
SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE

45, Nunn Close, Martlesham
(MRM 138)

Planning application no. C06/1804
Archaeological Monitoring Report, 2007/53
Oasis ID no. 25644

Summary

Martlesham, 45, Nunn Close (TM250470; MRM 138) Conditional planning consent for the construction of an extension to 45, Nunn Close, Martlesham, required a programme of archaeological monitoring. One probable pit of unknown date was recorded in the excavated footing trench sections.

(Linzi Everett for Suffolk County Council and Mr. and Mrs. M. Brewer; report no. 2007/53)

1. Introduction and Methodology

Conditional planning consent for the construction of an extension to 45, Nunn Close, Martlesham, required a programme of archaeological monitoring. The site is centred on TM 2501 4700 at a height of approximately 27m OD. Archaeological potential was based on the sites proximity to recorded findspots and within 60m of a Roman pit (MRM 066).

One visit was made to the site by the Field Projects Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service in order to inspect the machine excavated foundation trenches. This took place on 24th January 2007. The site was recorded under the SMR code MRM 138. A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work (Appendix I) was produced by Jess Tipper of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team. The monitoring work was funded by Mr. and Mrs. M. Brewer and the archive is held in the county SMR in Bury St. Edmunds.

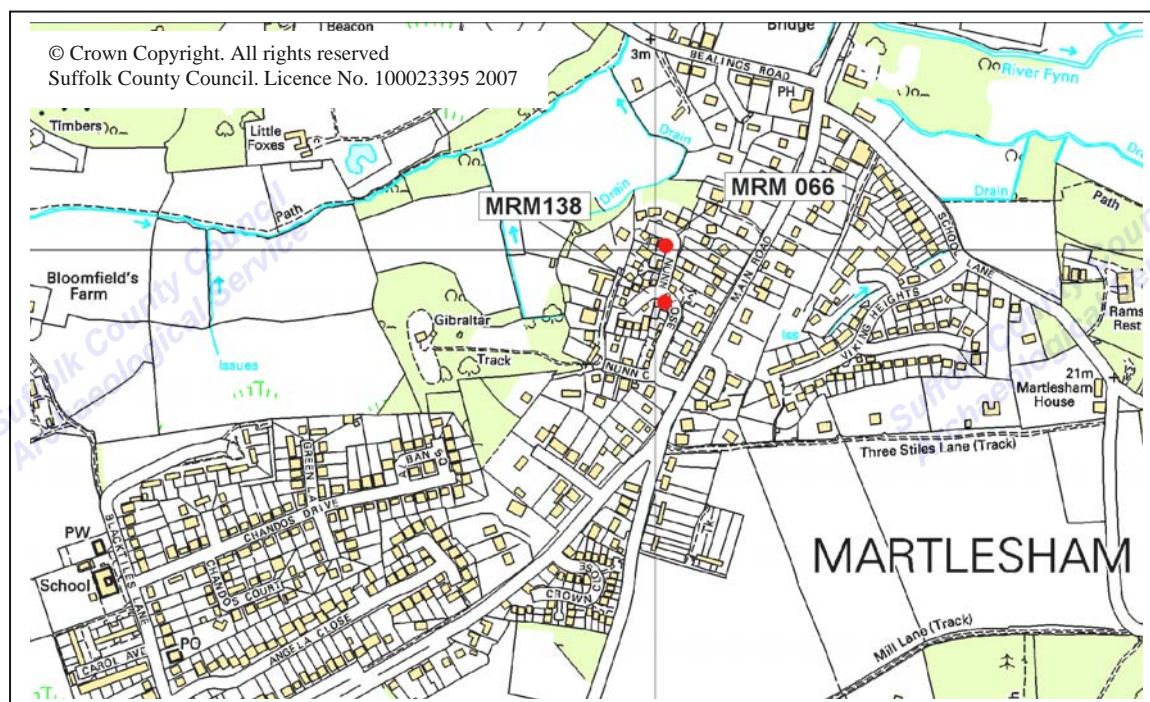


Figure 1: Site location

2. Results

The trenches had been excavated to a depth of c.800mm, revealing the composition of the soil in the exposed sections. The topsoil was some 200mm thick and comprised a dark brown sandy loam. Below this was a mid brown sandy subsoil c.300mm thick, sealing the pale orangey brown sand natural subsoil. One intervention was observed in the southern trench section, a small pit filled by dark blackish brown sand with gravel along the concave base. This feature was hand cleaned for definition and to look for dating evidence but none was recovered.

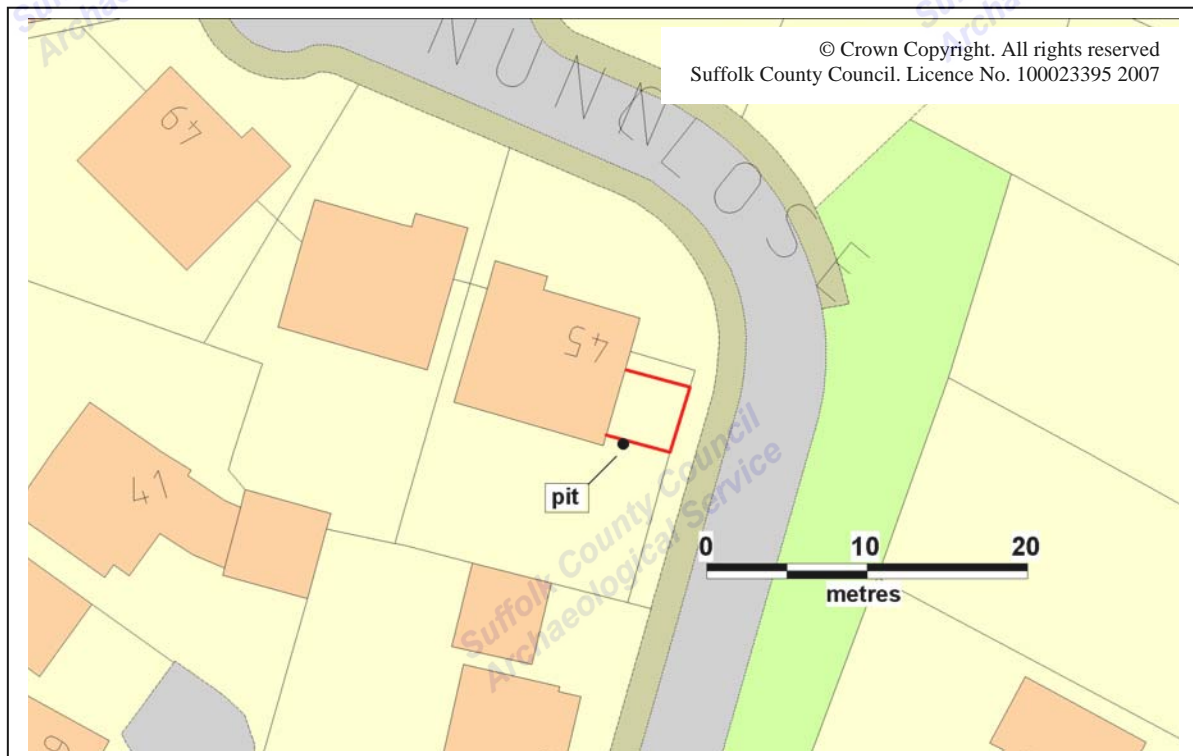


Figure 2: Location of undated pit within monitored footings

4. Discussion

One feature was revealed in the footings, a small pit of uncertain date or function. Whilst this may be archaeological in origin, it is also possible that it represents a natural tree bole. The site showed no direct signs of disturbance or truncation but the loose, thin topsoil may not have afforded shallow archaeological deposits much protection either during the building of the existing houses, or from agricultural activity and erosion before the site became residential.

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March 2007.