

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Monitoring Report

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Land Adjacent to Burlington Lodge, Crossing Road, Palgrave

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Summary

Archaeological monitoring was required at the above site as a condition of planning application 1143/05 submitted by The Gipping Valley Property Co. Ltd.. The site is centred on TM 1193 7830 and has a proposal to build nine dwellings, with associated garages and vehicular access (see plan overleaf for approximate locations). The site location is likely to lie within the early settlement area of Palgrave, therefore, three visits were made to the site in order to monitor footing trenches and other associated ground disturbance. _

Introduction

Covering an area of around 3,500 square metres, this site lies within 100m. of a known scatter of medieval occupation. The location is likely to be within the early settlement area and is considered to have the potential to produce evidence which may indicate the date and nature of occupation in antiquity. Although the deposits which were examined across the site clearly demonstrated considerable activity at this location, the evidence suggests this relates to post-medieval occupation and farming. Unfortunately, no archaeological features were located and the site failed to produce any significant finds.

Methodology

Andrew Tester made two visits to the site on 29th September and 10th October 2005 and Robert Atfield made a final visit on 25th April 2006. The timing of the visits allowed much of the site to be viewed immediately after it was stripped, together with footing trenches and large quantities of upcast soil. Soil profiles were informally recorded, in addition to any observable deposits, debris and features. The footing trenches were dug using a 360° tracked digger equipped with a toothless 0.50m. wide bucket.

Conclusion

The 1880 and 1920 Ordnance Survey Maps indicate an extensive range of farmyard structures across the site, probably associated with Burlington House (now Burlington Lodge). It appears that these variable structures were continuing to be added to and adapted during the period between the two surveys. Fragmentary remains of walls, light agricultural structures and yard surfaces were observed on two occasions during the monitoring visits. The soil profiles revealed boulder clay sub-soils overlying more chalky natural clay. The topsoil, where seen, was of dark clayey loam. The remains of a flint and brick rubble wall, along with extensive ceramic building debris was seen within the footings of plot 8. The wall had been bonded with coarse lime mortar and contained some broken 2.5inch red bricks. The only features observed are likely to represent post-medieval agricultural activity. No archaeologically significant finds were retrieved.

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