

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

---

## **Land adjacent to the Old School, Hinderclay Road, Rickingham Inferior RKN 037**

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2006  
(Planning app. no. 2024/06/FUL)

J.A.Craven  
Field Team  
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

© November 2006

Lucy Robinson, County Director of Environment and Transport  
Endeavour House, Russel Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

# Contents

List of Figures  
List of Contributors  
Acknowledgements  
Summary  
SMR information

1. Introduction
2. Methodology
3. Results
4. Discussion
5. Conclusion and Recommendations

## List of Figures

1. Site location plan
2. The site on the First Edition Ordnance Survey, c.1887
3. The site on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey, c.1904
4. Trench plan

## List of Contributors

All Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service unless otherwise stated.

John Craven                      Project Officer

## Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Traditional English Properties and was monitored by R.D.Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team).

The excavation was carried out by John Craven and Jonathan Van Jennians from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team. The project was directed by John Craven, and managed by Andrew Tester, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

## Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land adjacent to the Old School House, Hinderclay Road, Rickinghall Inferior. The single trench showed undisturbed ground and a complete absence of archaeological deposits, despite the site's location within the churchyard of St Mary's until the 20th century.

## SMR information

Planning application no.	2024/06/FUL
Date of fieldwork:	23rd November 2006
Grid Reference:	TM 0385 7515
Funding body:	Traditional English Properties
Oasis reference	Suffolkc1-20563

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

# 1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of the determination of planning application 2024/06/FUL on land adjacent to the Old School, Hinderclay Road, Rickinghall Inferior (Fig. 1). The work was carried out to meet a request from R.D.Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team) for an assessment of the site's potential impact upon any archaeological deposits. The work was funded by the developer, Traditional English Properties.

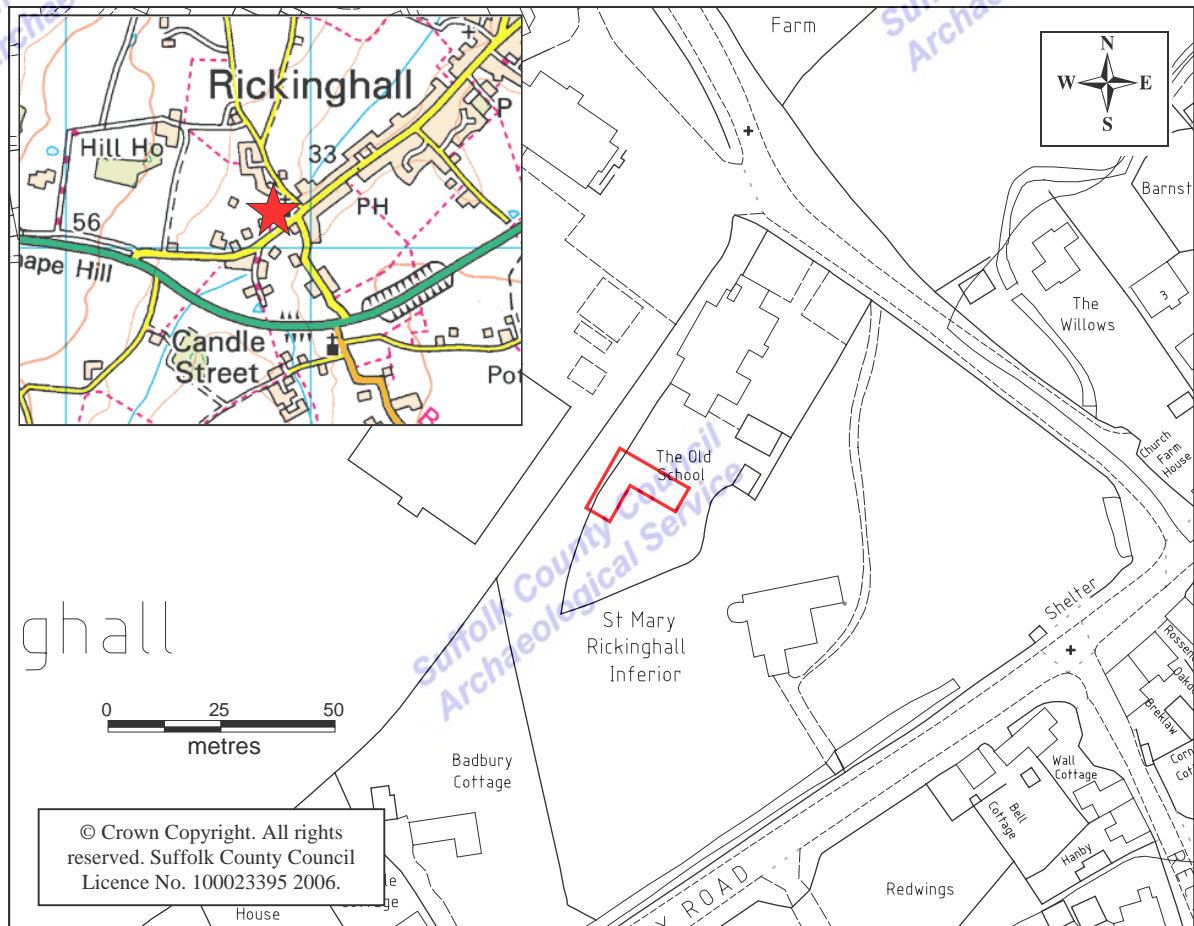


Figure 1. Site location plan

The proposed development, of a single bungalow, was of potential archaeological interest as it lay within the medieval settlement core and was formerly part of the historic churchyard of St Mary's Church. The church, which lies 25m to the southeast of the site, dates to at least the 12th century, is a Listed Building (LBS No. 439712), and is recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record as RKN 037.

The churchyard has probably been in continuous use for over 900 years, with its boundary in the late 19th century encompassing the area of the proposed development. The school, which was built in the mid 19th century, is shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey, c.1887 (Fig. 2), as being situated within a small plot to the north of the church. The proposed development area is clearly within the churchyard, partially overlying a footpath.

By c.1904 the Second Edition Ordnance Survey (Fig. 3) shows that the school grounds had extended to the south-west but also that the proposed development still lay within the churchyard. At some point during the 20th century, the school grounds encroached still further south-west into the churchyard and it is in this area that the proposed development lies.

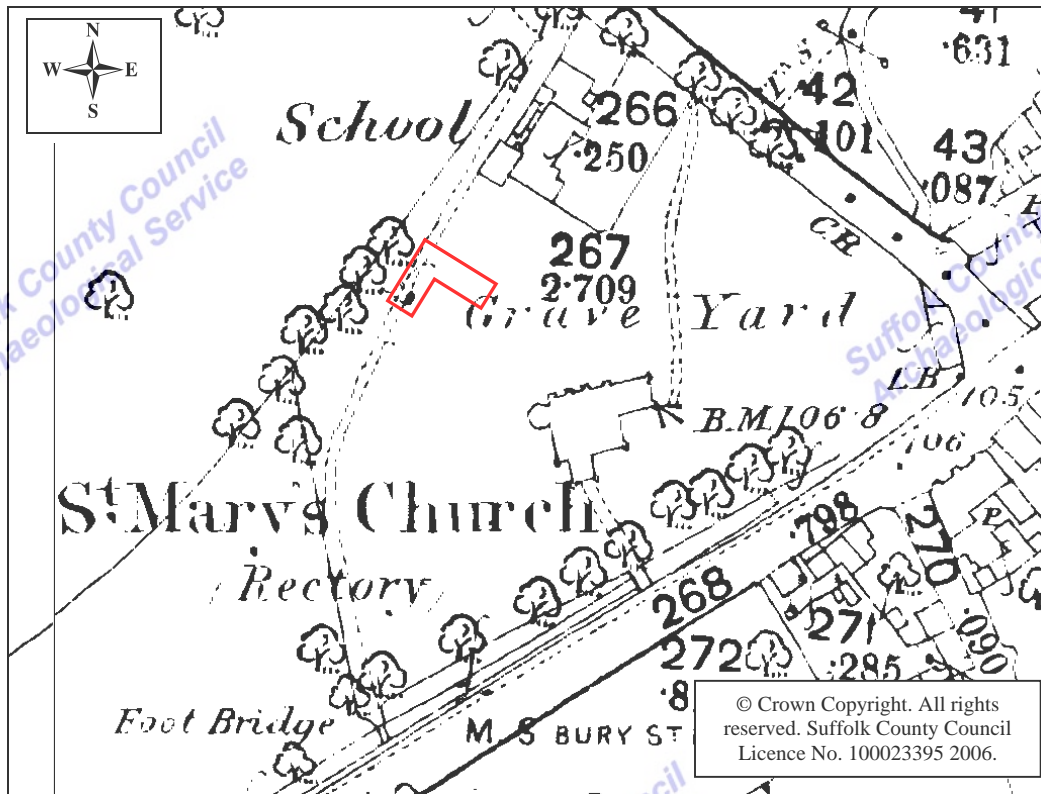


Figure 2. The site on the First Edition Ordnance Survey, c.1887

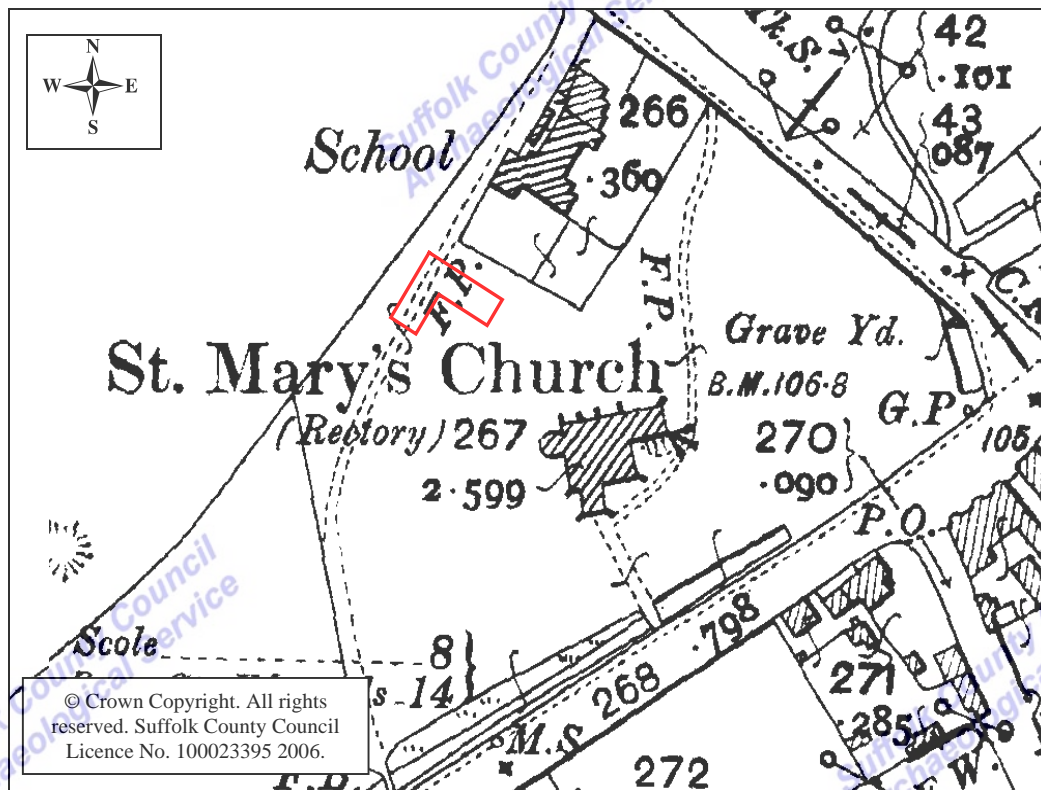


Figure 3. The site on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey, c.1904

The fact that the school was built and allowed to expand perhaps indicated that the northern part of the churchyard had not been used for burials. Existing grave markers, which predominantly date to the 19th and 20th centuries, lie mainly to the east, south and west of the church, with only one or two markers lying to the north, between the church and the proposed development. The absence of markers however does not necessarily indicate the absence of any burials and certainly does not give any indication on the location of burials occurring before the common

adoption of grave markers in the late 19th century. Therefore as the site was part of the churchyard until the 20th century there was a high potential for burials within the development area.

The programme of archaeological evaluation was therefore required to assess the archaeological potential of the site for medieval settlement and, particularly, for the presence and depth of any human burials as these would have major implications for the granting of planning consent or the developments design.

## 2. Methodology

A single 'L' shaped trench was excavated by a machine equipped with a 1.2m ditching bucket, under the supervision of an archaeologist. The trench measured c.32 sqm, or approximately 20% of the c.160sqm footprint of the proposed bungalow. Basic cleaning of soil profiles was carried out by hand but, due to the absence of archaeological deposits, detailed recording was not required. The site's ground level of 31.2m OD was transferred by dumpy level from an OS benchmark at TM 0390 7513.

An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-20563) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>).

The site archive is kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under SMR No. RKN 037.

## 3. Results

The trench (Fig. 4) cut through undisturbed ground and contained no indication of any activity relating to the site's former location within the churchyard, or of any other archaeological deposits. In the south-west part of the trench, 0.3m-0.4m of modern topsoil overlaid a natural subsoil of pale yellow/grey brown silt/sand with ironpan staining. To the north the ground was heavily disturbed by tree roots and undisturbed subsoil was only visible at a depth of 0.6m, under a 0.3m thick layer of mixed sands. In the eastern part of the trench the natural subsoil, mid grey or brown silt/sands with ironpan staining lay under 0.3m of mixed mid brown sands, also with ironpan staining and 0.4m of topsoil.

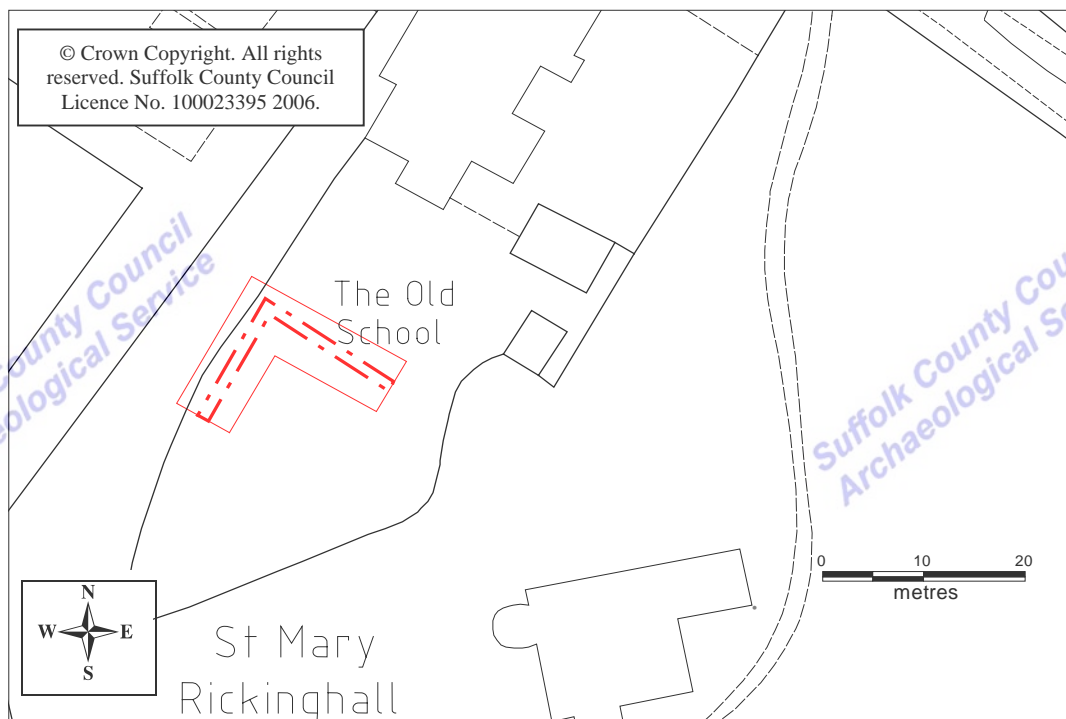


Figure 4. Trench plan

## 4. Discussion

The trench showed a soil profile of topsoil either directly overlying the natural subsoil or a 0.3m build-up of mixed sands. There was a total absence of any archaeological deposits, which indicates that this part of the churchyard has not been used for burials at any point and must have remained as open undisturbed ground throughout the churchyard's use. This absence of burials probably confirms the theory that the school was originally built, and its grounds allowed to expand, because the northern part of the churchyard had not been previously used. There was also no evidence of medieval settlement activity, again suggesting that the site was within the churchyard and unavailable for other use.

## 5. Conclusion and Recommendations

The evaluation trench clearly demonstrated that this part of the churchyard was never used for intensive burials and indicates that the proposed development is likely to have little or no impact upon archaeological deposits. However the site's location within the 19th century churchyard means that there is still a small possibility for isolated burials to exist within the plot and so a program of archaeological monitoring of any groundworks may be required to recover and record any such deposits. If no further archaeological work is required as part of the planning consent the developer should still be aware that if any human remains are encountered during the development they are legally obliged to report the finds to the relevant authorities. The Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service would be able to advise upon the required action to take in any such situation.

J.A.Craven  
Project Officer  
Field Team, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service  
November 2006

### **Disclaimer**

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Division alone. The need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its archaeological advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting service cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.