

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

Roland Plastics, High Street, Wickham Market

PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE: CO6/0250

National Grid Reference: TM 3030 5643

Suffolk Sites and Monuments Record Reference: WKM 020

Clare Good, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, October 2006

SCCAS Report Number: 2006/208

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Summary

The construction of a new industrial unit to the rear of Roland Plastics in High Street, Wickham Market (TM 3030 5643, WKM 020), required a programme of archaeological monitoring to be undertaken. The site is adjacent to the findspot of Roman and medieval pottery and metalwork found in 2000. The industrial unit required footings that were inspected after excavation. No archaeological finds or features were revealed during the monitoring.

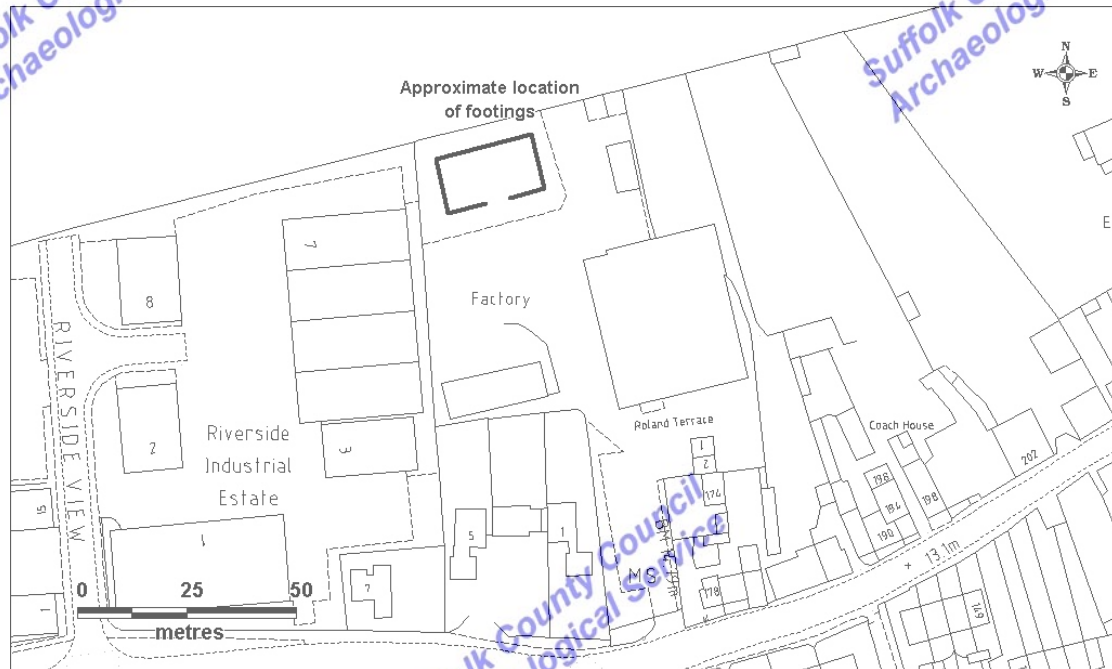
Introduction

Planning consent for the construction of a new industrial unit to the rear of Roland Plastics in High Street, Wickham Market, required a programme of archaeological monitoring to be undertaken. The proposal is adjacent to a findspot of Roman and medieval pottery found during 2000. Roland Plastics commissioned the project.



Figure 1: Site location

A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work (Appendix 1) was produced by Keith Wade 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.



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Figure 2: Location of footings within development area

Results

The footings ranged in depth from c.1.15m on the western side to c.1.8m on the east and were inspected after excavation. On the eastern side of the plot, they consisted of c.0.3m of topsoil, a dark brown sand, and the remainder was a mid orange brown stoney natural subsoil. On the western side, c.0.4m of subsoil, a mid grey brown sand, was evident between the two other horizons. It was not possible to see where this subsoil started as there were occasional patches of modern disturbance with bricks and modern waste evident in small spreads in the centre of the plot. The upcast soil was not retained on site for examination.

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, 17th October, 2006