

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

Hawthorn Farm, Freckenham Road, West Row, Worlington (SMR refs. WGN 031)

REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF GROUNDWORK ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW DWELLING AND DETACHED GARAGE

(Application Nos. F/2006/0059/FUL)

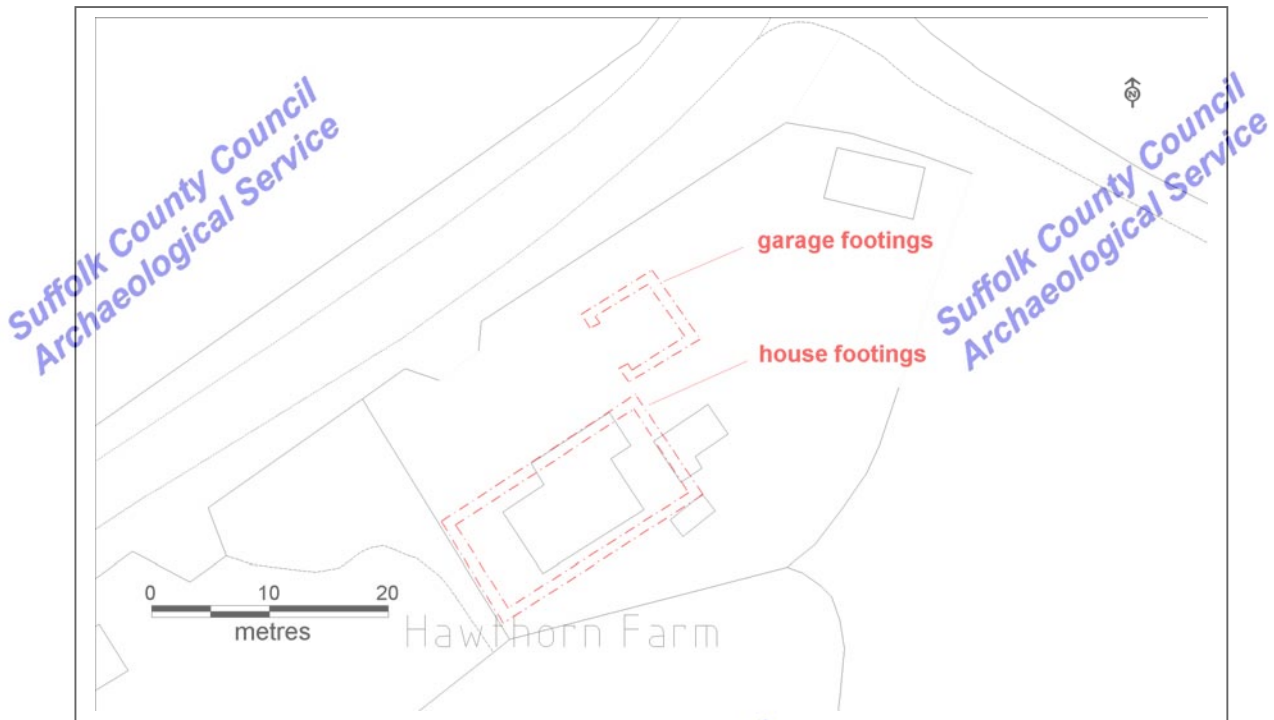
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2007/57
(OASIS Ref. Suffolkc1-26100)

Summary: Archaeological monitoring of groundwork at Hawthorn Farm, Freckenham Road, West Row, Worlington (NGR; TL 6767 7458), was undertaken during two visits on 24th November 2006 and 26th January 2007. Miss C. Norman funded the archaeological monitoring. The development consists of the demolition an existing bungalow, which will be replaced by a new dwelling, with a detached garage to the north. The site lies to the north of known Roman archaeology and south-east of a Bronze Age find spot. The footing trenches and associated ground disturbance failed to reveal any archaeological features or finds. The deposits consisted of very shallow topsoil over an undisturbed natural chalk subsoil.



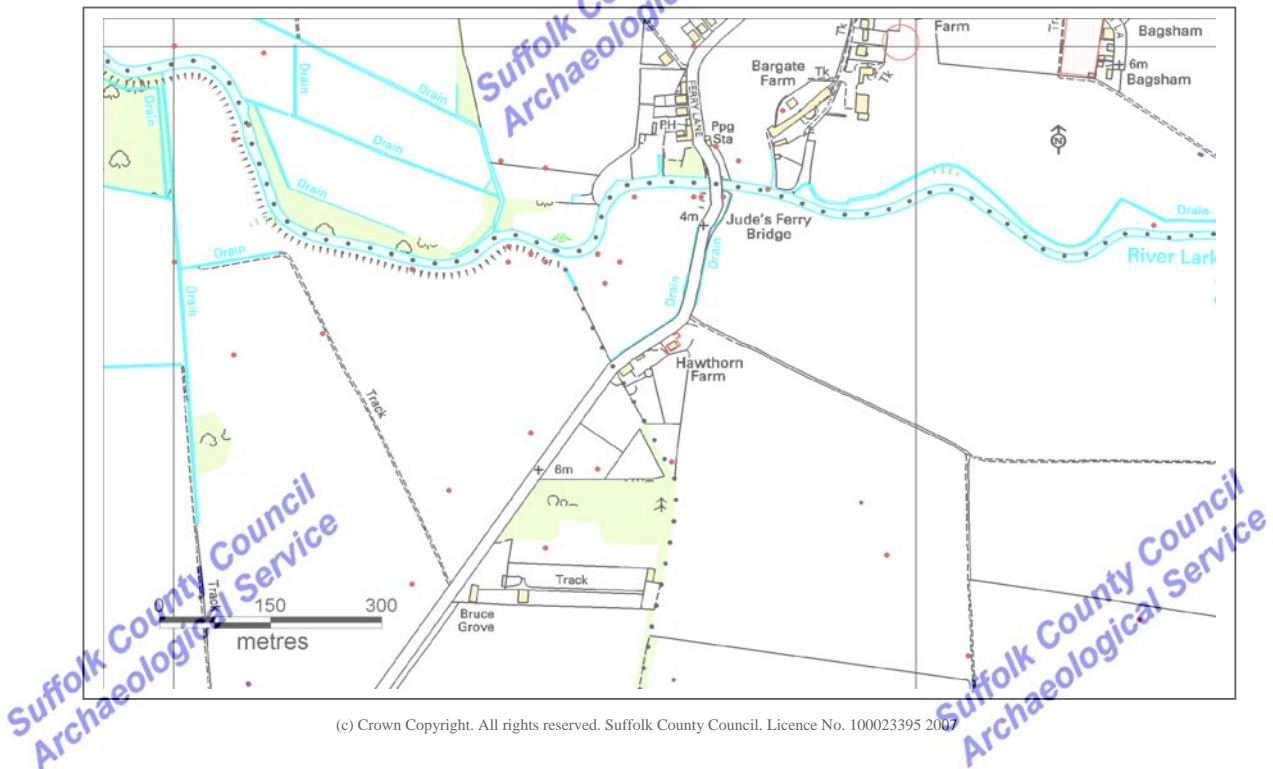
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Figure 1. Site Location



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Figure 2. Location of Footings



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Figure 3. Location of Archaeology Recorded within the Sites and Monuments Record

Introduction

The site lies at a height of just over 5m A.O.D., and around 200m. south of the River Lark. The development consists of a new dwelling, to be built on the site of an existing bungalow, which has been demolished. An accompanying detached garage is also to be built immediately to the north. Jess Tipper of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (Tipper 2006) produced the Brief and Specification for the archaeological monitoring. Existing records indicate that the site lies to the north of an extensive Roman site complex (FRK 012, 016 and 022); while a Bronze Age find spot is also located nearby towards the north-west of the site (WGN 016).

Methodology

All of the footing trenches were excavated mechanically by the building contractors and were examined by the visiting archaeologist during the same day. Conditions were dry and bright, allowing good visibility of all the exposed deposits. A measured sketch plan was produced on site in order to allow the accurate recording of all trench locations along with any features or deposit variations within the trenches. A small amount of hand cleaning was carried out in order to define the characteristics of the deposits. All of the upcast spoil was available for searching to allow for the collection any archaeologically datable material.

Results

The footing trenches were excavated to a consistent depth of between 1.00-1.10m and a width of 0.70-0.80m. All of the trench faces and base deposits were examined, but the characteristics of the sub-surface deposits remained notably similar throughout the trenched area. The trench sections revealed distinctive, but remarkably undisturbed deposits consisting of very shallow topsoil of mid brown sandy loam between 0.25-0.30m deep which sharply contrasted with an underlying natural chalk deposit. The limit of the chalk deposit was not reached in any of the trenches. A soak-away, dug to the west of the site, to a depth of over 2.50m metres, also only revealed virtually pure compacted chalk. The single evident intrusion of any kind within the chalk deposits was an area of slight root disturbance near to the south corner of the garage footings.

Conclusion

Although there is established archaeological evidence recorded from the surrounding areas, this particular site failed to produce any additional features or finds material. However, the limited area exposed by the trenches is not sufficiently representative to draw any firm archaeological conclusions in relation to the possible density of occupation in this area.

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April 2007

References

Tipper, J. 2006 'Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development: Hawthorn Farm, Freckenham Road, West Row, Worlington' Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team, Bury St Edmunds.