

# Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Monitoring Report

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SMR- BLG 023

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## Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out as a condition of planning consent 2560/05 at the above site which is centred on TM 1154 5072. The monitoring work is to be funded by Mixbrow (Needham Market). A single visit was made on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2006 when it was possible to inspect footings, service trenches, lowered ground surfaces, along with a small quantity of upcast soil. The development proposal is for a number of single storey dwellings constructed on a natural north to south slope near to a group of existing houses. The site covers an area of approximately 2,000 square metres to the north of Chalk Hill Lane. No archaeological features or finds were observed or recovered during the monitoring visit.

## Introduction

The site lies just south of an area of ancient woodland known as Great Wood. Within a radius of half a kilometre lie locations, which have produced Iron Age, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval material. However, excavations and evaluations within this area (BLG 013, BLG 017) (Boulter:1998;1999) have reported sparsely distributed evidence which may suggest that this location represents a peripheral area of settlement.

## Methodology

A sketch plan was prepared on site to enable the location of footings, soil variations and possible features to be plotted. Soil profiles were recorded at two points (see plan overleaf) where trench sections remained relatively intact. The faces of all trenches were inspected for features and finds along with sections arising from reductions in ground levels to the north of the site. A small quantity of remaining upcast soil was also examined in search of datable finds.

## Conclusion

The most representative soil profiles could be seen at location 1 (see plan overleaf). The topsoil remained to a depth of 0.30m. and consisted of mid-brown sand and clay

loam, typical of garden soil. The subsoil, of orange-brown clay was around 0.50m. deep. The natural deposits began with a layer of coarse orange gravel 0.30m. deep, overlying chalky brown clay which also measured 0.30m. in depth. Finally, at a depth of around 1.40m. virtually pure chalk was present. Less depth was available at location 2, but here the topsoil matched that of location 1, although only very shallow at around 0.10m.. The subsoil was of brown clay with chalk flecks to a depth of 0.35m. and below this lay coarse orange gravel similar to location 1.

Large quantities of soil had been removed from the north end of the site to enable a level area to be created for building work to begin. Although this reduced the potential for surface finds, it did enable particularly good visibility in terms of searching for likely features and viewing soil variations. Up to a maximum of 0.70m. of topsoil and subsoil had been removed at the northern limit of the site, this gradually diminished further downhill, however, no archaeological features were revealed. There was very little evidence of hill-wash deposits; on previous investigations nearby, this had been a suggested explanation for variable finds distribution. Only a small amount of upcast soil remained for inspection and no archaeological finds were retrieved.

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### References

Gill, D., 1998 'Tollgate Farm, Gt. Blakenham, (BLG 013): Record of Archaeological Monitoring Rpt. No. 98/19' SCCAS, Ipswich.

Finch, E., 1999 'Archaeological Evaluation: Orion Business Park, Blackacre Hill, Great Blakenham (BLG 017), Rpt. No. 99/39' SCCAS, Ipswich.

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