

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

FORMER SNELLS GARAGE, BALLINGDON HILL, SUDBURY BCB 023

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF GROUNDWORKS

Planning Application No. B/06/01678/FUL

NGR: TL 8633 4066

OASIS Ref. Suffolkc1-23968

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Summary

An archaeological monitoring of footing trenches revealed undisturbed ground with no evidence of archaeological features.

Introduction

The building of 13 houses on the former site of Snells Garage on Ballingdon Hill was subject to monitoring during the excavation of footings. The conditions were set out in a Brief and Specification by Robert Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team) to fulfil a planning condition on application B/06/01678/FUL. The work was funded by Gipping Homes. This site was the subject of an evaluation (SCCAS Report No. 2005/37) and earlier monitoring when fuel tanks at the front of the property were removed. The site is located on the hill leading south from Ballingdon on the former site of Snells Garage and attached land. Interest in the site is generated by historical records which suggest Ballingdon Chapel (dating from the 12th century) may have stood on this site. If this were the case there might be building remains and possible cemetery. The site lies at c. 30.5m OD.

Methodology and Results

The site was visited on three occasions during the building works during December and January. Footings were observed during excavation on Plot 9 and plots 3 – 7 (These are approximately located on figure 1). The sections were observed and notes taken. These were similar on both plots with a brown silty clay beneath the topsoil. This material also appeared in the bottoms of the trenches between areas of chalk. There was no evidence of any archaeological features and no finds were observed in either the sections or the spoil.

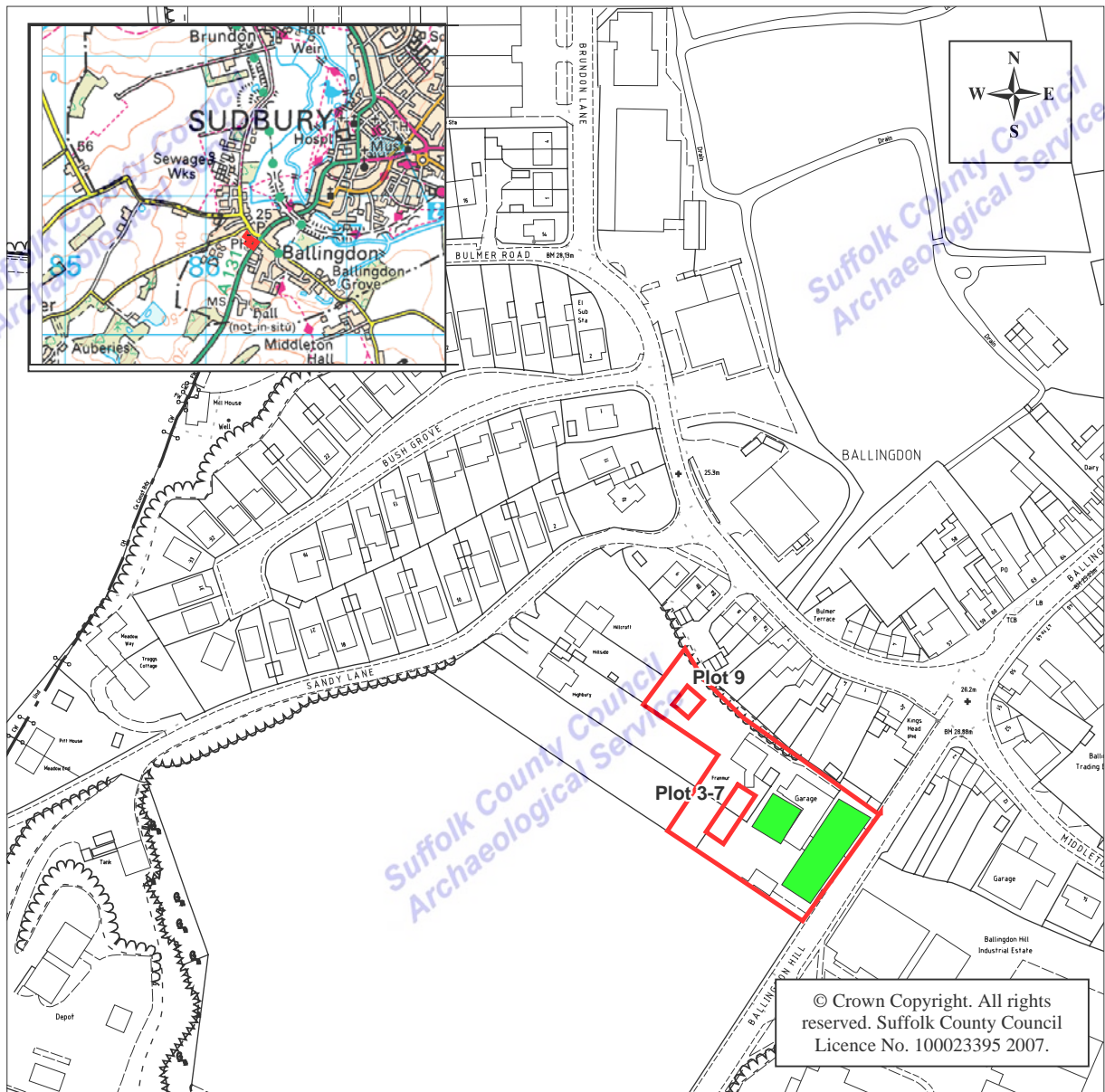


Figure 1. Site location plan

Discussion

This monitoring follows previous work in which the removal of fuel storage tanks was monitored and open areas were evaluated (areas of known disturbance are marked in green on figure 1). No features of archaeological interest were identified and no finds were recovered from the site. The soil profile was indicative of arable farming with no evidence for the location of the former chapel which is unlikely to be within the area of this development.

Andrew Tester
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