

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

Former Hillside Primary School, Belstead Avenue, Ipswich

PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE: IP/06/00020

National Grid Reference: TM 1603 4325

Suffolk Sites and Monuments Record Reference: IPS 505

Clare Good, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, September 2006

SCCAS Report Number: 2006/161

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Summary

The construction of new houses and flats at the former Hillside Primary School, Belstead Avenue, Ipswich (TM 1603 4325, IPS 505), required a programme of archaeological monitoring to be undertaken. The site is adjacent to an area of Prehistoric archaeology, with evidence of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age activity. The new houses required footings that were inspected after excavation. No archaeological finds or features were revealed during the monitoring

Introduction

Planning consent for the construction of flats and houses after the demolition of the existing building required a programme of archaeological monitoring to be undertaken. The site is adjacent to an area of Prehistoric archaeology (Fig.2), with evidence of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age activity. Quest Homes commissioned the project.



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Figure 1: Site location

A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work (Appendix 1) was produced by Jess Tipper of the Conservation Team, Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS), who requested a series of monitoring visits after the excavation of the footing trenches. This was to observe the trenches and the upcast soil to determine the presence, if any, of archaeological evidence in this area.

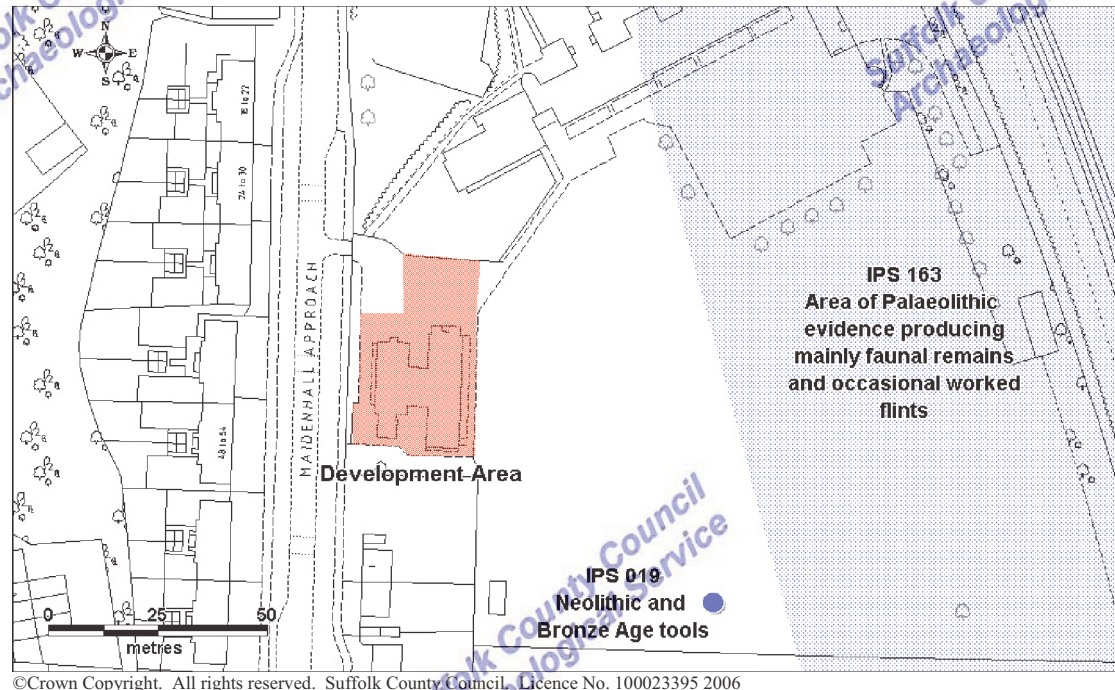


Figure 2: Development area in relation to sites on county Sites and Monuments Record

Results

The site was stripped to a depth of c.40cm to the natural subsoil, consisting of a compacted mid red orange sandy clay with occasional stones. The footings were dug within this to a depth of c.1m. Both the stripped area and the footings were observed after excavation and the upcast soil was retained on site for inspection.

Despite revealing the natural subsoil and the good visibility afforded by the clean excavation of the footings, no archaeological finds or features were found within the footing trenches.

Clare Good

Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service, 26th September, 2006