

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Part Side Garden of The Coppice, Main Road, Martlesham MRM 137 OASIS ID: Suffolkc1 – 13991

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2006
(Planning app. no. C/05/2182/RES)

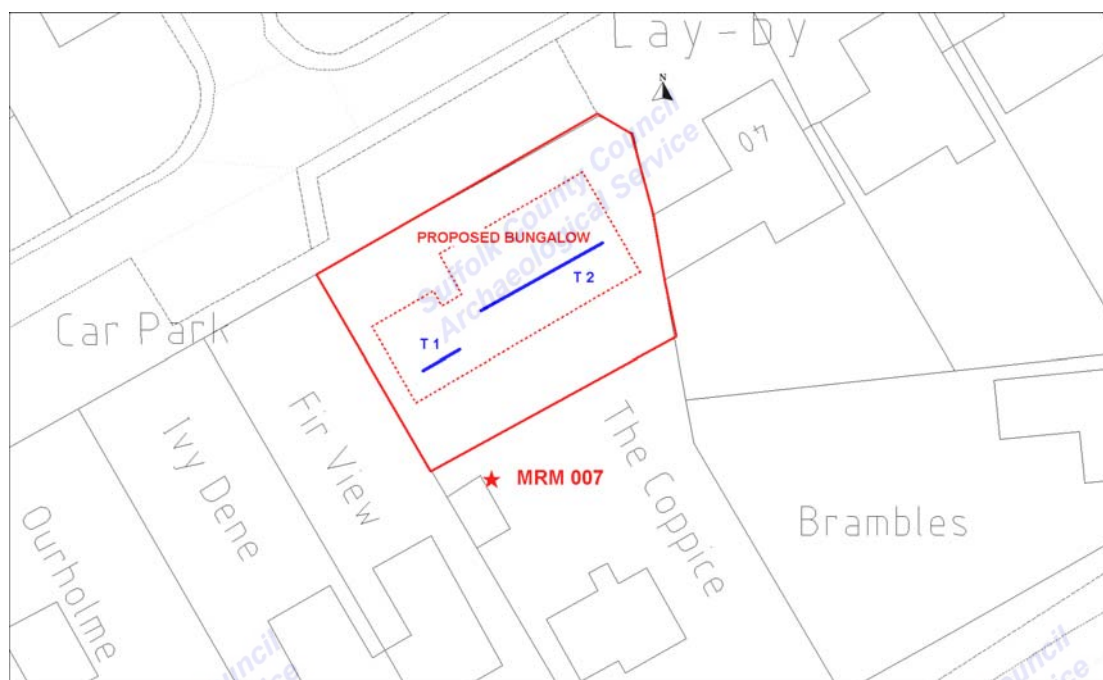


Figure 1: Showing site, trench location and position of MRM 007, a previously recorded Roman pottery kiln.

©Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2006

Jezz Meredith
Field Team
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service
© April 2006

Lucy Robinson, County Director of Environment and Transport
Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX

Summary

Despite reports that a Roman pottery kiln (MRM 007) had been found in the near vicinity, no features, finds or deposits of archaeological interest were observed.

SMR information

Planning application no. C/05/2182/RES
Date of fieldwork: 17th March 2006
Grid Reference: TM 2465 4653
Funding body: Mr and Mrs S. Spurgeon

Introduction

As a condition of planning consent an archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the morning of Friday, 17th March 2006. The Coppice had been identified in the Suffolk County Sites and Monuments Record as the location of a Roman pottery kiln (MRM 007) and the evaluation was designed to see if associated deposits continued to the north, into the area of the proposed new bungalow.

Method

Trial trenches were positioned to sample the area within the footprint of the proposed new bungalow (see figure 1). Trenching was conducted using a 180° machine (JCB) equipped with a 1.2m wide toothless ditching bucket. All machining was observed by an archaeologist standing adjacent to the trench. The topsoil and subsoil were removed by the digger to reveal the undisturbed natural deposits (sand) in the base of the trench. The upcast soil was checked visually for any archaeological finds.

All potential archaeological features observed in the base of the trench were cleaned and hand excavated.

The site archive will be deposited with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds. The Sites and Monuments Record code MRM 137 has been assigned to this site

Results

Two trenches (T 1 and T 2, see figure 1) were orientated north-east to south-west. Trench 1 was 3m and Trench 2 was 12m long. Both trenches revealed a deep sandy humic topsoil of 400mm thickness over a mid brown silty sand subsoil of 300mm depth. The base of the trench revealed soft mid yellow brown sand with frequent root and animal burrow disturbances. Many of these were hand cleaned and excavated but all proved to be of natural origin, no archaeological features were identified. No finds of archaeological interest were observed within the upcast spoil.

Conclusions and Recommendations

No archaeological evidence was recognised within the evaluation trenches. Despite the very close proximity of a previously recorded Roman pottery kiln, no expected deposits with abundant charcoal, burning or reddening were identified. No fragments of pottery or kiln material were found either. Given the lack of expected kiln evidence it seems unlikely that a kiln was positioned so close. It seems possible that an erroneous location for this feature has been recorded in the Sites and Monuments Register. The location of a pottery kiln in an area of predominantly sand geology also seems unlikely.

It is recommended that no further archaeological work be conducted on this site.

Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Division alone. The need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its archaeological advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting service cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.