

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SPVM FACILITY MNL 566

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF GROUNDWORKS

Planning Application No. F/2003/223

NGR: TL 6926 7752

OASIS Ref. Suffolkc1-15500

Funded by: Defence Estates (USAF)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2006/084

Summary

An archaeological monitoring of soil stripping and footings for a Special Purpose Vehicle Maintenance Facility at RAF Mildenhall showed no evidence of archaeological features.

Introduction

The replacement of Building 656 with a new SPVM facility by Graham Construction was monitored during August 2004 (Fig.1). The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Judith Plouviez (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team) to fulfil a planning condition on application F/2003/223. The work was funded by the Defence Estates USAF. The site is located within RAF Mildenhall at c 6m OD. Interest in the site is generated by a range of late Prehistoric and Roman finds recovered from various sites both within the Airbase and on adjacent land.

Methodology and Results

The site was visited on at least three occasions following soil stripping and the excavation of footing trenches. Approximately 90% of the footings were seen and some spoil was examined on site. The soil strip exposed a truncated ground surface. Sections were examined revealing a mixture profile of chalk with sand and silt. No sections were drawn. No evidence of any archaeological features was found.

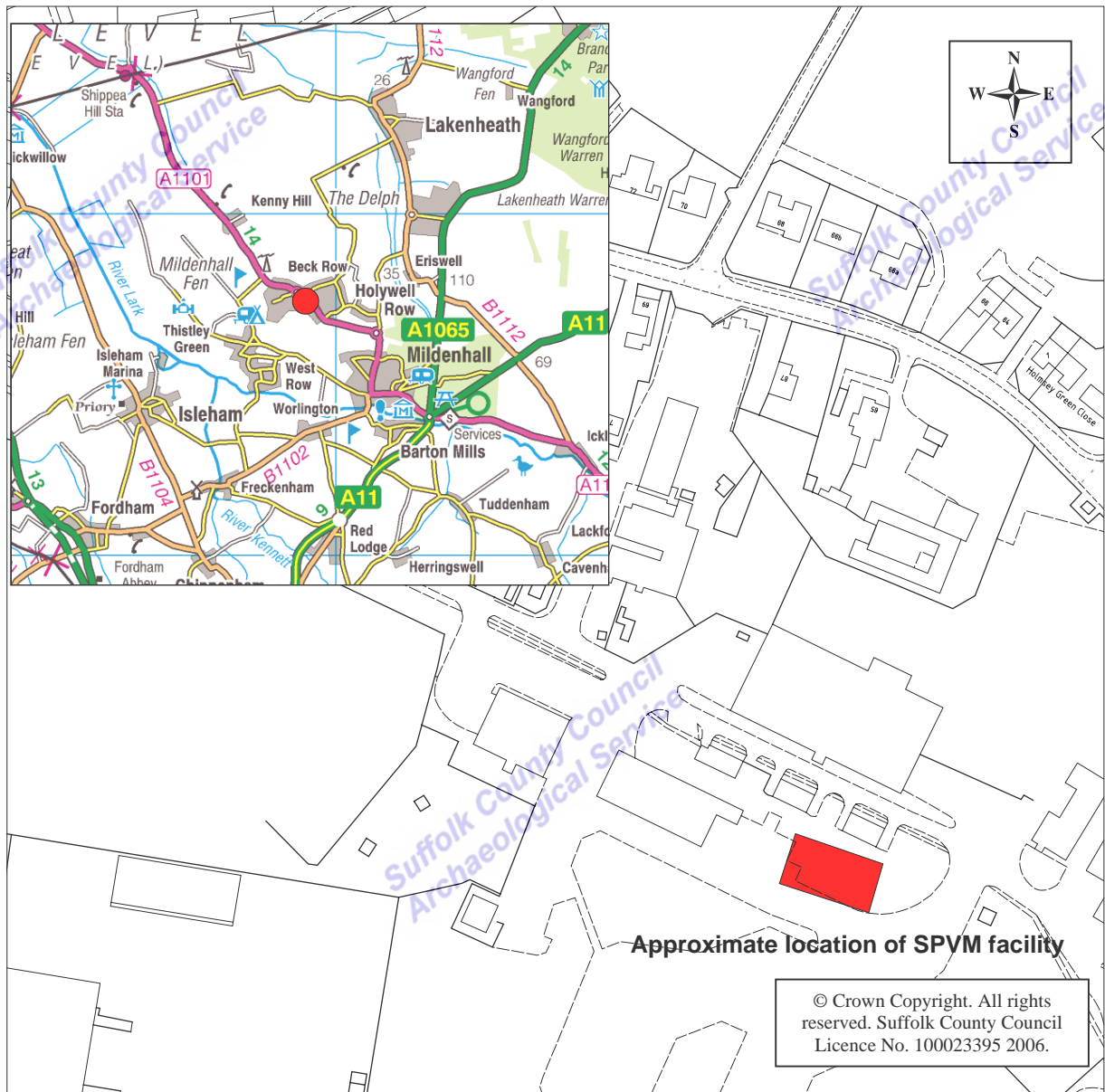


Figure 1. Site location plan

Discussion

No archaeological features were identified during the monitoring. The exposed surface and sections showed natural chalk with pockets of sand and silt probably created by peri-glacial freeze thaw action. The absence of archaeology should not be seen as indicative of the area as a whole due to the degree of soil truncation which would have removed any features not penetrating the natural chalk.

Andrew Tester
 Senior Project Officer
 Field Team
 Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

June 2006