
SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE

Hill House, Orchard Lane, Great Bealings BEG 052

Planning application no. C/06/0532/FUL
Archaeological Monitoring Report no. 2006/148
OASIS ID No. 29250

Summary

Great Bealings, Hill House, Orchard Lane (TM/235485; BEG 052) Conditional planning consent for an extension to Hill House, Great Bealings, required archaeological monitoring of the associated groundworks. The building footprint cut into a natural sand slope and revealed no archaeological interventions or artefacts, although the hillside may have been subject to disturbance and erosion.

(Linzi Everett for S.C.C.A.S. and Property Aid Ltd and Mr J Firebrace; report no. 2006/148)

1. Introduction

Conditional planning consent for an extension to Hill House, Great Bealings, required a programme of archaeological monitoring. The site is centred on TM 2352 4852, at a height of approximately 17m OD, near the top of a south-east facing slope. The development lies within 25m of the findspot of a Roman figurine (BEG 012) and within 100m of a medieval coin (BEG Misc). There is considered to be good potential for the presence of medieval or earlier evidence on the site.



Figure 1: Site location

2. Methodology

One visit was made to the site by the Field Projects Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) in order to monitor the extension footprint during excavation. The site was recorded under the SMR code BEG 052. A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work was produced by Jude Plouviez of the SCCAS Conservation Team (Appendix I). The monitoring work took place on July 7th 2006 and was funded by Mr J Firebrace.

The monitoring archive is held in the county SMR in Bury St. Edmunds.

3. Results

The groundworks required for the extension cut into a slope at the rear of the house. The exposed section comprised clean orangey yellow crag sand which appeared to be natural in origin, sealed by a thin layer of loose, mid brown topsoil. No features were observed in the section or the exposed subsoil. As the proposed footings would cut into undisturbed natural subsoil, these were not monitored.

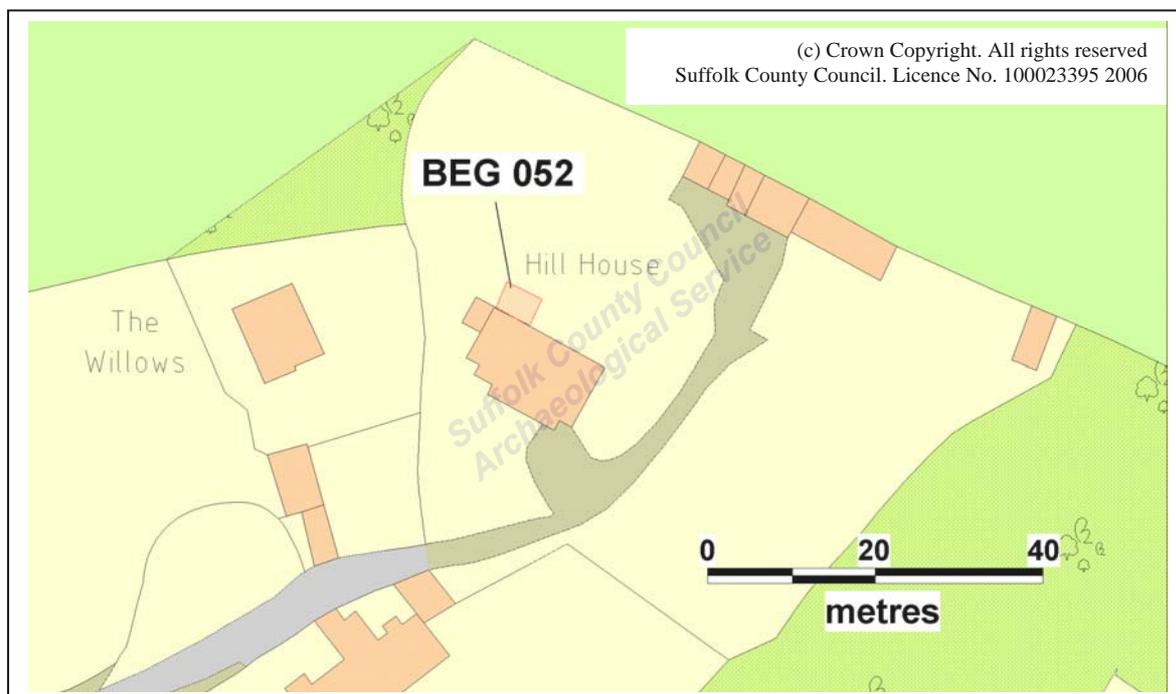


Figure 2: Location of excavated area

5. Discussion

The construction of the existing Hill House seems to have cut into the natural north-east to south-west slope and the subsequent amount of disturbance or landscaping of the immediate vicinity is unknown. Such earth movement is likely to have impacted on any archaeological features, had they been present. The hillside location of the site and loose nature of the soils may have also resulted in damage to any archaeological deposits present through erosion.

Whilst no archaeological features or artefacts were revealed during the monitoring, the groundworks only provided a small window into the site and cannot be used to rule out the possibility of evidence surviving nearby.

Linzi Everett
Field Projects Team,
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service.
July 2007.