

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

LAND ADJOINING 9, WOOLLARDS GARDENS, LONG MELFORD

LMD 168

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF GROUNDWORKS

Planning Application No. B/288/05

NGR: TL 8638 4563

OASIS Ref. Suffolkc1-22865

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2007/003

Summary

The monitoring of construction trenches from land adjoining 9 Woollards Gardens showed no evidence of archaeological features or finds.

Introduction

The building of two houses and a bungalow at the west end of Woollards Gardens, Long Melford was subject to an archaeological condition on the application, B/288/05. Judith Plouviez (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team) raised the condition which is due to the proximity of the site to both Iron Age, Roman and Medieval areas of settlement. The site is located to the east of the main street at c.36.5m OD.

Methodology and Results

Due to an oversight during the development the excavation of the footings for the two houses on the south side of Woollard Gardens was not archaeologically monitored during the soil strip or during the excavation of the footing trenches. Open service trenches, a section of stripped surface for the more northerly of the houses and most of the spoil from the site was seen. These revealed a considerable depth of dark brown loam with gravel towards the base. No pottery or animal bone was recovered. These observations were supported by the site agent who supervised the excavations. The bungalow footings on the north side of the road were monitored on the 9th January during the stripping of soil, between piles. The footings were between 1m and 1.2m deep (deeper footings were excavated to allow for clearance where previous service trenches crossed the site).

There were two basic soil profiles east and west of the site (labelled A and B on Figure 1). Profile A consisted of c.0.25m of dark topsoil over 0.45m of a red/brown mixed flint layer. The lower fill was an orange, coarse pea gravel. Profile B consisted of 0.7m of dark brown topsoil over 0.3m of a slightly browner loam. Coarse orange pea gravel was at the base of the trench. No archaeological features were observed, or finds recovered, in the trenches.

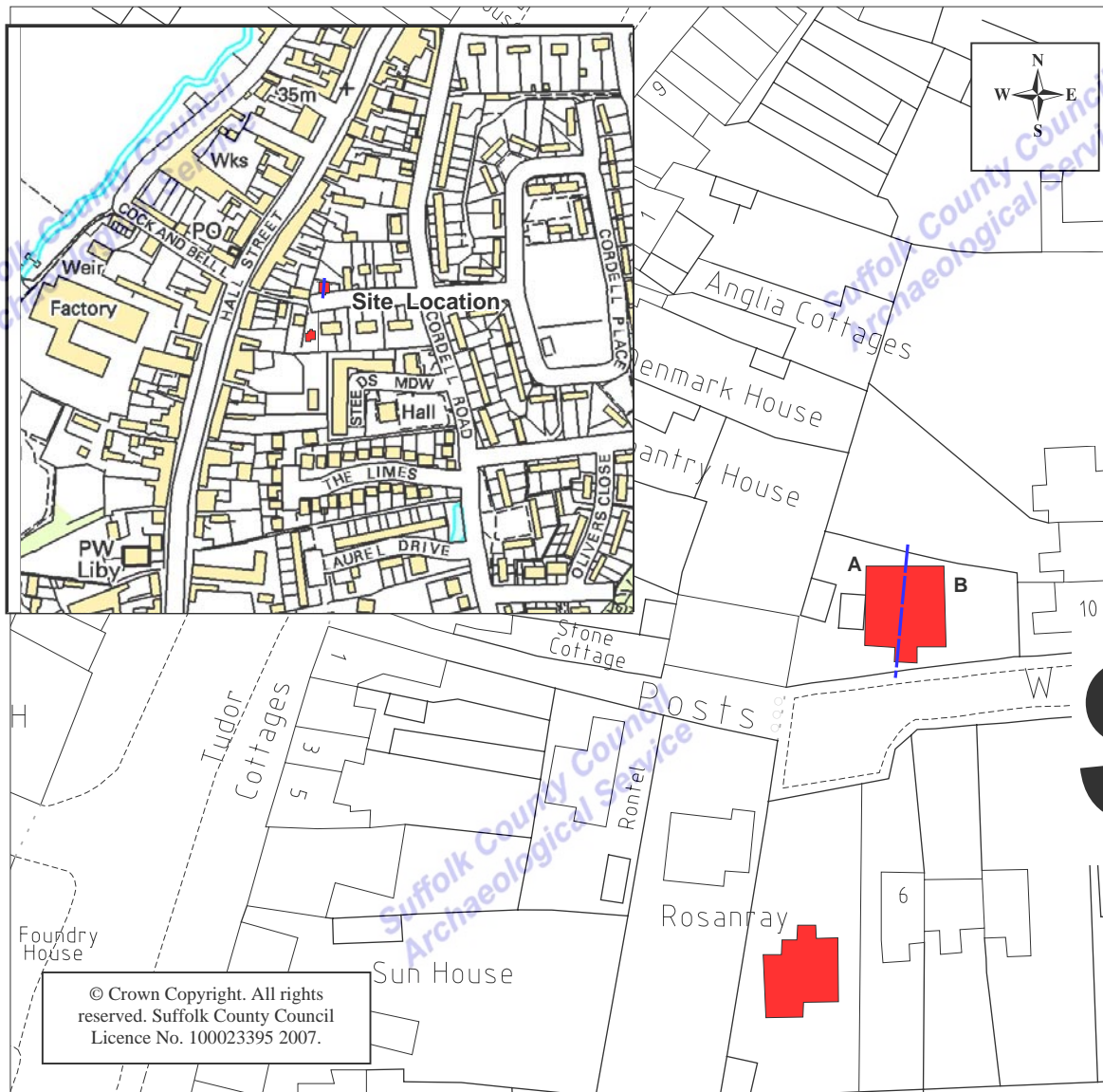


Figure 1. Site location plan

Discussion

No features of archaeological interest were identified and no finds were recovered from the site. Although all the footings were not seen it seem likely that this is representative evidence suggesting that the site lay beyond both the areas of iron Age and Roman settlement. The contrast between the soil profiles beneath the bungalow might be accounted for by the position of an historical boundary where a line of trees which crossed the site. The ground to the west of the boundary (or edge of the agricultural field) had a developed soil profile, possibly protected by the trees, whilst the ground to the east where there was an open field had been ploughed. If this were the case as seems likely it is interesting to note the depth of disturbance caused on a light soil by agriculture and the degree of mixing which occurs. Conversely where the trees offered protection as little as 0.25m was topsoil.

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