

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

New Vehicle Hire Facility, Boss Hall Road, Ipswich

PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE: IP/05/0106

National Grid Reference: TM 1385 4523

Suffolk Sites and Monuments Record Reference: IPS 522

Clare Good, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, December 2006

SCCAS Report Number: 2006/230

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Summary

The construction of a new vehicle hire depot adjacent to Morrison's Supermarket on Boss Hall Road, Ipswich (TM 1385 4523, IPS 522), required a programme of archaeological monitoring to be undertaken. The site is adjacent to an area of Prehistoric archaeology, including a Bronze Age ring ditch. The new depot was to be built using a raft system in order to create as little disturbance as possible to any potential archaeology. No archaeological finds or features were revealed during the monitoring.

Introduction

Planning consent for the construction a new vehicle hire depot required a programme of archaeological monitoring to be undertaken. The site is adjacent to an area of Prehistoric archaeology (Fig.2), including a Bronze Age ring ditch with four associated central graves. An early Saxon cremation/inhumation cemetery is also recorded on the county Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) some 190m from the development area. Global self drive commissioned the project.

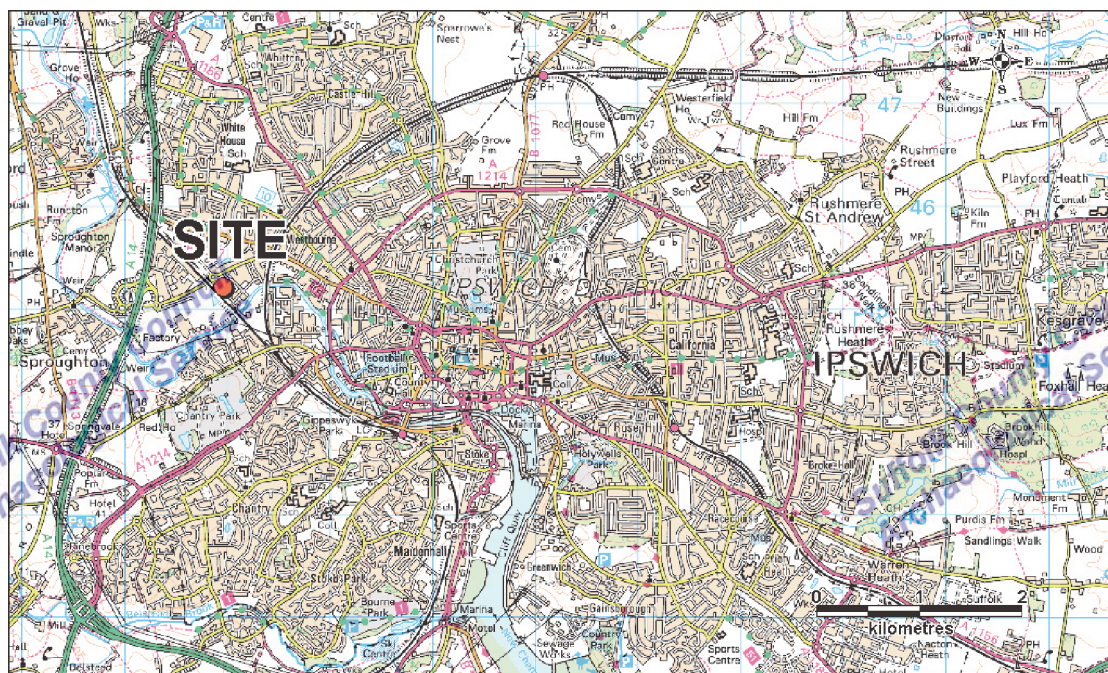
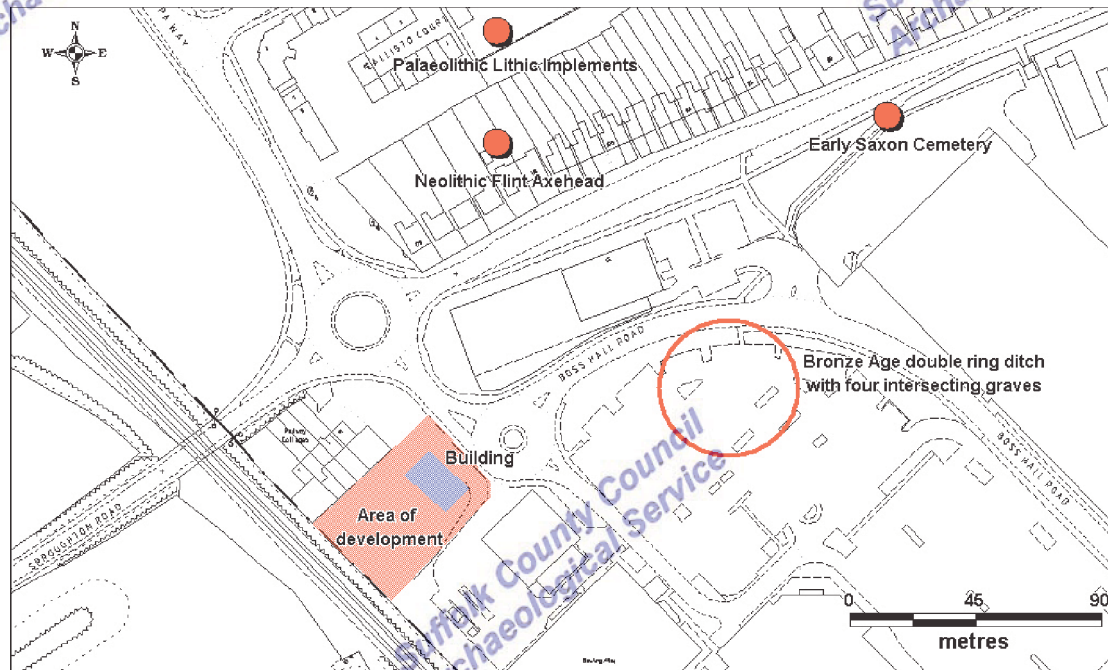


Figure 1: Site location

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). A series of monitoring visits were requested during the topsoil strip for the car park, and continuous monitoring during the excavation for the building, which was to be built on a raft system in order to create as little ground disturbance as was possible. This was to observe the surface and the upcast soil to determine the presence, if any, of archaeological evidence in this area.



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

Results

The area of the car park was stripped of grass but most of the topsoil was retained in situ, in order to form a basis for the hard standing surface of the car park. As such, it was not possible to determine the presence of any archaeological finds or features. The surface was inspected, and the upcast soil was inspected for finds, but none were noted.

The building was to be constructed using a raft system with relatively shallow footings in an attempt not to disturb any archaeology that may be present. The footings were dug to a depth of 0.9m, revealing c.0.45m of topsoil, a mid/dark brown silty sand with modern refuse within it, c.0.2m subsoil, a reddish mid brown silty sand with very few stones, and c.0.25m of natural subsoil, an orange sandy gravel. Post 17th century finds were recovered (not retained) from the upcast soil and the topsoil but no archaeological features were noted, despite the good visibility afforded by the clean excavation of the footings.

Clare Good

Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service, 14th December, 2006