

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

Monitoring Report

Felixstowe Town Football Club, Dellwood Avenue, Felixstowe
(Planning Application C/06/0796/FUL)

SMR- FEX 273

SCCAS Report No. 2006/146

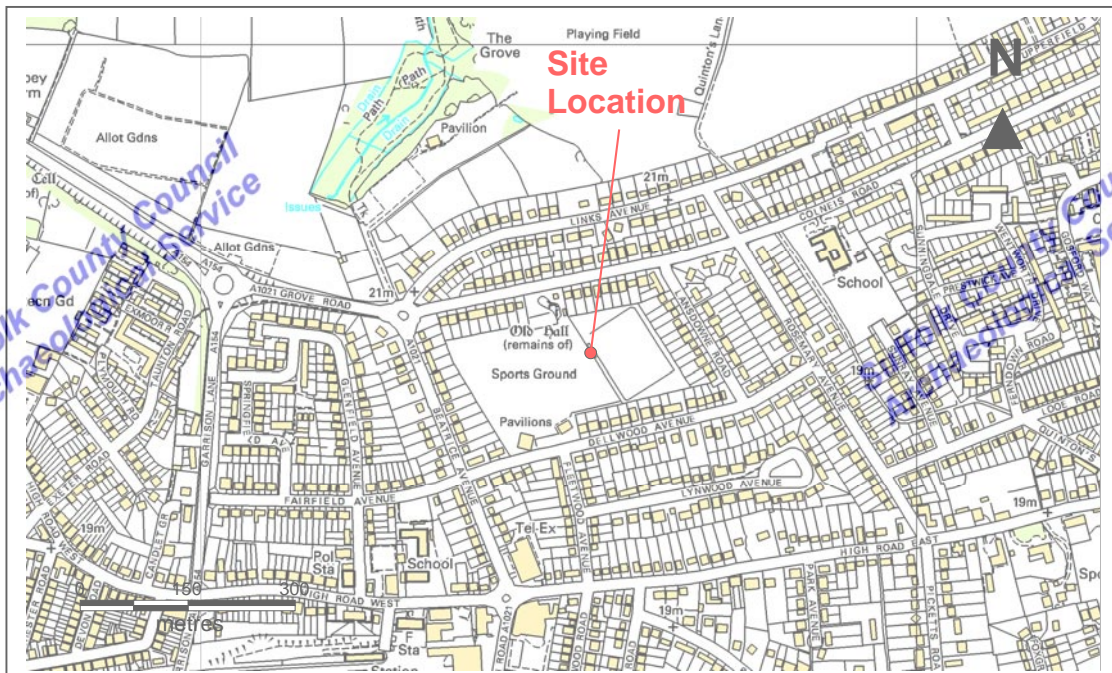
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Robert Atfield: Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team (Report)
Jess Tipper: SCCAS Conservation Team (Brief and Specification)
John Newman: Field Officer/Contracts Manager

Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Felixstowe Town Football Club, Dellwood Avenue, Felixstowe as a condition of planning application C/06/0796/FUL. The monitoring is to be funded by Felixstowe and Walton Football Club. The site is centred on TM 3054 3557 where a spectator stand is to be constructed on the south-west side of the football pitch. This involves reducing the ground level by 0.35m. and the removal of concrete foundations which remain from a recently demolished previous stand. A single visit was made to the site on the morning of 3rd July 2006. It was possible to examine the entire area of reduced and levelled ground and the concrete remains of the previous structure 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.

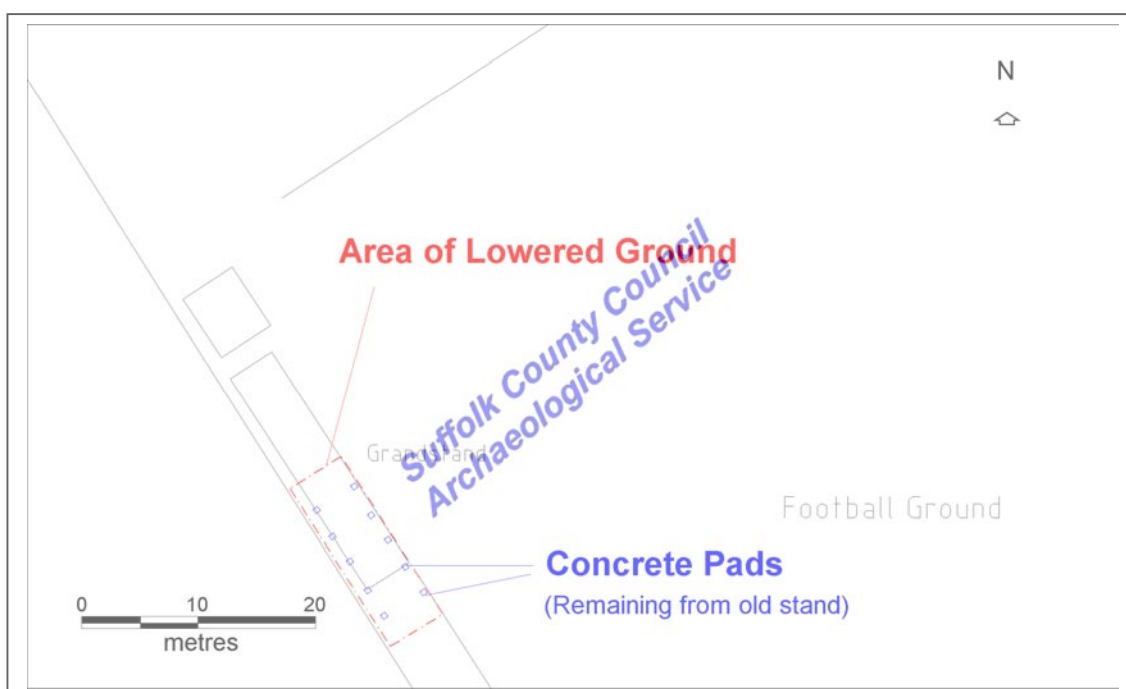
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Introduction

The Brief and Specification for the monitoring was designed and issued by Jess Tipper of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (dated 21-06-2006) (Tipper 2006). The location for the new football stand lies less than seventy metres from the last standing remains of Walton Old Hall, a medieval manorial centre of the Bigod family. The full extent of the complex is not known and potentially, the remains may extend into the area of development. The manor buildings are known to have extended beyond the Colneis Road to the north, while around sixty metres to the east, there is a recorded medieval finds scatter (FEX 089) (Tipper 2006; Fairclough & Loader 2004).

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Methodology

The site area was recorded using a sketch plan in order to plot the extent of the ground disturbance, localised soil profiles and any features which were visible. All faces of the edge of site sections were examined aided by a small amount of hand cleaning. Details of soils and depth of the deposits were recorded at a number of locations around the site. A search of the entire area of disturbed ground was made in order to try and locate any available datable finds; a quantity of the upcast spoil was also searched. The groundworks were carried out using a tracked 360° mini-digger fitted with a toothless 1.0m. bucket.

Conclusion

The site area measured 16.0m. by 5.30m. and was mechanically lowered to a depth of 0.35m. below the existing turfed surface. The topsoil was of fine silty mid brown loam to a depth of 0.20m. including the turf. The subsoil was exposed to a depth of

around 0.15m. and consisted of fine silty sand, pale orange-brown in colour, with occasional medium sized pebbles (15-40mm.). The soil profiles were very consistent across the entire site. The exposed lowered surface was dominated by a series of concrete pads or piers which were part of the foundations of a previous grandstand, demolished in 2005. The concrete depth was well below the level of the lowered surface and there was extensive disturbance of the ground surrounding each pad or pier. As a result, the actual area of the site that may have held archaeological potential was small and discontinuous. However, if substantial features such as walls, ditches and larger pits had existed above the exposed horizon, they would almost certainly have been noticed. Unfortunately no such features or finds were located during the monitoring.

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July 2006

References

Tipper, J., 2006 'Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development: Felixstowe Town Football Club, Dellwood Avenue, Felixstowe' SCCAS Conservation Team, Bury St. Edmunds.

Fairclough, J. & Loader, T. 2004 'Walton Old Hall, Felixstowe' Walton Old Hall Heritage Project, Local Heritage Initiative.