

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

REAR GARDEN OF VIRGINIA HOUSE, CAVENDISH CAV 048

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF GROUNDWORKS

Planning Application No. SE/06/1456

NGR: TL 805 463

OASIS Ref. Suffolkc1-23955

Funded by: Mr Graham King

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2007/010

Summary

An archaeological monitoring of footing revealed extensive dumping of material including brick and tile which is likely to be 19th century or later in date. A layer of darker material was observed within the underlying sand and gravel which was formed before the river valley had assumed its present shape, but it was also impossible to either identify it further or suggest a date.

Introduction

The building of a new 2-storey house, on the site of a former abattoir, behind Virginia house Cavendish was subject to an archaeological monitoring as set out in a Brief and Specification by Robert Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team) to fulfil a planning condition on application SE/06/1456. Mr Graham King funded the work. The site is located on the southern edge of the medieval green on a slope leading down to River Stour c.25m to the South at c. 39m OD. It lies close to the suggested line of a regionally important Roman road and prehistoric occupation sites

Methodology and Results

The site was visited on the 29th January during the excavation of a footing trench along the eastern side of the property (Figure 1 shows the approximate plan of the site with the outer footing trenches plotted). The trench was excavated to a depth of 1.6m (1.8m at the south end). Most of the trenching was through recently disturbed ground with natural subsoil at the base of the trench that consisted of pea gravel and sand. Disturbance ran to 1.6m at the south end of the trench; at this depth water was entering the footings. A second visit was made when the southern and western section of footings was removed. The trenching was unstable and the footings were recorded from the side of the trench only. A single section is recorded from north south trenching on the western side (see figure 1). It records a substantial level of built-up ground (c.0.75m) with dark rubble and bricks; beneath this was a layer of grey silt that is interpreted as a buried soil; below this were intercutting layers of sand, silt and gravel which were interrupted towards the bottom of the trench by a dark band. This band continued to the south end of the site where it ran along the base of the trench. Although having the appearance of

charcoal from the surface this could not be confirmed and it is uncertain whether it was a natural, or man made deposit. The south trench was heavily disturbed with a large modern pit. No finds or distinct features of any antiquity were observed.

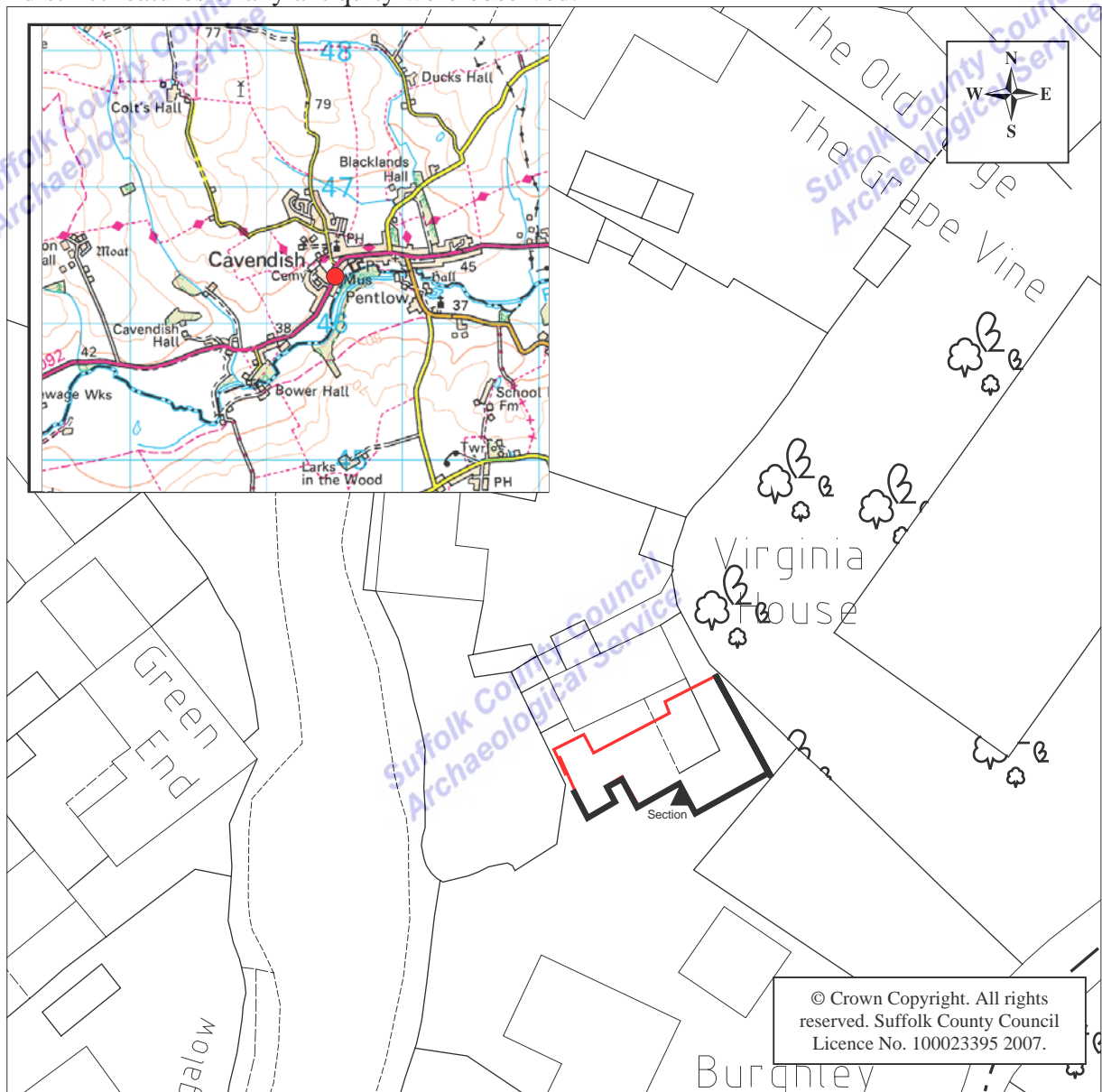


Figure 1. Site location plan

Discussion

No features of archaeological interest were identified and no finds were recovered from the site. The soil profile revealed extensive dumping of dark soils including bricks and tiles. A dark layer running towards the base of the section that was interleaved between layers of gravel and sand was of interest but the conditions of the trench precluded close examination. The position of this layer within sand and gravel deposit suggests it has some antiquity; having been laid down, or formed before the river valley took on its present appearance. It is uncertain however whether it was a manmade or natural phenomena.

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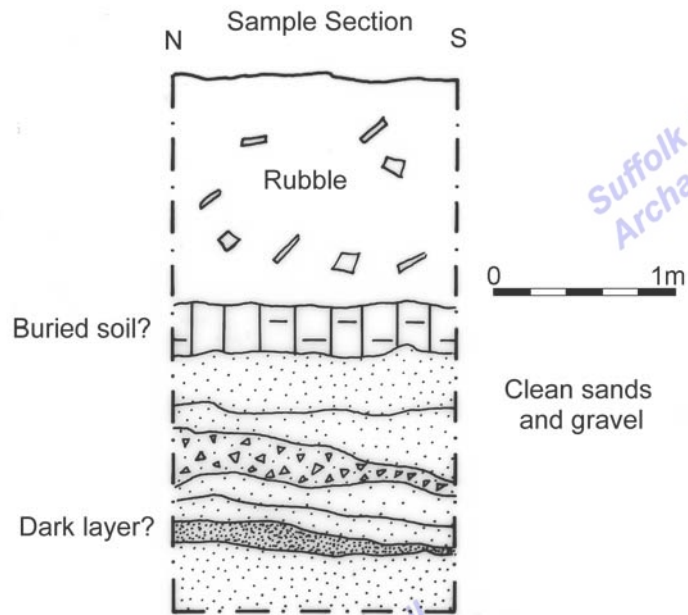


Figure 2 Section

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