

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT

Foxhall Landfill Site Proposed Waste Transfer Site

Field Team
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

© July 2007

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Contents

Summary

Introduction and Methodology

Site Description

Aims and Methods

Results

Suffolk SMR Search

Conclusions

The Archaeological Potential of the PDA

Mitigation

Figures

1. SMR entries in study area

Tables

1. SMR entries in study area

List of Contributors

All Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service unless otherwise stated.
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Acknowledgements

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Summary

This archaeological desk based assessment (DBA), funded by Viridor, has been undertaken as a result of plans for the proposed development area (PDA) that will impact upon any archaeological remains present. This DBA includes an examination of the Suffolk Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), the photographic archive held by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service and a site walkover. The PDA is situated on the terrace to the north of the Mill River in an area of extensive later prehistoric activity. The main evidence for this is in the twenty-one probable round barrows and numerous trackways, enclosures and field systems mainly visible through aerial photography. There is thought to be a moderate potential for encountering prehistoric material during any ground works carried out within the PDA. It is therefore recommended that a first stage of archaeological work would be to carry out a trial trench evaluation to establish the character and condition of any surviving archaeology. The archaeological potential of the site does not call for the evaluation to be a predetermination condition of the planning condition. Consultation would then be required with the County Council planning archaeologist to determine the need and scope for any further work, which could include full-scale excavation. Also monitoring of the movement of the topsoil store when there is the possibility that the original ground surface will be disturbed would also be required.

Introduction and Methodology

Site Description

The subject of this DBA covers an area of approximately 0.9ha centred at TM2454 4386, in the parish of Brightwell (Fig. 1).

The present land use is sparse woodland, open rough ground and a topsoil storage mound.

The PDA is located to the north of the Mill River, *circa* 25m above sea level.

The geology of the PDA is deep sandy soils, over sand and gravels.

Aims

To determine as far as reasonably practicable from existing records, the nature of the archaeological resource and the potential resource within the PDA.

Methods

The methodology involved interrogating the following sources of data to meet the aims of this DBA.

A search of the Suffolk SMR for any records within 750m from the centre of the PDA was carried out and the results are examined and mapped in the report.

An examination of the literature with reference to archaeological excavations within the study area was carried out.

A search of the aerial photographic archive held by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service was undertaken.

A site visit was carried out by John Newman in July 2007.

Legislative Frameworks

PPG 16 (November 1990) provides guidance for planning authorities, developers and others in the investigation of archaeological remains. This guidance advises developers to discuss their plans, preferably at a pre planning stage, with the County Archaeological Planning Officer for any possible archaeological constraints on their development proposal. The planning guidance sets out to protect nationally and locally important monuments and their settings. There will be a presumption in favour of preservation *in situ* of important remains. In certain circumstances field evaluation will be carried out to enable an informed decision to be made. On sites where there is no overriding case for preservation *in situ* provision will be made for their recording and excavation prior to development.

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act of 1979 statutorily protects Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM's) and their settings as nationally important sites. There is one SAM within 750m of this PDA **BGL 007**.

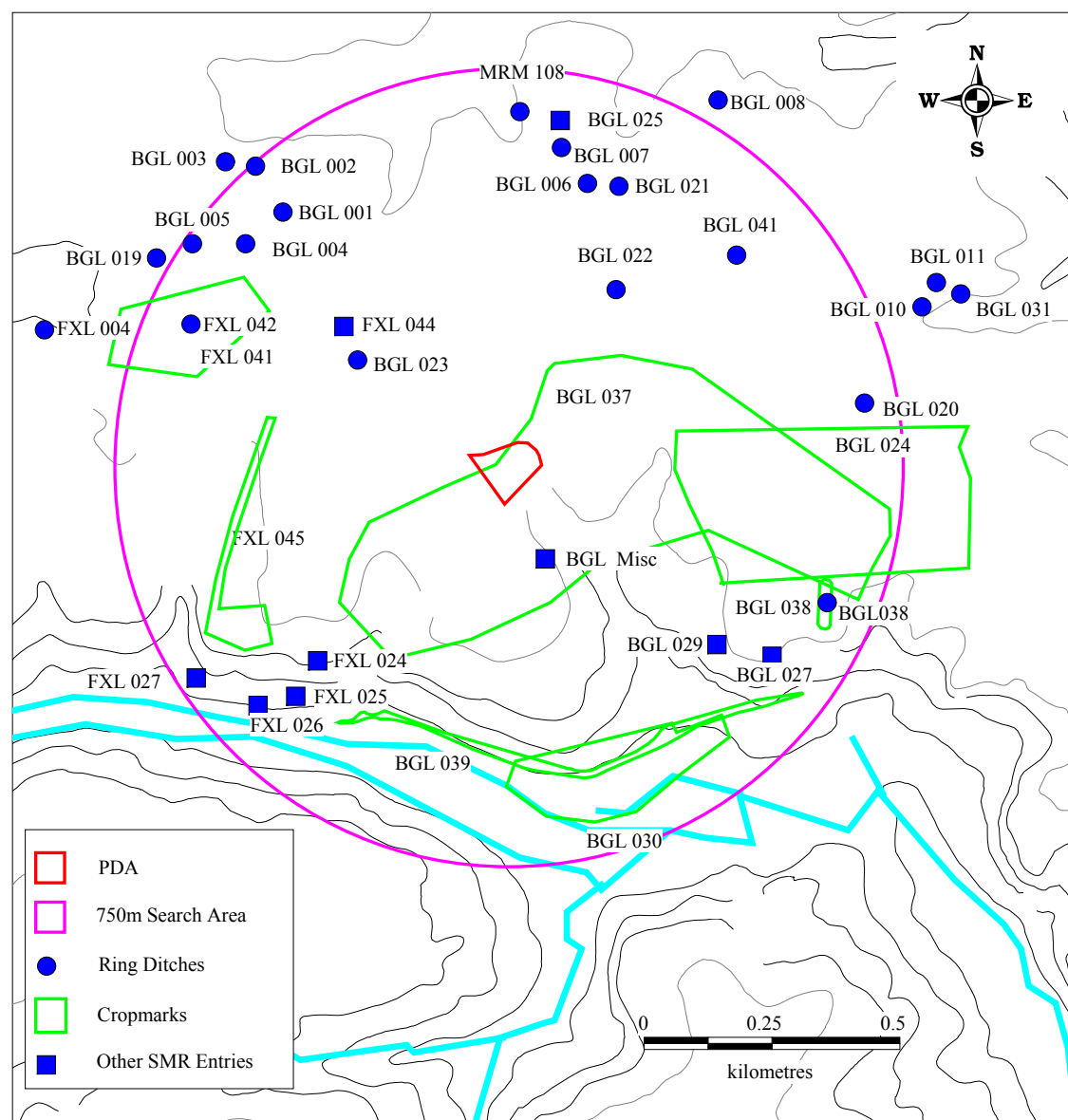
Listed buildings are protected under the Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act of 1990. This ensures that listed buildings are given statutory protection against unauthorised demolition, alteration and extension. Buildings are listed because they are of special architectural importance, due to their architectural design, decoration and craftsmanship; also because they are of historical interest. This includes buildings that illustrate important aspects of the nation's social, economic, cultural or military history or have a close association with nationally important persons or events. There is one listed building within 600m to the PDA **BGL 029** the Church of St John the Baptist.

A Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is an area that has been notified as being of special interest under the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981, due to its flora, fauna or geological or geomorphological features. There are no SSSI's within 750m of this PDA.

Results

Suffolk SMR Search

There are forty-three entries on the SMR within 750m from the centre of the PDA and eight entries just outside this area which are mentioned to help understand the archaeological context of the area, these are presented in Figure 1, Table 1 and in a period summary.



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Figure 1. SMR Entries in study area

| Reference | Date | Summary |
|-----------|--------------|--|
| BGL 025 | Palaeolithic | Ovate hand-axe |
| BGL 004 | Neolithic | Pottery found on old ground surface under round barrow |
| BGL 005 | Neolithic | Pottery found on old ground surface under round barrow |
| BGL 001 | Bronze Age | Disc barrow, visible as earthwork and cropmark |
| BGL 002 | Bronze Age | Round barrow |
| BGL 003 | Bronze Age | Round barrow |
| BGL 004 | Bronze Age | Site of round barrow |
| BGL 005 | Bronze Age | Site of round barrow |
| BGL 006 | Bronze Age | Round barrow (SAM) |
| BGL 007 | Bronze Age | Site of round barrow |
| BGL 008 | Bronze Age | Site of round barrow |
| BGL 010 | Bronze Age | Site of round barrow |
| BGL 011 | Bronze Age | Site of round barrow |
| BGL 019 | Bronze Age | Site of round barrow |
| BGL 020 | Bronze Age | Site of round barrow |
| BGL 021 | Bronze Age | Site of round barrow |
| BGL 022 | Bronze Age | Site of round barrow |
| BGL 023 | Bronze Age | Site of round barrow |
| BGL 031 | Bronze Age | Site of round barrow |
| BGL 038 | Bronze Age | Site of round barrow |
| BGL 041 | Bronze Age | Site of round barrow |
| FXL 004 | Bronze Age | Site of round barrow |
| FXL 042 | Bronze Age | Site of round barrow |
| MRM 108 | Bronze Age | Site of round barrow |
| BGL 001 | Iron Age | Sherds of pottery |
| BGL 004 | Iron Age | Sherds of pottery |
| BGL 027 | Iron Age | Sherds of pottery |
| BGL 024 | Prehistoric? | Field system / series of enclosures |
| BGL 037 | Prehistoric? | Extensive ditched field system and trackways |
| BGL 038 | Prehistoric? | Rectilinear ditched enclosure |
| BGL 039 | Prehistoric? | Earthwork bank visible on aerial photographs |
| BGL Misc | Prehistoric | Fieldwalking produced prehistoric material |
| FXL 041 | Prehistoric? | Ditched field system visible on aerial photographs |
| FXL 045 | Prehistoric? | Trackway and enclosure visible on aerial photographs |
| BGL 027 | Saxon | Four sherds of Thetford ware found east of church |
| BGL 027 | Medieval | Eight Sherds of pottery found east of the church |
| BGL 029 | Medieval | Church recorded at Brightwell in the Domesday survey. Church of John the Baptist. |
| BGL 030 | Medieval | Small rectangular plots probably medieval tofts |
| FXL 024 | Medieval | Pottery scatter found during excavation of cut-off drain |
| FXL 025 | Medieval | Pottery scatter found during excavation of cut-off drain |
| FXL 026 | Medieval | Pottery scatter found during excavation of cut-off drain |
| FXL 027 | Medieval | Pottery scatter found during excavation of cut-off drain |
| FXL 044 | Modern | WWII radar station, visible on 1946 aerial photographs |

Table 1. SMR search results in study area

Palaeolithic (500,000-10,000BC)

The one Palaeolithic entry is an ovate flint hand-axe.

Neolithic (4000-2351BC)

The two Neolithic entries are both pottery finds that were found under Bronze Age round barrows on the old ground surface, illustrating the continuing utilisation of this area through the later prehistoric period.

Bronze Age (2350-701BC)

Twenty-one of the SMR entries are for probable round barrows (burial mounds), some of these are still extant, but the majority are ploughed-out and are only visible on aerial photographs. The distribution of these barrows is mainly along the northern half of the flat terrace just before the ground starts to rise up.

Iron Age (700BC-42AD)

There are three pottery scatters that are dated to the Iron Age period and all are located in the northern end of the study area near the round barrows.

Later Prehistoric (4000BC-42AD)

There are six areas of cropmarks within the study area and these represent trackways, field systems and enclosures. All of these cropmarks are mainly along the southern part of the study area close to the river. **BGL 037** is an area of cropmarks that appear to encompass the PDA. The precise date of these cropmarks is uncertain, but they resemble other Later Prehistoric cropmarks complexes found in the Suffolk.

Saxon (410-1065AD)

Sherds of Late Saxon Thetford Ware pottery have been found close to the church in the southern part of the PDA near the river.

Medieval (1066-1539AD)

All of the medieval SMR entries within the study area are near the river, either by the church or in the western part of the study area, where a cluster of pottery scatters were found during drain construction.

Conclusions

The Archaeological Potential of the PDA

After assessing the archaeological evidence from the study area the potential for encountering archaeology within the PDA is thought to be moderate. The archaeological material most likely to be encountered will be of a Later Prehistoric date. This material will probably either relate to the Bronze Age burial mounds or the trackways, field-systems and enclosures that have been seen in the aerial photographs. There is the possibility that previous ground working within the PDA related to the quarry may have damaged or destroyed any archaeology that was present.

Mitigation

It is therefore recommended that a first stage of archaeological work would be to carry out a trial trench evaluation to establish the character and condition of any surviving archaeology. The archaeological potential of the site does not call for the evaluation to be a predetermination condition of the planning condition. Consultation would then be required with the County Council planning archaeologist to determine the need and scope for any further work, which could include full-scale excavation. Also monitoring of the movement of the topsoil store when there is the possibility that the original ground surface will be disturbed would also be required.