there may also be Health & Safety responsibilities (e.g. paragraph 1.4).

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to develop on this site has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application SE/06/1095). The available evidence indicates archaeological monitoring of development, with provision for a record of any archaeology as it occurs, will be an adequate programme of work.
- 1.2 The development takes the form of an extension and a garage. The site lies just beyond the boundary of Scheduled Ancient Monument Suffolk 114, an extensive prehistoric ritual site of National Importance which contains a cursus and a group of ring ditches, the closest of which lies within 90m of the development area.

The principal objective of the monitoring will be to establish whether prehistoric occupation spread into the target area and to record any finds.

It is intended that, subject to archaeological conditions, this monitoring should not be an extended or complex exercise. Provided building excavations are properly timetabled, and accurate notice given, it should be possible to complete monitoring in one visit with the whole process of monitoring and report writing being achieved in one working day.

- 1.3 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in "Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England" Occasional Papers 14, East Anglian Archaeology, 2003.
- 1.4 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination.
- 1.5 Developers should be aware of the possibility of human burials being found. If this eventuality occurs they must comply with the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857

2. Brief for Archaeological Monitoring

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.
- 2.2 The main objective will centre upon the potential of this development to produce evidence for earlier occupation of the site.
- 2.3 Opportunity must be given to the contracted archaeologist to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary.

The significant archaeologically damaging activities in this proposal are likely to be the excavation of building footing or ground-beam trenches and service trenches.

Trenches and the upcast soil are to be observed by an archaeologist after they have been excavated by the building contractor. Unimpeded access at the rate of one hour per 5 metres of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin.

- 2.4 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist who must be approved by the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service.
- 2.5 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of SCCAS five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site.
- 2.6 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contract archaeologist. The size of the contingency should be estimated by the approved archaeological contractor.
- 2.7 If unexpected remains are encountered the Conservation Team of SCCAS must be informed immediately. Amendments to this specification may be made to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.
- 2.8 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Council Conservation Team archaeologist and the contracted 'observing archaeologist' to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 2.9 Opportunity must be given to the 'observing archaeologist' to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary.
- 2.10 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.

- 2.12 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*, particularly Appendix 3. This must be deposited with the County Sites and Monuments Record within 3 months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 2.13 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County SMR if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
- 2.14 County Sites and Monuments Record sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 2.15 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 2.16 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the SMR. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: RDCarr

Date: 2/03/2006

Reference: Pigeon Lane Fornham

This brief and specification remains valid for 12 months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.

If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.

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