

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

Monitoring Report

Bell Green Cottage, Bell Green, Cratfield
(Planning Application C/05/1838/FUL)

SMR- CRT 023

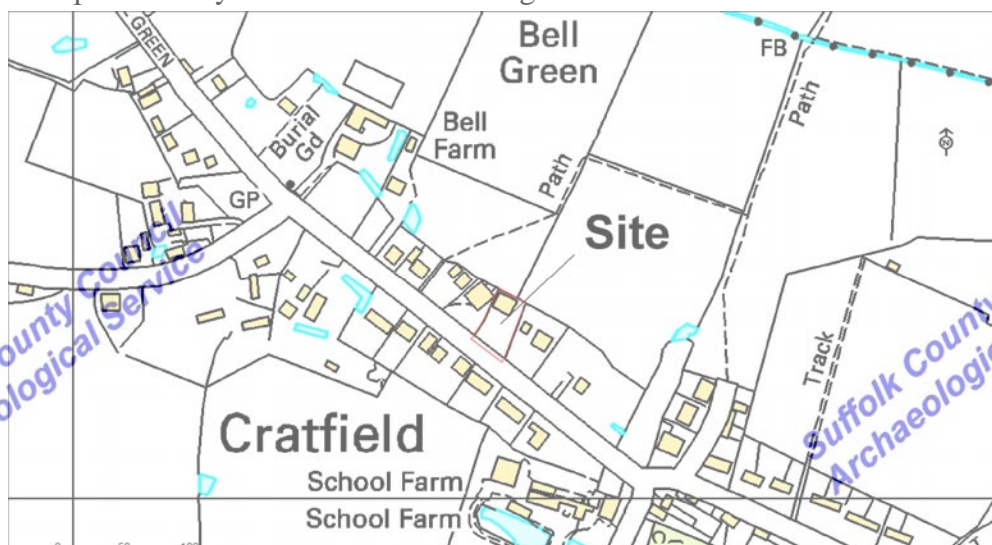
SCCAS Report No. 2006/215

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

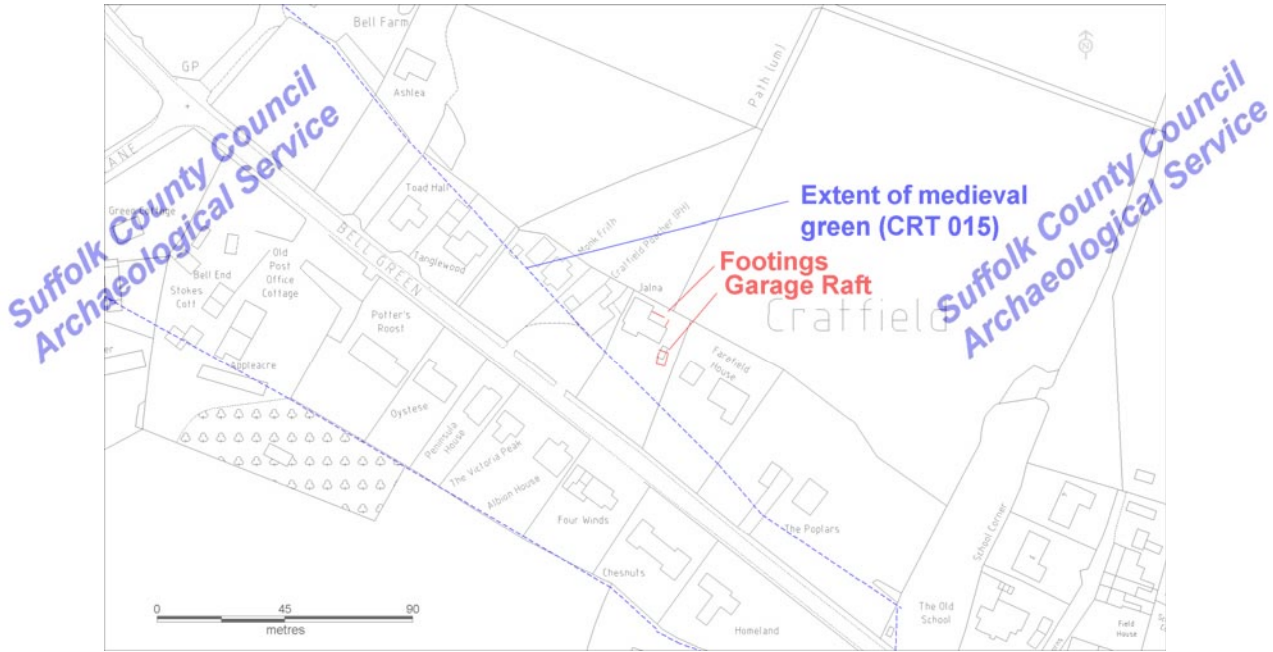
Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Bell Green Cottage, Bell Green, Cratfield as a condition of planning application C/05/1838/FUL; the monitoring is funded by Miss C. Kitchen. The site is centred on TM 3132 7512 at a height of around 40m. AOD. A small extension to the rear of the existing dwelling is to be constructed, along with a detached garage near to the south corner. This entails digging around 22 linear metres of building footings for the rear extension. The garage is to be constructed on a concrete raft. A single visit was made to the site by Rod Gardner, who examined the open trenches in detail. 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.



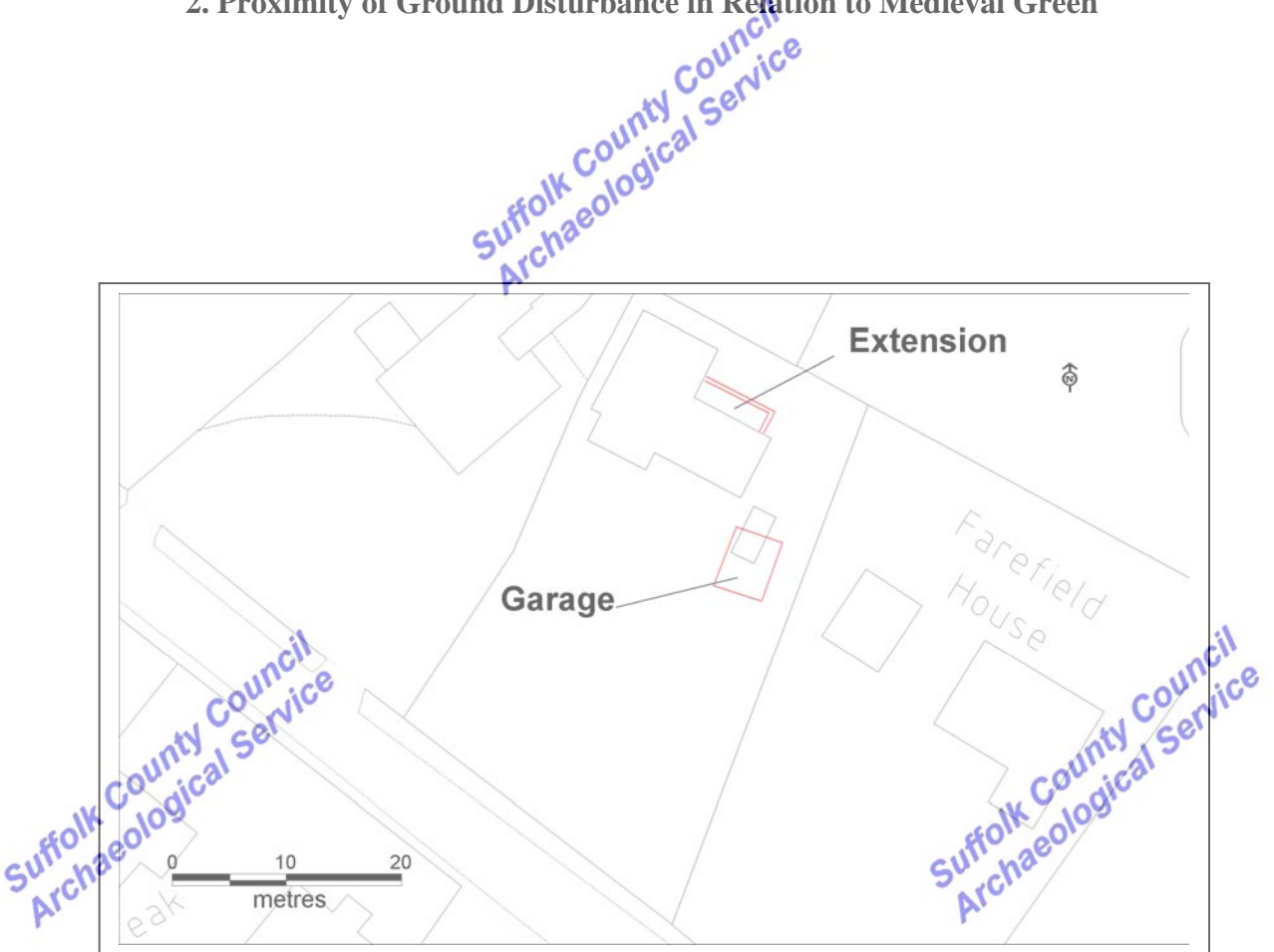
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1. Site Location



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2. Proximity of Ground Disturbance in Relation to Medieval Green



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3. Location of House Extension and Garage

Introduction

Bell Green Cottage was originally a pair of cottages which probably date to the eighteenth century. The dwelling has a central internal brick chimneystack, but is otherwise timber framed, with plastered walls and a pan-tiled roof. Bell Green Cottage has been listed grade two since 1985 (English Heritage: 2006). The cottage along with around half of the present plot lies immediately outside the northern edge of the medieval green which is recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record under CRT 015 (see Figure 2.)

Methodology

The Brief and Specification for the archaeological monitoring was produced by Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team) (Tipper 2005). An assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicated that the area of the development could be adequately recorded by monitoring.

All areas of ground disturbance were examined during the site visit and recorded by the visiting archaeologist. Soil types were noted where they were exposed and a search was made of all available upcast spoil.

Conclusion

The location of the development, adjacent to the medieval green, suggested that the site held a high potential for revealing evidence of medieval, or earlier settlement remains. However, the monitoring archaeologist found that the groundworks failed to produce any further evidence in the form of archaeological features or finds. This was mainly due to the limited depth of the footings. The footing trench was approximately 1.3m. deep and it was noted that natural deposits were not exposed within any areas of the excavated trench. The only deposit to be observed consisted of a dark brownish grey silty clay, which contained frequent fragments of ceramic building materials including concrete. The deposit was generally lightly compacted and extended throughout the area of the footings. The garage is to be constructed on a concrete raft and therefore required minimal ground disturbance. It seems that the area of the extension has a general covering of made ground consisting of yard or garden soil.

Robert Atfield
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
October 2006

References

English Heritage, Listed Building Archive, 2006 'Bell Green Cottage, Bell Green, Cratfield, Suffolk: LBS No. 286060' <http://lbonline.english-heritage.org.uk>

Tipper, J., 2005 'Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring: Bell Green Cottage, Bell Green, Cratfield' Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team, Bury St Edmunds.