

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

THE WILLOWS, ALDRIDGE LANE,
FORNHAM ST, MARTIN,
FSM 017

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF GROUNDWORKS

Planning Application No. SE/06/2180

NGR: TL 8372 6768

OASIS Ref. Suffolkc1-19867

Funded by: Mr S & Mrs P Wadkin

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2006/175

Summary

An archaeological monitoring of the excavation of footings at The Willows, Fornham St Martin did not uncover any archaeological features. A sherd of hand made pottery from the spoil may be Early Saxon.

Introduction

The building of a conservatory at The Willows, Fornham St Martin was monitored on the 24th October 2006. The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Robert Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team) to fulfil a planning condition on application SE/06/2180. The owners, Mr & Mrs P Wadkin funded the work. The site is located c. 40m from All Saints Church at c. 28m OD. Interest is based on the potential to locate evidence for the origin of the settlement, and possibly prehistoric remains, which are thickly concentrated within the parish.

Methodology and Results

The site was visited on one occasion when the footings for the extension had been dug. All the trenching was seen and the spoil was on site and stored within a skip. The location of the site and the extension are shown in Figure 1 (a single footing trench was dug around the edge of the new build). The trenches were 0.80m deep and excavated into c. 0.4m of topsoil with 0.3 –0.4m of grey black silt. Along the base of the trench and towards the bottom of the sides the top of 'natural' subsoil of yellow brown silt was exposed. The topsoil and subsoil were quite similar in appearance and occasional oyster shells were visible in the sides of the trench. With the exception of a modern soakaway in the southwest corner of the extension no features were visible in the trenches. A small hand-made sherd of pottery with a sandy fabric was recovered from the spoil within the skip, which may be Early Saxon in date (Richenda Goffin pers. com). Although no features could be picked out the appearance of the profiles with a great depth of very organic soil is consistent with a site situated towards the centre of a settlement.

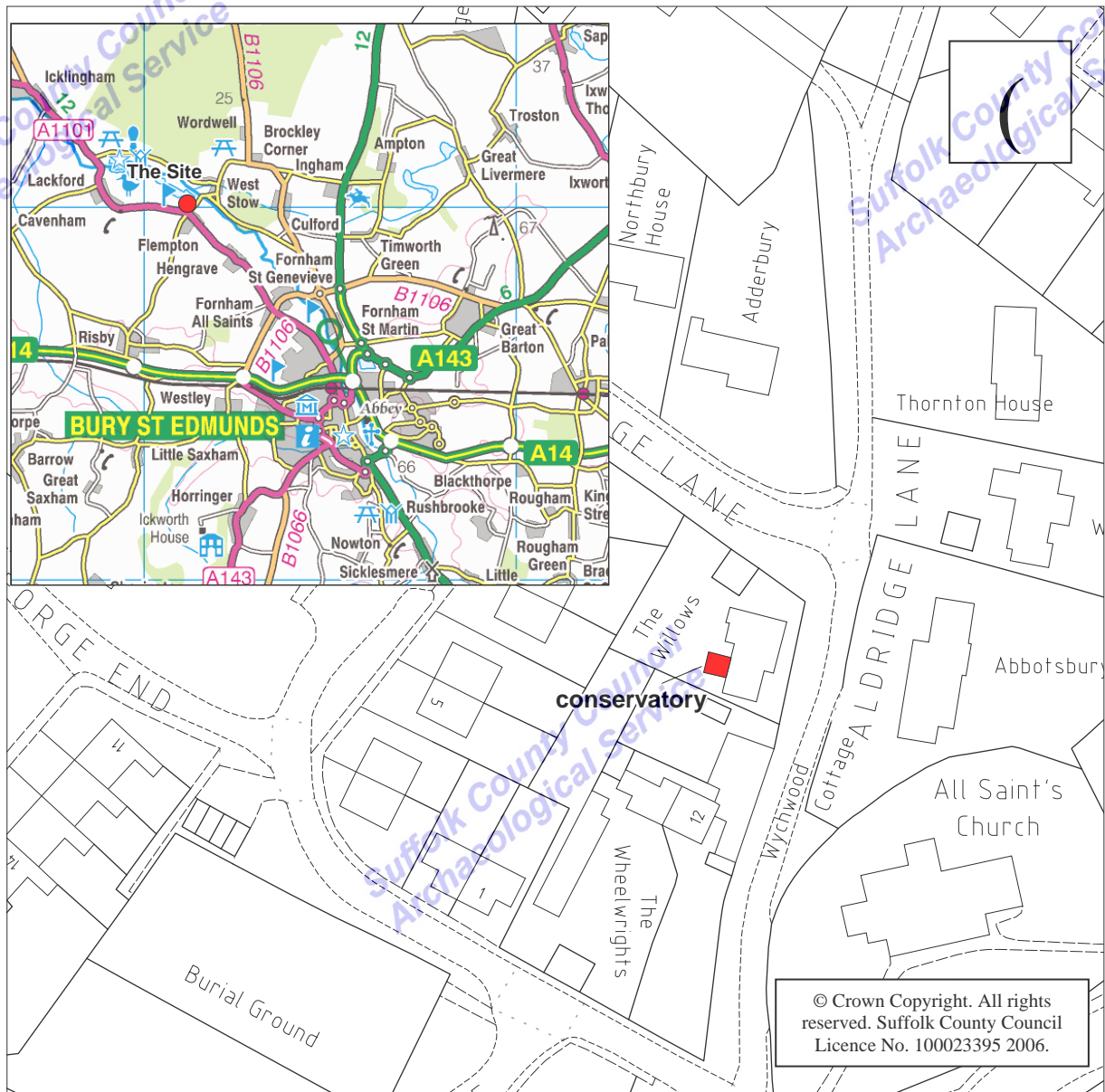


Figure 1. Site location plan

Discussion

No features were identified in the trenches and there was a low level of finds recovered from the site, however the monitoring was not constant. The retrieval of a single sherd of pottery which may be Saxon is intriguing, although insufficient in itself to allow interpretation of the site, it raises the possibility of related features close by. Whilst the monitoring shows there is no complex archaeology within the footprint of the conservatory the very rich, organic content of the soil suggests an old and well developed site.

Andrew Tester
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