
SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE

**Allonsfield House, Campsey Ash
CAA 026**

**Planning application no. C/05/1585/FUL
Archaeological Monitoring Report no. 2006/118
OASIS ID No. 15391**

Summary

Campsey Ash, Allonsfield House (TM/331597; CAA 026) Planning consent for an extension to an existing building at Allonsfield House, Campsey Ash, required archaeological monitoring of the associated groundworks. The development was stripped of topsoil to reveal the natural sandy subsoil but no archaeological interventions were observed, nor was any artefactual evidence recovered from the stripped surface or spoil.

(Linzi Everett for S.C.C.A.S. and Riddell Construction Ltd.; report no. 2006/118)

1. Introduction

Conditional planning consent for the construction of a large extension to Allonsfield House, Campsey Ash, required a programme of archaeological monitoring. The site is centred on TM 3308 5597, at a height of approximately 22m OD, within 60m of the medieval church. There is high potential for the site to be within an early settlement core.

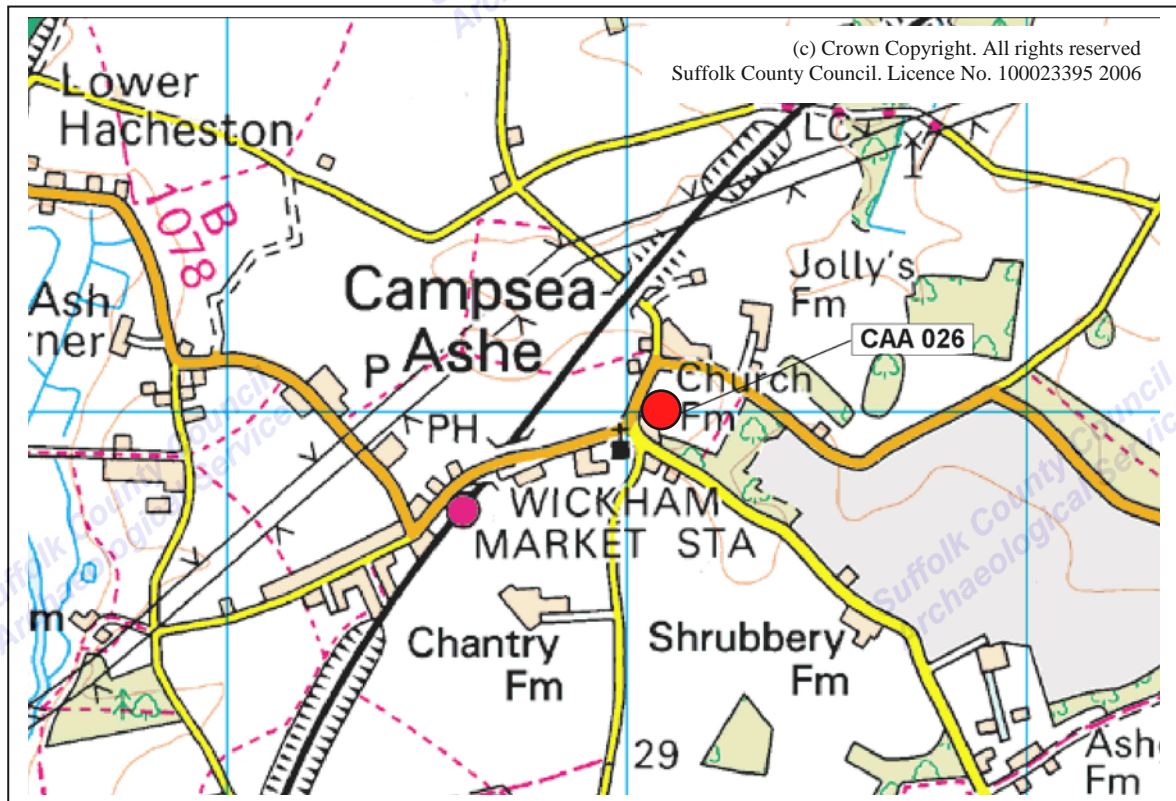


Figure 1: Site location

2. Methodology

Visits were made to the site by the Field Projects Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) in order to inspect the mechanical soil stripping during February 2006. The site was recorded under the SMR code CAA 026. A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work was produced by Bob Carr of the SCCAS Conservation Team (Appendix I). The work was funded by Riddell Construction Ltd. The monitoring archive is held in the county SMR in Bury St. Edmunds.

3. Results

A homogenous dark brown sandy loam topsoil some 300mm thick was removed from c.1500 square metres of the development area (Figure 2). This sealed a thin layer of mid brown silty sand subsoil (c.100mm thick which overlay a clean orangey brown sand natural subsoil. This undisturbed natural subsoil was exposed over the entire stripped area and no features were seen to cut it. No pre-modern artefacts were recovered from the topsoil or subsoil in the course of the site strip.

An area of modern disturbance was noted in the south west corner of the site.



Figure 2: Location of stripped area

5. Discussion

Despite the potential of the site to contain medieval or other settlement evidence, no archaeological features were observed, nor was any artefactual evidence recovered in the form of stray finds from the topsoil. It is possible that the construction and removal of buildings shown in this location on the first edition Ordnance Survey map may have destroyed archaeological deposits once present. Furthermore, higher surrounding ground levels suggest that the development area had been subject to landscaping, which, if that is the case, may also have had a detrimental effect on any surviving archaeology.

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