

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

Monitoring Report

Gunton County Primary School, Lowestoft

SMR- LWT 156

SCCAS Report No. 2006/140

Oasis ID. No. suffolkc1-16162

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

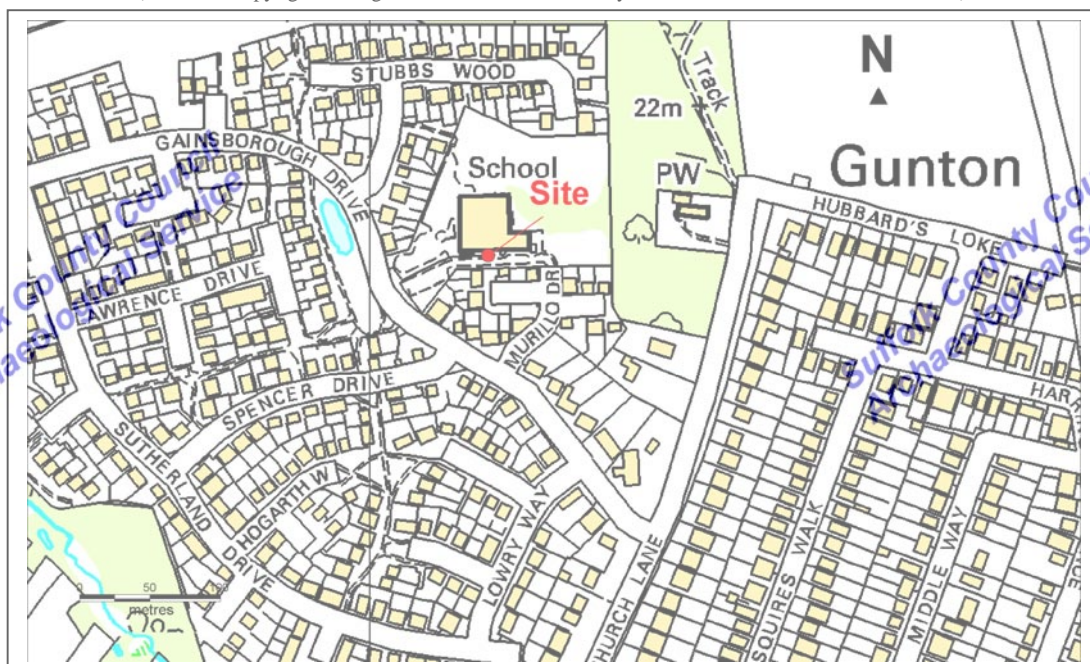
Robert Carr: SCCAS Conservation Team (Brief and Specification)

John Newman: Field Officer/Contracts Manager

Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Gunton County Primary School as a condition of the planning application. The monitoring is funded by The Suffolk County Council Property Division. The site is centred on TM 5408 9574 where a small extension to the front of the existing school building is to be constructed. This entails digging around 30 linear metres of building footings along with slight ground levelling. A single visit was made to the site on the morning of the 22nd June. It was possible to examine some of the open trenches and levelled ground in dry bright 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.

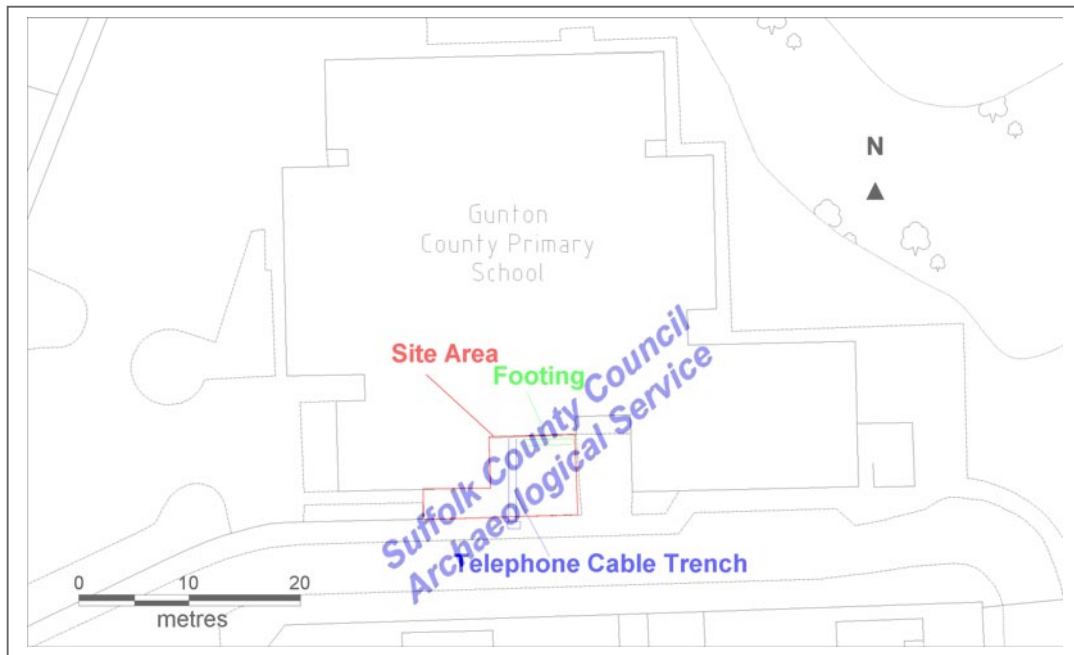
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Introduction

The Brief and Specification for the monitoring was issued by Robert Carr of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team and is dated 19-06-2006. The archaeological interest in the site derives from the close proximity of St Peter's Church, which lies directly to the east. The church dates back to at least the twelfth century and may suggest that the present primary school lies within part of an early settlement core possibly associated with the church.

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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. The soil levels had been lowered by around 0.20m. across the entire site area; all of the visible soil appeared to have been recently re-deposited. To make certain of this, the contractors kindly agreed to strip a further 0.20m. within an area in the centre of the site. The very heavily compacted soil continued to be very mixed mid-brown silty sand with frequent inclusions of modern building debris. The first of the footing trenches was then opened at the north edge of the site (see plan above) and again the only deposits which were revealed were of a similar recently re-deposited topsoil. This deposit was exposed to a depth of 1.0m. within the footing trench, it was then decided to cease any further excavation. A thorough search was made of all the available upcast soil for datable finds.

Conclusion

Unfortunately, any existing archaeological features had almost certainly been obliterated during the original construction of the main school building. At least two

service trenches crossed the site area, including a wide, north to south disturbance, which was found to contain the telephone cables. No natural or long undisturbed deposits were observed within the site area and no archaeological features or finds were seen or retrieved. The proposed footings will only reach a depth of 0.35m, therefore the site is unlikely to produce any archaeological evidence.

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