

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

Monitoring Report

162 Bucklesham Road, Purdis Farm, Ipswich
(Planning Application C/05/2234/FUL)

SMR- PFM 016

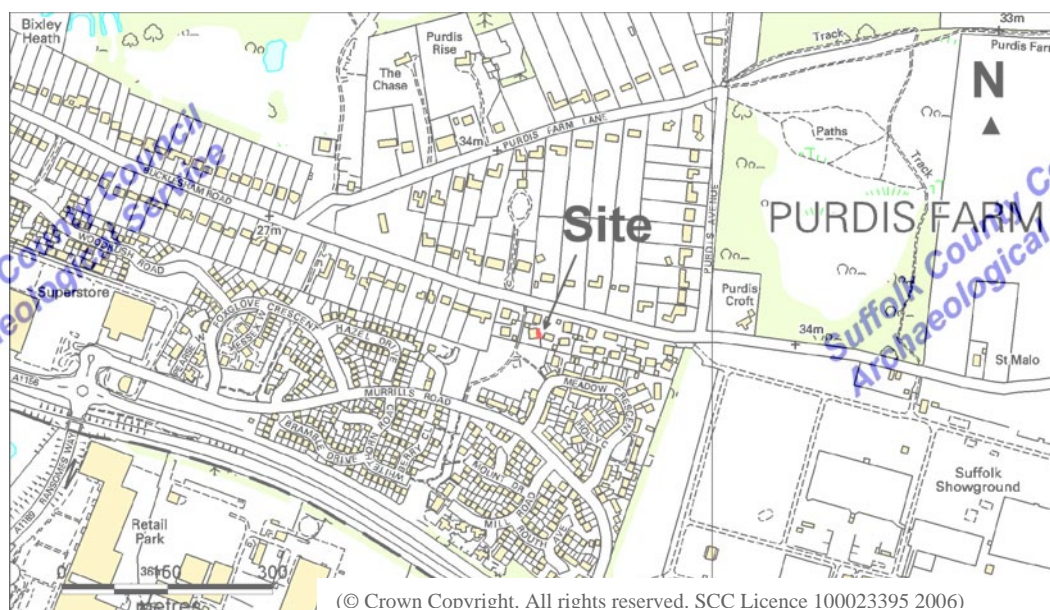
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Summary

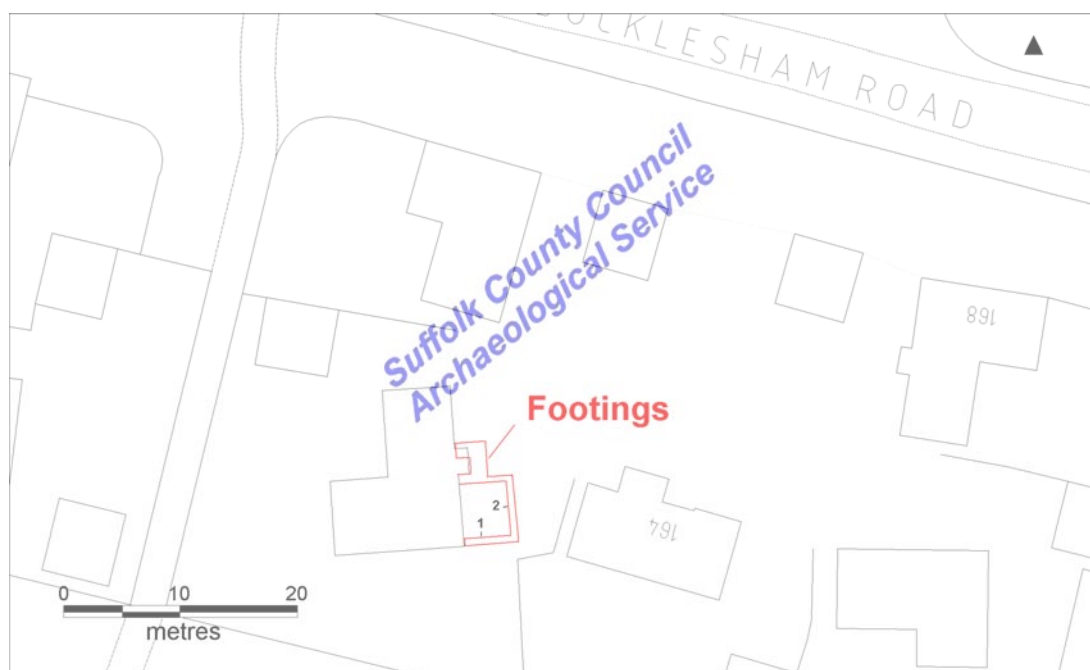
Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 162 Bucklesham Road as a condition of planning application C/05/2234/FUL; the monitoring is funded by Mr. C. Page. The site is centred on TM 2074 4241, where a small extension to the front of the existing dwelling is to be constructed. This entails digging around 20 metres of building footings along with slight ground levelling and access provision. A single visit was made to the site on the afternoon of 6th June 2006. It was possible to examine all of the open trenches, levelled ground and the access areas in bright dry conditions. A quantity of the upcast soil was also available for inspection. However, in spite of a thorough examination of all deposits under the full co-operation of the landowners and contractors the monitoring failed to produce any evidence of archaeological features or finds.



Introduction

The site lies within the core of a medieval settlement and a known medieval churchyard is also recorded immediately south of the site location (PFM 008) (Tipper: 2006). The possibility has been raised that Purdis Farm may have had a wooden church dating back at least to the Domesday survey; 10th-11th century pottery was found in the area during the 1980s (Scarfe: 1989).

The development consists of a small extension to the front of the existing house which is situated within a close of four other dwellings. All of the houses within the immediate area were built within the last thirty years. The footings total around twenty linear metres covering an area of around twelve square metres. The site area measures 8.80m. north to south and 4.60m. east to west (see footings configuration plan below).



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Methodology

The site area was recorded using a sketch plan, which enabled the extent of the ground disturbance, localised soil profiles and any features to be plotted and identified. All faces of the footing trenches were examined after a small amount of hand cleaning was carried out. Details of soils and the depths of the deposits were recorded at two points within the footings (see plan above). A search of the trenches and also most of the upcast soil was made in order to retrieve any available dating material. The footings were dug using a tracked 360° mini-digger equipped with 0.5m. toothed bucket.

Conclusion

The footing trenches varied in width and depth. The south area, where the actual extension will be sited, had trenches with a width of around 0.65m.; while the trenches to the north were widened in order to fully expose numerous existing service pipes. The trench depths varied from between 1.10m. to 1.25m., these measurements were taken from the surface of the existing turf which remained around the edge of the footings. Virtually all of the exposed deposits had been recently heavily disturbed, probably during laying of pipes when the house was originally constructed. Items of modern building waste were regularly observed within the re-deposited material at depths of up to 1.0m. from the present surface. Two drainage pipes run north-south through the area of the footings which in effect divide the volume of ground within the footings into three equidistant blocks. As a result, the deposit disturbance is virtually total. Unfortunately, even the extreme east trench faces revealed similar recent re-deposition of material. Soil profiles could only be very approximately established, the topsoil was of a general pale-mid brown silty sand with regular small pebbles (5-15mm.), with a depth which averaged 0.50m. at locations 1&2 (see plan above). The heavily disturbed subsoil consisted of orange sand of around 0.60m. depth at locations 1&2, which turned to coarser crag type deposits towards the base of the footings. The trenches to the north exposed further service pipes, which ran east to west and south-west to north-east through the excavated areas. Similar soil profiles were recorded, along with more extensive disturbance, which, in addition, also incorporated modern brick rubble. No archaeological features or finds were observed or retrieved during this monitoring.

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June 2006

References

Scarfe, N., 1989 'Domesday Settlements and Churches: The Example of Colneis Hundred' in: Dymond, D. & Martin, E., (Eds.) *An Historical Atlas of Suffolk*, SCC Plann. Dept. & Suff. Inst. Arch. & Hist., Ipswich. (p.42).

Tipper, J., 2006 'Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development: 162 Bucklesham Road, Purdis Farm, Ipswich', SCCAS Conservation Team, Bury St Edmunds.