

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

Monitoring Report

2 Playford Road, Rushmere St. Andrew
(Planning Application C/05/2339/FUL)

SMR- RMA 029

SCCAS Report No. 2006/136

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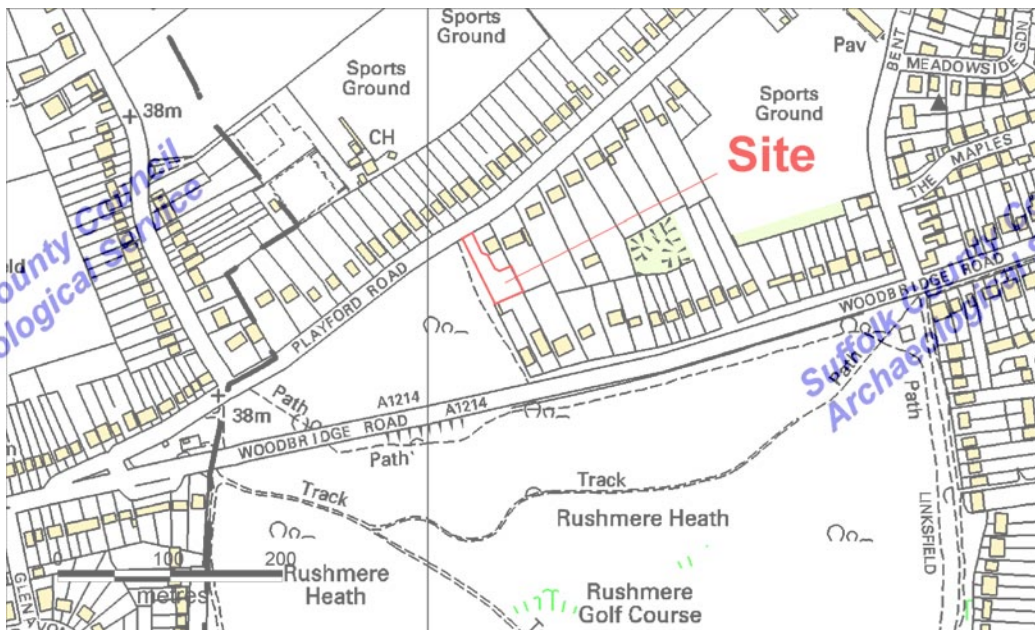
Robert Atfield: Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team (Report)

Edward Martin: SCCAS Conservation Team (Brief and Specification)

John Newman: Field Officer/Contracts Manager

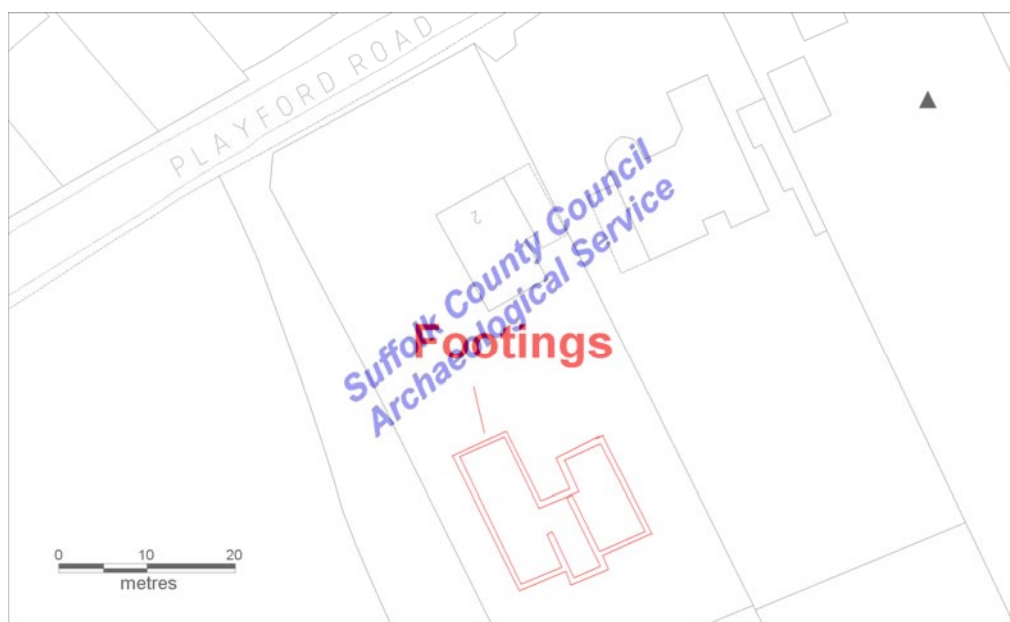
Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 2 Playford Road, Rushmere St. Andrew as a condition of planning application C/05/2339/FUL; the monitoring is funded by Mrs. A. F. M. Hart. The site is centred on TM 2006 4542 where a single dwelling is to be constructed. This entails digging around 65 linear metres of building footings along with slight ground levelling and access provision. Two visits were made to the site, the first on 19th June 2006 and the second on the 20th June. It was possible to examine all of the open trenches and levelled ground in bright dry conditions. The access areas had already been cleared, levelled and covered with aggregate by the time of the first visit. A small quantity of the upcast soil was 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 Brief and Specification for the monitoring was designed and issued by Edward Martin of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (dated 20-02-2006). The development site lies adjacent to the former sandpit on Rushmere Heath where Bronze Age cremation burials were found during the first half of the twentieth century (Suffolk Sites and Monuments Record No. RMA 002) (Martin 2006). The main objective of the monitoring centred upon the potential which the site held for producing evidence for prehistoric burials or associated settlement remains. Indications of the more recent history of the location can be gained from examining earlier editions of the Ordnance Survey maps and also Hodskinsons map of 1783. In 1783 the site still appears to lie within heath-land which formed part of Rushmere Heath. During the nineteenth century the site became agricultural land until the area was divided into building plots during the early twentieth century. The site remained part of the garden of number 2 Playford Road until the present proposal.



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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 soil types and related depths were recorded at four representative locations within the trench configuration. A search of the trenches, and also a small quantity of the upcast soil was made in order to retrieve any available dating material.

Conclusion

The footing trench dimensions were generally consistent, measuring around 0.60metres wide by between 0.90-1.00m. deep. In terms of general ground levelling, little more than the turf had been removed at the margins of the site, although higher contours may have existed in more central areas. The footing trenches were dug using a wheeled 180° digger equipped with a toothed 0.50m.bucket. The soil profiles

were very consistent across the entire site and showed no indications of features or disturbance. The topsoil was of a distinctive pale-mid brown silty sand with an orange tint and contained regular medium size stones and pebbles (5-20mm.). The topsoil depth was consistently 0.45m. deep. The subsoil was of coarse orange sand with regular medium size stones and pebbles (10-50mm.). Extensive root disturbance was observed throughout the trenches. The characteristics of the deposits seem consistent with those to be expected in relation to recent known land use. Although no features or finds were located, the limited ground exposure produced by the development means that it is not possible to discount the potential of the site in archaeological terms.

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June 2006

References

Martin, E. 2006 'Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring: 2 Playford Road, Rushmere St. Andrew', SCCAS Conservation Team, Bury St. Edmunds.